

2014 “At-a-Glance” Overview:

Reward Schools

What are Reward Schools?

Reward Schools are in the top 5% of the Top-to-Bottom ranking.

In addition to the top 5%, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) will add any school that

- is designated as a “Beating the Odds” school (school that is outperforming schools with similar risk factors and demographic makeup), or
- is in the top 5% of schools on the improvement metric in the Top-to-Bottom ranking
- has 85% proficient in current and previous school year and has a positive percent proficient slope as determined by the Accountability Scorecard in each applicable subject area

How are Reward Schools determined?

They are based on the Top-to-Bottom ranking methodology, which includes data from achievement, improvement, and achievement gaps in standardized scores.

All schools with two years of data for 30 or more students in two or more tested subjects are included in the ranking.

What happens once a Reward School is named?

Reward Schools will be recognized for their achievements through a communication that is disseminated to local media.

Reward Schools will have their promising practices highlighted at conferences such as the Michigan Department of Education’s (MDE’s) School Improvement Conference and other events including educator networks and professional organizations.

MDE is seeking other supports for Reward Schools, including increased flexibility in the use of federal grant funds and corporate and philanthropic support.