

Nebraska's approved definition of Persistently Lowest-Achieving Schools

U. S. Department of Education Definition of Persistently Lowest-Achieving Schools

Persistently lowest-achieving schools means, as determined by the State--

(a)(1) Any Title I school in improvement, corrective action, or restructuring that—

- (i) Is among the lowest-achieving five percent of Title I schools in improvement, corrective action, or restructuring or the lowest-achieving five Title I schools in improvement, corrective action, or restructuring in the State, whichever number of schools is greater; or
- (ii) Is a high school that has had a graduation rate as defined in 34 CFR 200.19(b) that is less than 60 percent over a number of years; and

(a)(2) Any secondary school that is eligible for, but does not receive, Title I funds that—

- (i) Is among the lowest-achieving five percent of secondary schools or the lowest-achieving five secondary schools in the State that are eligible for, but do not receive, Title I funds, whichever number of schools is greater; or
- (ii) Is a high school that has had a graduation rate as defined in 34 CFR 200.19(b) that is less than 60 percent over a number of years.

(b) To identify the lowest-achieving schools, a State must take into account both—

- (i) The academic achievement of the “all students” group in a school in terms of proficiency on the State’s assessments under section 1111(b)(3) of the ESEA in reading/language arts and mathematics combined; and
- (ii) The school’s lack of progress on those assessments over a number of years in the “all students” group.

Waivers to the above definition of persistently lowest-achieving schools approved for Nebraska

- Include a high school that has a graduation rate that is less than 75% over a number of years
- Include only schools with at least 30 (minimum n-size for Nebraska) in the “all students” group for Tier I and Tier II and include in Tier III any school with performance as low as the lowest ranked schools in Tier I and Tier II that has no groups of at least 30 students

Definitions for Nebraska

School shall mean the school as used for the elementary, middle and high school designations for AYP. This does not include Rule 10 (Accreditation) Special Purpose Schools or preschools. Students being served in programs are reported in the school where they would be attending.

Secondary school shall mean any middle, junior high or senior high.

Number of years shall mean three years.

Graduation rate means the AYP Graduation Rate data from all secondary schools that is averaged for the three latest years. The initial year of identifying the persistently lowest-achieving schools will use 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 data.

Performance Rank shall mean the total number of students in the “all students” group at the proficient level in both Reading and Math divided by the total number of students enrolled a Full Academic Year (FAY as defined for AYP) in Reading and Math to determine a percent proficient for each school.

Progress Over Time Rank shall mean the total number of students in the “all students” group at the proficient level in Reading and Math for the three latest years divided by the total number of students enrolled a Full Academic Year (FAY) in Reading and Math for the three latest years to determine a percent proficient.

Weighting shall mean the performance rank will be weighted (multiplied by two) and added to the progress over time rank.

Final Rank shall mean the combination of performance rank and the progress over time rank.

Tier I Schools means the five (5) lowest-achieving Title I schools identified to be in school improvement, corrective action, or restructuring plus any Title I served secondary school with a graduation rate of less than 75% over the three latest years that was not captured in the above five schools.

Tier II Schools shall mean the 15 (which is equal to 5%) lowest ranked secondary schools where the “all students” group meets the minimum n-size for AYP that are eligible for, but do not receive, Title I funds plus any secondary school that is eligible for, but does not receive, Title I funds that has a graduation rate of less than 75% over the three latest years and was not captured in the above 15 schools.

Tier III Schools means any Title I school identified to be in school improvement, corrective action, or restructuring that is not a Tier I School and any school that is ranked as low as the Tier I and Tier II schools but has no groups of at least 30 students.

Persistently lowest-achieving schools (PLAS) Identification Procedure

Performance Rank

For the initial year (2008-09 AYP data) for all schools, add the numbers of students at the proficient level in Reading to the number of students at the proficient level in Math, then divide by the total number of students enrolled a full academic year (FAY as defined for AYP) in Reading and Math to get a percent proficient. Rank the schools by this percent proficient for a performance rank.

Progress Over Time Rank

For the latest three years (initial years are 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09), add the number of students at the proficient level in Reading and Math, then divide by the number of students enrolled a full academic year (FAY) for both Reading and Math for all three years to find a percent proficient. Rank the schools by this percent proficient for a progress over time rank.

Final Rank to Determine the Persistently Lowest-Achieving Schools

The performance rank is doubled before adding to the progress over time rank. Schools are then ranked to determine a final rank and the five or 5% (whichever is greater) schools are the persistently lowest-achieving schools in each Tier.

Graduation Rate

Using the AYP graduation data for all high schools in the state for the last three years (initially, 2005-06, 2006-07, and 2007-08), calculate a PLAS graduation rate using the AYP formula.