

# Georgia's ESEA Flexibility Waiver

- The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) submitted to the U. S. Department of Education (US ED) an application requesting flexibility through waivers of ten Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) requirements and their associated, regulatory, administrative and reporting requirements. On Feb. 9, 2012, Georgia's ESEA Flexibility Waiver was approved by the US ED.
- Beginning with the 2012-2013 school year, the GaDOE will transition from needs improvement (NI) distinctions based on adequate yearly progress (AYP) reports to Reward, Priority, Focus, and Alert Schools distinctions based on ESEA Flexibility Waiver formulas. Title I schools will now implement specific programs and interventions based on Reward, Priority, Focus, and Alert Schools status. In addition, the GaDOE ESEA flexibility waiver outlines Georgia's new Single Statewide Accountability System, the College and Career Readiness Performance Index (CCRPI). The CCRPI will serve as a comprehensive report card for all schools in Georgia. Please note: Priority Schools and Focus Schools will be identified and served with support interventions for 3 years.
- **Reward Schools-Title I Schools**-10 percent of Title I Schools (Highest Performing percent of Title I Schools and Highest Progress Schools): Reward Schools' designations will replace Distinguished Schools and Distinguished Districts designations. Reward Schools will be identified **annually**. There are two ways a Title I school may be identified as a Rewards School. A Title I school may be classified as either a Highest-Performing School or a High-Progress School.
- **Priority Schools-Title I Students Eligibility**-5 percent of Title I Schools (Lowest Achieving Schools): Priority Schools will be identified every three years and the identified schools will be served for 3 years through a Flexible Learning Program (FLP) support interventions. These Title I schools are among the lowest five percent of Title I schools in the state based on the achievement of the All Students group in terms of proficiency on the statewide assessments and has demonstrated a lack of progress on those assessments over a number of years in the All Students group; are a Title I-participating or Title I-eligible high school with a graduation rate less than 60 percent over a number of years; or a Tier I or Tier II school under the School Improvement Grants (SIG) program that is using SIG funds to implement a school intervention model.
- **Focus Schools-Title I Student Eligibility**-10 percent of Title I Schools: Focus Schools will be identified every three years and the identified school will be served for 3 years through Flexible Learning Program (FLP) support interventions. These schools are Title I schools that have the largest within-school gaps between the highest-achieving subgroup(s) and the lowest-achieving subgroup(s) or, at the high school level, has the largest within-school gaps in graduation rates (within-school-gaps Focus School) and are Title I high schools with a graduation rate less than 60 percent over a number of years that is not identified as a Priority School (low-graduation-rate Focus School).
- **Title I Alert Schools Based on 9 ESEA Subgroups** (does not include Priority Schools or Focus Schools): Title I Alert Schools will be identified annually. These schools are both Title I and non-Title I schools that fall into one of the three categories: Graduation Alert, Subgroup Alert, or Subject Alert.

**Telfair County Middle School has been identified as a Focus School and must offer FLP support interventions.**