

Accountability Under the Every Student Succeeds Act: Identifying Schools and Districts for Support and Improvement

Minnesota’s accountability indicators prioritize support for schools and districts. This required aspect of ESSA is one part of an overall approach to accountability, which also includes public reporting of data and efforts to recognize high-performing schools.

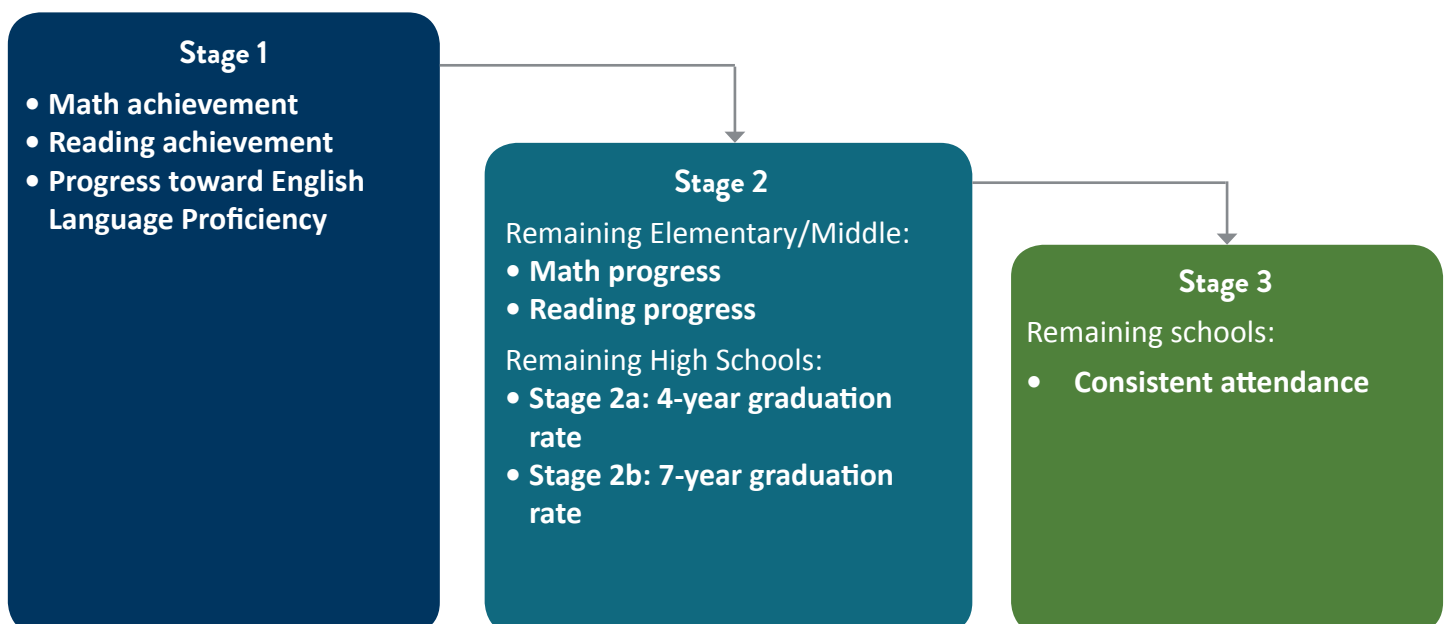
Under ESSA, any public high school in the state with a **graduation rate below 67 percent overall or for any student group** receives support.

Minnesota also uses a stage-based decision process to find those schools and districts that are low across all indicators. The process first checks school performance on the academic indicators, including academic achievement, English language proficiency, academic progress and graduation rates, and lastly, the process evaluates every school’s consistent attendance rates.

In Minnesota, **between 300 and 400 schools are identified for support under ESSA**. In addition to identifying the bottom 5 percent of Title I schools for support based on low overall performance, we further tackle the achievement gap by examining student group performance at **all public schools** to see where student groups may be underachieving.

Minnesota’s Process for Identification

For each type of support and improvement, the process for identifying schools uses a system of filters to identify schools for support. See back for a detailed explanation of the indicators within each stage.



Minnesota's Accountability Indicators



Academic Achievement: all schools

The number of students at the “Meets Standards” or “Exceeds Standards” achievement levels divided by all students in tested grades. Calculated separately for **math** and **reading**. Students who do not participate (unless medically exempt) are counted as “not proficient.”



Progress Toward English Language Proficiency: all schools

The average progress English learners made toward individual growth targets on the ACCESS for English Language Learners test.



Academic Progress: elementary and middle schools

A score based on students' achievement levels from one year to the next. Calculated separately for **math** and **reading** using a transition matrix that awards points for increasing achievement levels (e.g., moving from “does not meet standards” to “partially meets”).



Graduation Rates: high schools

The percentage of students who graduated in four years and seven years. Students who drop out after less than half an academic year at a school will be counted at the high school they attended for the most time.



Consistent Attendance: all schools

The percentage of students attending more than 90 percent of the days they are enrolled.

How we support identified schools and districts

Districts and schools identified for **comprehensive support and improvement** receive the most support from Minnesota's Regional Centers of Excellence. The centers offer supports through content specialists in the areas of reading, math, equity, special education, implementation, high school reform and dropout prevention, English learning and data. Schools receive intensive onsite coaching two to four times per month from the specialists. Districts and schools at this level also have access to networking opportunities and receive the training supports available to schools identified for targeted support and improvement. Implementation of support and improvement plans is monitored quarterly.

Districts with schools identified for **targeted support and improvement** also receive supports from the Regional Centers of Excellence. Supports include access to intensive professional development and networking opportunities. These opportunities focus on establishing school leadership teams, conducting comprehensive needs assessments, selecting appropriate evidence-based interventions and strategies, developing and implementing support and improvement plans, and addressing resource inequities.

For districts and schools that are identified in particular areas, but do not fall under either comprehensive or targeted support and improvement, the Minnesota Department of Education offers various types of support, including support under World's Best Workforce and specific supports from the Regional Centers of Excellence.