

## Maine's ESEA Accountability request (approved August 2, 2013) Methodology for Identifying ESEA Priority Schools

Maine's Title I receiving schools with the lowest overall performance will comprise the group of schools receiving the most comprehensive and intensive supports and will be designated as Priority schools. Maine DOE will identify at least 5% of its Title I schools in this category. As there are approximately 380 Maine schools receiving Title I funds, this means that 19 schools will receive this Priority school determination.

The following groups of schools will be placed in the Priority category:

- All Title 1-receiving or Title-1 eligible high schools with a graduation rate of 60% or lower. Currently, there are no Maine high schools that meet this criterion;
- All schools in the federal School Improvement Grant (SIG) program with one or more years remaining on their 3-year improvement plan. There are currently 4 schools that meet this criterion – one school recently identified for school year 2012-13 and 3 schools identified for the 2011-12 school year; and
- Schools in the lowest ranking of schools based on 3-year average proficiency in math and reading and 3-year progress as determined by the School Achievement and Progress list.
  - **Number.** The number of schools to be identified from this rank-ordered list will be the number of schools needed to reach a total of 5% of Title 1 schools (19), after counting the SIG schools (4) and the below-60% graduation rate schools (0). Based on this requirement, Maine will identify the bottom 15 schools on this rank-ordered list.
  - **Exception.** An exception to Priority designation will be made for a school with a testing population of 20 or fewer in the whole school. To address volatility of data and calculation in such small schools, a school that falls within the 15 lowest-ranking schools would be identified as a Monitor school in the first year rather than a Priority school. If the school falls within the lowest rankings for 2 consecutive years, it would be identified as a Priority school.

Schools in the lowest ranking of schools will be identified based on the criteria, and by the method, used to identify schools eligible for Title 1 School Improvement Grants. The identification for SIG uses the following process:

1. In accordance with the U.S. Department of Education Guidance for the Title 1 School Improvement Grant, Maine reviewed each school's annual results for reading and math for the "All Students" group on the New England Comprehensive Assessment Program (NECAP), Maine High School Assessment (MHSA) and Personalized Alternate Assessment Portfolio (PAAP).
2. A percentage of proficiency, based on the students tested compared to those with an achievement level of "meets the standard" or "exceeds the standard" was calculated for reading and then for math.

3. The two percentages (reading and math) were then averaged to create an annual percentage of proficiency. An annual percentage of proficiency was calculated for the assessment years 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12, and a 3-year average of proficiency was produced based those 3 annual percentages.

4. A determination of progress was then made by calculating the change in the rate of proficiency for reading and math combined from 2009-10 to 2010-11 and from 2010-11 to 2011-12. The two rates were then totaled. A median 3-year change rate was identified.

In order to use this data for identification of Priority schools, Maine will rank-order schools based on the annual percentage of proficiency for the most recent testing year. The bottom 15 schools will be identified as Priority schools, unless any school has a 3-year change rate above the average rate. Any such school will be removed from the Priority list and replaced by the next school on the rank-ordered list. A school removed from the Priority list because of an above-average growth rate will be evaluated for placement in other categories.