

Priority Schools Guide

Priority schools are schools that have been identified as the lowest performing schools in a state. In Oklahoma, a school shall qualify to be designated as a Priority School if they meet at least one of the following six criteria:

1. The school is a Title I school and is ranked below the 5th percentile of Title I schools in student achievement on the OSTP Reading and Math assessments (see **Appendix A** for details on this ranking process).
2. The school is a non-Title I school but would rank below the 5th percentile in student achievement on the OSTP Reading and Math assessments were it a Title I school.
3. The school has a graduation rate below 60% for three consecutive years (High Schools only).¹
4. The school is the recipient of a School Improvement Grant (SIG).
5. The school has been named a C³ Partnership School by the Office of School Turnaround.
6. The school receives an F on the A-F report card.

If the school meets any of the above criteria, it will be named a Priority school *unless*:

1. The school qualifies for a designation of High Progress Reward school, **AND**
2. The school does not qualify for a Priority designation under criteria 4, 5, or 6.

¹ If the total number of these schools exceeds 25% of the Priority School identifications, the schools with the lowest graduation rate average for these three years will be identified as Priority Schools. The remainder of the schools will be identified as focus schools. This did not occur for 2013.

Appendix A

Schools are ranked using the results from all grades 3-8 Reading and Math, Algebra I, and English II assessments. The criteria for inclusion in the ranking is identical to the criteria for the A-F Report Card (e.g., students must have been enrolled in the school for the Full Academic Year, been a first time test taker, etc.).

Points are assigned to each assessment with a valid score based on the following scale:

- Advanced = 4 points
- Proficient = 3 points
- Limited Knowledge = 2 points
- Unsatisfactory = 1 point.

Performance levels are subject to the federally mandates 2% OMAAP and 1% OAAP proficiency caps. These points are summed and divided by the number of valid tests within that subject area to create a Priority Index. At least 10 exams are required to create an index.

Schools are ranked separately according to their C³ grade level classification (i.e., PK – 8 school, Elementary School, Middle School, and High School). Any school that scores below the 5th percentile within its classification on the Priority Index will qualify as a Priority school.

Priority Identification:

Schools are ranked by grade span served: elementary, middle/junior high, PK-8, and high school. For the 2012-2013 school year, a school must have a priority index score at or below the scores listed in the table below:

	<i>Elementary School</i>	<i>Middle School</i>	<i>PK-8</i>	<i>High School</i>
<i>Priority Index</i>	<i>2.0181</i>	<i>2.1524</i>	<i>1.9514</i>	<i>2.5517</i>