

Identification

Title I High Progress or High Achieving Schools

- A Title I high progress or high achieving school is
 - A Title I school that has demonstrated high performance, high progress, or both, over the last three years.

Priority Schools

- A priority school is:
 - Among the 5 percent lowest-performing Title I schools based on state assessments in the state over the past three years; and/or
 - A Title I school with a graduation rate below 60 percent for the past three years; and/or
 - A Tier I and Tier II school receiving funding and support as a component of the 1003(g) School Improvement Grant (SIG).
- The planning phase for newly identified non-SIG priority schools will begin upon identification, with implementation starting at the beginning of the 2013-2014 school year.

Focus Schools

- A focus school is:
 - Title I schools with a low achieving Student Gap Group or super subgroup; and
 - Title I high schools with graduation rates of less than 60 percent over a period of three years for one or more subgroups.
- Focus schools must begin implementation of the improvement plan no later than the end of the first semester of the 2012-2013 school year.

Full descriptions of required interventions, strategies and additional information regarding the waiver can be found at dese.mo.gov/qs/esea-waiver



Contact Us

For questions or more information, please contact the Office of Quality Schools (573) 751-4234 or qualityschools@dese.mo.gov.

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, or disability in its programs and activities. Inquiries related to Department programs and to the location of services, activities, and facilities that are accessible by persons with disabilities may be directed to the Jefferson State Office Building, Office of the General Counsel, Coordinator – Civil Rights Compliance (Title VI/Title IX/504/ADA/Age Act), 6th Floor, 205 Jefferson Street, P.O. Box 480, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0480; telephone number 573-526-4757 or TTY 800-735-2966; email civilrights@dese.mo.gov.

© 2013 Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Missouri's ESEA Flexibility Waiver

What it Means for
Education in Missouri



What the Waiver Does

Missouri's flexibility waiver application approval allows Missouri to use its own system of accountability to more effectively identify struggling schools, to efficiently direct resources to struggling schools and to recognize exemplary schools.

Waiver Facts

- The U.S. Department of Education approved Missouri's ESEA waiver on June 29, 2012, giving the state more flexibility to use its own accountability measures in identifying schools that need additional assistance.
- The waiver went into effect immediately for the 2012-2013 school year.
- States who apply for a flexibility waiver must address three main principles:
 - **Principle 1:** College- and career-ready expectations for all students.
 - **Principle 2:** State developed differentiated recognition, accountability and support.
 - **Principle 3:** Supporting effective instruction and leadership.

Benefit to Parents

- Parents will receive a more accurate report on the success of their child's school.
- The Missouri School Improvement Program (MSIP) annual performance report (APR) provides a more complete and comprehensive picture of where a school or district is meeting performance expectations and where it is not.

Benefit to Students

- Students will have higher academic standards preparing them for life after high school.
- The Missouri Learning Standards provide clear expectations for student achievement.
- A super subgroup (or student gap group) includes students otherwise missed in accountability systems ensuring districts are accountable for every student's academic achievement.

Benefit to School Districts

- Schools will have more flexibility in using federal funds for school improvement.
- Resources will be used more efficiently to support struggling schools.
- Missouri's Model Educator Evaluation System will provide more comprehensive teacher evaluation.



Benefit to Educators

- The state's Educator Evaluation System model is designed to clearly measure effective practice and provide professional development support for principals, superintendents and teachers.
- The Missouri Learning Standards provide clear and consistent expectations for what all children should know and be able to do.

Implementation of the Flexibility Waiver

- Identify schools in need of support.
- Determine level and nature of service to each school.
- Prepare for ongoing monitoring by the U.S. Department of Education.

