

## 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 in the state based on state assessments 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).

### Focus Schools

- A focus school is
  - A Title I school with a low achieving Student Gap Group or super subgroup; and
  - A Title I high school with graduation rates of less than 60 percent over a period of three years for one or more subgroups.

Full descriptions of required interventions, strategies and additional information regarding the waiver can be found at [dese.mo.gov/quality-schools/esea-flexibility-waiver](http://dese.mo.gov/quality-schools/esea-flexibility-waiver)



## Contact Us

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

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# 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 was extended in October of 2014.
- 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.

