

Georgia's New Accountability System for Public Schools

Under **Georgia's new Flexibility ESEA Waiver**, schools are not measured using the former Accountability system (AYP). GA's new accountability plan, including the new ESEA waivers, will be used to demonstrate compliance in meeting the requirements of the **NCLB legislation**. With the newly approved waivers, GA's revised accountability plan will allow school's greater flexibility than the previous accountability system.

Title I Schools will not be designated as Distinguished or Needs Improvement schools any longer. In the previous accountability system, schools were measured based on a specific set of criteria that did not allow schools to demonstrate progress or high achievement in specific areas if the overalls goals were not accomplished. The new accountability system measures the progress that schools are making annually based upon a large set of criteria, and schools will receive an overall index score based upon the weighted criteria. **(College and Career Readiness Performance Index – CCRPI)**

Using previous assessment and graduation rate data, school designations will be made annually. As Title I schools strive to make academic improvements, the schools may be designated as a: **1) Reward School, 2) Priority School, 3) Focus School, or 4) Alert School**. Title I schools that are not identified as Priority, Focus or Alert Schools will continue to be held accountable for state and subgroup performance targets (AMO's)

Reward Schools

The designation of **Reward Schools** will replace Distinguished School and Distinguished District designations. Schools that have earned the designation as a Reward schools will be identified by GADOE annually in the fall. Reward schools can earn the designation based upon 1 or 2 ways: 1) Being one of the highest performing schools (5% or 78 schools) in the state, or 2) Being a High-Progress School, based upon making strong progress for all students or greatly improving graduation rates (10% or 156 schools in the state). Reward schools will be notified by GADOE and will receive recognition at the Annual Title I conference each summer, receive a certificate and a monetary award. **Dodge County does not have any Rewards schools at this time.**

Priority Schools

The schools that are among the lowest 5% (78 schools in the state) based upon a composite of criteria are designated as a **Priority School**. Priority schools have demonstrated a lack of progress over a number of years in one of the following: 1) the All student group, 2) the graduation rate or are a Tier 1 or Tier II school receiving a School Improvement Grant (SIG) and are implementing a school intervention model under the guidance of GADOE School Improvement Support. **Dodge County does not have any priority schools at this time.**

Focus Schools

The schools that are among the lowest 10% (156 schools in Georgia) in one of the following areas: 1) graduation rate or 2) a large within-school gap between the highest achieving subgroup and the lowest achieving subgroup are designated as **Focus Schools**. **Dodge County High School (DCHS) was designated as a Focus School** due to the performance gap between the black subgroup and the SpEd subgroup. DCHS, a Title I school, is implementing research-based interventions to address areas of concern. The Dodge County System-level Administration; along with GADOE support, is providing on-going technical support to DCHS and is working closely with the school administration, leadership team and staff, to develop and implement an approved Flexible Learning Plan (FLP) that would be implemented for 3 years to address the areas of concern. The FLP will offer extended learning opportunities to students identified based upon an established set of criteria. The Dodge County Board of Education will set aside 5% of the Title I, Part A allocation to be used as a source of funding to implement the FLP.

Alert Schools

Schools are designated as **Alert Schools** in 1 of 3 areas if the school's performance in an area falls significantly below the state's performance in the area (3 or > standard deviations). Schools can be identified as an Alert school in 1 of 3 ways based upon performance data: 1) Graduation Alert, 2) Subgroup Alert, or 3) Subject Alert. **Dodge County does not have any schools that are designated as alert Schools at the time.** In the event that a school becomes an Alert School, the Dodge County System-level administration, in collaboration with support from GADOE, will work closely with the school administration, leadership team and staff, to develop and implement specific interventions to reflect the needs of the identified subgroup and content areas.

Public Notification

Dodge County will release information pertaining to the overall performance of the schools, including any state designations, to the public by means of one or more of the following: 1) Monthly Public Dodge County Board meetings, 2) Dodge County Schools System website, 3) School websites, 4) Title I Parent Handbook, 5) Local News media releases, 6) Newsletters, 7) PTO meetings, 8) Public Stakeholders meetings, 9) Printed fliers/information sent home to parents