



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
Shepard Building  
255 Westminster Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

---

## Fact Sheet

---

Contact: Elliot Krieger, Communications - (401) 222-8471

### **Accelerating Schools Toward Greatness: The Rhode Island Accountability System**

#### **How We Measure School Performance**

**Proficiency:** How many students have attained proficiency or better?

*This measure indicates the percent of students in each school who have reached or exceeded a level of proficient on the state assessments in mathematics and reading.*

**Distinction:** How many students have attained distinction?

*This measure indicates the percent of students in each school who have reached the level of proficient with distinction on the state assessments in mathematics and reading.*

**Participation:** How many students are tested?

*This measure indicates the percent of eligible students in each school who participated in the state assessments in mathematics and reading.*

**Gap-closing:** Is the school serving all students, including those with disabilities and English Learners?

*This measure indicates whether student groups in each school are closing achievement gaps. This measure compares the scores of a high-performing group of students within the district against the performance of other student groups within the school. (Charter public schools and state-operated schools are compared with the districts in which the school is located.)*

**Progress:** Is the school approaching its 2017 targets?

*This measure indicates whether each school as a whole is progressing at a rapid enough pace to meet its 2017 targets in mathematics and reading.*

**Growth (K-8):** Are all students making progress?

*This measure indicates whether most students are making sufficient annual growth, based on the yearly changes in their assessment scores.*

**Improvement (high schools):** Is the school improving annually?

*This measure indicates whether the grade-11 scores on state assessments in mathematics and reading are improving annually.*

**Graduation (high schools):** Is the school reaching its graduation-rate goals?

*This measure indicates whether most entering freshmen graduate from high school.*

## How We Classify Schools

RIDE assigns point values to the measures of performance:

	<b>K - 8</b>	<b>High School</b>
Proficiency	30 points	30 points
Distinction	5 points	5 points
Gap-closing	30 points	30 points
Progress	10 points	10 points
Growth	25 points	
Improvement		5 points
Graduation		20 points
<b>Total:</b>	<b>100 points</b>	<b>100 points</b>

RIDE ranks schools by total point value, or Composite Index Score, to determine classifications:

**Commended Schools** have the highest index scores in the state and no achievement gaps; they are recognized because of either high performance or significant progress.

**Leading Schools** have an index score between 70 and 76.

**Typical Schools** have an index score between 50 and 70.

**Warning Schools** can be identified by any of seven criteria: index score less than 50; Proficiency of 10 or fewer points; Gap-closing of fewer than 15 points; Growth of 7.5 points or fewer; Improvement plus Graduation of 10 points or fewer; low graduation rate over time; or Participation rate of less than 95 percent.

**Focus Schools** have the lowest point totals in the state (excluding Priority Schools) for Proficiency or Gap-closing, regardless of their index score.

**Priority Schools** have the lowest Composite Index Scores in the state. Schools previously identified as Persistently Lowest Achieving are also Priority Schools.

## How We Intervene in and Support Schools

On identification as a **Priority School**, the school and RIDE begin a three- to five-year intervention process:

*Diagnosis and planning:* The school will undergo a diagnostic screening and develop a plan for improvement that includes a comprehensive package of interventions, including at least nine strategies that respond to the diagnosis findings and are subject to the Commissioner's approval; the district may also opt to close the school or to reopen the school under new education management.

*Implementation and monitoring:* The district and school will put the improvement plan into action. District leadership will oversee this process, through quarterly performance reviews with RIDE.

On identification as a **Focus School**, the school, the district, and RIDE begin a two- to three-year intervention process similar to the process for Priority Schools though involving only seven strategies that respond to the diagnosis findings.

**Warning Schools** will implement a plan for improvement, but on a limited scale and without intensive RIDE oversight. RIDE expects **all other schools** to focus on meeting all Annual Measurable Objectives and to strive for continued improvement of student achievement.

For more information, see:

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/Commissioner/eseaflex.aspx>

For more information, contact:

[Michael.Ferry@ride.ri.gov](mailto:Michael.Ferry@ride.ri.gov)