

School Accountability

In response to the disruption caused by COVID-19, Idaho did not identify schools for accountability until the 2021-2022 school year. Schools identified under the categories described below in the 2017-2018 or 2018-2019 school year maintained their status in the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years and continued to receive the same support.

What is school accountability?

Idaho's accountability system was shaped by stakeholders whose vision was to provide a complete picture of how well schools are serving students.

The system was designed to serve three purposes:

- to publicly report to Idahoans on multiple, key performance indicators;
- to identify underperforming schools for additional state or district support; and
- to identify schools for recognition.

Public reporting

Idaho's School Report Card (idahoschools.org) is a user-friendly, interactive tool where stakeholders can explore various components of school performance. The Report Card includes data on student enrollment and characteristics, academic achievement, growth, graduation rates, and a variety of other measures that will continue to expand over time. This year, chronic absenteeism was added to the Report Card.

Identifying underperforming schools for support

The system uses key performance indicators to identify underperforming schools to receive extra assistance from the state or school district to support improved student learning. Schools may be identified for Comprehensive Support and Improvement Underperforming (CSI Up), Comprehensive Support and Improvement Graduation (CSI Grad), Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI), and Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI).

The CSI Up identification process starts by sorting schools into one of three categories: kindergarten through grade eight (K-8), high schools, and alternative high schools. Then school performance is evaluated using four academic indicators and a school quality or student success indicator. Table 1 outlines the academic indicators and Table 2 details the school quality and student success indicators. Indicators with an asterisk (*) were used to identify underperforming schools.

Table 1: Academic Indicators

Schools serving K-8	High schools	Alternative schools
ISAT/IDAA proficiency*	ISAT/IDAA proficiency*	ISAT/IDAA proficiency*
ISAT growth*		
ISAT proficiency gap closure	ISAT proficiency gap closure	
Growth toward English Language proficiency*	Growth toward English Language proficiency*	Growth toward English Language proficiency*
English learner proficiency	English learner proficiency	English learner proficiency
Statewide Reading Assessment (K-3) proficiency		
	Graduation rate (4-year cohort)	Graduation rate (4-year cohort)
	Graduation rate (5-year cohort)*	Graduation rate (5-year cohort)*

*Items used in 2022 school identification for the 2022-23 school year.

Table 2: School Quality and Student Success Indicators

Schools serving K-8	High schools	Alternative schools
Student survey*	Student survey	Student survey
Teacher survey	Teacher survey	Teacher survey
Parent survey	Parent survey	Parent survey
Communication with parents on student achievement	Communication with parents on student achievement	Communication with parents on student achievement
Students in grade 8 enrolled in pre-Algebra or higher	Students in grade 9 enrolled in Algebra I or higher	Credit Recovery and Accumulation
	College and career readiness, including participation in advanced opportunities, earning industry recognized certifications, and participation in a recognized high school apprenticeship program*	College and career readiness, including participation in advanced opportunities, earning industry recognized certifications, and participation in a recognized high school apprenticeship program*

*Items used in 2021-2022 school identification.

Schools in each of the three categories are sorted by their performance on each indicator shown in the tables over the most recent three-year period. Because of COVID-19 lapses in testing, some metrics had only one or two years of available data. A school's percentile ranks from its indicators are combined to create a composite value. In the composite value, academic indicators are given greater weight – 90 percent – and the school quality and student success indicators are weighted at 10 percent. This composite value of student achievement is used in the identification of CSI Up, TSI, ATSI and Top Performing schools.

CSI Up schools are identified when the composite value is among the lowest 5 percent of schools in each school category.

CSI Grad schools are identified based on three years of graduation rates (5-year-cohort) below 67.0 percent. In prior years, CSI Grad was based on 4-year cohort graduation rates.

TSI schools are identified when the composite value of a student group (students with disabilities, economically disadvantaged students, English learners and students in minority race/ethnicity) is among the lowest 5 percent of schools in each school category and is less than the all students composite value among CSI Up schools in the corresponding school category.

ATSI schools are identified as those in the lowest five percent of TSI schools, per student group, per school category.

Identifying schools for recognition

The state also identifies schools for recognition in two categories: top performers and goal makers.

Top Performers are schools that rank in the 90th percentile or above on one or more of the indicators used in the calculation of the composite for their school type. A K-8 school may be a top performer in up to six measures; a high school or an alternative high school in up to five measures. This recognition is calculated every year.

Goal Makers are schools whose overall performance meets or exceeds the interim targets of progress toward the state's long-term goals for English language arts/literacy and math ISAT/IDAA proficiency rate, growth toward English language proficiency, graduation rate, or a combination. A school can be identified as a Goal Maker even if it is also identified in any of the categories of underperforming school. This recognition is calculated every year.

Questions? Contact the Assessment & Accountability team at assessments@sde.idaho.gov

