

Descriptor (d)(1)

Maryland Definition of “Persistently Lowest-Performing Schools”

## DEFINITION OF PERSISTENTLY LOW ACHIEVING SCHOOLS

### *Tier I Definition of Persistently Lowest Performing Schools*

*Maryland defines “persistently lowest performing Tier I schools” as those Title I schools (elementary school grade levels Pre-K through five, and middle school grade levels 6-8, and combination schools, PreK-8 at the LEA’s discretion) that are the five lowest achieving (or five percent) of all Title I schools in improvement, corrective action, or restructuring in the State.*

*Based on the 2009 Spring administration of the Maryland School Assessment, Maryland identified 71 operating Title I schools in improvement, corrective action or restructuring for school year 2009-2010. The five identified Title I schools have not met performance standards in combined reading and mathematics in the “All Students” subgroup for the full academic year 2008-2009. There are no Title I high schools (grades 9-12 or combination K-12) in Maryland. The process below was used to identify Tier I schools.*

### **Annual Performance Ranking**

1. School’s AYP Proficiency calculated based on all assessed grades
2. Schools Annual Measurable Objective (AMO) based on all assessed grades
3. Ranking for Reading and Mathematics are calculated separately by subtracting the AMO from the AYP Proficiency
4. Reading and Mathematics Rankings are summed to calculate the School’s annual Overall Performance Rank

**Annual Performance Rank** = (AYP % proficient for Reading – AMO for Reading) + (AYP % proficient for Mathematics – AMO for Mathematics)

- **Overall Rank** – is the School’s Annual Performance Rank summed for 2007 through 2009
- **Overall Average Rank** - is the School’s Annual Performance Ranks averaged based on the summed Annual Performance Ranks for 2007 through 2009
- **Overall Weighted Rank** – is the School’s Annual Performance Rank weighted for each school year
  1. 2007 Performance Rank multiplied by a weight of 1.0
  2. 2008 Performance Rank multiplied by a weight of 1.0
  3. 2009 Performance Rank multiplied by a weight of 1.25
  4. Sum the weighted Performance Ranks for 2007 through 2009

5. Divide the sum of the Performance Ranks by the sum of the weights, which is 3.25 when a Performance Rank is present for all three school years

**Tier I Reports contain:**

- All Title I schools in School Improvement
- School measured for AYP

**Tier II Definition of Persistently Lowest Performing Schools**

*Academic Criteria*

*Maryland defines “persistently lowest performing Tier II schools” as those Title I eligible secondary schools (middle school grade levels 6-8, combination schools (grades PreK-8 at the LEA’s discretion, and high school grades 9-12) that are the lowest 5% of all secondary Title I eligible schools in the State.*

*Based on performance on the Maryland School Assessment in Math/Algebra/Data Analysis and Reading/Language Arts combined, Maryland would identify eleven (11) Title I eligible secondary schools in improvement, corrective action, or restructuring operating in school year 2009-2010 for Tier II designation. Maryland will exercise the option to apply for a waiver to include two Title I combination schools as Tier II schools because these schools fall lower in performance than some of the identified Tier II secondary schools. The identified Tier II schools have not met performance standards in the “All Students” subgroup for the full academic year 2008-2009. The process below was used to identify Tier II schools.*

**Annual Performance Ranking**

1. School’s AYP Proficiency calculated based on all assessed grades
2. Schools Annual Measurable Objective (AMO) based on all assessed grades
3. Ranking for Reading and Mathematics are calculated separately by subtracting the AMO from the AYP Proficiency
4. Reading and Mathematics Rankings are summed to calculate the School’s annual Overall Performance Rank

**Annual Performance Rank** = (AYP % proficient for Reading – AMO for Reading) + (AYP % proficient for Mathematics – AMO for Math)

- **Overall Rank** – is the School’s Annual Performance Rank summed for 2007 through 2009
- **Overall Average Rank** - is the School’s Annual Performance Ranks averaged based on the summed Annual Performance Ranks for 2007 through 2009
- **Overall Weighted Rank** – is the School’s Annual Performance Rank weighted for each school year
  1. 2007 Performance Rank multiplied by a weight of 1.0

2. 2008 Performance Rank multiplied by a weight of 1.0
3. 2009 Performance Rank multiplied by a weight of 1.25
4. Sum the weighted Performance Ranks for 2007 through 2009
5. Divide the sum of the Performance Ranks by the sum of the weights, which is 3.25 when a Performance Rank is present for all three school years

**Tier II Reports contain:**

- All non-Title I Secondary schools that are Title I eligible (FARMS  $\geq$  35%)
- Secondary schools are defined as any school with an Middle or High component
- School measured for AYP

***Graduation Rate Criteria:***

***Maryland identified Title I eligible high schools that have a graduation rate of less than 60 percent over 3 years. There are 2 schools that meet this definition during the 2009-2010 school year, however they were already identified as persistently low performing.***

**Graduation Rate**

- Graduation Rate is less than 60% for the past 3 school years
- School must be Title I eligible
- School measured for AYP

**Notes:**

- Schools that did not have three years of AYP data were excluded from Tier I and Tier II. (lacking trend data)
- Schools where 100% of the students are not working towards a Maryland Diploma were excluded from Tier I and Tier II. The populations of these schools receive a certificate of participation. (certificate program only)
- Schools that did not have graduation data for three consecutive years were excluded from Tier II. (lacking trend data)
- Schools where the participation rate is below the minimum “n” for the all students group are excluded from Tier I and Tier II. Participation rate will be computed for each subgroup, and in the aggregate, for each of the reading and mathematics assessments by dividing the number of students present in each testing group by the number of enrolled students in that group. The rate will be calculated for each subgroup and for aggregate separately in each of reading and mathematics assessments where a group includes at least a) 30 students for schools with one grade tested, b) 60 students for schools with two or more grades tested c) Groups not meeting the minimum criteria listed above will not be checked for participation rate. MSDE submitted a draft waiver request on 2/19/10.

### **Tier III: Definition**

***Maryland defines Tier III schools as any Title I schools in improvement, corrective action, or restructuring that are not identified as persistently lowest-achieving schools in Tier I. The ESEA designations correspond to Maryland's Differentiated Accountability Pilot designations, whereby Tier III schools must be in the Comprehensive Needs Pathway or the Focused Needs Pathway to qualify as eligible schools.***