

# Priority Schools Guide

As part of Oklahoma's 2015 ESEA Flexibility Waiver, the Oklahoma State Department of Education is required to annually identify, based on the most recent data available, the lowest-performing schools in Oklahoma as "Priority" schools. The U.S. Department of Education requires that the number of Priority Schools must be at least five percent of the total number of Title I schools in Oklahoma. To satisfy this requirement, schools that satisfy any of the following criteria will be identified as Priority schools:

1. The school receives an overall grade of 'F' on the [A – F report card](#).
2. The school has a graduation rate below 60.0% for three consecutive years (High Schools only)
3. The school has a graduation rate at or below 50.0% in the most recently reported school year (High Schools only)

## Appendix A

The priority cut score is calculated by ranking the performance of Title I schools on their federally required reading and math assessments (i.e., Reading and Math in grades 3 through 8, Algebra I, and English II).

Points are assigned to each assessment with a valid score based on the following scale (only Full Academic Year students are included):

- Advanced = 3 points
- Proficient = 3 points
- Limited Knowledge = 2 points
- Unsatisfactory = 1 point.

The schools are then ranked according to their average performance level point value. A school must have at least 10 exams in reading and/or math to be included in the ranking. Schools are ranked separately according to their grade span (i.e., PK – 8 school, Elementary School, Middle School, and High School). The priority cut score for each grade span will be the score that marks the bottom 5% of schools within each ranking.

For more information or questions about the identification of Priority schools, please contact:

**The Office of Accountability**

(405) 522 – 5169

[accountability@sde.ok.gov](mailto:accountability@sde.ok.gov)

For more information about what happens to a school identified as a Priority school, please visit

<http://www.ok.gov/sde/priority-schools> or contact:

**The Office of School Support**

(405) 522 - 0140

<sup>2</sup> Federal guidelines limit the number of OAAP tests that can count as proficient or advanced for accountability purposes to 1% of the total number of students tested within a district. Any exams over this limit must be counted as “Limited Knowledge.”