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## 2012 List of State Identified Reward Schools

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### The Background:

Governor Haslam and Commissioner Huffman sought relief from the NCLB Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) model and applied for the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) flexibility waivers. In February 2012, TN was awarded ESEA flexibility waivers. In this waiver, Tennessee was allowed to create a new accountability system.

The new accountability system has two overriding objectives: growth for all students, every year and closing achievement gaps by ensuring faster growth for those students who are furthest behind. These objectives are partially accomplished by holding districts and schools accountable for absolute performance. Districts are accountable to achieve their “annual measurable objectives” (AMOs) and to support their schools in achieving school AMOs.

In addition, the state identifies individual schools based upon relative performance measures. Tennessee’s relative accountability system is designed to support schools with high achievement and a high rate of growth. These schools are categorized as “reward” schools. The reward schools are in addition to the “priority” and “focus” schools which were identified as the state’s chronically low performing schools and the schools with the largest achievement gaps, respectively.

“Reward” schools are the top 10 percent of schools in the state comprised of:

- 5% highest-performing schools
- 5% highest-progress schools.

To identify “reward” schools, the most recent year of data will be used for the following indicators: 3-8 Math, 3-8 Reading/Language Arts, 3-8 Science, Algebra I, English I, English II, Biology I, Graduation Rate, TVAAS. A reward success rate is calculated for each school:

# Proficient/Advanced Students in Math + Reading/Language Arts + Science + Algebra I + English I + English II + Biology + # HS Graduates

# Tested Scores in Math + Reading/Language Arts + Science + Algebra I + English I + English II + Biology + # Students in the HS Graduation Cohort

There are some reward exemptions: Schools with the following cannot be identified as reward schools and must be excluded:

- 1) Achievement gaps that are larger than the state median in any subgroup,
- 2) Achievement gaps that have widened from the prior year.

Reward schools are identified by the Reward success rate (one-year composite for ALL students) or TVAAS growth composite index.

**The Recommendation:**

The Department of Education recommends adoption of this item on final reading. The SBE staff concurs with this recommendation.