

Idaho's Five-Star Rating System Brief Overview

Idaho's new accountability system – known as Idaho's Five-Star Rating System – will more accurately measure and recognize the academic performance in Idaho's schools. Under the previous accountability system required by the federal No Child Left Behind law, the state was only able to use one metric – proficiency (or how many students can pass a test) – to determine the academic quality of a school. Each year, the state reported whether or not each school made "Adequate Yearly Progress," or AYP based on how many students in a school reached proficiency on the ISAT.

Now, the state has moved away from the restrictions of the federal No Child Left Behind law and is implementing a new accountability system that more accurately measures the academic quality of each school and better communicates the results with parents and families. Whereas under the old system schools either met AYP or did not meet AYP based on a single measure, the new accountability system in Idaho provides a spectrum that more accurately describes a school's academic performance using multiple measures. Under the Five-Star Rating System, the state uses multiple measures, including academic growth, graduation rates and indicators of success in college and the workforce. Idaho submitted its waiver application in February 2012, and the U.S. Department of Education approved Idaho's new accountability system in October 2012.

During the transition last year, schools received both AYP results as well as Five-Star Rating results. This year and every year going forward, the state will completely transition to the Five-Star Rating System. These ratings are being calculated right now for the 2012-2013 school year and will become available publicly in August.

Here is a summary of the Star Rating System:

Each school is no longer rated on whether or not it meets AYP, which only measured how many students score on grade-level on the ISAT. Instead, each school is rated as a One-Star, Two-Star, Three-Star, Four-Star or Five-Star School based on multiple measures of academic performance, including academic growth.

Under the Five-Star System, schools with grades K-8 are measured based on the following factors:

- Academic growth: how much progress did students make over the past school year.
- Academic proficiency: how many students have reached grade-level or higher in each subject area on the ISAT.
- Participation: Schools must demonstrate that at least 95 percent of students in the schools were tested.

Under the Five-Star System, schools with a grade 12 are measured based on the following factors:

- Academic Growth: The state measures how much progress students made over the past school year.
- Academic Proficiency: The state measures how many students have reached grade-level or higher in each subject area on the ISAT.
- Postsecondary and Career Readiness Metrics: The state measures a school's graduation rate, the number of students enrolled in and successfully completing advanced courses, and student

scores on college entrance exams, such as the SAT, ACT, ACCUPLACER or COMPASS. The state currently pays for all students to take the SAT or ACCUPLACER.

- Participation: Schools must demonstrate that at least 95 percent of students in the schools were tested.

After calculating these measures, each school receives a Star Rating.

- Four-Star and Five-Star Schools are publicly recognized and celebrated for their excellent performance as top-performing schools across Idaho. These schools serve as an example to other schools.
- Three-Star Schools are recognized as doing a good job for students but are also be required to develop an improvement plan for certain areas in which the school could improve academic achievement.
- One-Star and Two-Star Schools are schools in which the state has identified areas of improvement. These schools develop school improvement plans tied to research-based best practices, and the State Department of Education focuses intense time and resources to provide the support necessary to raise academic achievement and close achievement gaps in these schools.

Through the new Five-Star Rating System, Idaho has a consistent, uniform system of accountability for all schools. This new system not only brings higher levels of accountability to public education but also more accurately measures academic performance in schools and gives Idaho parents and patrons clearer, easy-to-understand information on how schools are performing academically each year.