Federal Guidance A:15

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A-15. How can an SEA determine academic achievement in terms of proficiency of the "all students" group on the State's reading/language arts and mathematics assessments combined to develop one list of schools that will enable it to identify the persistently lowest-achieving schools in the State? To determine the persistently lowest-achieving schools in the State in terms of academic achievement, an SEA must rank each set of schools—i.e., Title I schools in improvement, corrective action, or restructuring and secondary schools eligible for, but that do not receive, Title I funds—from highest to lowest in terms of proficiency of the "all students" group on the State's reading/language arts and mathematics assessments combined. Accordingly, the SEA must have a way to combine different proficiency rates between reading/language arts and mathematics for each school. There are likely a number of ways an SEA may do this. Below, we give two examples.

EXAMPLE 1
Single Percentage Method

Numerator:

Step 1: Calculate the total number of proficient students in the "all students" group in reading/language arts by adding the number of proficient students in each grade tested in a school. Calculate the total number of proficient students in the "all students" group in mathematics by adding the number of proficient students in each grade tested in the school.

Step 2: Add the total number of proficient students in reading/language arts and mathematics.

Denominator:

Step 3: Calculate the total number of students in the "all students" group in the school who took the State's reading/language arts assessment and the total number of students in the "all students" group who took the State's mathematics assessment.

Step 4: Add the total number of students in the "all students" group in the school who took the State's reading/language arts assessment and the total number of students in the "all students" group who took the State's mathematics assessment.

Note: In counting the total number of students who are proficient and the total number of students assessed, include the number of proficient students with disabilities who took an alternate assessment (based on alternate academic achievement standards or modified academic achievement standards) and the total number of students with disabilities who took an alternate assessment.

Step 5: Divide the numerator by the denominator to determine the percent proficient in reading/language arts and mathematics in the school.

Step 6: Rank the schools in each relevant set of schools from highest to lowest using the percentages in Step 5.

EXAMPLE 2
<u>Adding Ranks Method</u>

Step 1: Calculate the percent proficient for reading/language arts for every school in the relevant set of schools using the most recent assessment data available. (Use the same data that the State reports on its report card under section 1111(h)(1)(C)(i) of the ESEA for the "all students" group.)

Step 2: Calculate the percent proficient for mathematics for every school in the relevant set of schools using the most recent assessment data available. (Use the same data that the State reports on its report card under section 1111(h)(1)(C)(i) of the ESEA for the "all students" group.)

Step 3: Rank order schools based on the percent proficient for reading/language arts from the highest percent proficient to the lowest percent proficient. The highest percent proficient would receive a rank of one.

Step 4: Rank order schools based on the percent proficient for mathematics from the highest percent proficient to the lowest percent proficient. The highest percent proficient would receive a rank of one.

Step 5: Add the numerical ranks for reading/language arts and mathematics for each school.

Step 6: Rank order schools in each set of schools based on the combined reading/language arts and mathematics ranks for each school. The school with the lowest combined rank (e.g., 2, based on a rank of 1 for both reading/language arts and mathematics) would be the highest-achieving school within the set of schools and the school with the highest combined rate would be the lowest-achieving school within the set of schools.

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