

## 2015 Focus Schools

In 2012, Arkansas received approval from the United States Department of Education (USDE) for flexibility from some requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. The state was required to identify a number of schools equal to at least ten percent of the state's Title I schools. Arkansas had 803 Title I schools in 2011, requiring at least 80 Title I schools be identified as Focus schools. Arkansas identified 109 schools which included 82 Title I schools. Schools that were not Title I, but had the same achievement gaps as the Title I Focus schools, were also identified. An extension of the Arkansas Flexibility was approved by USDE on July 27, 2015. Arkansas was required to provide an updated list of Focus schools to ensure that districts implement interventions and supports in each Focus school that are targeted to the school's reason for identification. The following explains how the new Focus schools were calculated:

Benchmark exams for math and literacy in grades 3-8, Algebra I, Geometry, and grade 11 literacy from 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14 were used to name the newly identified Focus Schools. Focus schools include 10% of Title I schools with the largest performance gaps over a three year period between Non-TAGG and TAGG student groups. Schools that were not Title I with the same size gaps were also identified as Focus. TAGG stands for Targeted Achievement Gap Group. A student is counted once in the TAGG if they are in at least one of the following student subgroups: Economically Disadvantaged Students, English Learners and Students with Disabilities. Students that are not in one of the TAGG student subgroups are part of the Non-TAGG group. Non-mobile tests were used (students were continuously enrolled at the same school from October 1 through the day of the test).

- For each school, percent proficient and advanced was calculated for TAGG students and Non-TAGG students using tests from 2012, 2013 and 2014.
- Achievement gaps were calculated for each school by subtracting the percent proficient and advanced over the three years for TAGG from the percent proficient and advanced over the three years for Non-TAGG.
- Schools were ranked by the magnitude of the 3 year gap.
- Ten percent of Title I schools with the largest gaps were identified as Focus. Schools that were not Title I with the same size gaps were also identified as Focus.

The schools that have been identified as Focus Schools can be found in a searchable Excel spreadsheet at [2015 Focus Schools](#).