

## **Explanation of ESEA School Improvement Status**

The Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) requested flexibility from some of the requirements in the ESEA relating to Adequate Yearly Progress. The United States Department of Education granted the flexibility request. The ADE is no longer required to label schools for the number of years they have not made Adequate Yearly Progress. One hundred percent proficiency in literacy and math by 2013-14 is no longer required. Test scores from 2010-11 were used to establish new Annual Measureable Objectives (AMOs) for each student subgroup in each school. The proficiency level for each student subgroup in 2010-11 was subtracted from 100 to find the proficiency gap. The proficiency gap should be reduced by 50 percent within six years. Over the six year period, subgroup AMOs will establish the yearly targets with equal increments leading to the 50 percent gap reduction in 2016-17. AMOs were established for growth and graduation rates (for high schools) as well as proficiency.

To ensure that more schools will be accountable for closing the gap between top performing students and historically underperforming student subgroups, a Targeted Achievement Gap Group (TAGG) was formed. The TAGG is made up of students who are economically disadvantaged and/or English learners and/or students with disabilities. Students who met more than one of the TAGG categories were only included once in the TAGG.

Each school is labeled "Achieving" or "Needs Improvement." Achieving schools must meet the proficiency or growth AMOs for the All Students group and the TAGG in math and literacy. Achieving schools must test at least 95 percent of the All Students group and the TAGG. High schools must meet the graduation rate AMOs for the All Students group and the TAGG in addition to the proficiency or growth AMO requirements in math and literacy and percent tested requirements. ADE was approved to use an important safeguard that credits schools in the highest range of performance. Schools/Districts will be credited as Achieving when the All Students group and the TAGG meet or exceed 94 percent proficient or percent meeting growth, and graduation rates (for high schools) are 94 percent or higher. The 95 percent tested requirement must still be met for a school to be considered Achieving.