



State Fiscal Stabilization Fund and School Improvement Grant 1003 (g)
Lowest Achieving Schools Definition

Persistently lowest-achieving schools in Georgia means the following:

- Tier I schools:** any Title I school in improvement, corrective action, or restructuring that
- (1) is among the lowest-achieving 5% of those schools in the State (or the lowest-achieving five such schools); or
 - (2) is a high school that has a three-year average graduation rate < 60%.

Calculations to identify **Tier I** schools will be based on

- (1) 2009-10 Title I schools in improvement, corrective action, and restructuring,
- (2) lack of progress in academic achievement over a two-year period for all students in reading/language arts and math combined

- Tier II Schools:** any secondary school that is eligible for, but does not receive, Title I, Part A funds and
- (1) is among the lowest-achieving 5% of such secondary schools in the State or the lowest-achieving five such secondary schools) or
 - (2) is a high school that has a three-year average graduation rate <60%.

Calculations to identify **Tier II** schools will be based on

- (1) Proficiency combined with lack of progress over time for all students
- (2) Proficiency based on combined scores for reading/language arts and math for all students
- (3) Lowest-achieving schools chosen from lowest to highest proficiency rates stopping at 5%

Tier III Schools: any Title I school in improvement, corrective action, or restructuring that is not a Tier I or a Tier II school.

The Single Percentage Method will be used in calculating academic achievement in terms of proficiency, and the Lowest Achieving Over Multiple Years method will be used in determining whether a school has demonstrated a lack of progress over a number of years. Weights will also be applied based on school type (elementary, middle, high).

Academic progress is defined as improving proficiency levels on state assessments in the “all students” group by a significant amount (5-10 percent) over prior year levels.

SIG guidance defines secondary school as “a school that provides ‘secondary education, as determined under State law, except that the term does not include any education beyond grade 12.” While Georgia law doesn’t provide a definition for a secondary school, the operational definition of secondary school has been any school with the combination of grades 9-12.