



Questions for the NCLB Waiver Workgroup

1. How will we build state educational agency (SEA), local educational agency (LEA) and school capacity to improve student learning?
2. What interventions should be used in Priority Schools? These interventions must be aligned with the “turnaround principles” and must be implemented by the Priority School’s LEA.
3. What interventions should be considered for Focus Schools? How should the state work with LEAs to implement these interventions? These interventions must address achievement gap issues, low-performing subgroups and low graduation rates.
4. Which of the three options provided by the federal government should we use in setting our Annual Measurable Objectives (AMOs)?

Option A: Set AMOs in annual equal increments toward a goal of reducing by half the percentage of students in the “all students” group and in each subgroup who are not proficient within six years. Must use proficiency rates based on assessments administered in the 2010-11 school year as the starting point for setting its AMOs. This option is commonly referred to as the Achievement Gap Option because it has the effect of cutting the achievement gap at least in half in most cases by setting goals for bigger improvements in subgroups that are farther behind.

Option B: Move the 100 percent proficiency goal from 2014 to 2020 and move AMOs up incrementally. The starting point must be the statewide averages.

Option C: Use another method that is educationally sound and results in ambitious but achievable AMOs for LEAs, schools and subgroups.

5. How should we identify Reward Schools? Half of the Reward Schools must be those that had the highest levels of proficiency while the other half must be those that exhibited the most impressive growth.

6. How should we identify the lowest-performing five percent of Title I and Title I-eligible schools, which will make up the list of Priority Schools?
7. How should we identify Focus Schools, those schools with the biggest achievement gaps, the lowest-performing subgroups and graduation rates below 60 percent?
8. How do we continue to provide incentives and supports to Title I schools not identified as Reward, Priority or Focus Schools?
9. How do we treat non-Title I schools in this system?

Workgroup Schedule

October 14: Questions 1-3

October 21: Questions 4-7

October 28: Continue Questions 4-7, Questions 8-9

November 4: Tying up loose ends and summary by MDE