

## NCLB Waiver Workgroup October 21 Meeting

### Questions to address

1. Which of the three options provided by the federal government should we use in setting our Annual Measurable Objectives?

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% 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.

2. 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.
3. How should we identify the lowest-performing 5 percent of Title I and Title I-eligible schools, which will make up the list of Priority Schools?
4. How should we identify Focus Schools, those schools with the biggest achievement gaps, the lowest-performing subgroups and graduation rates below 60 percent?



1500 Highway 36 West  
Roseville, MN 55113-4266

T: (651) 582-8200  
TTY: (651) 582-8201

## Definitions

**Annual Measurable Objectives (AMO)**-State-set targets schools and districts must reach based on their assessment data. Currently, the AMOs are the AYP targets, which increase toward 100 percent proficiency in 2014. The waiver allows states to reset their AMOs and choose an alternative to the 2014 goal. The waiver also removes the consequences associated with failing to meet the AMOs.

**Priority School**- A Title I school that, based on available data, has been identified among the lowest-performing schools in the state. The state must identify at least 5 percent of Title I schools as priority schools. While these schools might have achievement gap problems, they also have systemic, across-the-board issues with proficiency and growth. Priority Schools are required to work with their LEA and the State to implement research-based turnaround models.

**Focus School**- A Title I school that, based on available data, is contributing to the achievement gap in the state. This category of schools includes schools with the largest achievement gaps, the lowest-performing subgroups and graduation rates below 60 percent. The state must identify at least 10 percent of Title I schools as focus schools. Focus Schools are required to work with their LEA to implement an improvement plan that addresses the specific issues in that school. The State is required to provide technical assistance and support to LEAs working with Focus Schools, and to ensure that Focus Schools are subject to research-based interventions.

**Reward School**- A Title I school that, based on available data, is either one of the highest-achieving or has made substantial progress despite obstacles within the past year. There is no set percentage of schools that must be identified as Reward Schools but half must be identified as the "highest-performing" and half must be identified as the "highest-progress."