



# Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) Flexibility Waiver

## Parent Notification

Walton County Schools  
2016-2017 SY



The Elementary and Secondary Education Act Reauthorization (ESEA), the main federal law supporting public schools, is intended to support accountability of states, school districts, and schools for improving the academic performance of all.

### What changed?

ESEA flexibility waivers eliminate Supplemental Educational Services (SES) and Public School Choice (Choice) options. Systems no longer use the terms “needs improvement” (NI) based on adequate yearly progress (AYP) reports.

### What does the waiver do?

The ESEA waivers provide greater flexibility for identified schools in designing a flexible learning program tailored to the needs of the school. Identified schools will have the capacity to serve more students in need for additional academic supports.

### Status terms: Reward, Priority, and Focus Schools

Under Georgia’s renewed ESEA flexibility waiver, the criteria for Priority and Focus Schools are now fully aligned with the College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI), allowing for a more transparent measure with which districts and schools are already familiar. Title I schools will now implement specific programs and interventions based on this new status identification. Only Priority Schools and Focus Schools will be required to implement and develop flexible learning programs (FLP). Initial designations will be based on achievement data. Revisions were made to the identification criteria in 2015. The Alter Schools identification has been removed as of the 2015 school year.

Georgia's new Single Statewide Accountability System, the *College and Career Readiness Performance Index (CCRPI)* will serve as a comprehensive report card for all schools in Georgia.

| Reward Schools   | Priority Schools   | Focus Schools  |
|--|--|--|
| Highest Performing Title I Schools   | Title Schools  | Title Schools  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Must not meet the definition of a Priority or Focus school</li> <li>➤ 3-year average of Content Mastery category performance               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Category performance will be weighted by enrollment for schools with more than one grade band</li> <li>b. schools must have 3 years of data</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Rank schools by 3-year average of category performance</li> <li>➤ Select highest 5%</li> <li>➤ Must not have more red Performance Flags than a typical Title I School</li> <li>➤ Must not have significant achievement gaps between subgroups</li> <li>➤ Achievement Gap score must be <math>\geq</math> state’s average Achievement Gap score for Title I Schools</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ A 3-year average of Content Mastery category performance:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Category performance will be weighted by enrollment for schools with more than one grade band</li> <li>b. schools must have 3 years of data</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Rank schools by 3-year average of category performance</li> <li>➤ The lowest 5% of Title I schools in the state will be selected. AND</li> <li>➤ High Schools with graduation rates &lt; 60% for 2 consecutive years starting with the 2014 and 2013 4-year cohort graduation rates</li> <li>➤ Schools identified as Priority Schools in 2012 which did not meet the exit criteria will be re-identified as Priority Schools.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Must not meet the definition of a Priority school</li> <li>➤ A 3-year average of CCRPI Achievement Gap scores               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Achievement Gap will be weighted by enrollment for schools with more than one grade band</li> <li>b. schools must have 3 years of data</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Rank schools by 3-year average of Achievement Gap scores</li> <li>➤ The lowest 10% of Title I schools in the state will be selected</li> <li>➤ Schools identified as Focus Schools in 2012 which do not meet the exit criteria will be re-identified as Focus Schools.</li> </ul> |

Si usted necesita ayuda con la traducción de esta carta, por favor comuníquese con la Señora Eleanor Scott en Walton County Board of Education. Su número de teléfono es 770-266-4486.

If you have additional questions or concerns please contact:

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