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### 2013 List of State Identified Reward Schools

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#### The Background:

In February 2012, Tennessee obtained a waiver from certain provisions of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Through this waiver, Tennessee had the opportunity to create a new accountability system.

The new accountability system has two overriding objectives: growth for all students every year and closing achievement gaps by ensuring faster growth for those students who are furthest behind. These objectives are partially accomplished by holding districts and schools accountable for absolute performance. Districts are accountable to achieve their “annual measurable objectives” (AMOs) and to support their schools in achieving school AMOs.

In addition, the state identifies individual schools based upon relative performance measures. Tennessee’s school accountability system annually identifies schools with high achievement and/or a high rate of growth. These schools are categorized as Reward schools.

Reward schools are the top 10 percent of schools in the state comprised of:

- 5 percent highest-performing schools (“Performance”)
- 5 percent fastest progress schools (“Progress”)

To identify Reward schools for performance, the most recent year of data will be used for the following indicators: 3-8 Math, 3-8 Reading/Language Arts, 3-8 Science, Algebra I, Algebra II, English I, English II, English III, Biology I, Graduation Rate, and the one-year school level composite for TVAAS. A reward success rate is calculated for each school:

# Proficient/Advanced Students in Math + Reading/Language Arts + Science + Algebra I + Algebra II + English I + English II + English III + Biology + # HS Graduates

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# Tested Scores in Math + Reading/Language Arts + Science + Algebra I + Algebra II + English I + English II + English III + Biology + # Students in the HS Graduation Cohort

To identify Reward schools for progress the top five percent of schools are selected based on their one-year school level composite for TVAAS.

There are some reward exemptions: Schools cannot be identified as reward schools and must be excluded if:

- 1) Achievement gaps are larger than the median gap for all schools in the state for any subgroup.
- 2) Achievement gaps have widened from the prior year for any subgroup.

**The Recommendation:**

The Department of Education recommends adoption of this item on final reading. The SBE staff concurs with this recommendation.