Every Child a Graduate
College and Career Ready

Title I
Priority and Focus Schools

The U.S. Department of Education required States requesting waivers from portions of federal education law to identify two new categories of schools: Title I Priority and Title I Focus.

The categories apply only to schools receiving funds from Title I, a federal program that helps high poverty schools support struggling students. Title I Priority and Title I Focus schools receive assistance to help them raise student achievement using certain interventions.

The Title I schools where student achievement is lowest are **Title I Priority Schools.** With the assistance of a state approved turnaround partner, they must implement schoolwide reforms that:

- support struggling learners;
- add 300 hours of instruction to the school year;
- ensure high quality teachers and school leaders;
- provide a safe school environment and comprehensive pupil services; and
- involve parents in meaningful ways.

Title I Focus Schools are those Title I schools with very low subgroup performance or those with the most significant achievement gaps between subgroups. Examining student performance by subgroups—economically disadvantaged students, racial/ethnic groups, English language learners, and students with disabilities—is a key way to determine whether all students are achieving at high levels.

Title I Priority Schools and Title I Focus Schools must implement certain reforms to raise student achievement.

Title I Focus Schools must implement at least one of three types of programs to help students who may not be on target to graduate, namely: Response to Intervention (RtI), Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS), or Early Warning Systems. These schools will receive training and assistance from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, the Wisconsin RtI Center, and others.

Title I Priority and Title I Focus Schools have four years to demonstrate sustained improvements in student learning.

For more information go to:
dpi.wi.gov/oea/acct/accountability.html

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