

The Minnesota Values Chart

The ESEA Flexibility waiver allows states to create a new metric for its state accountability system. This metric must be used to identify Priority, Focus and Reward schools. MDE is proposing the use of a values chart that awards points to schools based on their achievements in at least four areas: proficiency, growth, achievement gap closure and graduation rate. This method has several advantages that we believe make it an effective tool:

- It moves beyond looking just at proficiency and allows us to reward schools for their progress.
- It creates incentives for the right things. By rewarding proficiency, it maintains the goal of moving all students toward proficient. By rewarding growth, it incentivizes focused instruction to all students, not just those right above or right under the proficiency line. By rewarding achievement gap closure, it incentivizes schools to focus on the subgroups that are farthest behind. By rewarding high graduation rate, it incentivizes schools to do all they can to identify students at risk of dropping out and make every effort to keep them in school.
- It allows for flexibility. As the education needs of the state change, the weights placed on each value can change with them. Also, different measurements can be added and subtracted. The chart also allows for flexibility across grade levels so the way we measure high schools does not have to be the same as the way we measure elementary and middle schools.
- It works for identifying Priority, Focus and Reward schools. For Priority Schools, we can weigh the values to generate a list of the kinds of schools that we believe are truly the lowest performing. For Focus Schools, we can put more weight in the achievement gap measurement to show which schools have the biggest achievement gap problems. For Reward Schools, we can weigh proficiency or growth more heavily to show the highest-achieving and the highest-progress schools.
- It has been tested. Other states like Colorado and Kentucky have already adopted a similar method for reporting accountability data and have had great public support.
- Its consistent with the values of the state's education system. By focusing on promoting high levels of proficiency, high growth, reducing the achievement gap and making sure every student graduates with a high school diploma, the chart reflects the values that are most important to Minnesota.



1500 Highway 36 West
Roseville, MN 55113-4266

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

Example of the Minnesota Values Chart

VALUE	POINTS EARNED/POINTS POSSIBLE	PERCENTAGE
Proficiency		
Student Growth		
Achievement Gap Closure		
Graduation Rate		
High Achieving???		
Total		
Statewide Average		



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