

Academic Achievement

What is academic achievement?

In the accountability system, a school's academic achievement is measured by using the percentage of continuously enrolled students (students enrolled in the first 56 calendar days of the school year) who demonstrate mastery of content standards by reaching a proficient or advanced performance on the Idaho Standards Achievement Tests (ISAT) or the Idaho Alternate Assessments (IDAA) in English Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics. Idaho also measures and reports achievement on the state's science standards but will not use these results for school identification.

Why is academic achievement important?

Idaho content standards promote equity by establishing the knowledge and skills that all students should master at each grade level. Measuring academic achievement provides information about student mastery of the content standards. Identifying schools where many students are struggling to achieve proficiency on state assessments is the first step in recognizing schools that would most benefit from support.

How will Idaho calculate academic achievement name for school accountability?

A student's score on the state assessment is reported in one of four achievement levels: Level 1 (Below Basic), Level 2 (Basic), Level 3 (Proficient), and Level 4 (Advanced).

When determining the achievement rate for a school and for each student group, the following calculation to determine proficiency rate for each subject area is used:

$$\frac{\text{Number of students who score at Level 3 or 4}}{\text{The greater of}} \begin{array}{l} \text{The total number of continuously enrolled students who received a valid score} \\ \text{OR} \\ 95\% \text{ of the total number of continuously enrolled students who were not exempt from} \\ \text{participation in statewide assessment*} \end{array}$$

*Participation in statewide assessments is required and schools are expected to test 95 percent of their students. When a school fails to reach this threshold, federal law requires that Idaho use the number of students that would represent 95 percent as the denominator in the proficiency rate calculation.

Data sources

The academic achievement indicator is based on ISAT/IDAA summative assessments administered between March 19 and May 18, 2018, and appealed by school district and charter administrators July 5 - 18, 2018, and associated to student enrollment and demographic information district and charter schools submitted in June 2018 ISEE reports.