NEW YORK STATE EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT (ESSA) ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM

Reimagine Phase Accountability Indicator Fact Sheet
Weighted Average Achievement
High School Level

NYSED.gov

Last Updated: 2/2025

Beginning in the 2025-2026 school year (SY), the **Weighted Average Achievement** indicator will have minimal revisions to its calculation methodology from prior years.

What does the Weighted Average Achievement indicator measure?

The Weighted Average Achievement indicator measures **academic achievement in an accountability cohort using a denominator that meets federal requirements**. At the high school level, the Weighted Average Achievement indicator measures student performance in four subjects.

English Language Arts (ELA) | **Math** | **Science** | **Social Studies**
Restored to calculations starting with 2024-2025 SY results

How is the Weighted Average Achievement indicator calculated?

The Weighted Average Achievement indicator will be calculated for each accountability subgroup in an accountability cohort (i.e., students who entered Grade 9 four years prior and were enrolled in the school on BEDS Day and on April 1 of the reporting year) when **the number of students in the cohort for each subject combined is greater than or equal to 20**. Students' scale scores are converted into **accountability achievement levels** ranging from **1 to 4**.

1. Calculate ELA, math, science, and social studies subject Performance Indices (PIs) using the formula below.

$$PI = \frac{(\text{\# Level 2}) + 2(\text{\# Level 3}) + 2.5(\text{\# Level 4})}{\text{\# of students in accountability cohort}} \times 100$$

2. Calculate the Weighted Average Achievement Index using the formula below.

$$\text{Weighted Average Achievement Index} = \frac{3(\text{ELA PI}) + 3(\text{Math PI}) + 2(\text{Science PI}) + 2(\text{Social Studies PI})}{10}$$

3. Rank schools based on Weighted Average Achievement Index. The higher the rank, the better the performance.

4. Assign Weighted Average Achievement Level based on where the school falls in the ranking and the statewide rank-based cut points shown in the table below.

Rank	Weighted Average Achievement Level
≤ 10%	1
10.1-50%	2
50.1-75%	3
≥ 75%	4

What is an example of a Weighted Average Achievement calculation?

Let's calculate the Weighted Average Achievement Level for School R's All Students Group.

1. Calculate ELA, math, science, and social studies subject PIs.

Subject	# of Students in Cohort	# Tested Students	# Level 1	# Level 2	# Level 3	# Level 4
ELA	95	91	6	24	39	22
Math	95	90	8	27	37	18
Science	95	85	9	29	30	17
Social Studies	95	82	7	28	29	18

ELA PI

$$\frac{(24) + 2(39) + 2.5(22)}{95} \times 100$$

165.3

Math PI

$$\frac{(27) + 2(37) + 2.5(18)}{95} \times 100$$

153.7

Science PI

$$\frac{(29) + 2(30) + 2.5(17)}{95} \times 100$$

138.4

Social Studies PI

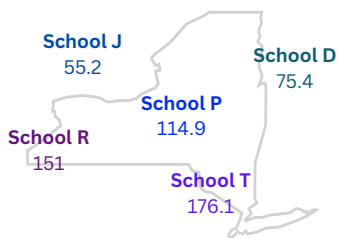$$\frac{(28) + 2(29) + 2.5(18)}{95} \times 100$$

137.9

2. Calculate the Weighted Average Achievement Index.

$$\text{Weighted Average Achievement Index} = \frac{3(165.3) + 3(153.7) + 2(138.4) + 2(137.9)}{10} = 151$$

3. Rank schools based on Weighted Average Achievement Index.

Assume five schools in New York State for example purposes.

School J 55.2
School D 75.4
School P 114.9
School R 151
School T 176.1

School Index	Rank
School J 55.2	1
School D 75.4	2
School P 114.9	3
School R 151	4
School T 176.1	5

4. Assign Weighted Average Achievement Level.

Rank	Weighted Average Achievement Level
≤ 10%	1
10.1-50%	2
50.1-75%	3
≥ 75%	4

How can the Weighted Average Achievement indicator be used for continuous improvement?

Schools and subgroups with Weighted Average Achievement Level 1 or 2 may be identified for more rigorous support models.

Analyzing Weighted Average Achievement data can support goal-setting, instructional decision-making, and the needs assessment process.

Data used for calculating Weighted Average Achievement can be found in the SIRS 114 report.

Want to know more?

For more tools and resources about the New York State ESSA Accountability System, visit the NYSED School and District Accountability Resources and Data website.

https://www.nysed.gov/accountability/school-and-district-accountability-resources-and-data

To learn more about resources and supports for identified schools and districts, visit the NYSED Office of Accountability's Continuous Improvement website.

https://www.nysed.gov/accountability/continuous-improvement