

2019 Michigan A-F Letter Grades and Rankings Policy Brief

About the System

The Michigan A-F School Grades System was developed to comply with the accountability requirements set forth in Public Act 601 of 2018 (PA 601), which requires the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) to:

- Annually assign each public school letter grades for five indicators and ranking labels for three indicators.
- Annually identify Alternative Education Campuses and give them a summative rating rather than letter grades or ranking labels.
- Identify at most 5% of schools for comprehensive support, which MDE will do every three years.
- Identify a portion of schools for recognition as Reward Schools, which MDE will do annually.

The intent of these combined actions is to improve the national educational ranking of this state.

Performance Indicators

PA 601 requires MDE to report a total of eight indicators. The tables below show the five indicators receiving letter grades and the three indicators receiving ranking labels.

Graded Indicators
Student Proficiency
Student Growth
Graduation
Performance Among Peers
English Learner Progress

Ranked Indicators
Student Subgroup Performance
On-Track Attendance
Assessment Participation

(Continued on next page.)

Letter Grades and Ranking Labels

The tables below give the letter grades used to categorize school performance for the five graded indicators and the ranking labels used to categorize school performance for the three ranked indicators.

Grades	Ranking Labels
A	Significantly Above Average
B	Above Average
C	Average
D	Below Average
F	Significantly Below Average

Alternative Education Campuses

PA 601 also directs MDE to designate public schools meeting certain eligibility criteria (center programs, strict discipline academies, adjudicated youth programs, and any other specialized student population as determined by MDE) as Alternative Education Campuses. Public schools designated as an Alternative Education Campus receive reports indicating compliance with applicable laws and academic progress towards educational goals, rather than letter grades or rankings.

School Identifications

Low-Performing Schools

In addition to calculating letter grades and ranking labels, the system identifies low-performing schools every three years. A maximum of 5% of all public schools can be identified as low-performing using the following criteria.

- Earning a letter grade of “F” on all of the following indicators:
 - Student Proficiency
 - Student Growth
 - Performance Among Peers
- OR, high schools with four-year graduation rates under 67%

High-Performing Schools

High-performing schools, or Reward schools, are identified on an annual basis. Any school not identified as a low-performing school and meeting the following criteria are identified as Reward schools.

- Earning an “A” letter grade in any of the following indicators:
 - Student Proficiency
 - Student Growth
 - Performance Among Peers
- OR, high schools with four-year graduation rates of at least 99%