

ESEA Federal Accountability System 2012

Frequently Asked Questions

How do you determine percent tested for subgroups if non-standard accommodations were used?

If some students received non-standard accommodations in an assessment area, their scores were counted as missing, or not tested. This methodology has been in place for federal and state accountability since 2010-2011 as outlined in the South Carolina Accountability Workbook:

“For the 2010-2011 school year and going forward, students with non-standard accommodations will be excluded from participation calculations -- that is, they are treated as "not tested" in the numerator. Non-standard accommodations include oral administration of ELA and the use of a calculator for Math on PASS in grades 3 and 4” (page 3).

Our numbers file entry shows that we had fewer than 30 students in a subgroup, but the subgroup is listed anyway. How is that calculated for our school?

Groups with less than 30 students are not used in calculations, just the numbers (N) report. Please see the detail file not N file.

How can a school with only a baseline graduation rate have this measure included? Also, does the sample size of 30 apply to graduation rate?

The 2011 Graduation rate (as used in ESEA 2012) was not limited by student count in the ALL STUDENTS category. However, any subgroup with fewer than 10 students are considered insufficient data and the graduation rate for such groups is blocked and not used in calculations for ESEA 2012. We applied an N size of ≥ 30 only to performance and percent tested in ESEA 2012 calculations for the baseline year.

When a school had no graduation rate in 2010, we used 2011 rate only in ESEA 2012 calculation for other schools also in the state as the starting point. In other words, if the school only had a graduation rate in 2011 and met the 73.1 objective at school or subgroup level we issue one point in the calculation for the school or subgroup. When the school had a zero graduation rate in 2011 there was no point issued.

How are the Absolute Rating and Improvement Rating formulas computed?

Please refer to the Education Oversight Committee's 2011-12 accountability manual which describes the exact methodology for these calculations. You will find what you need beginning on page 16.

A combined school with each school having individual BEDS Code only has one entry. Why was one school omitted from the ESEA database?

One of the schools did not receive an ESEA grade because there were fewer than 30 students in that school who took one or more of the assessments used to compute ESEA composite index scores. Because the missing assessments is one of the components used in calculating an ESEA composite score, and because we apply a minimum group size of 30 students for all performance and percent tested components of the calculations, we could not calculate an ESEA composite index score (or grade) for this school. Their data are not combined; but rather they have been omitted from the calculations altogether because of a missing assessment component.

How are the ESEA calculations performed?

Please refer to the technical manual that describes how the calculations were carried out for the 2012 ESEA Federal Accountability System. This document is on the main ESEA website along the right hand column under DATA FILES>>Technical Documentation:
<http://ed.sc.gov/data/esea/2012/index.cfm>.

How are decimal increments between 1 and 0 calculated for each assessment?

Please refer to the technical manual that describes how the calculations were carried out for the 2012 ESEA Federal Accountability System. This document is on the main ESEA website along the right hand column under DATA FILES>>Technical Documentation:
<http://ed.sc.gov/data/esea/2012/index.cfm>.

How was the N-size established for the graduation rate AMOs? We do not see these on the “Numbers” data files.

The 2011 Graduation rate (as used in ESEA 2012) was not limited by student count in the ALL STUDENTS category. However, any subgroup with fewer than 10 students are considered insufficient data and the graduation rate for such groups is blocked and not used in calculations for ESEA 2012. We applied an N size of ≥ 30 only to performance and percent tested in ESEA 2012 calculations for the base line year.

How was the N-size established for each EOCEP AMO?

The N size is determined by using the end of course file with students who had Biology or History score. Please note that we used 2011 end of course file in 2012 ESEA calculation.

What are the AMOs for SC-Alt?

SC-ALT High School scores are not in ESEA12 calculation. Please refer to the technical manual located on the main ESEA website along the right hand column under DATA FILES>>Technical Documentation: <http://ed.sc.gov/data/esea/2012/index.cfm>.

If a student is expected to test, but there is no test score, is a score of 0 included in the mean?

No, the means contain only the performance of the test scores that are available. If a student did not test and was supposed to test those data appear in the PERCENT TESTED columns, lowering the percent that tested. This process follows the same methodology as the previous AYP system.

Will schools also receive Absolute and Growth ratings this year?

Unless directed by the Education Oversight Committee to do change the process, Absolute and Growth ratings will be calculated for the 2012 report cards.

Was the SEM applied to the percent of students scoring MET or EXEMPLARY in a given school or district?

The SEMs are applied to the scale scores for ELA and Math for the ESEA calculations, not to the score category.

South Carolina Department of Education
Office of Data Management & Analysis