

How Was the Graduation Rate AMO for 2013 Determined?

Using a statistical analysis of the preceding three years, the least significant difference identifiable as a significant improvement was 1.4681%. This number was rounded to 1.5% and compared to last year's graduation rates. Table 1 shows the impact of raising the graduation rate AMO in 0.5% increments using the 2011 Graduation Rate.

Table 1. AMO Retrospective Analysis

AMO	Not Met %	Met %
73.1	40.1	59.9
73.6	43.6	56.4
74.1	46.5	53.5
74.6	48.5	51.5
75.1	50.5	49.5
75.6	52.5	47.5
76.1	55.9	44.1

With the full 1.5% AMO increase projected via the statistical analysis, a nearly even split of met versus not met would occur. To ensure an ambitious but obtainable goal, SCDE decided to use a 1% increase. Although this does not seem like an optimal solution, a further analysis of schools with negative change in graduation rate versus those with positive change shows that there is a roughly 1:2 ratio of schools with decreasing graduation rate to those with increasing graduation rates (Table 2). In addition, only 58% of schools that showed improvement, 43% with no change, and 39% that showed declines met the 74.1% AMO. By this methodology, schools are proportionately rewarded in the ESEA Waiver System by showing growth from year to year.

Table 2. Graduation Rate Change from 2010 to 2011

CHANGE	MEAN	STDEV	MEDIAN	N	PCT ABOVE 74.1% AMO
NEGATIVE	-4.51774	4.864341	-2.45	62	39.1%
NONE				7	42.9%
POSITIVE	4.189604	7.176277	2.25	133	57.9%

Further changes in ESEA AMOs for the upcoming year are presented in Table 3.

Table 3. AMO Changes from 2011-12 to 2012-13

	Elementary		Middle		High	
	2011-12	2012-13	2011-12	2012-13	2011-12	2012-13
ELA	630	635	624	628	223	226
Math	630	635	624	628	220	223
Science	630	635	624	628	76	77
Social Studies	630	635	624	628	71	73
Graduation Rate	-	-	-	-	73.1%	74.1%