## How to Read the 2016 AQuESTT Performance Progress Report



## **FINAL CLASSIFICATION DEFINITIONS**

- Status is calculated by averaging NeSA assessment scores across all available grade levels and subjects for the current year. This average will earn an initial score of 1, 2, 3, or 4. Some schools with a small number of eligible assessment scores will have their district's Status score substitute as their school Status score.
- Improvement is based on a school/district's average NeSA assessment scores over the last three years. If there is an upward trend of a certain amount then the raw classification will be increased by one level, regardless of Status.
- Growth is based on the percentage of students at a school/district who were present for the full year and showed "growth" on their individual NeSA reading or math scores compared to a year ago (see the "AQUESTT Classification Rules" document for full details). If a certain percentage of students show growth, then the raw classification will be increased by one level.
- Having a low Graduation rate at a high school/district can limit the raw classification to a 3, 2, or 1. If the graduation rate is high enough (or not applicable) then there is no effect. The graduation rate is calculated using the corrected cohort data, and therefore lags a year behind the NeSA data.
- Non-Proficiency is based on the percentage of NeSA assessment scores at a school/district that were
  rated as non-proficient over the last three years. If there is an upward trend of a certain amount (more
  non-proficient scores) then the raw classification will be decreased by one level, while if there is a
  downward trend of a certain amount (less non-proficient scores) then the raw classification will be
  increased by one level.
- Having a low Participation rate for NeSA assessments at a school/district can lower the raw classification by one, two, or three levels.
- The Raw Classification combines Status with any adjustments or limitations earned in the previous five categories. The possible classifications are 1 (Needs Improvement), 2 (Good), 3 (Great), or 4 (Excellent).
- (2015 only) The Total EBA Score is a sum of the responses to each of the five "policies, practices, and procedures" questions given for each of the six AQuESTT tenets. If the Total EBA Score meets or exceeds a certain percentile, the raw classification is increased by one level. This EBA adjustment only applies to school classifications.
- (2015 only) The Final Classification is a school/district's overall AQuESTT classification; it combines the raw classification generated above with a potential adjustment due to the Evidence-Based Analysis responses for the school/district.

For more details about the rules and calculations used in the 2016 AQuESTT Performance Progress Report, please refer to the "AQUESTT Final Classification Business Rules" document found next to the 2016 Performance Progress Report link, or at AQUESTT.com