

Understanding the 2026 Proficiency Improvement Indicator

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The Proficiency Improvement indicator score is determined by three measurements: Status from the current accountability year, and the previous two years (e.g. Status scores from school years 2026, 2025, and 2024). Complete scoring rules for this indicator and all others will be provided in the 2026 AQuESTT Classification Business Rules at aquestt.com/resources.

What does Proficiency Improvement measure?

- **Proficiency Improvement** measures whether ELA and Mathematics proficiency rates (Status) are improving over time.
- The indicator uses statewide assessment proficiency rates from the current school year and the previous two years. These three annual proficiency rates are used to calculate a trendline slope, which reflects the direction and rate of change in proficiency over time:
 - A positive slope indicates proficiency is improving.
 - A slope near zero indicates performance is stable.
 - A negative slope indicates proficiency is declining.
- The trendline slope is then converted into a classification level using the table below.
- The proficiency improvement indicator also recognizes that while student performance may vary year over year, sustained high performance is equally challenging. To this end, a sustained performance threshold has been established and incorporated based on the performance of schools/districts in the school years considered for this indicator.

How is the Proficiency Improvement classification level determined?

Step 1. Calculate the school or district trendline slope. Calculations occur to determine the three-year proficiency average and trendline slope. The complete calculation methodology is provided in the appendices of the AQuESTT Classification Business Rules.

Indicator	Score	Three-Year Average	Trendline Slope
Proficiency Improvement		65.35%	-0.51
• 2026 Proficiency	63.97%		
• 2025 Proficiency	67.11%		
• 2024 Proficiency	64.98%		

Step 2. Assign a trendline slope classification level using the chart below.

	Districts	Elementary Schools	Middle Schools	High Schools
4	4.50 and higher	4.75 and higher	4.10 and higher	3.90 and higher
3	3.00 to 4.49	3.15 to 4.74	3.15 to 4.09	2.60 to 3.89
2	0.01 to 2.99	0.01 to 3.14	0.01 to 3.14	0.01 to 2.59
1	0 and below	0 and below	0 and below	0 and below

The thresholds for each grade band were established by calculating the trendline slopes associated with approximately 5% (Level 3) and 7.5% (Level 4) improvement across the three-year period.

Step 3: If the school/district met or exceeded the sustained performance threshold in all three years and earned a classification level of 1 or 2, a classification level of 3 is assigned.

Sustained Performance Threshold	Districts	Elementary Schools	Middle Schools	High Schools
	80.00%	85.00%	85.00%	75.00%

How does the Sustained Performance Threshold work?

- Schools/districts are able to earn an **automatic classification level of 3** for this indicator through the **Sustained Performance Threshold**.
- **If** the school/district scores at or above this threshold for the current and previous two years, **and if** their proficiency improvement classification level determined in Steps 1 and 2 above is a 1 or 2, **then** they will earn an indicator classification level of 3.

How much weight does Proficiency Improvement carry toward my Final Classification?

Indicator	District	Elementary School	Middle School	High School
Proficiency Improvement	9%	13%	13%	11%

How are the Indicator Points calculated?

- Indicator points for Proficiency Improvement, like all other indicators, are determined by multiplying the Indicator Classification level by the Indicator Weight.

Indicator Points = Indicator Classification Level x Indicator Weight

- Indicator Scoring Example: Below is a district example showing the calculation of the Proficiency Improvement Indicator Points.

Indicator	Score	Score Ranges	Class. Level	Indicator Weight	Indicator Points
Proficiency Improvement	-0.51	0 and lower	1	9%	0.09
• 2026 Proficiency	63.97%				
• 2025 Proficiency	67.11%				
• 2024 Proficiency	64.98%				