2026 AQuESTT Classification Explanations

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The table below shows a grade-band breakdown of the indicator weights used in the 2026 AQuESTT classification system. Following that are simple explanations of how each score is determined. Complete explanations are provided in the 2026 AQuESTT Classification Business Rules at aquestt.com/resources.

Indicator	District	Elementary School	Middle School	High School
Status	40%	40%	40%	40%
Proficiency Improvement	9%	13%	13%	11%
Student Growth	9%	13%	13%	-
Combined Graduation Rate	9%	-	-	11%
Postsecondary Readiness	9%	-	-	11%
Science Proficiency	9%	13%	13%	10%
English Language Proficiency	7%	10%	10%	9%
Chronic Absenteeism Reduction	6%	9%	9%	6%
Participation Score	1%	1%	1%	1%
Student Discipline	1%	1%	1%	1%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

Status:

- The **Status** score is based on the percentage of full academic year eligible students who scored On-Track or higher in the current year's statewide Math and English Language Arts assessments.

Proficiency Improvement

- The **Proficiency Improvement Rate** is calculated by dividing the number of eligible ELA/Math assessments with scores in the highest two performance ranges by the total number of eligible ELA/Math assessments for the current year and the previous three years, and then combined into a proficiency trend line. A school/district's Proficiency Improvement Rate is the slope of the line representing the trend in the rate of proficient statewide assessments over recent years. For more information see Understanding the Proficiency Improvement Indicator

Student Growth

- The **Growth** indicator is the percentage of NSCAS/NSCAS-Alt assessment scores within a school/district that showed maintenance or an increase compared to the same individual's percentile ranking in the previous year within the same subject area. Only ELA and Math assessments are used in Growth rate calculations, since Science assessments are not taken in consecutive grades.

Combined Graduation Rate

- The **Combined Graduation Rate** is calculated by adding the 4-year and Extended (7-year) Graduation Rates from the previous year together at the weights of 51% and 49% respectively. Students who continued their secondary school education due to IEP team decisions are excluded from the 4-year cohort.
- A school/district's **Combined Graduation Rate Improvement** classification level is based on the year-to-year improvement of combined graduation rates.

Postsecondary Readiness

- The **Postsecondary Readiness Rate** is the percentage students in school/district meeting one or more of five menu items: Successfully complete two or more AP/IB/Dual Credit courses; earn the Seal of Biliteracy; successfully complete two intermediate or capstone course in a single CTE cluster program; successfully complete a work-based learning experience; or Meet/Exceed the Advanced Threshold on ACT in ELA, Math, and Science.
- A school/district's **Postsecondary Readiness Improvement** classification level is based on the year-to-year improvement of Postsecondary Readiness rates. For more information see Understanding the Postsecondary Readiness Indicator

Science Proficiency

- **Science Proficiency** is defined by the percentage of full academic year full academic year eligible statewide assessments scored at a proficient level or above when compared to school's/district's total valid NSCAS/NSCAS-Alt/ACT Science assessments.
- A school/district's **Science Proficiency Improvement** is based on the year-to-year improvement in science proficiency rates.

English Language Proficiency

- The **English Language Proficiency** rate is defined as the percentage of full academic year English learner students who tested as proficient on the ELPA21 or ALT-ELPA assessment.
- A school/district's **Progress Toward English Language Proficiency** is based on the percentage of English Learner students who are on track in their progress towards English language proficiency as measured by the ELPA21 or ALT-ELPA assessment.

Chronic Absenteeism Reduction

- The **Chronic Absenteeism Rate** is defined as the percent of eligible students at a school or district that are categorized as chronically absent.
- A school/district's **Chronic Absenteeism Reduction** is based on the difference in year-to-year improvement in chronic absenteeism rate **and** by the difference between the chronic absenteeism rate and their target rate, a 5% improvement on the baseline rate for each year after 2022. The reduction goal score is calculated by subtracting the current year rate from the target rate. For more information see Understanding your Chronic Absenteeism Reduction Indicator.

Participation:

- The **Participation** classification level for each school/district is based on the percentage of eligible students that completed a statewide assessment.
- A school/district's **Participation Improvement** classification level is based on the year-to-year improvement of participation scores.

Student Discipline Rate

- The **Student Discipline Rate** is defined as the unduplicated percent of students who did not receive an out-of-school suspension or expulsion is used to determine the student discipline indicator for each school/district.
- A school/district's **Student Discipline Rate Improvement** classification level is based on the year-to-year improvement in student discipline rates.