

District 180 FAQs

What is District 180?

District 180 is an organizational unit in the Office of Continuous Improvement and Support in the Kentucky Department of Education. **Mission:** To build sustainable systems that will drive a continuous improvement approach to focus on student learning in each of Kentucky's Priority Schools, Focus Schools, and Focus Districts. **Vision:** For all students in Kentucky to be College and Career Ready upon graduating from high school.

District 180 provides support to low-achieving schools through the use of Educational Recovery staff. Priority Schools are supported through staffing by Educational Recovery Leaders and Educational Recovery Specialists. Educational Recovery Specialists support school staff with an emphasis on literacy and math. Educational Recovery Leaders and Specialists focus their work around a systems approach that aligns with the mission and vision of the school leader.

What is a Priority School?

As a condition of the Elementary & Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Flexibility Waiver, the Kentucky Department of Education has identified Priority and Focus schools as referenced in [703 KAR 5:225](#). According to this regulation, a priority school is "a school that has an overall score in the bottom five (5) percent of overall scores by level for all schools that have failed to meet the AMO for the last three (3) consecutive years." Kentucky currently serves 27 Priority Schools. Under NCLB guidelines, these schools were identified as Persistently Low Achieving Schools. All of the Priority Schools in Kentucky belong to one of three regions (West, Central, or East). Educational Recovery Directors work collaboratively to support schools in their region by developing partnerships with universities, educational agencies, and external stakeholders.

How is a Priority School different from a Persistently Low Achieving school?

The Priority School designation replaced the previous designation of Persistently Low Achieving, based on the ESEA Flexibility Request.

What is a Focus School?

As a condition of the Elementary & Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Flexibility Waiver, the Kentucky Department of Education has identified Priority and Focus schools as referenced in [703 KAR 5:225](#). Schools that have a non-duplicated student gap group score in the bottom ten percent of non-duplicated gap group scores for all elementary, middle and high schools. Schools with an individual student subgroup by level that falls in the bottom five percent for individual subjects. Schools that have a graduation rate that has been less than eighty percent for two consecutive years.

Can a district have both Priority and Focus schools?

Yes, depending upon whether schools meet criteria for Priority or Focus identification.

What is the difference between a Focus School and a Priority School?

Focus Schools (Low Performing Gap-Groups)	Priority Schools (Low Performing Schools)
<p>Schools that have a non-duplicated student gap group score in the bottom ten percent of non-duplicated gap group scores for all elementary, middle and high schools.</p> <p>Schools with an individual student subgroup by level that falls in the bottom five percent for individual subjects.</p> <p>High Schools that have a graduation rate that has been less than eighty percent for two consecutive years.</p>	<p>Schools that have an overall score in the bottom five percent of overall scores by level for all schools that have failed to meet the Annual Measurable Objective (AMO) for the last three consecutive years.</p>

Helpful Links:

Focus Schools and Focus District Resources

<http://education.ky.gov/school/focschls/Pages/default.aspx>

Priority and Educational Recovery Resources

<http://education.ky.gov/school/prischedrecov/Pages/PS-ERSup.aspx>

Open House

The Open House System is Kentucky Department of Education's public one-stop-shop for education data. The Open House system will provide data specific to the state, school or districts

<http://openhouse.education.ky.gov/>

Parent and Student Resources

Parents and students can find additional information regarding the Kentucky Department of Education by visiting the links below:

For additional information please visit the Kentucky Department of Education link below dedicated to parents;

<http://education.ky.gov/parents/Pages/default.aspx>

For additional information please visit the Kentucky Department of Education link below dedicated to students;

<http://education.ky.gov/students/Pages/default.aspx>

School Report Card Glossary

<http://applications.education.ky.gov/SRC/Glossary.aspx>