

What Are Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI) Schools?

Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI) schools receive targeted state and local support for school improvement. ATSI schools have at least one student group that performs as low as the lowest performing Title I schools in the State.

ATSI schools are identified through Maryland's Accountability System, which was implemented through statewide engagement after the passage of The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015. All states are required to identify ATSI schools.

HOW ARE ATSI SCHOOLS IDENTIFIED?

ATSI schools are identified every three years using all indicators in Maryland's Accountability System. The identification of ATSI schools in the 2022-2023 school year was based on data from the 2021-2022 school year.

- A school is identified as an ATSI school when one or more student groups perform as low as the lowest performing 5% of Title I schools in the State.¹
- Student groups considered for identification include racial and ethnic groups, students who are economically disadvantaged, students with disabilities, and English learners (ELs).
- Any school can be identified as an ATSI school regardless of Title I status.

WHAT SUPPORTS DOES AN ATSI SCHOOL RECEIVE?

ATSI schools receive targeted support to address resource inequities within the school. Through collaboration, partnerships, and technical assistance, they develop and implement an improvement plan, which is annually monitored and approved by the LEA. LEAs also receive an annual grant to fund the implementation of evidence-based improvement strategies and supports in their ATSI schools.

HOW DO THE IDENTIFIED ATSI SCHOOLS EXIT?

Schools identified as ATSI schools in the 2022-2023 school year will be eligible to exit in the 2026-2027 school year based on 2025-2026 school year data. ATSI schools will exit their status if 2025-26 accountability data reflects that their ATSI-identified student group is no longer performing as low as the lowest performing 5% of Title I schools in the State, and no additional student groups have fallen below that lowest 5% cut point.

WHAT HAPPENS IF AN ATSI SCHOOL DOES NOT EXIT?

It is the goal of identified schools to improve performance for the identified student group(s), ensure that no additional groups fall into low-performing status, and exit the ATSI status after three years. Those schools that do not exit receive more intensive supports. If an ATSI school is a Title I school with a student group performing as low as the State's CSI Lowest Performing schools for two consecutive identification cycles, it is recategorized as CSI Low Performing Student Group school.

¹ Title I schools are those having a large percentage of children from low-income families. For more information on the Title I program and the complete list of Title I schools in Maryland, visit the Title I, Part A page on the Maryland Public Schools website.