Future Ready PA Index: Depicting Progress and Performance

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OVERVIEW OF THE FUTURE READY PA INDEX

The Future Ready PA Index is a comprehensive, public-facing school progress report that moves beyond a single, summative score to increase transparency around school and student group performance. A wide range of meaningful, evidence-based indicators, both academic and nonacademic is included.

The Future Ready PA Index is designed to provide clarity around specific indicators, including a subset of indicators that will be used in federal accountability determinations under Pennsylvania's newly approved ESSA Consolidated State Plan.

Each Future Ready PA Index indicator was selected based on extensive feedback from education stakeholders from across the commonwealth, along with careful evaluation of the practices and systems that tie to continuous school improvement.

The Future Ready PA Index will be reported annually, beginning Fall 2018.

The Future Ready PA Index indicators are divided into three main categories, as listed below.

1. State Assessment Measures:
   - Percent Proficient or Advanced on PSSA/PASA/Keystone Exam (English Language Arts/Literature*, Mathematics/Algebra I* , and Science/Biology)
   - Meeting Annual Growth Expectations (PVAAS) (English Language Arts/Literature*, Mathematics/Algebra I*, and Science/Biology)
   - Percent Advanced on PSSA/PASA/Keystone Exam (English Language Arts/Literature, Mathematics/Algebra I, and Science/Biology)

2. On-Track Measures:
   - English Language Proficiency* (NEW Indicator)
   - Chronic Absenteeism (Regular Attendance)* (NEW Indicator)
   - Early Indicators of Success: Grade 3 Reading/Grade 7 Mathematics (NEW Indicator)

3. College and Career Measures:
   - High School Graduation Rate*

- Career Standards Benchmark* (NEW Indicator)
- Industry Based Learning, including Industry Standards-Based Competency Assessments, High Value Industry Recognized Credentials, or Work Based Learning Experiences) (NEW Indicator)
- Rigorous Courses of Study, including Advanced Placement (AP)/International Baccalaureate (IB)/College Course Offerings, or CTE Career Pathways
- Post-Secondary Transition to School, Military, or Work (NEW Indicator)

*Indicators required for ESSA accountability (annual meaningful differentiation) and identification of schools in need of improvement. For these indicators, PDE will utilize two years of data to ensure the strongest possible evidence for school improvement designations.

Progress and Performance Approaches

The Future Ready PA Index uses four different approaches in depicting progress and performance. The four approaches are as follows:

1. **2030 Goal and Targets (Achievement, English Learner Progress, and Graduation Rate)**

    ESSA requires states to set long-term goals for certain indicators. Pennsylvania has aligned federal accountability goals to 2030, resulting in 13 interim targets for the intervening years. The following process is used to establish the 2030 goals and set yearly interim targets:

    Step 1: Set the Statewide 2030 Goal – Pennsylvania's goal for each designated indicator is to reduce, by half, the statewide percentage of students not meeting the target (proficiency, language attainment, or graduation) by the end of the 2029-30 school year.
    Step 2: Establish Statewide Interim Targets – Statewide interim targets reflect the annual progress required to meet the Statewide 2030 Goal.
    Step 3: Assign Individual School Targets – Using the same methodology for Statewide goals, every public school will be assigned individual annual improvement targets based on: 1) the State's 2030 All-Student Goal; 2) school-level baseline data, both all-student and by student group; and 3) the 13 years between baseline and 2030.

    For indictors using the 2030 goal and targets approach, school performance will be depicted using one of three color-coded ranges:

    - **BLUE** = Meets or Exceeds All-Student Statewide 2030 Goal

- **GREEN** = Meets Statewide Interim or School Target
- **RED** = Does not meet either the Statewide Interim or the School Target

2. **Academic Growth Standard (Academic Growth)**

The PVAAS Academic Growth Score presents the school's impact on the year-to-year change in academic performance of groups of students in state-assessed content areas:

- English Language Arts: PSSA English Language Arts and Keystone Literature
- Math: PSSA Math and Keystone Algebra I
- Science: PSSA Science and Keystone Biology

PVAAS Academic Growth Scores will be depicted as follows:

- **BLUE** = Exceeds the standard demonstrating growth
- **GREEN** = Meets the standard demonstrating growth
- **RED** = Does not meet the standard demonstrating growth

3. **Performance Standards (Regular Attendance and Career Standards Benchmark)**

Performance standards are norm-referenced presentations of school performance. Using one year of data as a baseline, cut scores were set at the 75th and 25th percentiles. Performance at or above the 25th percentile cut score satisfies the minimal performance standard.

For indicators using the performance standard approach, school performance will be depicted as follows:

- **BLUE** = Exceeds the Performance Standard
- **GREEN** = Meets the Performance Standard
- **RED** = Does not meet the Performance Standard

Beginning in 2018-19, Industry Based Learning and Rigorous Courses of Study will depict performance and progress using performance standards.

4. **Informational (Percent Advanced on State Assessments, Industry Based Learning, Advanced on Industry Competency Assessment, Rigorous Courses of Study, Postsecondary Transitions to School, Military or Work, and Early Indicators of Success)**

Informational indicators will be reported as a percentage of students who attain the

target (e.g., course enrollment, advanced level of achievement), divided by the total number of students in the cohort or group. State averages will also be presented for Advanced on State Assessments, Advanced on Industry Competency Assessment, and Postsecondary Transitions to School, Military, or Work.

2030 Goals, Baselines and Targets

The Future Ready PA Index applies the following business rules to determine goals, baselines and targets:

All-Student Group

- Any school whose all-student baseline is above or at the 2030 All-Student Baseline defaults to use the state all-student interim targets. No school specific improvement targets.

- Any school whose all-student baseline is below the 2030 State All-Student Baseline:

School Improvement Target =

$$\frac{\text{State's 2030 All Student Goal} - \text{School's All Student Baseline}}{\text{Number of Years Remaining until 2030}}$$

Student Groups

- Any school whose student group baseline is above or at the 2030 ALL-STUDENT BASELINE defaults to use the state All-Student Interim Targets. No school specific improvement targets.

- Any school whose student group baseline is below or at the 2030 state BASELINE for the corresponding group:

School Improvement Target =

$$\frac{\text{State's 2030 Goal for the Corresponding Group} - \text{School's Baseline for Corresponding Group}}{\text{Number of Years Remaining until 2030}}$$

- Any school whose baseline (sub-group) is above the state's 2030 State BASELINE for the corresponding group but below the 2030 All Student State BASELINE:

Establishing a School's Specific Improvement Target:

School 2030 Goal = $\frac{100 - \text{School Student Group Baseline}}{2} + \textit{School Student Group Baseline}$

School Improvement Target = $\frac{\text{School 2030 Goal}}{\text{Number of Years Remaining until 2030}}$

Additional Business Rule: If the Student Group Baseline exceeds the State Baseline for the corresponding student group, then default to use the State All-Student Interim Targets. No school specific improvement targets.

School Baseline Data

Baselines are only set when n-count of 20 is met.

For Assessments, when the n-count is not met, the State All Student targets are used until the school baseline can be calculated.

- High School Graduation Rate (4-Year Cohort): single year, 2015- 2016 School Year

- English Language Proficiency: 2016-2017 School Year with Growth over 2015-2016 School Year

- State Assessment Calculation
    - Numerator: 2016 Students scoring proficient or advanced in subject + 2017 Students scoring proficient or advanced in subject
    - Denominator: 2016 Tested (95% rule applied) + 2017 Tested (95% rule applied)