The federal No Child Left Behind Act mandates that schools meet targets for the school as a whole and for eight groups of students within the school. Schools that miss targets have not made "Adequate Yearly Progress."

Schools get credit for meeting a target if they made significant progress toward that target.

The R.I. Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (RIDE) determines school-performance classifications based on test scores, participation rates on tests, and graduation rates. To do so, RIDE uses an index score that combines the results of several tests. For a detailed explanation, see the Accountability Brochure.