

Universal Support

Montana's system of differentiation under ESSA includes four federally required indicators plus Montana's fifth indicator to identify schools as either **Comprehensive, Targeted, or Universal**. Schools identified as Universal are those that are not performing in the bottom five percent on statewide assessments and have a graduation rate above 67 percent, both school-wide and for specific student groups.

The purpose of these designations is to provide an equitable education for all students in Montana's schools. Schools designated comprehensive or targeted, will therefore receive the most support.

What does comprehensive support mean for a school?

Montana's system of differentiation under ESSA uses four federally required indicators plus Montana's own fifth indicator to identify schools as either Comprehensive, Targeted, or Universal. This system focuses on providing supports where they are most needed.

Schools identified for **comprehensive support and improvement** meet one or more of the following criteria:

- are in the lowest performing 5% of all Title I schools in the state;
- have a high school graduation rate of less than 67%; and/or
- have consistently underperforming subgroups.

Every three years, the OPI will identify schools for comprehensive support and improvement beginning with the 2018-2019 school year. The OPI will use data from the 2016-2017 school year in order to notify schools during the spring of 2018