

School Improvement Ratings for Alternative Schools

Alternative Schools that provide dropout prevention and academic intervention services have the option of receiving a school grade or a school improvement rating (Section 1008.34, Florida Statutes). If an alternative school chooses to receive a school improvement rating, the performance of the students at the alternative school are included in the calculation of the rating and the school grade of the students' home school.

Improvement Rating Designations

Improving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Students attending the alternative school are making more academic progress than when the students were served in their home schools.</i> • Percent of students making learning gains in both reading and mathematics in the current year is at least five (5) percentage points higher than the percent of the same students making learning gains in reading and in mathematics in the prior year. • Test at least 90% of eligible students
Maintaining	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Students attending the alternative school are making progress equivalent to the progress made when the students were served in their home schools.</i> • Percent of students making learning gains in both reading and mathematics in the current year is less than five (5) percentage points above or below the percent of the same students making learning gains in reading and in mathematics in the prior year. • Test at least 90% of eligible students
Declining	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Students attending the alternative school are making less academic progress than when the students were served in their home schools.</i> • Percent of students making learning gains in either reading or mathematics in the current year must be at least five (5) percentage points lower than the percent of the same students making learning gains in reading and in mathematics in the prior year. • Test at least 90% of eligible students

Since ratings are dependent on progress in both reading and mathematics, a school's rating can be no higher than the status of the learning gains comparison for its lowest performing subject. For example, if a school is assigned a "maintaining" status for reading, but a "declining" status for mathematics, the school's overall status would be "declining."