



# **RATING THE RATINGS**

**AN ANALYSIS OF THE 51 ESSA  
ACCOUNTABILITY PLANS**

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# Our Criteria – in our view, states should:

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1.) Assign annual ratings to schools that are clear and intuitive;

**2.) Encourage schools to focus on all students, not just their low performers;**

3.) Fairly measure and judge all schools, including those with high rates of poverty.

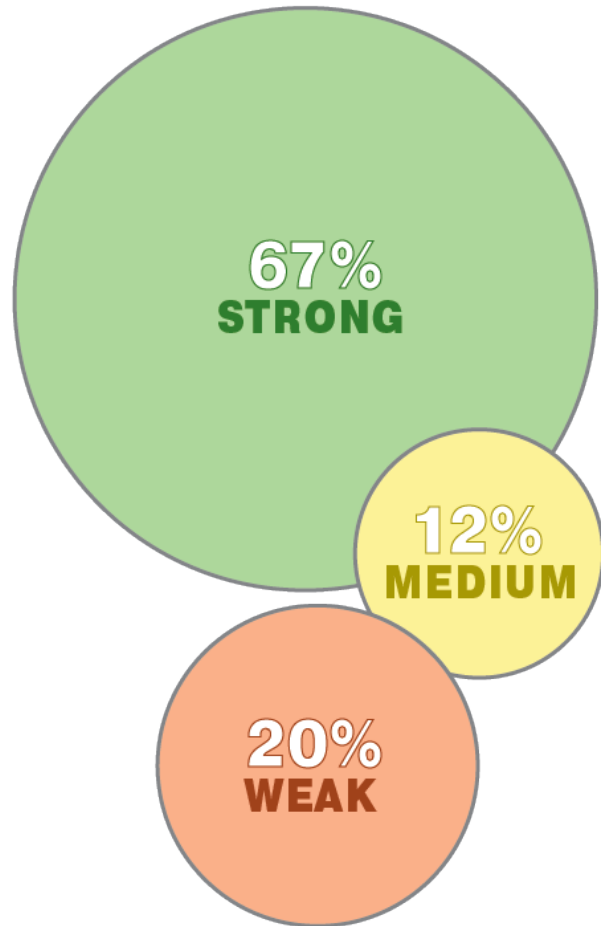
# Clear, intuitive labels

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- **Strong:** A-F, five stars, or the equivalent
- **Medium:** Text labels that are easy to understand
- **Weak:** Data dashboards or text labels that aren't clear regarding a school's quality, or identification of only schools eligible for improvement

# Clear, intuitive labels

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- **Exemplar: Arizona** uses A-F letter grades to clearly convey to all observers how well a given school is performing.

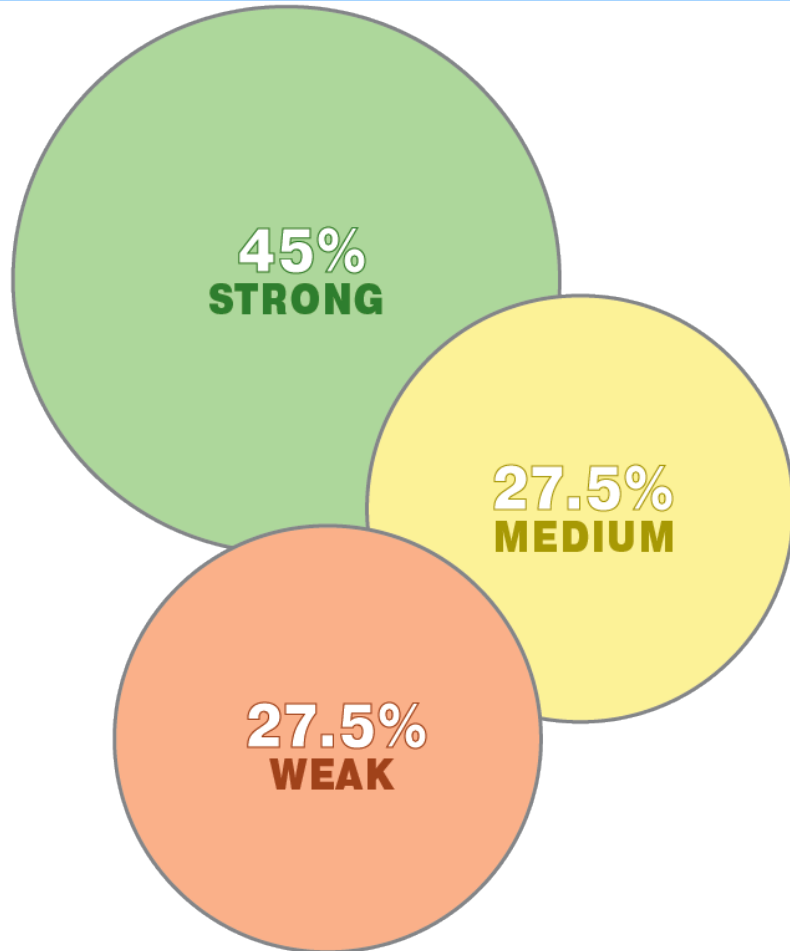
# Focus on all students

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- **Strong:** At least **50 percent** of schools' annual ratings are made up of a performance index or average scale scores; and growth for all students.
- **Medium:** Between **33 and 50 percent** of schools' annual ratings are made up of a performance index or average scale scores; and growth for all students.
- **Weak:** Less than **33 percent** of schools' annual ratings are made up of a performance index or average scale scores; and growth for all students.

# Focus on all students

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- Exemplar: 95 percent of **Colorado's** school rating is composed of scale scores and a growth measure for all students.

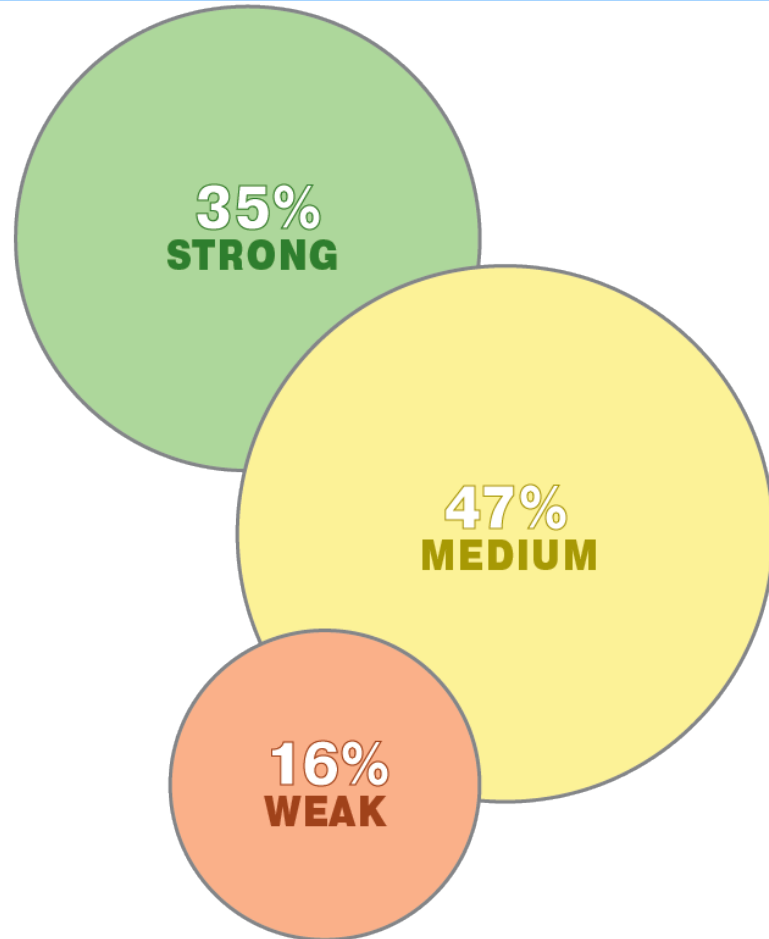
# Fair to high-poverty schools

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- **Strong:** Academic growth of any kind constitutes at least **50 percent** of a state's summative rating system
- **Medium:** Academic growth of any kind constitutes between **33 and 50 percent** of a state's summative rating system
- **Weak:** Academic growth of any kind constitutes less than **33 percent** of a state's summative rating system

# Fair to high-poverty schools

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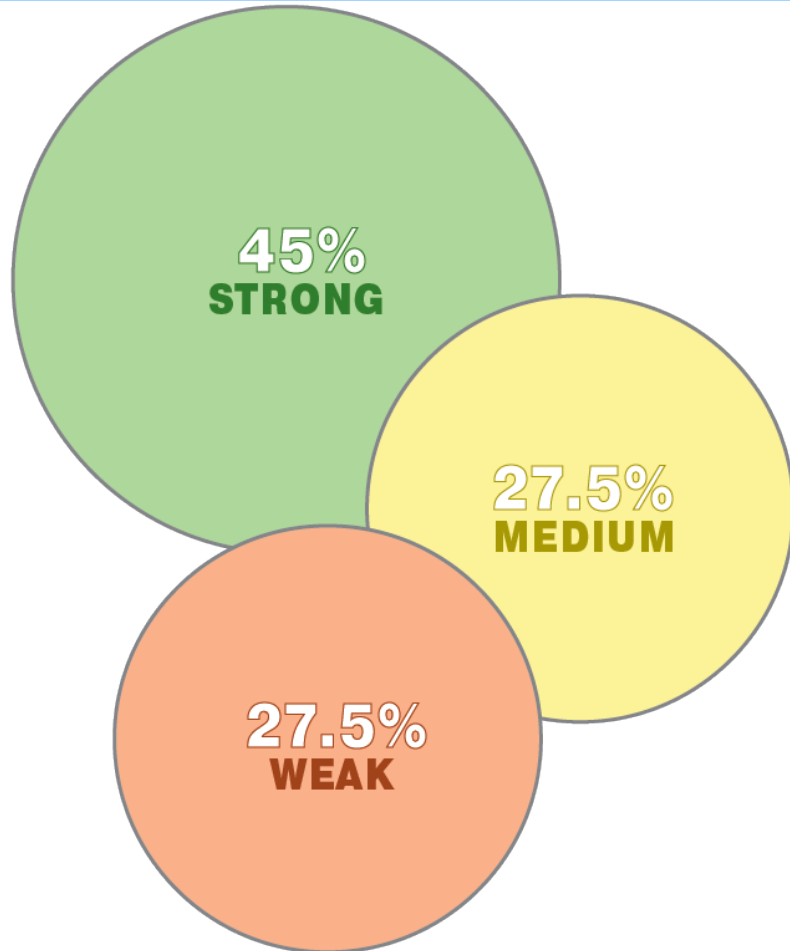


- **Exemplar: Tennessee** is strong on this metric because various academic growth measures will constitute 80 percent of schools' annual ratings.



# Focus on all students

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- Exemplar: 95 percent of **Colorado's** school rating is composed of scale scores and a growth measure for all students.

# Percentage of school ratings that comprise performance indices, scale scores, and growth for all

