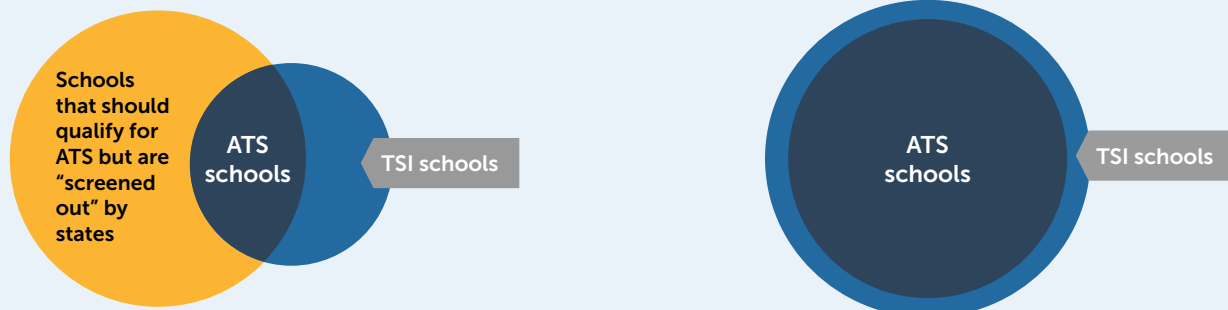# SCREENED OUT?
SOME STATES MAY UNDERIDENTIFY SCHOOLS WITH LOW-PERFORMING STUDENT SUBGROUPS

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires states to identify schools with struggling students for comprehensive, additional targeted, or targeted support and improvement (CSI, ATS, or TSI respectively). States must identify schools for CSI when the *whole school* is among the bottom 5 percent of Title I schools in the state. Meanwhile, they must identify for ATS those schools in which a *subgroup of students*, on its own, performs as poorly as schools identified for CSI. For TSI, however, states have more flexibility: they identify any school with a "consistently underperforming" subgroup of students, as defined by the state. Under ESSA, only ATS schools—not TSI schools—that are Title I schools and fail to improve must become CSI schools, triggering additional state oversight.

Under ESSA, states can select ATS schools <u>exclusively</u> from those *already identified* for TSI. At least **nine states and Puerto Rico use this approach**. In those states, schools with low-performing subgroups of students that meet ESSA's definition for ATS will not be identified unless they also meet the state's definition of TSI. (See figure 1 below.) Among the group, **two states are likely to underidentify schools for ATS** because their definitions for "consistently underperforming" are weaker or narrower than ESSA's definition for ATS schools. **Four states and Puerto Rico are unlikely to limit the number of schools identified for ATS** in this way because those schools are a natural subset of TSI schools. The effect of this "screening" process is **unclear in Michigan, Virginia, and Wisconsin.**

FIGURE 1: HOW SOME STATES MAY LIMIT THE SCHOOLS IDENTIFIED FOR ADDITIONAL TARGETED SUPPORT (ATS)

In **Arkansas** and **Connecticut** some ATS schools may not be identified because they do not qualify for TSI as well.

In **California**, **Georgia**, **Puerto Rico**, **Rhode Island**, and **South Dakota** all ATS schools are likely to be identified because ATS schools are a natural subset of TSI schools or the ATS and TSI definitions overlap completely.

The chart on the next page describes the TSI and ATS definitions for the nine states and Puerto Rico and the likely result of their approach to "screening" ATS schools, according to the key below. Unless otherwise noted, states identify TSI schools annually and ATS schools once every three years, beginning in School Year (SY) 2018–19.

To learn more about individual state ESSA policies, visit all4ed.org/essa/essa-in-your-state/.

ARE ALL ATS SCHOOLS LIKELY TO BE IDENTIFIED?

X No: The state's TSI definition is weaker or narrower than the statutory definition of ATS and is likely to limit the number of schools identified for ATS because the state's definition of TSI could be a subset of the statutory definition of ATS.

? Unclear: It is unclear how the state's TSI and ATS definitions overlap and if the TSI definition limits whether schools meeting the statutory definition of ATS ultimately are identified.

✔ Yes: The statutory definition of ATS is a natural subset of schools the state will identify for TSI or the ATS and TSI definitions overlap completely. Selecting ATS schools from TSI schools is unlikely to limit the schools identified for ATS or reduce the number of schools the state otherwise would identify for ATS.

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State[a]	Schools Identified for TSI	Schools Identified for ATS	Are All ATS Schools Likely to Be Identified?
Arkansas	Any school with a subgroup that performs in the bottom 1% of Title I schools for 3 consecutive years	TSI schools with a subgroup that, based on the subgroup's "ESSA School Index Score," would have been identified for CSI	✗ **No**—TSI definition likely limits identification of ATS schools; bottom 1% of Title I schools used for TSI is a lower bar than the bottom 5% of Title I schools used for ATS
California	Any school with a subgroup that, on its own, meets the criteria to be identified for CSI for 2 consecutive years	TSI schools with a subgroup that, on its own, meets the criteria to be identified for CSI	✔ **Yes**—Definitions are identical except that subgroups must meet criteria for 2 years to be identified for TSI and only 1 year for ATS; ATS schools are identified once every 3 years, not annually like TSI schools
Connecticut	Any school with a subgroup that performs in the bottom 1% of all schools statewide on all 12 indicators in each of the prior 3 years	TSI schools with a subgroup that, based on the subgroup's accountability index score, would have been identified for CSI	✗ **No**—ATS schools are not a natural subset of TSI schools; bottom 1% of *all* schools used for TSI identification is likely a lower bar than the bottom 5% of *Title I* schools used for ATS identification
Georgia	Any school with a subgroup that performs in the lowest 5% of all schools on at least 50% of indicators in the state's school rating index	TSI schools with a subgroup performing in the lowest 5% on all indicators in the state's school rating index; unclear whether identification occurs annually or once every 3 years	✔ **Yes**—ATS schools are a natural subset of TSI schools
Michigan	Any school with a subgroup that performs in the bottom 25% of all schools statewide on each accountability indicator ("component")	TSI schools with a subgroup that, based on the subgroup's accountability index score, would have been identified for CSI; identified once every 6 years	❓ **Unclear**—ATS schools are not a natural subset of TSI schools; bottom 25% on each index "component" used for TSI identification may or may not be a lower bar than the bottom 5% of Title I schools' overall index score used for ATS identification
Puerto Rico[b]	Any Title I school with a subgroup performing at the bottom 10% of that subgroup based on its "composite score" across all indicators	TSI schools with a subgroup performing at the bottom 5% of that subgroup based on its "composite score" across all indicators	✔ **Yes**—ATS schools are a natural subset of TSI schools
Rhode Island	Any school with a subgroup meeting the criteria for a 1-star rating (out of 5 stars) in the statewide accountability system	TSI schools that also meet the criteria for CSI identification: (1) lowest-performing 5% of all schools for subgroups on achievement and growth; (2) subgroup high school graduation rate below 67%; or (3) subgroups with the lowest score for all nongraduation indicators and 1 or 2 points for graduation rate; identified annually beginning in SY 2018–19	✔ **Yes**—ATS schools are a natural subset of TSI schools
South Dakota	Schools with an ESSA subgroup or "Gap" super-subgroup that underperforms the "all students" group statewide across all indicators based on a 95% confidence interval and using 3 years of data	TSI schools with an ESSA subgroup or "Gap" super-subgroup that performs no better on any indicator than schools identified for CSI for 3 years, using a 95% confidence interval; identified annually, beginning in SY 2018–19	✔ **Yes**—ATS schools are a natural subset of TSI schools
Virginia	Schools meeting 3 criteria: (1) subgroup not meeting the state's measures of interim progress for that subgroup for 2 years, (2) subgroup in the lowest 2 quartiles for growth in reading or math and English learner progress, and (3) low state accreditation rating; identified annually, beginning in SY 2019–20	TSI schools with a subgroup performing at a level, on all indicators, that is below the highest-performing schools identified for CSI	❓ **Unclear**—ATS schools are not a natural subset of TSI schools; the performance criteria used for TSI identification may or may not be a lower bar than the level of the highest-performing schools identified for CSI
Wisconsin	Schools with a subgroup performing below the bottom 10% of "all students" statewide *and* in the bottom 10% for that subgroup statewide	TSI schools with a subgroup performing, on its own, at a level that would place it among the bottom 5% of Title I schools identified for CSI	❓ **Unclear**—ATS schools are not a natural subset of TSI schools; bottom 10% of each subgroup used for TSI identification may or may not be a lower bar than the bottom 5% of Title I schools used for ATS identification

Notes

[a] Although Delaware's approved ESSA plan indicates that ATS schools are selected from TSI schools and that TSI schools are capped at 5 percent of all schools, additional information provided by the Delaware Department of Education clarifies the state's policy. Any public school can be identified for ATS. The distinction between TSI and ATS schools is the number of years a subgroup has met the identification criteria at the time of ATS identification.

[b] Definitions included here reflect updated information provided by the Department of Education of Puerto Rico in March 2019. Puerto Rico's ESSA plan does not yet reflect these changes.

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