

I. Designation of Soap Lake School District for Required Action

In 2011, the State Board of Education designated Soap Lake School District for required action based on Soap Lake Middle and High School's persistently low and declining performance on state assessments in Reading and Math over 3 years (2008–09, 2009–10, and 2010–11). The district/school began receiving services in the 2011–12 school year.

In 2012, initial approval of the state's Flexibility Request by the U.S. Department of Education resulted in the designation of all identified schools in Required Action Districts, including Soap Lake Middle and High School, and all schools receiving federal School Improvement Grants as Priority schools.

Based on three years of data (2011–12, 2012–13, and 2013–14), all four identified schools in Required Action Districts—including Soap Lake Middle and High School—exited Priority status, effective 2014–15. However, another school in the district—Soap Lake Elementary School—was identified as a Priority school in spring 2014. Based on RCW/WACs, districts cannot be recommended for release from required action until they no longer have a persistently lowest achieving (Priority) school. Because the district continues to have a Priority school, it is not eligible for release under the current RCW/WACs.

II. Identification of Soap Lake Elementary School as a Priority School and Progress Toward Exiting Status

In spring 2014, OSPI identified Soap Lake Elementary School as a Priority school based on data on state assessments in Reading and Math in 2010–11, 2011–12, and 2012–13. The school began receiving services in 2014–15.

The school's 2-year average of 34.93% on state assessments in ELA and Math for 2015 and 2016 exceeded the 22.65% threshold to exit Priority status by more than 12 points. Additionally, the 2-year average for subgroups exceeded the threshold used to exit Focus schools (11.79%). Subgroup averages included: Hispanic – 20.21%, Former ELL – 50.66%, Low Income – 34.04%. However, this is the third year of the school's participation with OSSS, so it is not yet eligible to exit Priority status.

III. Performance of Soap Lake Elementary School on State Assessments from 2011 through 2016

Figure 1 depicts the 3 years of data (2010–11, 2011–12, and 2012–13) in Reading and Math used to identify the school as a Priority school. As illustrated in the bar graphs, proficiency rates for 4th grade in 2011 for both Reading and Math are significantly lower than other proficiency rates for 2011 as well as for all proficiency rates in 2012 and 2013. These lower rates definitely influenced the 3-year average across all grades used to identify the school as a Priority school.

Figure 2 illustrates Soap Lake Elementary School's positive trajectory on state assessments in Reading/ELA and Math from 2011 to 2016. Comments follow.

- Proficiency rates from 2011 through 2014 on the MSP show consistent, positive change.
- Proficiency rates dropped from 2014 to 2015. This parallels decreases in performance in many schools across the state and is most likely due to the state's transition to Smarter Balanced Assessments in 2015.
- Proficiency rates again showed positive change from 2015 to 2016.

Note. The proficiency rates for Reading and Math for 2011 are based on data for all tested students, rather than continuously enrolled students. I am not sure there is a significant difference between the two sets of data.

Figure 1. Soap Lake Elementary School Grade-Level Proficiency Rates in Reading and Math, 2011 to 2013

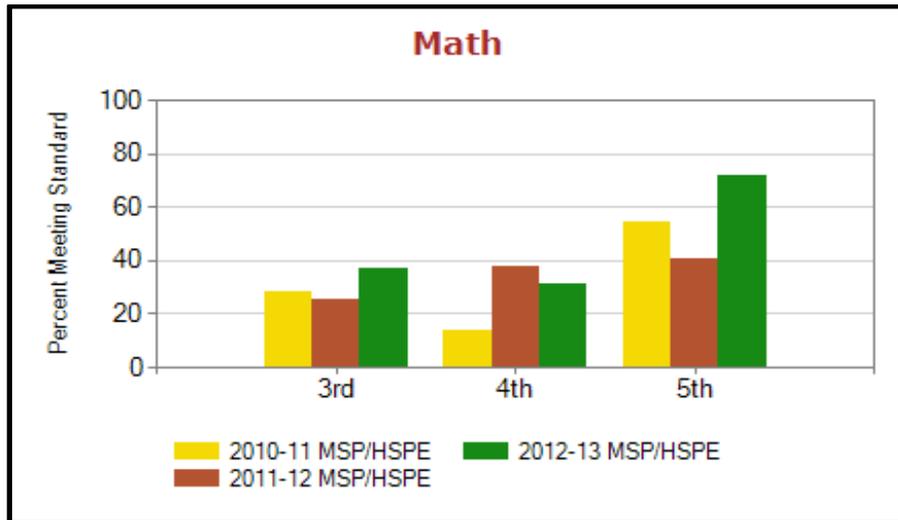
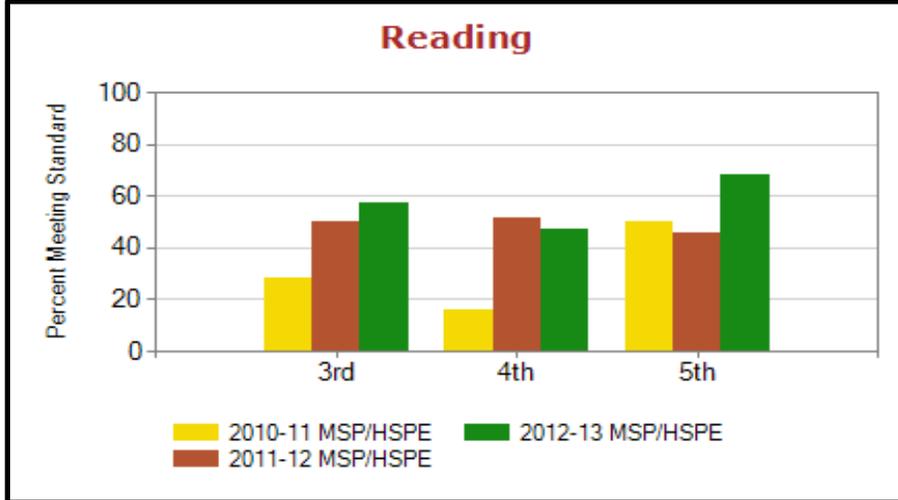
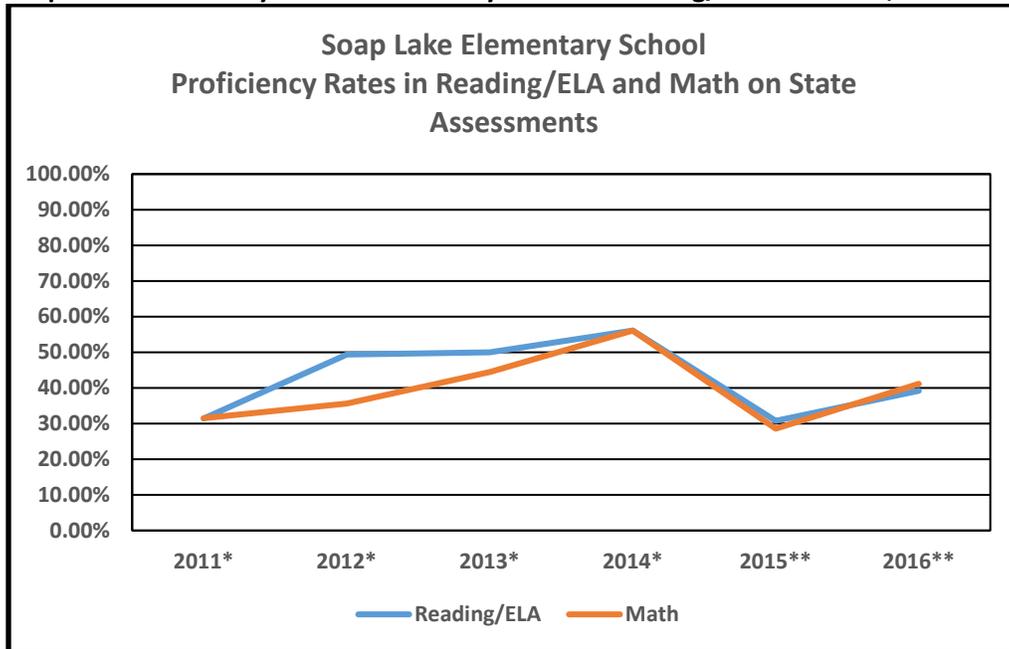


Figure 2. Soap Lake Elementary School Proficiency Rates in Reading/ELA and Math, 2011 to 2016



*Proficiency Rates in Reading and Math on MSP

**Proficiency Rates in ELA and Math on SBA

Finally, Table 1 shows proficiency on Smarter Balanced Assessments in 2015 and 2016. The last column illustrates the positive change in proficiency rates for both ELA and Math from 2015 to 2016. While this is not sufficient to assert a *pattern* of positive change on the SBA, it does illustrate the school’s continuing positive trajectory in performance on state assessments.

Table 1. Soap Lake Elementary School Proficiency Rates in ELA and Math on State Assessments in 2015 and 2016

	2015	2016	Change
ELA	30.77%	39.22%	8.45%
Math	28.57%	41.18%	12.61%

IV. Recent Performance of Soap Lake Middle and High School on State Assessments

As indicated in Section I, Soap Lake Middle and High School exited Priority status, effective 2015–16. Two-year averages in ELA/Math on Smarter Balanced Assessment for 2015 and 2016 illustrate the school’s continued progress:

- All Students: 31.54% (Threshold = 22.65%)
- Subgroups: Hispanic – 24%, Former ELL – 40%, Low Income – 29% (Threshold = 11.79%)

V. Progress of Soap Lake School District in Meeting Requirements for Release from Required Action

RCW 28A.657.100 calls for OSPI to recommend to the State Board of Education (SBE) that districts be released from required action based on the following criteria (RCW 28A.657.100, WAC 392-501-740, WAC 291-501-720):

- District implemented required action plan for 3 years;
- District has made progress, as defined by superintendent of public instruction using criteria adopted under RCW [28A.657.020](#) including progress in closing the educational opportunity gap; and
- District no longer has a school within the district identified as persistently lowest achieving.

Soap Lake School District has satisfied the first two criteria. However, the district remains designated for required action because one of its schools continues to be identified as a Priority school.