

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Preliminary report cards for schools and districts released

New district report cards use multiple measures to describe performance

MADISON — The majority of Wisconsin’s public schools and school districts meet, exceed, or significantly exceed expectations established for report cards that use multiple measures of student achievement and engagement to describe performance. This is the first year for district report cards and the second for school report cards.

“These preliminary district and school report cards provide valuable information about education in Wisconsin,” said State Superintendent Tony Evers. “They offer a starting point for schools and districts to plan improvements. Additionally, report cards show how Wisconsin can continue to refine its accountability system to truly serve the education community, parents, policymakers, and the public.”

District report cards are similar in format to school report cards first issued last year. Districts and schools are evaluated on four priority areas: **student achievement** in reading and mathematics on statewide assessments;

student growth in those assessed areas;

closing gaps for reading and mathematics achievement and graduation, based on

student subgroups; and **postsecondary**

readiness, which uses several measures as

predictors of college and career readiness.

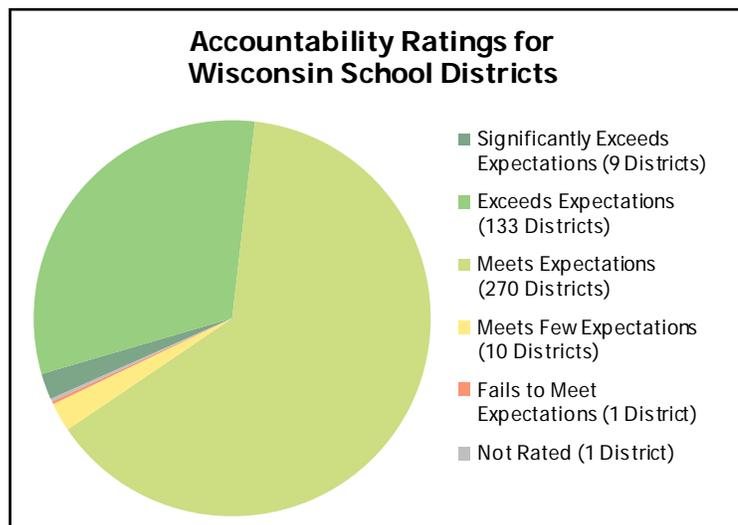
Accountability is calculated on a scale of

zero to 100. District report cards are

calculated for the district as a whole, rather

than grade-level bands previously used for

No Child Left Behind accountability.



Along the report card’s five accountability ratings, nine of the state’s 424 public school districts significantly exceed expectations, 133 exceed expectations, and 270 meet expectations. One school district, the Norris School District, was not rated. Milwaukee Public Schools failed to meet expectations. Ten districts met few

(more)

expectations. Nine districts had point deductions from their priority area scores for missing student engagement indicators. To have no deductions for student engagement, districts and schools must have had test participation that was greater than 95 percent, absenteeism of less than 13 percent, and a dropout rate of less than 6 percent.

The 2012-13 school report cards are based on data for 2,111 schools. Overall, 1,910 schools received ratings, and 88.1 percent of those schools meet, exceed, or significantly exceed expectations, up from 85.8 percent in the 2011-12 report cards. Fifty-eight schools failed to meet expectations and 169 met few expectations. There were 201 schools that were not rated because there wasn't enough data because the school was too small. One hundred and four schools had deductions for missing the test participation, absenteeism, or dropout rate student engagement indicators.

Overall, 1,401 schools received the same accountability rating for 2012-13 as they had last year, and 651 schools had a change in their rating. Another 32 schools that were not rated last year received ratings for 2012-13, and 27 schools were new and therefore did not have accountability ratings last year.

Based on feedback from the 2011-12 school report cards, the Department of Public Instruction made adjustments to calculations for several indicators, meaning this year's school-level report cards are not directly comparable to those issued last year. Changes in accountability scores and movement between accountability ratings between the years may be due to changes in student performance or may be due to changes in how scores were calculated. Schools had a review period during which possible data-related issues were presented to the DPI to adjust accountability scores or ratings.

“As we add new measures for student achievement in the coming years, Wisconsin will continue to improve its school report cards,” Evers said. “And yet, these report cards cannot provide a full picture of the successes and challenges in each school and school district. The report cards are intended to be a door to community engagement and support in making sure our schools are preparing all students to graduate college and career ready.”

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Quick Facts

- Report cards for 424 public school districts and 2,111 public schools, including 21 independent charter schools
- Multiple measures used for accountability
- Results from Wisconsin Student Assessment System (WSAS) reported on college and career-ready proficiency levels
- New assessments begin in 2014-15
 - For grades 3-8 from Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium
 - For high school from ACT (EXPLORE, PLAN, ACT, and WorkKeys)

NOTES: To view individual district and school report cards, visit <http://reportcards.dpi.wi.gov/> and click on the button for District and School Report Cards. The “What’s New” document on that website contains more information about changes to School Report Card calculations between 2011-12 and 2012-13. This news release is available electronically at http://news.dpi.wi.gov/files/eis/pdf/dpinr2013_107.pdf.

2012-13 Preliminary Report Cards

2012-13 Report Card Summary

Accountability Rating	Schools	Districts
Significantly Exceeds Expectations	86	9
Exceeds Expectations	693	133
Meets Expectations	904	270
Meets Few Expectations	169	10
Fails to Meet Expectations	58	1
Not Rated	201	1
Total	2,111	424

