

Wisconsin DPI School and District Report Cards Frequently Asked Questions for Parents

Updated September 12, 2013

Q) How does the state score each school in the new report cards?

A) The state gives each school a score from 0 to 100 based upon data in the following categories: student achievement in reading and math; student growth in reading and math; closing gaps in reading/math achievement and graduation rates; and on-track/post-secondary readiness. That last factor includes attendance/graduation rates, third-grade reading achievement/eighth-grade math achievement and ACT participation, if available. Schools can see deductions if the following “student engagement indicators” do not meet standards: lower test participation, absenteeism and dropout rates.

Q) What do the school report cards mean?

A) The school report cards give Milwaukee Public Schools more information to help assess how well each school and the district are performing in relation to other schools and districts across the state.

Q) How did MPS perform as a district in the report cards?

A) More MPS schools are meeting or exceeding expectations, with 34 meeting or exceeding up from 29 in the first year of the report cards. In addition, fewer schools are failing to meet expectations with that number dropping from 60 last year to 49 this year. However, MPS is not meeting expectations as a district, which reflects the challenges that remain as well as the opportunities to improve academic achievement in MPS.

Q) What is MPS doing to improve achievement?

A) Many district efforts are aimed squarely at the critical measures evaluated on the report card, including college- and career-readiness efforts aimed at boosting academic achievement, growth, graduation rates and closing gaps; and Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports, which helps improve attendance rates. New MPS initiatives for 2013-14 include:

- The launch of the College Board’s SpringBoard pre-Advanced Placement program in seven MPS schools
- Expansion of hands-on Project Lead the Way science/technology/engineering/math curriculum into three additional schools for a total of 34 MPS schools
- Exploration of additional International Baccalaureate schools following the lead of MPS’ Rufus King International School – High School Campus and Ronald Reagan College Preparatory High School, which were named the two best high schools in the Milwaukee region in 2013 by the *Washington Post*
- Expanded use of the Standards-Based Report Card in K-5 and K-8 schools, which helps staff, parents and students clearly identify Common Core learning expectations in each subject, the topics students are successfully mastering, and the topics that may be more of a struggle
- Bringing 45 additional art, music and physical education specialist teachers into schools

The DPI has further details available at: <http://dpi.wi.gov/oea/acct/accountability.html>. If you have questions about your school’s report card, please contact your school principal.