



# 2023-24 School and District Report Cards - Communicating with Your Community

On Tuesday, November 19, 2024, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction will publicly release 2023-24 [school and district report cards](#). This resource document will assist in communicating this year's report cards effectively with your community.

## Background - Assessment vs. Report Cards

- Report cards are different from assessments.
- Report cards are provided *annually* and give information to parents and communities about how their school or school district are performing by presenting data on different topics.
- Report cards include data on multiple indicators for multiple years across four Priority Areas (Achievement, Growth, Target Group Outcomes, and On-track to Graduation), as well as course and program participation information for grades 9-12.
- Though assessment data are a *component* of report cards, report cards are scored using multiple additional non-assessment-based measures, including attendance, chronic absenteeism, and graduation.
- Assessment-based measures of Achievement and Growth are scored using a weighted average of three years of data – not just the most recent year.
- *By state law*, the Achievement and Growth priority areas of report cards are weighted based on the percentage of economically-disadvantaged students within a school/district. Some schools and districts have these priority areas weighted differently than others, reflecting each district's student population.

## Achievement Scoring Updates for 2023-24 Report Cards

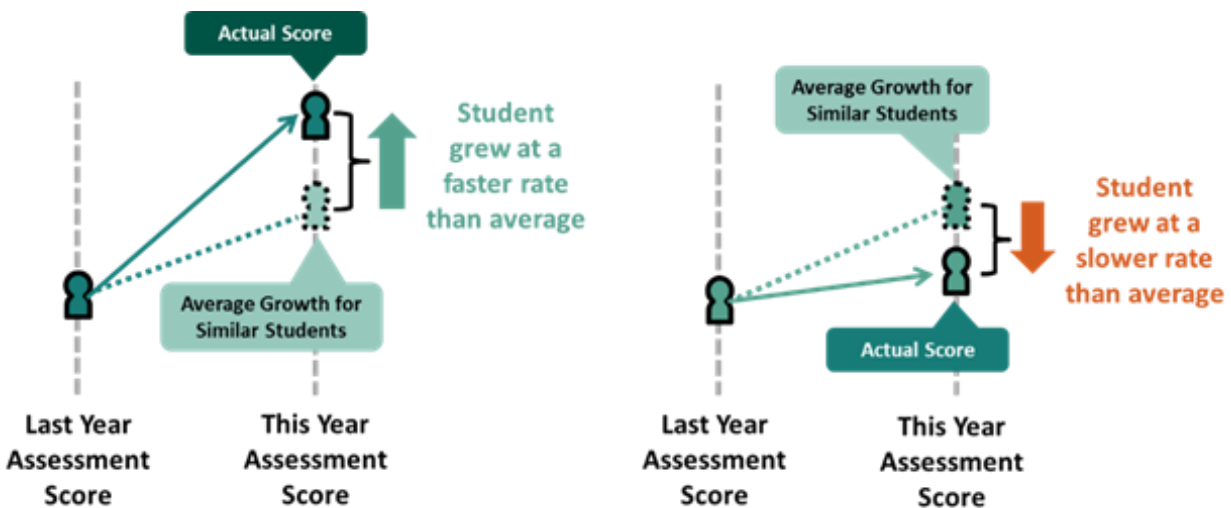
- Assessments underwent a necessary update in 2023-24 – including updates in performance level cut scores – to align with recent updates in Wisconsin Academic Standards in ELA and mathematics. This process takes place whenever there are updates to academic standards.
- Updated cut scores better reflect the performance of Wisconsin students on assessments. More information on updates to the Forward Exam are available in the [2024 Wisconsin Forward Exam Performance Level Standard Setting resource](#). More information on updates to the ACT and Pre-ACT Secure are available in the [2024 Wisconsin ACT Performance Level Standard Setting resource](#).
- Due to these assessment updates, scoring for student achievement on 2023-24 school and district report cards was modified to allow for system stability and for schools and districts to compare this year's report cards to report cards from 2022-23.

- The DPI “scale adjusted” 2023-24 achievement scores to align with the 2022-23 achievement distribution to allow for comparability, which, in effect, lowers achievement scores. More information on this adjustment is available in the [What’s New for the 2023-24 School and District Report Cards resource](#).
- If a school/district's scale-adjusted achievement subject area score was *lower* than the subject area score on the 2022-23 report card, the 2022-23 achievement subject area score was used instead. Therefore, all schools and districts will have 2023-24 achievement scores that are equal to or greater than 2022-23 scores.
- This one-year scoring change applies only to 2023-24 report cards.
  - Over the next year, the DPI will convene a group of educators to help align report card cut scores to accurately communicate the success of schools and districts in the future.

## Growth Priority Area

- The Growth priority area measures changes in student performance *over time* using a value-added methodology, *as required under state law*.
- The scoring of Growth is normative, meaning scores are calculated by comparing how students performed relative to similar students across the state.
  - Students are compared using the following variables: prior test scores, economic status, race/ethnicity, disability status, gender, and English learner status.
  - This differs from how Achievement is measured, where a school’s or district’s score can increase or decrease regardless of the performance of other schools and districts.
- Growth scores are calculated by reviewing the change in students’ actual test scores and comparing their results to “average growth” for similar students across the state.
  - For example, if a student has a higher test score increase from the previous year as compared with similar students across the state, that student will have a high growth score.
- Because scoring is based on performance *relative to similar students*, an increase in assessment scores from one year to the next does not necessarily mean that Growth scores will also increase.
  - For example, if a school's assessment scores have increased, but student test scores have increased to a lesser degree than similar students across the state, that school’s Growth score may be lower.

Figure 1: Actual Student Growth Compared to Average for Similar Students



- Updates to 2023-24 assessment performance level cut scores do not impact Growth scores.
- Schools with high achievement scores are not penalized – their students are compared to similar students across the state (including similar high-achieving students) using the variables listed above.

## More Report Card Resources:

[DPI Accountability Resources](#)



Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction  
Office of Educational Accountability  
201 West Washington Avenue, P.O. Box 7841  
Madison, WI 53707-7841  
(608) 264-9546  
[oeemail@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:oeemail@dpi.wi.gov)  
[dpi.wi.gov/accountability](http://dpi.wi.gov/accountability)

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