

Accountability Preview Reports Technical Resource FAQ

Background and Purpose

[2019 Wisconsin Act 185](#) prohibits the release of school and district accountability report cards in the 2020-21 school year. This means the **Office of Educational Accountability (OEA) will not issue school or district report cards for 2019-20** (the report cards that would usually be publicly released in November). Though there will be no 2019-20 report cards, OEA is releasing accountability “**preview reports**” directly to schools and districts via SAFE in January/February of 2021. These preview reports use data from prior years (i.e., 2018-19 assessment results) to demonstrate the report card calculation and data changes and are for informational purposes only. **The purpose of this document is to provide answers to frequently asked technical questions about the preview reports.**

Frequently Asked Questions

OEA updates a Technical Guide every year to support the release of the report cards. Is OEA releasing an updated version of the Technical Guide that is specific to the preview reports?
No. OEA is not releasing a Technical Guide that is specific to the preview reports. The purpose of the preview reports is to provide schools and districts with an opportunity to see the design changes that will occur in future report cards, using prior years data. **The focus of the preview reports should be on the report card changes, not the steps to produce an overall score.** Resources on calculating scores are highlighted in the links below.

Why are there no overall scores or ratings on the preview reports?

The preview reports do not have overall scores or ratings for two main reasons:

1. Featuring overall scores and ratings would **distract from the purpose of the preview reports** - which is to emphasize a focus on design changes, rather than scoring.
2. **Overall ratings cannot be determined until after a “standard setting” has occurred.** A standard setting is a process in which cut scores are determined for various rating categories. **OEA has not conducted a standard setting for the preview reports, so overall ratings cannot be determined from scores.**

I just calculated what my overall score would be by applying the weighting to the priority area scores on my school's preview report. Does this mean that my overall rating would correspond to the cut scores from the 2018-19 report card rating categories?

No. Overall scores calculated from preview report data do not correspond to previous report card rating categories. As noted above, until OEA conducts a standard setting process (planned for summer 2021), it is not possible to associate a rating with an overall score. Further, any overall score calculated from preview report data is based upon prior years' data and cannot predict what your school or district's overall score will be when report cards are next released. OEA suggests a focus on the design changes - and not the scores - within the preview reports.

How is the Target Group Outcomes priority area score calculated?

Please see the *Target Group Outcomes Guide* on the [Accountability Resources](#) page to learn about scoring this priority area.

How are the Student Achievement and School Growth priority area scores calculated?

There have been no changes to these priority areas since the 2018-19 report cards. The details of scoring these priority areas can be found in the *Technical Guide* located on the [2018-19 Accountability Resources](#) page.

How is the On-Track to Graduation priority area score calculated?

The On-Track to Graduation priority area has remained largely the same since the 2018-19 report cards, so most of the details in [2018-19 Technical Guide](#) still apply. The main change of this priority area is the inclusion of the “students regularly attending” measure, which is the inverse of a chronic absenteeism rate. To learn more about this measure, please see the [September 30 DAC Digest](#) and the [About the Data: Chronic Absenteeism](#) page. To see how this changes impacts the weighting of this and other priority areas, please see the [updated weighting calculator](#).

Where can I learn more about the participation rates in the new course data sections of the preview reports?

Please see the *Course Data Guide* on the [2018-19 Accountability Resources](#) page to learn about these participation rates.

I have other questions about the preview report.

Please visit the [OEA Accountability Resources](#) page to learn more about the preview reports and Wisconsin accountability system. You can also contact the OEA team with additional questions at reportcardhelp@dpi.wi.gov.