

What's New for the 2020-21 School and District Report Cards?

Background

This document highlights what is new in the 2020-21 report cards compared to the most recent report cards, which were released for the 2018-19 school year.

What's New?

New Rating Cut Scores

The Office of Educational Accountability (OEA) has updated its state report card rating cut scores for the 2020-21 school year and beyond. The new standards are below:

Report Card Rating	Score Range	
	Minimum	Maximum
Significantly Exceeds Expectations - ★★★★★	83.0	100
Exceeds Expectations - ★★★★☆	70.0	82.9
Meets Expectations - ★★★☆☆	58.0	69.9
Meets Few Expectations - ★★☆☆☆	48.0	57.9
Fails to Meet Expectations - ★☆☆☆☆	0	47.9

These cut scores were established in response to updates to report card calculations including the improved priority area - Target Group Outcomes - as one of the four that determine the overall score. This priority area change, which coincides with the revamped report card design, and other methodological changes that have been made since the original cut scores were adopted, affect report card scores independent of schools or districts' own actions and necessitated an updating of the rating cut scores.

The cut scores were updated well before any report card data was available for 2020-21. In early 2021, we worked with our Technical Advisory Committee to establish score ranges using an equipercenile linking methodology. Equipercenile linking is a strictly mathematical approach that provides continuity during the year of transition between old and new cut scores.

Statement of Caution on the Front Page

The front page of the 2020-21 report card contains a statement urging **caution when interpreting scores and ratings due to the COVID-19 pandemic**. When reviewing the report card, please consider that up to three years of data are used in assessment-based measures of report cards. Since assessments were not administered in 2019-20, the 2020-21 report card use results from 2020-21, 2018-19, and 2017-18 school years with more weight given to more recent years.

Visual Design Changes

Changes in visual design are the most immediately obvious for anyone viewing the report cards. Though most calculations are the same, the **design changes are intended to make the report card more user-friendly**. This includes using fewer tables and more graphs, reducing text, and providing additional context for performance (e.g., scores within statewide distributions).



Target Group Outcomes Priority Area

The Closing Gaps priority area of the report card has been replaced by the Target Group Outcomes priority area to make the measure more reliable, inclusive, and actionable for schools and districts. Target Group Outcomes focuses on students in **roughly the bottom quartile (25%) of performance** based on the prior year's test results. This priority area is scored using a **multiple measure system** from other priority areas - achievement, value-added growth, chronic absenteeism, and attendance or graduation rates. More information can be found in the **Target Group Outcomes Priority Area Help Guide** on the [Accountability Resources page](#).

Optional Narrative Statement on Front Page

The front page of the report card has a space reserved for an optional statement submitted by the school or district. This statement provides an **opportunity to include information beyond what the data in the report card capture**.

No Deductions

There are no longer five-point deductions for not meeting dropout and absenteeism specific rates. Dropout rates are still available in WISEdash. Chronic absenteeism has been incorporated into the On-Track and Target Group Outcomes priority areas. Additionally, the methodology for calculating chronic absenteeism has been aligned with that used in the federal ESSA accountability system.

Course and Program Data

State statute ([Wis. stat. §115.385](#)) requires DPI to report course and program data annually in School and District Report Cards. The report cards contain participation information on postsecondary preparation and arts courses and programs for public schools and districts that serve grades 9-12. These data are provided for informational purposes only (not scored). Course and program data are reported by schools and districts to DPI, and this is the first time these data are included on report cards. Please use caution when interpreting these data. For more information, please see the "**Course and Data Guide**" on the [Accountability Resources page](#).

