WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF Public Instruction

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?

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The Closing Gaps priority area of the report card has been replaced by the Target Group Outcomes priority area to make the measure more reliable, inclusive, and actionable for schools and districts.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 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.