

Accountability for Schools

Using Multiple Measures and Supports



Wisconsin is launching a new school accountability system. The system will

provide balanced, descriptive information about school performance, using multiple measures.

To develop the system, the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) worked closely with policymakers and education stakeholders, including parents, teachers, superintendents, and the business community. The work of the School and District Accountability Design Team, which included the Governor, the State Superintendent, and legislative leaders was the basis for the new system. DPI also consulted with the U.S. Department of Education and an expert Technical Advisory Committee.

The new accountability system applies to all public schools, including charter schools, and takes effect with new school report cards based on 2011-12 student performance. The goal is for this system to include the performance of private schools receiving publicly funded vouchers as well.

A Balanced Index for Measuring Performance

Each year, schools will receive one of five accountability ratings based on an overall score that results from performance in these priority areas:

- Student Achievement in reading and mathematics on state assessments
- Student Growth, measured by year-to-

year improvements in achievement

- Closing Gaps in performance between specific student groups (comparing English language learners, low-income students, students with disabilities, and members of racial or ethnic groups with their peers)
- On-Track to Graduation/ Postsecondary Readiness, using reliable predictors of high school graduation and postsecondary success

Also, poor test participation, dropout, and absenteeism rates can reduce priority area scores.

New School Report Card

The new school report card will show at which of the five levels the school is performing. It will provide detailed information about the priority areas and performance of student groups to help each school understand its score and carry out data informed improvements.

Recognizing and Supporting Schools

The DPI will recognize top-performers as Rewards Schools and work to disseminate their best practices to struggling schools. In struggling schools, interventions will be required including the development and execution of turnaround or improvement plans. Other schools will be connected with resources that meet their specific needs as part of a new, differentiated statewide system of support.

For more information go to:
dpi.wi.gov/oea/acct/accountability.html

Multiple performance measures and a five-tiered classification system make the new accountability system a more informative and constructive guide for school improvement.