



What Student Data is collected in Wisconsin? *Fact Sheet*

Improving student performance through the effective and responsible use of student data empowers educators' data informed decision making and ultimately changes conversations about how to improve student academic achievement. Through accurate data analysis and discussions, teachers and administrators, students and their parents are all able to collaborate, improve assessments, and personalize instructional practices.

The [Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act \(FERPA\)](#) protects the privacy of student education records and gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's education records. In addition, the [WI Pupil Records Law \(Wis. Stat. § 118.125\)](#), provides for further restrictions and limitations in regards to the use and disclosure of student data. The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction uses additional guidelines and strict processes to protect the privacy of every student and ensure the confidentiality and security of all data collected and managed.

What student information does DPI collect?

Basic Student Data:

- Unique state assigned ID number (WISEid)
- Student Demographics/Characteristics
- District/School Enrollment Counts
- Attendance
- Postsecondary Enrollment
- High School Completion

State Assessments:

- Wisconsin Student Assessment System (WSAS)
 - ✓ ACT Plus Writing Statewide (Grade 11)
 - ✓ Forward (grades 3-8)
 - ✓ DLM (grades 3-11)
 - ✓ Aspire (grades 9-10)
- Other Assessments
 - ✓ National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)
 - ✓ Advanced Placement (AP) Exams
 - ✓ ACT Graduates

The DPI does not collect school and district level pupil records such as patient healthcare records, pupil physical health records, or biometric data. DPI also does not collect religious preference, political affiliation, or gun ownership.

Why does DPI collect student data?

DPI collects data to meet all required school, district, state, and federal reporting mandates, e.g., [Every Student Succeeds Act \(ESSA\)](#), [Individuals with Disabilities Education Act \(IDEA\)](#), and [Title II Higher Education Act](#). These data inform education research and data analysis and help determine funding allocations. Through DPI dashboard and reporting tools, teachers, administrators, parents, DPI staff, and researchers are better able to understand and improve educational outcomes for Wisconsin students. The collection of that data is also needed for the DPI to create accurate school and district report cards mandated by state law. Collecting these required data provides additional benefits such as informing improvement planning at the local level.

How is student data used?

Individual Student Data Uses:

- Personalize learning to improve student outcomes
- Provide early warning systems for school staff to intervene and increase likelihood of on-time graduation and decrease dropouts.
- Allocate state funding
- Provide information about student academic growth to school and district staff

Aggregated Student Data Uses:

- Allocate state funding
- Inform policy decisions
- Create school and district report cards
- Evaluate and audit programs
- Support continuous school and district improvement planning

Student Data Collection, Protection, and Privacy



- Satisfy federal reporting requirements
- Provide informative reports to the public

How is the data safeguarded?

- Data Redaction
 - ✓ Suppression of small group sizes when reporting aggregated student data
- Multi-Tiered Data Request Process with Data Destruction Protocol
- Three Tiers of Local Security Management
 - ✓ Role Based Access
- Data Security Infrastructure
 - ✓ User Security
 - ✓ Application Security
 - ✓ Network Security
 - ✓ Data Encryption
 - ✓ Email Safeguards
 - ✓ WISEdata Secured Data Services
 - ✓ Secure File Transfer Protocol

Meeting and exceeding federal and state student privacy laws

Student privacy procedures at DPI adhere completely to the guidelines set forth in Federal and State law. DPI also includes additional safeguards:

- Student Data Access Policy (4.300)
- Confidentiality of Individual Pupil Data and Data Redaction Policy (4.315)
- Student Data Access Procedures Guidebook
- District Training Modules available on the [DPI Data Privacy Webpage](#)
- Data Governance and Data Privacy Work groups
- Data Request Review Board to review research requests and ensure confidentiality
- Data breach notification and liability clauses in vendor contracts and agreements that involve individual student data
- Data privacy training as part of onboarding for all new DPI staff

Who has access to student data?

- Authorized and authenticated DPI staff and designated personnel
- Locally-authorized and authenticated school and district personnel
- Contracted vendors with signed privacy agreements
- Researchers with specific program audit and/or evaluation requests with a fully executed privacy agreement. Specific program audit and evaluation requests but only with a signed privacy agreement

Online Resources

- [Wisconsin Information System for Education \(WISE\)](#)
- [Data @ DPI](#)
- [Student Data Overview FAQ](#)
- [Data Resources](#)
- [Data Privacy](#)
- [WISEdash Public Portal](#)

Template followed and used with permission from the Colorado Department of Education.

[What Student Data is collected in Colorado?](#)