School Support Services

School Report Cards

What it means and what to look for

REPORT CARDS DO NOT INDICATE HOW SUCCESSFUL YOUR CHILD WILL BE AT THAT SCHOOL

A school report card is a tool for promoting state, local education agencies and school accountability. It is also a tool for engaging parents and communities in meaningful discussions about the academic challenges and opportunities facing a school.

DATA REQUIRED ON REPORT CARDS

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

- State assessment scores
- Testing participation rates
- Percentage of students at each achievement level

ACCOUNTABILITY

- School Achievement Levels compared to the State Annual Measurable Objectives for Reading/Language Arts
- Percentage of students determined to be proficient
- Graduation rates
- Identity schools that require improvement, corrective action and/or restructuring
- Data on student performance on other academic indicators
- Annual Yearly Progress if applicable.

TEACHER QUALITY

- Number of professionally qualified teachers
- Percentage of teachers with emergency or provisional licenses

READING THE REPORT CARD

When looking at Student Achievement LOOK FOR:
Words such as "Met / Not Met" or "Basic, Proficient, Advance": The more students with Met and Proficient/Advanced scores indicate the school is meeting state and federal education standards.

Look for how many students are at each achievement level. The more students scoring at a higher proficiency level the better.

When looking at School Accountability LOOK FOR:
Did the school meet the *State* ***Annual Measurable Objectives****?*
What percentage of students in the school *met* ***proficient levels?*** The higher the better.

How many students graduated compared to how many students were enrolled in the senior class?

Graduation rates help indicate *how well schools work with at risk youth* and keep students motivated.

Military impacted schools may appear to have a higher non-graduation rate due to students who PCSed out in their senior year.

Is the school identified as one needing *corrective action, improvement, or restructuring*? You may also see words such as: *Priority, Focus, or Needing Intervention.* These schools have been identified as needing additional resources and assistance to bring up student achievement.

Demographics Break Outs can help you determine the *diversity* of the school and how the school works with different groups to ensure *achievement.*

Schools are required to provide Achievement and Accountability scores based on the following demographics: ***Race, Gender, Disability, Economically Disadvantaged and English Proficiency***

Contact your installation School Liaison Officers for K-12 school questions, resources, and support.

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School Ratings and Grades

What do they mean and do they matter?

Online school ratings don't necessarily indicate which schools are better than others. There are better ways to find out what you need to know.

LOCAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

WEBSITE	WEB Rating	COMMUNITY Rating
State Performance Grade	C	n/a
Greatschools	5/10	★ ★ ★ ★ ☆
Zillow	5/10	★ ★ ★ ★ ☆
Schooldigger	739th/1414	★ ★ ☆ ☆ ☆
Niche	B-	★ ★ ★ ★ ★

- There are discrepancies between website and community ratings.
- Each website looks at different things, and some even include food and sports.
- Anyone can submit community ratings, which may affect scoring.
- The State Performance Grade is the only *official* grade for schools. It's the US Department of Education evaluation tool.

DON'T MAKE A SNAP JUDGMENT

School grades are affected by demographics, teacher licenses, and the performance of all students in the school.

- Talk to other parents who know the schools first-hand.
- Visit the school.
- Contact your School Liaison Officer.

OTHER RESOURCES

Even websites like Greatschool.com offers this advice that is often missed.

https://youtu.be/yhRHnXZGG3M

Highly rated schools translate into higher housing values. Studies confirm this and even put a dollar figure on it: an average premium of $50 a square foot in areas of higher rated schools.

The ability for a student to succeed in any school is different for every family. Look for what a school offers, similar to shopping for a college.

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