



State Report Card: Frequently Asked Questions

What is the DPI report card?

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction issues an annual report card to all public schools and districts, charter schools as well as private schools that participate in the parental choice program. This is the second year that private choice schools received a state report card. The purpose of the report card is to provide families information on school performance.

Why is the DPI report card important to parents?

The report card provides information that can help families talk with educators about their child's school experience, engage with the school to support improvements and allows families to make comparisons with other schools.

Why is the DPI report card important to schools?

The report card is important to schools because it provides a snapshot of information about a school's performance based on the Forward Exam. It also provides a comparison to students across the state and assessment of academic highlights and opportunities for growth.

Where did the information come from that is reported on the report card?

The report data is populated from results of the Wisconsin Forward Exam. All students in grades 3 – 8 took the Forward Exam to assess progress in reading and math. In grades 4 and 8, students are assessed in science and social studies. Student enrollment and attendance data is collected from the schools and is reported in the school information section.

What is the Forward Exam?

The Wisconsin Forward Exam is an annual assessment that measures student progress on state educational standards. The standards predict college and career readiness.

What does the DPI report card tell me about my school?

The report card provides a snapshot of academic performance for the school as it relates to these key areas: student achievement, reading and math growth, closing the achievement gap and college and career readiness.

What does the overall score tell me?

The overall score provides a snapshot of academic performance for the school and determines whether the school meets Department of Public Instruction expectations.

Why is growth important?

Growth is a measure of skills and knowledge gained from year to year. Growth scores demonstrate a school's effectiveness in helping all students improve in reading and math during the school year. These

schools demonstrate that implementing strategic instructional practices can impact a student's achievement and a school's overall academic performance. When each student is growing academically, it benefits the entire student body.

How are school leaders using the report card?

School leaders use the report card to assess school effectiveness and update instructional practices and resources for students. As students' needs change, school leaders adapt the educational approach to ensure that each student has the instruction and resources to grow. School leaders analyze data to better understand which teaching methods are most effective and then look to replicate that to ensure continued student growth. From intentional instruction in key skill areas like reading and math to technology implementation in the classroom, strides are being made to improve education within schools.