



Guide to the Iowa School Report Card

What is the Iowa School Report Card?

- The Iowa School Report Card is a new system to show how each public school is performing on certain educational measures. Schools receive a score for each measure, and then the scores are combined into an overall score. Based on the overall score, one of the following ratings is assigned to each school: Exceptional, High-Performing, Commendable, Acceptable, Needs Improvement, and Priority. The Iowa School Report Card can help Iowans stay informed and can enhance conversations about their schools' strengths and challenges. The Iowa Department of Education developed the rating system in response to a 2013 legislative requirement (House File 215).

What are the categories my school is graded on, and how were they chosen?

The legislation required a set of measures that are represented in the Iowa School Report Card as follows:

- **Proficiency:** The percentage of students scoring proficient or better on reading and mathematics assessments.
- **College and Career-Ready Growth:** The percentage of students who are making the year-to-year growth necessary to be ready for college and career training by the end of high school.
- **Annual Expected Growth:** The percentage of students making a year of academic growth in a year's time on reading and mathematics assessments.
- **Closing Achievement Gap:** A measure that reflects a statewide goal of narrowing the gap in achievement for students with disabilities, students who are eligible for free and reduced-price meals, and English Language Learners.
- **College and Career Readiness:** The percentage of students who score at or above a level of performance on reading and mathematics assessments that predicts a higher probability of postsecondary success. (Middle/high schools only.)
- **Graduation Rate:** The percentage of ninth-grade students who finished high school within five years. (High schools only.)
- **Attendance:** The average daily attendance of students, which is the total number of days students were enrolled and present divided by the total number of possible attendance days.
- **Staff Retention:** The percentage of teachers, school administrators and other licensed staff members who remained employed in a school over consecutive school years.

*Two other required measures, parent involvement and community activities/involvement, will be defined and included in the Iowa School Report Card at a later date.