

November 2016

Our school year is off to a great start! As a learning community, we are continually looking to improve Howards Grove School District. One source we use to reflect on our strengths and areas for improvement is the School Report Card.

The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) creates a School Report Card and District Report Card for every publicly funded school and district in the state. The Report Cards are intended to help all schools and districts utilize data on specific measures to target improvement efforts to ensure students are ready for the next educational step - including the next grade level, graduation, college, and careers.

The current **School Report Card, based on the 2015-16 school year**, looks a bit different than in the past due to changes required by the legislature. The overall idea for how report cards work is the same. At the foundation of the report cards are four priority areas. Schools and districts receive a score for each priority area:

- **Student Achievement** proficiency in English Language Arts (ELA) 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 a racial or an ethnic group with their peers)
- **On-Track and Postsecondary Readiness** is a measurement using reliable predictors of high school graduation and potential post high school success

The priority area scores are then aggregated into an overall accountability score, from 0 to 100. This score is displayed in the top left corner of the School or District Report Cards. It is important to note that the 0 to 100 accountability score is not a “percent correct” measurement. The score is primarily based on our performance last year, the 2015-16 school year, across the four priority areas.

Schools and districts are also evaluated on their level of student engagement - test participation rates, chronic absenteeism rates, and dropout rates when applicable. Based on its score, a school or district receives one of five rating categories, from *Fails to Meet Expectations* to *Significantly Exceeds Expectations*, as well as one to five stars.

We are proud to present the following data for 2015-2016:

Howards Grove School District	Significantly Exceeds Expectations	85.3
Northview Elementary School	Significantly Exceeds Expectations	88.9
Howards Grove Middle School	Exceeds Expectations	82.7
Howards Grove High School	Exceeds Expectations	77.6

Click on District or School name above to see the actual report card information.

Given the changes required by the legislature, many school and district scores changed as compared to the last report card. The changes include a weighting formula to account for poverty when priority area scores are combined into the overall score; a new method of calculating student growth; and the use of Forward Exam data, the third state test in three years. These changes impacted all schools and districts in the state.

DPI has produced two versions of each Report Card: a quick one-pager labeled “School Report Card” and lengthier, detailed version labeled, “School Report Card Detail.” Both versions for our district and individual school report cards, as well as all state-wide districts and schools,

can be accessed online at <http://dpi.wi.gov/accountability/report-cards> along with resources that explain the report cards.

We are proud of our accomplishments but continually search for ways to improve in order to make 2016-17 a successful school year for your child!

Sincerely,

Administrators, Principals, Teachers, and Professional & Support Staff at Howards Grove School District