School Accountability for 2015-16

Ten Things You Need to Know

After a one-year pause for 2014-15 accountability report cards, in accordance with SB 67, the pause bill, we are preparing to release district and school report cards for the 2015-16 school year in the coming months. Here's what schools and districts need to know now about these accountability report cards:

1. **Accountability report cards will be created for the 2015-16 school year and released in Fall 2016.**
    As we have done in the past, we plan to release secure report cards to districts prior to a public release. The secure release would initiate a report card inquiry process. Per state statute, report cards are to be released late in September. Due to these statutory timeline constraints, the inquiry process will be much shorter than in prior years. All timelines and dates are dependent on the timely receipt of all necessary data from our test vendors. The shift to spring testing for our statewide assessments greatly shortens the timeline for transfer of data, conducting quality assurance checks on the data, and producing the report card calculations.

2. **There will be two opportunities, through the Inquiry Processes, to inquire and correct incorrect data included on the report cards.**
    Based on preliminary calculations, we plan to notify schools and districts that would receive deductions for either the absenteeism or dropout rate student engagement indicators. This deduction inquiry process will occur in June; it will not cover potential test participation deductions because we will not yet have the testing data from our test vendors. Schools and districts will have an opportunity to review test participation data as part of the report card inquiry process during the secure report card release in the fall.

3. **Multiple Measures, Multiple Years, Multiple Tests**
    As in the past, report card calculations will use multiple years of data. This means that 2015-16 report cards will include Forward, Badger, WKCE, ACT Plus Writing, DLM, and WAA-SwD test participation and performance data. The ACT Plus Writing is now a statewide assessment and will be used in the Student Achievement priority area. The prior ACT measure will be removed from the On-Track priority area. WorkKeys and Aspire results will not be factored into the priority area scores in 2015-16, though they may be included in future years.

4. **Student Growth calculations will change,** as per the 2015-17 state budget, passed as Act 55. The growth priority area will now be based on a value-added model, produced by the Value-Added Research Center (VARC) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. DPI and VARC staff are meeting regularly to prepare for this transition. In prior report cards, this priority area was a student growth measure based on student growth percentiles (SGPs). The change will introduce a school-based growth measure based on value-added scores. Please note that SGP reports will continue to be available to authorized users in WISEdash for Districts.

5. **Test Participation calculations have not changed.**
    The goal for test participation rate remains 100% for all students and each subgroup. The report cards include two test participation calculations: one is based only on current-year test participation data and the other uses up to three years of data. Schools that fall below a 95% test participation rate for all students or any subgroup under *both* rates receive a five-point deduction from their overall score. Participation rates below 85% receive a ten-point deduction. Remember that the only exception for test participation is a medical emergency. Non-tested students are not, however, included in any achievement-based calculations. In other words, they don't count "against" points-based proficiency rates, but they do count against participation rates.

6. **Adjusted weighting formula for Achievement and Growth**
    Also required by law, a new weighting formula will adjust the weighting of the Student Achievement and Student Growth priority areas to account for the percentage of economically disadvantaged (ECD) students in the school or district. Generally, the higher the proportion of ECD students, the greater the weight assigned to

Growth and the lesser to Achievement, and vice versa. Of the required report card changes, our preliminary analysis signal that this has the potential to have the largest impact on report card scores. The variable weighting will likely result in higher overall scores for highly ECD schools with high growth scores and lower overall scores for highly ECD schools with high achievement but low growth scores.

A second weighting change, included in Act 55 would have adjusted for student enrollment length. This enrollment length weighting provision has been removed per Act 212.

7. **Virtual Charter Schools**
Per state law, data for all students in virtual charter schools in which at least 50% of the students are attending under full-time open enrollment are excluded from district report cards calculations. The virtual charter schools will still receive school report cards.

8. **Choice School Accountability**
Per state law, DPI will produce annual Choice Pupil Report Cards for private schools participating in the choice program. Our goal is for both the Public School Report Cards and the Choice Pupil Report Cards to report the same data based on the same calculations. Choice schools are participating in a new data collection system for the first time in 2015-16. As a result, we have only a single year of data for choice students; and will not have attendance or graduation data. Given these data limitations and the core value of treating all schools the same, the Choice Pupil Report Cards for 2015-16, will not have an overall score, rating, or star designation.

9. **Choice Schools have a reporting choice.**
Per state law, choice schools will receive a Choice Pupil Report Card. These schools also have the option to report data for all students in the school. As such, report cards for private schools participating in a choice program will reflect one of two scenarios:

a) If the school submits data for only those students attending under the choice program, the school's report card will be based solely on those students – the *Choice Pupil Report Card.*

b) If the school submits data for all students at the school (those attending under the choice program and those attending privately), the school will receive two report cards: a "*Choice Pupil Report Card*"—which includes only choice students—and a "*Private School Report Card*"—which includes all students in the private school. DPI anticipates producing the first Private School Report Cards following the 2016-17 school year, when DPI should have sufficient (at least two) years of data.

10. **Accountability Ratings**
The report cards will continue to have four Priority Areas and three Student Engagement Indicators that factor into the overall score and rating. In addition to the overall score and rating, as per state statute, the report cards will now also include a 5-star rating system.

Rating	Score	Stars
Significantly Exceeds Expectations	83-100	*****
Exceeds Expectations	73-82.9	****
Meets Expectations	63-72.9	***
Meets Few Expectations	53-62.9	**
Fails to Meet Expectation	0-52.9	*

DPI is committed to working with stakeholders. Please contact us with any questions: oeamail@dpi.wi.gov.