**Iowa School Report Card Information**

The Iowa School Report Card (formerly known as Attendance Center Rankings) is a system developed by the Iowa Department of Education (IDE) to show how each public school is performing on certain educational measures. The IDE developed the rating system in response to a 2013 legislative requirement (House File 215) and **will be releasing the ratings to the media and public during the week of December 14, 2015**.

**Measures in the School Report Card**

The Iowa School Report Card rates schools on eight measures\*:

* **Student Proficiency:** The percentage of students scoring proficient or better on the reading and mathematics state accountability tests (includes full academic year (FAY) students in grades 3-8 & 11)
* **Closing Achievement Gaps:** A measure of the narrowing of the gap in achievement for students with disabilities, students who are eligible for free and reduced-priced meals, and English language learners as measured by proficiency on the reading and mathematics state accountability tests (includes FAY students in grades 3-8, 10, & 11)
* **College and Career Ready Growth\*\*:** The percentage of students making the yearly growth necessary to meet the College and Career Ready benchmark on the reading and mathematics state accountability tests (includes FAY students in grades 4-8 & 11)
* **Annual Expected Growth:** The percentage of students making a year of academic growth in a year’s time on the reading and mathematics state accountability tests (known as typical growth in DMPS) (includes FAY students in grades 4-8 & 11)
* **College and Career Readiness:** The percentage of students scoring at or above a level on the reading and mathematics state accountability tests that predict a high probability of postsecondary success (middle and high schools only) (includes FAY students in grades 6-8, 10, & 11)
* **Graduation Rate:** 5-year Cohort Rate: The percentage of ninth-grade students who finished high school within five years (high schools only)
* **Attendance Rate:** The total number of days students were present divided by the total number enrolled, aggregated for all students in the school (grades K-12)
* **Staff Retention:** The percentage of teachers, school administrators, and other licensed staff members who remain employed at the school over consecutive school years

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

\*\*This is not a measure of growth, but a measure of college readiness/proficiency. See the attached document for more information on this measure.

For each measure, two years of data is averaged together. The data released in December will include data from the 2013-14 and 2014-15 school year.

**How Categories and Ratings are Calculated**

Each measure has a value from 1 to 100, which is multiplied by a weight to create a score for each measure.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Measure | Percent of Rating (Weight) |
| Elementary Schools | Middle Schools | High Schools |
| Proficiency | 28.6% | 25.0% | 22.2% |
| Closing Achievement Gap | 28.6% | 25.0% | 22.2% |
| College and Career Ready Growth | 14.3% | 12.5% | 11.1% |
| Annual Expected Growth | 14.3% | 12.5% | 11.1% |
| College and Career Readiness |  | 12.5% | 11.1% |
| Graduation Rate |  |  | 11.1% |
| Attendance Rate | 7.1% | 6.3% | 5.6% |
| Staff Retention | 7.1% | 6.3% | 5.6% |

These scores are added together for an overall score. A school’s overall score determines its rating category. The categories are (from highest to lowest): Exceptional, High-Performing, Commendable, Acceptable, Needs Improvement, and Priority.

**Iowa School Report Card Talking Points**

* The goal of the Iowa School Report Card is to present data in a way that makes it easier for the public to access. This tool may add to conversations about schools, but measures and ratings are based on limited data.
* The Iowa School Report Card ratings do not take increases in student achievement into account. A school may demonstrate significant increases in proficiency from year to year and the gains will not be reflected in the school’s rating.
* Iowa Assessment results represent the majority (78-87%, depending on school level) of the measures in the Iowa School Report Card. Therefore, ratings have little to no insight on school performance beyond basic student proficiency.
* Only 11 to 14 percent (depending on school level) of the Iowa School Report Card ratings are based on growth. Therefore, ratings do not reflect the value-add that schools provide to students and are more of a reflection of the demographics of the school.
* DMPS will not use the Iowa School Report Card to inform decision-making in the district.

**College and Career Ready Growth: A Tale of Two DMPS Students**

The College and Career Ready Growth model included in the Iowa School Report Card measures growth on a trajectory towards college readiness. According to this model, all students must be on trajectory towards the minimum college readiness cut point (using Iowa Assessment standard scores) to make growth. If students score above the college readiness cut point, they must gain the standard scores of the average student to make growth. As operationalized, this growth model creates inequitable expectations for student growth. An example of two actual Des Moines Public Schools (DMPS) 11th grade students is below. Names have been removed to protect the identity of students.

**Student A** arrived in the Des Moines as a refugee from Burma in the summer of 2011. She enrolled at North High School in August as a 9th grader in the intensive English language program. When she took the Iowa Assessment reading test in the spring of 2013 as a 10th grader, she earned a standard score of 146, which is equivalent to reading at a first grade level during the sixth month of the school year. In order to be on trajectory towards a standard score of 306 by her 12th grade year, student A must grow by 80 standards scores in her 11th grade year, earning a standard score of 226 (equivalent to reading at a 7th grade level), almost 11.5 times the gain of the average 11th grader.

In reality, student A grew by 69 standard scores in her 11th grade year, advancing from reading at a first grade level the previous year to reading at a sixth grade level. Even though student A grew five grade levels in her reading comprehension, she did not make growth according to the College and Career Ready Growth model.

**Student B** started his education at Des Moines Public Schools, attending kindergarten at Morris Elementary School. By the time student B took the Iowa Assessment reading test in 10th grade at Lincoln High School, he earned a standard score of 302, equivalent to reading at a post-secondary level. Since student B is already reading very close to the college readiness minimum cut point, student B must grow by 7 standard scores (the growth of the average 11th grade student) to make growth in his 11th grade year.

When student B takes the test as an 11th grader, he scores 309, growing by exactly 7 standard scores. Student B makes growth according to the College and Career Ready Growth model, while demonstrating only 10 percent of the growth that student A, who did not make growth according to the model.

Did not make growth

Made growth