



School Support Services  
**School Report Cards**  
*What it means and what to look for*

**REPORT CARDS**

**DO NOT INDICATE HOW SUCCESSFUL YOUR CHILD WILL BE AT THAT SCHOOL**



A school report card is a tool for promoting state, local education agencies and school accountability. It is also a tool for engaging parents and communities in meaningful discussions about the academic challenges and opportunities facing a school.

**DATA REQUIRED ON REPORT CARDS**



**STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT**

- State assessment scores
- Testing participation rates
- Percentage of students at each achievement level



**ACCOUNTABILITY**

- School Achievement Levels compared to the State Annual Measurable Objectives for Reading/Language Arts
- Percentage of students determined to be proficient
- Graduation rates
- Identify schools that require improvement, corrective action and/or restructuring
- Data on student performance on other academic indicators
- Annual Yearly Progress if applicable.



**TEACHER QUALITY**

- Number of professionally qualified teachers
- Percentage of teachers with emergency or provisional licenses

**READING THE REPORT CARD**

**When looking at Student Achievement LOOK FOR:**

Words such as "Met / Not Met" or "Basic, Proficient, Advance": The more students with Met and Proficient/Advanced scores indicate the school is meeting state and federal education standards.



*Look for how many students are at each achievement level. The more students scoring at a higher proficiency level the better.*

**When looking at School Accountability LOOK FOR:**



Did the school meet the State **Annual Measurable Objectives**?

What percentage of students in the school met **proficient levels**? The higher the better.

How many students graduated compared to how many students were enrolled in the senior class?



**Graduation rates** help indicate *how well schools work with at risk youth* and keep students motivated.

*Military impacted schools may appear to have a higher non-graduation rate due to students who PCSed out in their senior year.*

Is the school identified as one needing *corrective action, improvement, or restructuring*? You may also see words such as: *Priority, Focus, or Needing Intervention.*



These schools have been identified as needing additional resources and assistance to bring up student achievement.

**Demographics Break Outs** can help you determine the *diversity* of the school and how the school works with different groups to ensure *achievement*.

*Schools are required to provide Achievement and Accountability scores based on the following demographics:*  
**Race, Gender, Disability, Economically Disadvantaged and English Proficiency**







School Support Services  
**School Ratings and Grades**  
*What do they mean and do they matter?*

Online school ratings don't necessarily indicate which schools are better than others. There are better ways to find out what you need to know.

**LOCAL  
 ELEMENTARY  
 SCHOOL**



**WEBSITE**

**WEB**  
 Rating

**COMMUNITY**  
 Rating

State Performance Grade	C	n/a
Greatschools	5/10	★ ★ ★ ★ ☆
Zillow	5/10	★ ★ ★ ★ ☆
Schooldigger	739th/1414	★ ★ ☆ ☆ ☆
Niche	B-	★ ★ ★ ★ ★

- There are discrepancies between website and community ratings.
- Each website looks at different things, and some even include food and sports.
- Anyone can submit community ratings, which may affect scoring.
- The State Performance Grade is the only *official* grade for schools. It's the US Department of Education evaluation tool.

**DON'T MAKE  
 A SNAP  
 JUDGMENT**

*School grades are affected by demographics, teacher licenses, and the performance of all students in the school.*



- Talk to other parents who know the schools first-hand.
- Visit the school.
- Contact your School Liaison Officer.

**OTHER RESOURCES**

Even websites like Greatschool.com offers this advice that is often missed.

<https://youtu.be/yhRHnXZGG3M>

Highly rated schools translate into higher housing values. Studies confirm this and even put a dollar figure on it: an average premium of \$50 a square foot in areas of higher rated schools.

*The ability for a student to succeed in any school is different for every family. Look for what a school offers, similar to shopping for a college.*

