



# SCHOOL REPORT CARD FAQ



This FAQ is designed to help schools and LEAs navigate the 2018-2019 school report card site, answer frequently asked questions, and assist schools and LEAs as they prepare to message school report card information for parents and their community.

## Q. WHAT IS THE SCHOOL REPORT CARD?

- A** The School Report Card is just one piece of information that, when combined with other information, shows how a school is performing in multiple areas. It is designed to show each school's strengths and areas in need of improvement in order to ensure Utah schools are meeting the needs of all students. The school report card is an interactive, online tool designed for parents that is easily searchable, provides detail into specific content areas, and clearly displays school-level information. Reports are available for all schools, charter schools, districts, and the state.

## Q. WHAT IS NEW FOR THE 2018-2019 REPORT CARD?

- A** The Utah report card now shows performance information for all districts and the State. These district and State reports reflect similar information to the school report cards, but in the aggregate at the district or state level.

Early literacy information has been added to all Elementary-level reports. Early literacy, a strong predictor of future academic success, shows the percentage of students in first, second, and third grade who are reading on grade level and/or making typical or better progress. Early literacy is not awarded points for school accountability but provides schools and parents with important information about students in early grades.

In the coming months, new contextual information will be added to the Utah School Report Cards, including school course offerings, teacher experience, per-pupil expenditures, National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP), and other metrics.

## Q. WHAT YEAR DOES THE SCHOOL REPORT CARD APPLY TO?

- A** Each year, The School Report Card published shows student performance during the prior school year. This year's report cards show school performance during school year 2018-2019.

## Q. HOW DO I NAVIGATE THE SCHOOL REPORT CARD?

- A** After finding your school in the search bar, each school has a profile and performance tab. The School Profile shows school information and student enrollment. School Performance shows the data for each indicator of school accountability. Selecting the 'View Details' button for each indicator shows additional information for each area of performance, such as comparison to the district and state, and how student groups performed in each area.

## Q. WHAT MEASURES ARE INCLUDED IN EACH INDICATOR?

- A** The School Report Card shows indicators of school quality and student success. RISE and Utah Aspire Plus results from 2018-2019 are used to calculate Achievement, Growth, and Growth of the Lowest 25%. WIDA ACCESS is used to calculate the English Learner Proficiency Indicator. ACT scores are included as part of Postsecondary Readiness, along with graduation rate and readiness coursework. These indicators each receive points in the accountability system.

## Q. WHAT ELSE IS INCLUDED ON THE REPORT CARD?

- A** Other pieces of information, such as consistent attendance, early literacy, and self-reported indicators, that do not receive points for school accountability are published on the school report card and are provided to add additional context and information about each school.



## ELEMENTS OF THE SCHOOL REPORT CARD

### Q. WHAT ARE INDICATOR-LEVEL RATINGS?

- A** Each indicator that can be calculated for a school shows a rating, displayed as a meter, for that indicator to provide additional context for comparison and interpretation of the indicators for school accountability. The meters shown in each indicator tile on the school performance page show the school's performance for that indicator on its own. Indicators are rated as Exemplary, Commendable, Typical, Developing, or Critical Needs. Each indicator-level rating is based on the points earned by the school for that individual indicator.

### Q. WHY IS MY SCHOOL'S GROWTH DIFFERENT THAN PREVIOUS YEARS?

- A** In previous years, growth was calculated as the percentage of student earning a student growth percentile (SGP) of 40 or greater. The calculation for growth in the new accountability system is an index score derived from a combination of student SGPs and student growth targets, or SGTs. The mean growth index score for all students who took English language arts, math, and science assessments is displayed in the growth tile. Growth is also described as high, typical, or low to provide context and clarity of interpretation.

### Q. WHAT IS CONSISTENT ATTENDANCE?

- A** Almost all students have occasional absences. Consistent Attendance is not the same as a school's attendance rate. It is the percentage of students who miss fewer than 10 days of school during the school year, or in other words, the percentage of students who are not chronically absent.

## Q. WHAT IS GROWTH OF THE LOWEST 25%?

- A** The lowest performing 25% of students within a school is identified based on SAGE performance from 2017-2018. The Percentage shown for Growth of the Lowest 25% is the percentage of students within this group who earn an SGP of 40 or higher, or in other words, demonstrated adequate academic growth during the 2018-2019 school year from the previous year.



## Q. WHAT IS ENGLISH LEARNER PROGRESS?

- A** The English Learner Progress measure shows the percentage of students learning the English language and have made adequate progress or reached proficiency in the areas of listening, reading, speaking, and writing on the WIDA ACCESS assessment. Adequate progress targets for English Learners are set for each student based on initial proficiency level, grade level at the time of enrollment, and time in Utah's EL program. These adequate progress targets are defined in the [Accountability Technical Manual](#) on page 22.

## Q. DOES ENGLISH LEARNER ACHIEVEMENT ALSO COUNT IN THE ENGLISH LEARNER PROGRESS INDICATOR?

- A** No. English Learner Progress is only calculated using WIDA ACCESS scores from 2017-2018 and 2018-2019. Academic Achievement of English Learners can be found in the details for the Achievement indicator, along with achievement for other student groups.

## Q. WHAT IS POSTSECONDARY READINESS?

- A** Postsecondary Readiness is an indicator for high schools. This indicator includes 1) graduation rate, 2) ACT performance, and 3) readiness coursework. Graduation rate is the percentage of students who graduated in 2018-2019 with a regular diploma. ACT Performance is the percentage of students who earned an ACT composite score of 18 or higher in the 11th grade statewide administration of ACT. Readiness coursework is the percentage of students who, during high school, took at least one Advance Placement, concurrent enrollment, or International Baccalaureate course, or completed a CTE Pathway.

## Q. WHAT ARE SELF-REPORTED INDICATORS?

- A** Schools may choose to describe up to two additional pieces of information about how their school is supporting students. These self-reported indicators are not factored into school accountability calculations but provide the opportunity for schools to highlight successful programs or practices in addition to the indicators included in school accountability. LEA Assessment Directors can assist schools to upload these additional indicators should the school choose to do so.

## ADDITIONAL FAQs

### Q. WHAT REPORTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR DISTRICTS AND THE STATE?

- A** Profile information and student enrollment is published in this year's reports for districts and the state. Beginning in 2019-2020, performance data will be added to district and state reports, just as it is reported now for schools.

### Q. WHAT IS THE SCHOOL PARTICIPATION RATE?

- A** The participation rate shown on the school report card is the percentage of students who participated in their assigned RISE or Utah Aspire Plus tests during 2018-2019. Participation rate excludes students who do not participate for valid reasons, such as parental opt-out. This participation rate is used to calculate all the indicators published on the school report card. ACT participation is not included in this participation rate percentage.

### Q. A DATA ELEMENT ON MY SCHOOL'S REPORT CARD SHOWS 'ND' OR 'N<10'. WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

- A** ND indicates where 'No Data' were available to display on the school report card. N<10 is used when there are fewer than 10 students in a student group, or fewer than 10 students with test scores, and the data is suppressed to protect student privacy.

### Q. WHAT IS POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENT?

- A** Postsecondary enrollment is displayed for high schools. It is the percentage of students who enroll in a Utah college or University in the year after graduation. This is a new measure, and the data for recent graduates are not yet available for 2018-2019 School Report Cards. Postsecondary Enrollment will be reported on next year's School Report Card.

### Q. WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION ABOUT SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY?

- A** The [Utah Accountability Technical Manual](#) describes system purpose, the method for calculating each indicator, and more information about the School Report Card. It can be found on the Utah State Board of Education's Assessment and Accountability website, here:  
<https://schools.utah.gov/file/70235d75-cf35-4e04-9d2b-34ff388968b5>.

