



Independence Community School District

Iowa School Report Card

Knowing where you are and where you want to go is a key part of growth and improvement. Our school regularly uses education data to tell us how our students are progressing and to adjust instruction for better results.

The state is now providing an additional source of information with the release of the Iowa School Report Card. This is a new web-based tool that provides a snapshot of every Iowa public school's performance on certain educational measures, such as student attendance and proficiency rates.

The goal of the Iowa School Report Card is to present certain education data in a way that makes it easier for the public to find and understand. The Iowa Department of Education developed this tool in response to a 2013 legislative requirement (House File 215).

Specifically, the Iowa School Report Card scores schools on up to eight educational measures and then assigns an overall rating to each school based on its performance on the measures. The eight educational measures are as follows:

- **Proficiency:** The percentage of students scoring proficient or better on reading and mathematics assessments.
- **Closing the Achievement Gap:** A measure that reflects a statewide goal of narrowing the gap in achievement for students with disabilities, students who are eligible for free and reduced-priced meals, and English Language Learners.
- **College and Career-Ready Growth:** The percentage of students who are making the year-to-year growth necessary to be ready for college and career training by the end of high school.
- **Annual Expected Growth:** The percentage of students making a year of academic growth in a year's time on reading and mathematics assessments.
- **College and Career Readiness:** The percentage of students who score at or above a level of performance in reading and mathematics that predicts a higher probability of postsecondary success (Middle/High Schools only).
- **Graduation Rate:** The percentage of ninth-grade students who finished high school within five years (High Schools only).

- **Attendance:** The average daily attendance of students, which is the total number of days students were enrolled and present divided by the total number of possible attendance days.
- **Staff Retention:** The percentage of teachers, school administrators, and other licensed staff members who remained employed in a school over consecutive school years.

This kind of information can add to conversations in our community about how we are preparing our students for success but these measures are based on limited data. As you know from other accountability measures such as the federal No Child Left Behind Act, schools are so much more than labels. Labels and ratings do not tell the whole story.

I encourage you to explore the information provided on the Iowa School Report Card. I also encourage you to get to know the school behind the label. Please feel free to contact me or the building principals for any questions you may have or any clarification that is needed as well.

You can locate our school's results, as well as more information about the Iowa School Report Card, on the following website:
www.educateiowa.gov/schoolreportcard

Thanks,

Jean Peterson, Superintendent