

“Did You Know?”

How often, when the topic of purchasing a home is discussed, do you hear, “So how are the schools in that community?” School performance has a great influence on potential buyers of homes in communities and so how that data is presented should be of great importance to school districts. GreatSchools.org is a website that uses state assessment results to provide a picture for people who are thinking of purchasing property in a particular community. However, using one data point to characterize the quality of an entire school district is unfair and does not represent the complete picture.

For example: Westfield Middle School gets a ranking of “7” out of 10 based upon the interpretation of test scores of those students eligible for free and reduced lunch services. What Greatschools.org fails to recognize is that if a student that qualifies in this category elects not to take the test, it still counts against the school’s overall performance. When the measurement is based on a small sub population, it has a more profound effect on the overall rating. Other area middle schools are rated as follows:

F.E. Peacock Middle School	8
Roselle Middle School	9
Spring Wood Middle School	4
Medinah Middle School	6

I would not judge the quality of any of the schools in this area based upon an arbitrary rating system. You need to find out more than just a thumbnail sketch. In the end, you wouldn’t purchase a car based on the picture of the vehicle. When buying a home, you want to check out the community and its schools more thoroughly; with attention to details that can be found through multiple resources and from the schools themselves. Be informed before you choose!