

**DU PAGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT 13
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Bloomingdale, Illinois**

Regular Meeting May 24, 2021

FOR DISCUSSION:

Subject: **Factors Used to Rate Schools on GreatSchools.org**

After looking on the website, GreatSchools.org uses four ratings to determine its summary rating for each school. They believe school success can be determined by their Student Progress Rating (or Academic Progress Rating), College Readiness Rating (which does not apply to District 13), Equity Rating, and Test Score Rating.

The Student Progress Rating is their version of a growth score: determining if students are making progress over time. These scores are acquired through the State Assessments (Illinois Assessment of Readiness, Illinois Science Assessment, PSAT, etc.). Summary ratings are capped so they do not exceed the Student Progress Rating. At Erickson Elementary, currently rated a 5, the reason for their lowered score is a combination of GreatSchools.org's analysis of Equity (how well a school serves the academic development of low income or disadvantaged populations) and the disparity between test scores of all students versus disadvantaged students.

This low score (a 1 in Equity) is not explained well and would give the reader the indication that the staff does not support these students well. According to their website, "The Equity Rating was created using 2019 4-year high school graduation rate data from Illinois State Board of Education, using 2019 Student growth data from Illinois State Board of Education, using 2019 Illinois Assessment of Readiness data from Illinois State Board of Education, and using 2018 demographic data from the National Center for Education Statistics."

The Summary Rating weights for each measurement area are as follows:

Rating Components	Weight	Rating
Student Progress	46%	5
Test Scores	31%	9
Equity	23%	1

The reviews from community members on the site would tell you a much different story.

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(continued)**

From December 2020:

“Something is seriously wrong with your current rating 5/10. You rated this school 10/10 for several years and 9/10 for the last 3 years, now 5/10?. If you check school digger, it is currently ranked 133/2100 illinois elementary schools. Something is either wrong with your data or formula. I have 2 kids in this schools and moved to my current home few years ago because of this school. It has excellent staff and teachers. Academically is also very sound. way ahead of many DuPage county schools. I am an engineer and believe me I look at the curriculum in detail especially STEM related subjects. The school also has a very respectful accelerated program starting in 3rd grade. My wife and I are extremely happy with how the school has handled the whole COVID19 situation and very thankful to the staff and teachers for going above and beyond what they have signed up for. The irony is that Dujardin Elementary is graded 9/10 but ranked 150/2100 on schooldigger. Not sure if this is all due to some report that the school needed to submit within a certain timefrane but is still overdue. A 5/10 grade gives the absolute opposite picture of what Erickson Elementary is and has always been.”

There are potential interventions, including having principals “claim” their schools through the organization, but I am not sure what that would entail or what the extent of the commitment would be. The feedback is valuable from a planning perspective and the site stresses the importance of how the District should engage the community in telling “our story”.