

What's New for the 2023-24 School and District Report Cards?

Background

This document highlights changes to 2023-24 report cards compared to 2022-23. For more information on report cards, please visit our [Report Card Resources page](#).

What's New?

Impact of Assessment Standard Settings

Assessment cut scores were updated for the Forward Exam, PreACT Secure, and ACT assessments as a result of the updated Forward Exam aligned to the recent updates to Wisconsin Academic Standards, and standard settings that occurred this past summer. The 2023-24 assessment data used in the report cards reflect these updates, including the percentage of students in each performance level used in achievement scoring.¹ As a reminder, up to three years of achievement data are used in report cards, and the 2021-22 and 2022-23 achievement data in the 2023-24 report cards reflect the assessment cut scores in these years. Please see the following section for more information on achievement scoring for the 2023-24 report cards.

Changes to Achievement Scoring for the 2023-24 Report Cards

As the updated 2023-24 assessment cut scores resulted in higher proficiency rates compared to previous years, the scoring of achievement on the 2023-24 report cards has been modified to allow for comparability and stability in the system and to allow schools and districts to more easily compare this year's report cards to report cards from 2022-23. Specifically, the DPI is "scale adjusting" 2023-24 achievement scores to align with the 2022-23 achievement distribution, which, in effect, lowers achievement scores.

After applying the scale adjustment, if a school/district's scale adjusted achievement subject area score is lower than the subject area score on the 2022-23 report card, the 2022-23 achievement subject area score is used instead. This process serves to prevent adjustment overcorrection and eliminates the confusion that would result from an achievement score that is lower than last year's due to the scale adjustment (and not necessarily from decreasing achievement performance).

In summary, schools and districts can expect to see achievement scores that are greater than or equal to their 2022-23 score, though not as high as would be the case with no scale adjustment. As a reminder, a report card's overall score includes other components aside from achievement scores. You can see the exact steps for calculating achievement and other scores in the 2023-24 Report Card Technical Guide located on the [Report Card Resources page](#).

Note that this is a one year scoring change applicable only for 2023-24 report cards. In the coming year, the DPI will convene a group of educators to help align the report card cut scores to accurately communicate the success of schools and districts.

Achievement Priority Area Display Updates

Due to the 2023-24 assessment updates, only one year of data is displayed on the "Performance Levels by Year" chart on the Achievement page of the report card. Note that Achievement scores

¹Achievement scoring refers to the Achievement priority area (both ELA and mathematics scores), the Target Group Outcomes Achievement component (both ELA and mathematics scores); and the 3rd grade ELA and 8th grade mathematics component scores of On-Track to Graduation.



are still calculated using up to three years of data. The “Student Group Performance Levels by Year” table on the Achievement - Additional Information page of the report card continues to display up to three years of data.

Additionally, after extensive engagement with internal and external education partners, the DPI has updated the names of the assessment performance levels. The new terms of developing, approaching, meeting, and advanced appear in the achievement priority area section of the report cards for 2023-24. Achievement results from prior years (2021-22 and 2022-23) in the “Student Group Performance Levels by Year” table are labeled using the previous performance level names. You can learn more about the updated terminology in [this DPI news release](#).

Additional Course Data Reporting

The counts and percentages of all students by course type has been added to the Student Group Participation tables on the Postsecondary Preparation and Arts Course Information pages.

In addition, the count and percentage of unique students participating in any Postsecondary and in any Arts Course (including ‘All Others’ SCED Subcategory course participants) have been added to the Postsecondary Preparation and Arts Course Information pages, respectively. For more information, please see the Course and Program Data Guide on our [Report Card Resources page](#).

