

Report Card Vocabulary Guide

Because Wisconsin's new accountability system is so different than what was in place before, there are many new words and definitions to learn. Here is a list of some of the most critical terms to know.

Accountability System – A way to measure student and school performance. In 2012-13, Wisconsin is launching a new accountability system that uses several different kinds of measurements to provide balanced and accurate information about the performance of all public schools in the state. That data is compiled on the school report card.

Accountability Score – A number from 0 to 100 that measures how well an individual school performs based on multiple measures. The score is listed on the annual report card issued for each public school in Wisconsin.

Accountability Rating – One of five ratings that measure overall school performance based on the school's accountability score. The ratings are: fails to meet expectations; meets few expectations; meets expectations; exceeds expectations; and significantly exceeds expectations.

Priority Areas – Four measures of an individual school's annual performance that are used to calculate a base accountability score on the school report card. The areas are: student achievement, student improvement, closing gaps and on-track and postsecondary readiness.

Student Growth – A priority area on the school report card that measures how quickly students are gaining knowledge and skills from year to year.

Closing Gaps – A priority area on the school report card that measures how well a school is doing in reducing the achievement gaps that often separate students from different racial and ethnic groups and ability levels.

On-Track and Postsecondary Readiness – A priority area on the school report card that measures how well a school is doing in preparing its students to succeed in careers and post secondary education.

Student Engagement Indicators – Many factors influence a school's overall performance. Some indicators are test participation, absenteeism and dropouts. They are used to calculate a school's accountability score on the school report card.

Growing Toward Higher Level – The highest level in the student growth area of the school report card that measures how many students are on track to gain at least one performance level over the next three years.

Declining Below Proficient – The lowest level in the student growth area of the school report card that measures how many students are on track to decline to the minimal performance or basic level within the next year.