



RIPON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 2021 Assessment Data Press Release

For Immediate Release

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Ripon, WI - Annual state assessments help all stakeholders – parents, teachers, districts, school boards – see a clear picture of how well schools in Wisconsin prepare students to be college and career ready. For students in Wisconsin, state assessments include the Wisconsin Forward Exam, the ACT, and Dynamic Learning Maps. Performance data from the assessments students took during the 2020-2021 school year has recently been released from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) and is available by searching the WISEdash public portal as part of the Wisconsin Student Assessment System (WSAS).

These state assessments set high expectations for students to prepare them for college and career readiness. The cut scores of both the ACT and Forward exams are rigorous. Resources for interpreting the data can be found on the WISEdash public portal website. Educators will be using these results in conjunction with other data to drive school improvement. WSAS results are high profile, but only one of many data points that districts consider in a school improvement planning process.

Wisconsin Forward Exam

The Wisconsin Forward Exam online assessment tests elementary and middle school students in four main subject areas including;

- Grades 3-8 in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics;
- Grades 4 and 8 in Science; and
- Grades 4, 8, and 10 in Social Studies.

In each of these areas and grade levels, students in the Ripon Area School District (RASD) outperformed the state average, though the average for both Ripon and the state dropped from 2018-2019 levels. Comparable data is not available for the 2019-20 school year, as schools were under the COVID-19 stay at home order and no state assessments were issued in Spring 2020.

Forward ELA by Grade	Ripon % Proficient	State % Proficient	Forward Math by Grade	Ripon % Proficient	State % Proficient
3	52.7	31.3	3	65.5	40.8
4	52.5	35.7	4	50.8	36.9
5	43.0	33.4	5	47.7	37.4
6	40.9	33.8	6	47.2	31.4
7	43.2	37.3	7	39.4	30.6
8	35.3	30.5	8	27.9	25.9
Overall 3-8 (2021)	44.6	33.7	Overall 3-8 (2021)	46.6	33.6
Overall 3-8 (2019)	59.6	40.9	Overall 3-8 (2019)	61.1	43.4

In English Language Arts, overall scores show 44.6 percent of Ripon students compared to 33.7 percent at the state level were proficient or advanced. In mathematics, 46.6 percent of Ripon students compared to 33.6 percent statewide were proficient or advanced. During the 2018-2019 school year, 59.6 percent of Ripon students were proficient or advanced in English language arts compared to 40.9 percent at the state level. In mathematics, 61.1 percent of Ripon Area School District students were proficient or advanced compared to 43.4 percent statewide.

ACT

Students in grades 9 and 10 took the ACT Aspire Early High School assessment in English, reading, mathematics, science, and writing. Overall results for ACT Aspire show 46.6 percent of students were proficient or advanced in English language arts compared to 32.3 percent of students statewide. In mathematics, 40.2 percent of RASD students in grades 9 and 10 were proficient or advanced compared to 29.8 percent statewide. These scores predict future ACT scores.

Aspire ELA by Grade	Ripon % Proficient	State % Proficient	Aspire Math by Grade	Ripon % Proficient	State % Proficient
9	54.4	33.2	9	46.4	32.2
10	39.5	31.6	10	34.5	27.4
Overall 9-10 (2021)	46.6	32.3	Overall 9-10 (2021)	40.2	29.8
Overall 9-10 (2019)	49.6	40.5	Overall 9-10 (2019)	48.8	40.0

The ACT (American College Testing) Exam tests students in grade 11 in ELA (English, Reading, and Writing), mathematics, and science. Overall results on the ACT show 50.4 percent of Ripon Area School District students achieved proficient or advanced performance levels in English language arts compared to 33.0 percent statewide. In mathematics, 34.4 percent were proficient or advanced compared to 25.5 percent of juniors statewide.

Testing Year	ACT ELA by Grade	Ripon % Proficient	State % Proficient	ACT Math by Grade	Ripon % Proficient	State % Proficient
2021 (gain/loss from 2019)	11	50.4 (+10.6)	33.0 (-3.8)	11	34.4 (+10.2)	25.5 (-3.7)
2019	11	39.8	36.8	11	24.2	29.2

Curriculum Director Christine Damm noted, “We have seen tremendous growth at the high school in both ELA and Math in comparison to 2019. The District continues to align the curriculum and curriculum resources with the expectations of the common core standards which are aligned with each of the domains of the Aspire and ACT assessments. The high school math curriculum materials/resources were updated in 2020 and continued coaching support is provided to align our instructional practices with the common core standards for math. High School teachers across all departments are also doing a deep analysis of standards and how they connect to specific skills in which they will be reporting on. Teachers are in the process of developing assessments and rubrics tied specifically to unit standards/skills. There is an intentional focus of transferable skills to align instruction and assessment.”

Ripon Superintendent Mary Whitrock shared, “COVID has been a significant factor impacting schools. From mid March through June 2020, students and staff were completely virtual. The impact of the loss of face to face instruction was felt greatly at the elementary and middle school levels. During most of the 2020-2021 school year, elementary staff and students faced many interruptions with staff simultaneously teaching groups of virtual and face to face students and adjusting to large numbers of student absences for quarantines.

When comparing the last two rounds of state testing data (2019 and 2021), we are seeing some interesting impacts. In Grades 3 - 8, Ripon continues to perform above the state level, though both the state and district scores have fallen. The state saw a reduction of 7.2 points in ELA and 9.8 points in Math while the district fell

15 points in ELA and 14.5 points in math compared to the 2019 Forward results. A similar trend is reflected in the high school ACT Aspire data. While the state saw a decrease of 8.2 points in ELA and 10.2 points in math, the district fell 3 points in ELA and 8.6 points in math with the exception of 9th grade ELA, which was one point higher than the 2019 results.

‘Efforts to write a new curriculum, select materials and adjust instruction to meet the needs of our students has helped us stay ahead of other districts across the state though the interrupted face to face instructions has, as expected, impacted our younger learners to a much greater extent than our high school students.

Now more than ever, we appreciate the community's continued support of the BRAVE Afterschool Program which provides interventions to students and offers homework help at all levels after school. Credit also goes to our community for passing recent operational referendums to support important curriculum materials and professional development. Parents are engaging with their children at home, getting them to school, asking about their school day, inquiring about their homework and checking their grades. All of this makes a huge difference,” noted Ripon Superintendent Mary Whitrock.

At the high school level, despite COVID, Ripon performed above the state and above the 2019 levels for the school in both English Language Arts and math. There has been extensive work by the high school administrative team and staff to adjust curriculum, implement new courses, provide interventions to students and hound students to complete missing assignments and attend special credit recovery sessions. Their efforts are reflected in these impressive increases.

Historically, Ripon’s district-wide results have consistently been among the top-performing districts in the state. These results reflect the high-quality instruction RASD provides for all students. Yet, administration and staff are committed to continuing to raise achievement scores and close any achievement gaps between groups of students in the district, particularly at the high school level. Improving access to post-secondary readiness options is one way to close the achievement gap and address equity issues in Wisconsin.

District	Forward ELA % Proficient
Winneconne	51.8
Rosendale-Brandon	49.2
Ripon	44.6
Green Lake	44.1
Princeton	41.6
Markesan	41.2
Omro	38.1
Berlin	38.0
State	33.7

District	Forward Math % Proficient
Winneconne	64.9
Rosendale-Brandon	50.8
Ripon	46.6
Green Lake	44.9
Markesan	42.7
Berlin	40.9
Omro	40.8
Princeton	39.8
State	33.6

District	ACT Aspire 9 & 10 ELA % Proficient
Winneconne	56.3
Ripon	46.6
Green Lake	46.0
Rosendale-Brandon	41.2
Markesan	38.8
Princeton	37.9
Omro	34.5
Berlin	34.4
State	32.3

District	ACT Aspire 9 & 10 Math % Proficient
Winneconne	52.1
Rosendale-Brandon	41.2
Ripon	40.2
Green Lake	40.0
Markesan	32.6
Omro	31.0
State	29.8
Berlin	28.6
Princeton	24.1

District	ACT 11 ELA % Proficient
Green Lake	53.6
Ripon	50.4
Winneconne	50.0
Markesan	34.2
State	33.0
Berlin	28.0
Rosendale-Brandon	23.9
Omro	22.1
Princeton	20.6

District	ACT 11 Math % Proficient
Winneconne	46.8
Markesan	35.6
Ripon	34.4
Green Lake	32.1
State	25.5
Rosendale-Brandon	21.1
Berlin	19.5
Princeton	14.7
Omro	9.1

Ripon Superintendent Mary Whitrock commented, "I am exceedingly proud of the efforts of all of our staff, students and parents. These results show all students can achieve when supported by their community. I look forward to continuing this work with the RASD team to ensure we see solid gains in the years to come."

Any comments or suggestions, please contact Chrissy Damm at (920) 748-4687.

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