

## RIPON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT Assessment Data Press Release

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## 2020-21 School and District Report Cards Released

**Ripon, WI** - Ripon Area School District (RASD) earned four out of five stars on state report cards from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, issued for the 2020-21 school year. Based on the star rating, Ripon exceeds expectations for educating students. While the district retained the same four-star rating received the last five years that the report cards have been issued, it dropped in overall score from 78.5 points in 18-19 to 70.0 in 20-21.

The report card reflects the last three years of student performance data, though because no state assessments were given the 2019-10 school year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the current school report card is primarily based on last year's performance during the 2020-21 school year. The results illuminate strengths in each school and help district's pinpoint areas of focus. The goal is for all students to graduate from high school ready for their next step.

The report cards also fulfill state accountability reporting requirements. At the foundation of the report cards are four priority areas. Schools and districts receive a score for each priority area:

- Achievement proficiency in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics on the annual state assessments
- **Growth** year-to-year progress in ELA and math achievement
- Target Group Outcomes outcomes for students with the lowest test scores: the Target Group.
- **On-Track to Graduation** reliable predictors of how successfully students are progressing toward completing their K-12 education.

The priority area scores are aggregated into an overall accountability score, from 0 to 100. This score is displayed on the front page of the school or district report cards. It is important to note that the 0 to 100 accountability score is not a "percent correct" measurement. Based on its score, a school or district receives one of five rating categories, from *Fails to Meet Expectations* to *Significantly Exceeds Expectations*, as well as corresponding one to five stars.

All RASD Schools who received a rating met, exceeded, or significantly exceeded expectations.

Murray Park received a five star rating, placing them in the significantly exceeds expectations category.

This is attributed to the high percentage in points earned for growth, 95.4, which shows that Murray Park

students are progressing more quickly than other students with similar achievement. Quest maintains a very high score in achievement, 94.8, but had a reduction in the schools overall exceeds expectations ranking due to the growth category. There is less room for schools with high student achievement to see an increase in school growth based on the weighted formulas DPI has put in place. When compared to other districts with similar achievement, the growth of Quest students lagged behind.

Ripon High School, Ripon Middle School and Catalyst Charter Middle Schools each received a three star rating, placing them in the meets expectations category. While all three schools saw only a slight drop in the schools overall achievement score, their growth scores dropped significantly. These results are consistent districtwide.

Odyssey Virtual, Barlow Park, Barlow Park Charter and Journey received satisfactory ratings due to being too new or serving students who are younger than the earliest grade tested. These schools must submit evidence of achievement and growth using local assessment. Satisfactory is the highest level of recognition these schools were able to obtain.

When looking at subgroups, scores for English Learners (EL) and students who are disadvantaged economically dropped across both ELA and math. The District recognizes attendance, communication and technology were all factors impacting these groups of learners during the pandemic. The District is fortunate to have a strong team of interventionist and EL teachers working to support Ripon teachers and students to ensure these groups of students are provided additional academic support to close the achievement gaps which heightened during the pandemic.

Christine Damm, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment for the Ripon Area School District, stated, "School and district report cards provide important information to our community as they help us compare ourselves to other schools and districts. Their limitation is that they only measure student achievements and growth based on the required computerized state assessment. To gain a full picture of our student's progress and growth, the district triangulates our data by also looking at local assessments and continuing to review our curriculum materials and instructional practices. This year we are conducting an early literacy audit in our elementary schools as part of our continuous quality improvement process. The district recently adopted new math curriculum materials that focus heavily on helping students gain a conceptual understanding of mathematical concepts through authentic and hands on-experiences and opportunities for students to share their thinking with their peers. During the height of the pandemic, this structure of learning was greatly challenged due to modifications to in-person learning and the safety protocols that were put in place to minimize the spread of COVID-19. Individual student math kits have been purchased at our elementary buildings to ensure that students are able to develop a conceptual understanding of math and teachers have become very creative in organizing groups to ensure opportunities for student collaboration.

The overall assessment data and the district's four-star rating continue to guide their efforts towards continuous improvement. While RASD has proven to be among the top performing districts

in the state, administration and staff are committed to rising above this level of excellence and continue to work toward meeting district goals for improvement."

Ripon Superintendent Mary Whitrock noted, "These results demonstrate the high quality instruction all students in the Ripon Area School District receive from the exceptional staff in each of our schools. The Ripon School Board, administrators and staff have committed to provide high quality instruction to all students in the district utilizing a continuous quality improvement model. The district's mission, values and goals all focus on raising achievement to ensure all students are ready for the world beyond our doors."

The public report cards can be found online at: <a href="https://apps2.dpi.wi.gov/reportcards/">https://apps2.dpi.wi.gov/reportcards/</a>. As required, our district and school report cards will also be updated on our district website at: <a href="https://www.ripon.k12.wi.us/district/district\_school\_report\_cards.cfm">https://www.ripon.k12.wi.us/district/district\_school\_report\_cards.cfm</a>. The Report Cards are intended to help schools and districts utilize performance data to target their improvement efforts so that students are ready for their next educational step – including the next grade level, graduation, college, and careers.

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