



RIPON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT Assessment Data Press Release

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2021-22 School and District Report Cards Released

Ripon, WI - Ripon Area School District (RASD) once again earned four out of five stars on state report cards issued for the 2021-22 school year by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. Based on the star rating, Ripon exceeds expectations for educating students. The District retained the same four-star rating received the last six years that the report cards have been issued. The District scored 70.3 for 2021-22 which is up 0.3 from 2020-21.

The report card reflects the last three years of student performance data, though because no state assessments were given the 2019-20 school year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the current school report card is based on achievement data from 2018-19, 2020-21, and 2021-22. Requirements were waived for the 2019-20 school year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and report cards were not produced. The current 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 the RASD schools who received a rating, either met or exceeded expectations. Murray Park and Quest received a four star rating, placing them in the exceeds expectations category. Last year's

growth category contributed to a five star rating for Murray Park. While this year's achievement score remains relatively the same, the overall growth score dropped from 95.4 in 20-21 to 69.8 in 21-22. This growth rate is similar to other Wisconsin districts and has therefore produced a lower score in the overall growth category for Murray Park students. Quest maintains a very high score in achievement, 93.0, and saw a slight increase to its overall rating of 74.7. The growth category, which accounts for 20.4% of the overall rating, continues to place Quest in the exceeds expectations ranking. 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 similarly high achievement, the growth of Quest students lags somewhat.

Ripon High School, Ripon Middle School and Catalyst Charter Middle Schools each received a three star rating, placing them in the meets expectations category. Increases in the achievement and growth categories for Ripon Middle School contributed to an overall increase of 3.7 points from last year. Ripon High School is reporting a similar trend with increases in the achievement and growth scores accounting in the .8 increase from 20-21. Catalyst Charter Middle School was dissolved beginning with the 22-23 school year and will no longer be reported in future years.

Odyssey Virtual, in its fourth year of existence, has earned an overall rating of exceeds expectations. In previous years Odyssey was reported as satisfactory, which was the highest rating able to be obtained in those years due to lack of historical achievement data as it was a new charter school. This upwards trend is very promising for Odyssey to achieve given the added challenges of the face to face testing requirement which means all students needed to travel to one of three locations around the state.

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. The Ripon School Board dissolved Barlow Park Legacy School beginning with the 22-23 school year and has made Journey Project School its non-charter option for students to attend grades 4PS-2.

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 assessment data by also looking at local assessments and continuing to review Board approved curriculum materials and instructional practices. This year the District refined literacy instructional practices to reflect a greater emphasis on early foundation and word study skills. The literacy curriculum team is reviewing new materials to support literacy instruction. Math curriculum materials across the district 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. Overall achievement results in mathematics reflect the success of RASD students using this approach. 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 Ripon's 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: <https://apps2.dpi.wi.gov/reportcards/>. As required, our district and school report cards will also be updated on our district website at: https://www.ripon.k12.wi.us/district/district_school_report_cards.cfm. 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.