



RIPON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

2023 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 2022-2023 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) continue to exceed the state average, though the average for both Ripon and the state remain below 2018-2019 levels. Overall comparable data for previous years are reflected in the table below. 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	54.0	37.1	3	60.3	47.9
4	48.8	44.8	4	57.0	45.6
5	42.2	38.3	5	54.7	47.5
6	40.0	39.5	6	44.3	41.6
7	52.3	39.8	7	48.6	34.6
8	49.5	36.2	8	41.4	30.5
Overall 3-8 (2023)	47.7	39.2	Overall 3-8 (2023)	51.4	41.1
Overall 3-8 (2022)	49.7	37.0	Overall 3-8 (2022)	52.4	39.2
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 47.7 percent of Ripon students compared to 39.2 percent at the state level were proficient or advanced. In mathematics, 51.4 percent of Ripon students compared to 41.1 percent statewide were proficient or advanced. The percentage of students performing in the advanced and proficient categories is on the rise at the state level, though local data indicates a slight decrease from 2022. The district continues to recover from the increased absences and loss of learning caused by COVID.

ACT

Students in grades 9 and 10 took the PreACT Secure assessment in English, reading, mathematics, science, and writing. Overall results for PreACT Secure show 49.8 percent of students were proficient or advanced in English language arts compared to 39.5 percent of students statewide. In mathematics, 42.6 percent of RASD students in grades 9 and 10 were proficient or advanced compared to 33.4 percent statewide. These scores predict future ACT scores.

PreACT Secure ELA by Grade	Ripon % Proficient	State % Proficient	PreACT Secure Math by Grade	Ripon % Proficient	State % Proficient
9	54.4	41.4	9	54.4	36.3
10	44.7	37.5	10	29.9	30.7
Overall 9-10 (2023)	49.8	39.5	Overall 9-10 (2023)	42.6	33.4
*Overall 9-10 (2022)	50.5	35.6	*Overall 9-10 (2022)	39.2	33.2
*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 59.1 percent of Ripon Area School District students achieved proficient or advanced performance levels in English language arts compared to 37.7 percent statewide. In mathematics, 37.4 percent were proficient or advanced compared to 26.9 percent of juniors statewide.

Testing Year	ACT ELA by Grade	Ripon % Proficient	State % Proficient	ACT Math by Grade	Ripon % Proficient	State % Proficient
2023 (gain/loss from 2022)	11	59.1 (+9.1)	37.7 (+2.7)	11	37.4 (+1.2)	26.9 (-0.1)
2022 (gain/loss from 2021)	11	50.0 (-0.4)	35.0 (+2.0)	11	36.2 (+1.8)	27.0 (+1.5)
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. In both English language arts and mathematics, Ripon students continue to exceed the state average. The District has aligned the curriculum and curriculum resources with the expectations of the common core standards which are aligned with each of the domains of the ACT assessments. The high school math curriculum materials/resources were updated in 2020 and our teachers are benefitting from the coaching support received the last several years to align our instructional practices with the common core standards for math. High School teachers across all departments have aligned their standards to specific skills in which they will be reporting on. Teachers have been using their professional development days to develop 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, “District 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.

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. Literacy continues to be a focus of learning for our elementary staff and new resources have been purchased to help align instruction to the latest best practices, which includes phonics instruction. District interventionists are collaborating to develop a systematic approach to supporting students who struggle with reading. 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	59.7
Ripon	47.7
Princeton	46.0
Green Lake	45.9
Rosendale-Brandon	44.4
Markesan	43.3
State	39.2
Omro	37.4
Berlin	36.3

District	Forward Math % Proficient
Winneconne	68.4
Ripon	51.4
Omro	44.7
Rosendale-Brandon	43.2
Green Lake	41.4
State	41.1
Markesan	39.6
Princeton	37.1
Berlin	35.9

District	PreACT Secure 9 & 10 ELA % Proficient
Rosendale-Brandon	50.9
Ripon	49.8
Winneconne	48.5
Markesan	43.7
Omro	47.0
Green Lake	43.5
Princeton	42.3
State	39.5
Berlin	37.8

District	PreACT Secure 9 & 10 Math % Proficient
Winneconne	52.6
Ripon	42.6
Rosendale-Brandon	40.3
Markesan	38.7
Omro	38.4
State	33.4
Berlin	32.6
Princeton	28.9
Green Lake	26.1

District	ACT 11 ELA % Proficient
Ripon	59.1
Rosendale-Brandon	53.0
Winneconne	42.4
Omro	38.6
State	37.7
Berlin	37.2
Markesan	35.1
Green Lake	26.9
Princeton	23.1

District	ACT 11 Math % Proficient
Winneconne	42.4
Ripon	37.4
Rosendale-Brandon	31.8
Markesan	31.6
Omro	30.1
State	26.9
Berlin	20.2
Green Lake	11.5
Princeton	7.7

Ripon Superintendent Mary Whitrock commented, “Our staff, students and parents are to be commended for their efforts to improve achievement through engagement and ongoing communication. These results show all students can achieve when supported by their schools and community. I look forward to continuing this work with the RASD team and district families 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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