



RIPON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 2018 ESSA Accountability Press Release

For Immediate Release

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Ripon, WI - This year, in addition to state level report cards, public schools and districts will receive a federal report card. The Ripon Area School District is pleased to announce all eight schools in the district received the highest rating of “Not Identified” under the new federal ESSA accountability system as well as the highest rating of “Meets Requirements” under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The Joint Federal Notification Packet reports school and district progress on achievement for all students under two federal laws: the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). IDEA and ESSA accountability reports are issued jointly to inform and assist in continuous improvement efforts more streamlined across a district. Reports are available on the DPI website, <https://dpi.wi.gov/accountability/federal>.

The intention of ESSA and Wisconsin’s state plan under ESSA is to close achievement gaps, specifically to cut the achievement gap in half in six years. Districts do not receive ESSA Accountability Reports; only schools do. Within the reports, the whole school (all students) and each student group are scored and ranked against the performance of all other public schools in the state. To protect student privacy, when there are less than 20 students in a group, their performance is not scored nor reported. The ESSA Accountability system ultimately functions as a federal identification system in which there are three identification categories for districts: not identified, targeted support & improvement (TSI), or comprehensive support & improvement (CSI).

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires the Department of Public Instruction to determine annually if each district meets the requirements of IDEA Part B. IDEA is reported under the following criteria: “meets requirements,” “needs assistance,” “needs intervention,” or “needs substantial intervention.” A combination of compliance and results indicators are used to determine the overall district rating. Compliance indicators focus on racial disproportionality in special education identification and discipline, timely evaluation of students referred for special education, transition between birth-to-three programs and the Local Education Agency, post-high school transition planning for students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs), correction of noncompliance with IDEA and timely and accurate data. Results indicators focus on rates for students with IEPs in the areas of graduation, drop-out, mathematics, and English Language Arts participation and proficiency.

In anticipation of this new federal accountability process, the Ripon Area School District conducted two ESSA stakeholder meetings in May 2018 to complete a needs assessment and gather input around student achievement overall and in all subgroups. “This spring we will meet again and will use the detailed information presented in the Joint Federal Notification Packet to further refine the district’s improvement plan specifically to improve student engagement and learning, human resources, service and partnerships, and finance and operations,” noted Curriculum Director Christine Damm. “Moving forward, this review of our plan and progress toward meeting our objectives will continue to be conducted annually.”

Damm also noted, “As essential partners in educating our students, we continue to seek input from parents, students, business partners, and educators. We invite all community stakeholders to take part in these important discussions by participating in the various ESSA and strategic planning engagement sessions we are conducting.” Please contact Curriculum Director, Christine Damm if you have any questions about our results.