



# RIPON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT Assessment Data Press Release

For Immediate Release

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## 2018-19 School and District Report Cards Released

**Ripon, WI** - Ripon Area School District earned four out of five stars on state report cards from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, issued for the 2018-19 school year. Based on the star rating, Ripon exceeds expectations for educating students. The district retained the four star rating each of the last four years. These results illuminate our successes and help us pinpoint areas of focus in our district and schools so that all students graduate from high school ready for their next step. The report cards also fulfill state accountability reporting requirements.

The schools in the Ripon Area School District met, exceeded or significantly exceeded expectations. Three schools, Murray Park and Quest Elementary Schools, along with Catalyst Charter Middle School each received a five star rating, allowing them to remain in the significantly exceeds expectations category. Murray Park had the highest increase in its overall score moving up 6.5 points over last year. This is attributed to a substantial increase in points earned for student achievement, school growth, and closing gaps compared to last year's results. Quest has maintained a perfect score in closing gaps and near perfect score in student achievement, with a decrease in school growth. 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. While student achievement in Catalyst has gone up, there has been a slight decrease in points obtained in the school growth and closing gaps categories compared to last year.

Ripon Middle School received a four star rating while increasing 2.8 overall points from last year to remain in the exceeds expectations category. Ripon Middle School made significant progress in closing gaps in both English Language Arts and Mathematics. Ripon High School increased in overall score by .5 points over last year and remained in the meeting expectation category. The high school report card now uses ACT Aspire data along with ACT 11 to calculate a student achievement and a school growth score, where previously only ACT 11 was used to determine student achievement. Barlow Park and Journey Charter Elementary Schools have alternative report cards and received satisfactory ratings.

Ripon Superintendent Mary Whitrock noted, "These results demonstrate the high quality instruction to 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: <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](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.

The current School Report Card is primarily based on last year's performance, the 2018-19 school year. At the foundation of the report cards are four priority areas. Schools and districts receive a score for each priority area:

- **Student Achievement** proficiency in English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics on the annual state assessments (Forward Exam, ACT and Dynamic Learning Maps)
- **School Growth** measured by year-to-year progress in ELA and math achievement
- **Closing Gaps** in performance between specific student groups (comparing English learners, low-income students, students with disabilities, and members of a racial or an ethnic group with their peers)
- **On-Track and Postsecondary Readiness** showing reliable predictors of how many students are on-track to graduate from high school and student readiness for post-high school success

Schools and districts are also evaluated on their level of student engagement – chronic absenteeism rates and dropout rates – when applicable.

The priority area scores are aggregated into an overall accountability score, from 0 to 100. This score is displayed in the top left corner 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 *Significantly Exceeds Expectations* to *Fails to Meet Expectations*, as well as corresponding one to five stars.

Christine Damm, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment for the Ripon Area School District, stated, "While school and district report cards provide information to the community, they do not represent a full picture of the work happening at our schools. What these assessments do not measure is the success we are experiencing since the implementation of Balanced Literacy Instruction and Continuous Quality Improvement in math and literacy across the district. We have recently adopted new math curriculum at the elementary and middle schools and will be recommending new materials at the high school this spring. Our new materials are comprehensive, truly common core aligned, research

based, built around developing conceptual understanding while building procedural fluency, and are seamless in the transitions between grades and levels. Additionally, students at all levels are highly engaged in Project Lead the Way and FOSS modules to deepen their understanding of scientific ideas over time by engaging in practices that scientists and engineers actually use. Our teachers continue to design, assess, and manage rigorous, standards-based projects. The incremental growth we are experiencing can be attributed in great part to the focused work of educators across the district on the Board of Education's Response to Instruction/Intervention (RtI) annual goal in literacy for the past five school years. We have added math to our district goals for Continuous Quality Improvement, while maintaining the goal for literacy instruction."

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. The overall results reflected on the district and school report cards reflect the high quality instruction and commitment to continuous improvement that RASD provides for all students. District staff look forward to working with parents and students to make 2019-20 a successful year for every child.

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