



RIPON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

2024 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 2023-2024 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.

Updated Forward Exam English language arts (ELA) and mathematics tests were administered this spring. Results for these tests are reported on a new scale and with updated performance levels. While 2023 data is also listed to show the effects of the new scale and performance levels, the public should consider 2024 the first year of a new trend when comparing student performance with other years.

Forward ELA by Grade	Ripon % Proficient	State % Proficient	Forward Math by Grade	Ripon % Proficient	State % Proficient
3	58.3	50.9	3	56.5	55.7
4	58.6	52.1	4	66.2	54.0
5	56.0	52.6	5	56.9	53.4
6	58.2	52.7	6	60.7	52.5
7	54.9	50.1	7	55.9	52.1
8	62.2	48.4	8	61.3	51.4
Overall 3-8 (2024)	58.1	51.1	Overall 3-8 (2024)	59.8	53.1
*Overall 3-8 (2023)	47.7	39.2	*Overall 3-8 (2022)	51.4	41.1

In English language arts, 58.1 percent of Ripon students achieved proficient or advanced levels, compared to 51.1 percent at the state level. Similarly, in mathematics, 59.8 percent of Ripon students were proficient or advanced, compared to 53.1 percent statewide. Based on the new scale and performance levels, the percentage of students performing in the advanced and proficient categories is on the rise at both the district and state levels.

ACT

Students in grades 9 and 10 took the PreACT Secure assessment in English language arts, reading, mathematics, science, and writing. The ACT with writing and PreACT Secure state performance levels were also updated in English language arts, mathematics and science to ensure coherent reporting and accountability, however, the underlying scores didn't change. It is possible to compare scores across years, however, as with the Forward Exam, the public should consider 2024 the first year of a new trend for proficiency rates.

Overall results for PreACT Secure show 51.3 percent of Ripon students were proficient or advanced in English language arts, compared to 44.2 percent of students statewide. In mathematics, 56.0 percent of RASD students in grades 9 and 10 were proficient or advanced, compared to 45.9 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	53.2	46.7	9	62.4	49.7
10	49.6	41.6	10	50.4	42.2
Overall 9-10 (2024)	51.3	44.2	Overall 9-10 (2024)	56.0	45.9
*Overall 9-10 (2023)	49.8	39.5	*Overall 9-10 (2023)	42.6	33.4

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 56.6 percent of Ripon Area School District students achieved proficient or advanced performance levels in English language arts compared to 41.8 percent statewide. In mathematics, 48.7 percent were proficient or advanced compared to 38.9 percent of juniors statewide.

Testing Year	ACT ELA by Grade	Ripon % Proficient	State % Proficient	ACT Math by Grade	Ripon % Proficient	State % Proficient
2024 (gain/loss from 2023)	11	56.6 (-2.5)	41.8 (+4.1)	11	48.7 (+11.3)	38.9 (+12.0)
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)

Curriculum Director Christine Damm noted, “We continue to see trends in both English language arts and math exceed the state average. The growth at the high school in math is particularly impressive. Every time there are revisions to academic standards, a corresponding performance standard-setting process is required to update cut scores. The last standard setting occurred in 2015. The new performance levels of 2024 likely contributed to the significant increase in proficiency. 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. High school teachers across all departments have aligned their standards to specific skills that they will be reporting on. Teachers use professional development days to refine skills 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 staff’s efforts to write a new curriculum, select materials, and adjust instruction to meet the needs of all students has helped Ripon stay ahead of other districts across the state. Credit also goes to the 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.”

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. Despite these strong outcomes, Ripon’s administrative team and staff remain committed to raising achievement scores and closing any achievement gaps between groups of students in the district. Literacy continues to be a focus of learning for our elementary staff. Resources, interventions, and professional development have been aligned to the statewide Act 20 requirements. This creates a systematic approach to supporting students who struggle with reading.

2024 Comparable Assessment Data by District

District	Forward ELA % Proficient	District	Forward Math % Proficient
Winneconne	74.8	Winneconne	80.3
Princeton	65.1	Green Lake	62.1
Green Lake	62.9	Omro	60.8
Ripon	58.1	Rosendale-Brandon	60.5
Rosendale-Brandon	57.1	Ripon	59.8
Markesan	54.0	Markesan	56.9
State	51.1	Princeton	56.3
Omro	49.6	State	53.1
Berlin	40.6	Berlin	41.8

District	PreACT Secure 9 & 10 ELA % Proficient	District	PreACT Secure 9 & 10 Math % Proficient
Winneconne	53.9	Winneconne	76.2
Omro	53.3	Omro	57.6
Markesan	51.7	Markesan	57.5
Rosendale-Brandon	51.6	Ripon	56.0
Ripon	51.3	Berlin	47.0
Green Lake	50.0	State	45.9
Berlin	47.9	Green Lake	45.4
Princeton	47.2	Rosendale-Brandon	41.9
State	44.2	Princeton	36.1

District	ACT 11 ELA % Proficient
Green Lake	65.2
Rosendale-Brandon	56.8
Ripon	56.6
Winneconne	44.1
State	41.8
Omro	40.8
Markesan	40.7
Princeton	26.1
Berlin	26.0

District	ACT 11 Math % Proficient
Rosendale-Brandon	53.7
Winneconne	53.2
Ripon	48.7
Green Lake	47.8
Omro	43.4
State	38.9
Markesan	29.6
Berlin	26.9
Princeton	17.4

Ripon Superintendent Mary Whitrock commented, “Ripon’s 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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