



RIPON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 2022 Assessment Data Press Release

For Immediate Release

October 2022

Contact: Christine Damm, Curriculum Director

dammc@ripon.k12.wi.us

(920) 748-4687

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 2021-2022 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 Spring 2021 as well as 2019 (pre-Covid) 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	51.7	34.8	3	57.5	47.3
4	58.6	41.3	4	64.7	43.9
5	46.9	39.9	5	51.3	44.8
6	46.2	37.2	6	49.6	38.5
7	53.5	37.1	7	50.0	33.1
8	40.3	32.0	8	40.3	29.4
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 49.7 percent of Ripon students compared to 37.0 percent at the state level were proficient or advanced. In mathematics, 52.4 percent of Ripon students compared to 39.2 percent statewide were proficient or advanced. The percentage of students performing in the advanced and proficient categories is on the rise at both the district and state level, though still below in both English language arts and mathematics prior to COVID. The district continues to recover from the increased absences caused by COVID.

ACT

Students in grades 9 and 10 took the ACT Aspire Early High School assessment in English, reading, mathematics, science, and writing. Overall results for ACT Aspire show 50.5 percent of students were proficient or advanced in English language arts compared to 35.6 percent of students statewide. In mathematics, 39.2 percent of RASD students in grades 9 and 10 were proficient or advanced compared to 33.2 percent statewide. These scores predict future ACT scores.

Aspire ELA by Grade	Ripon % Proficient	State % Proficient	Aspire Math by Grade	Ripon % Proficient	State % Proficient
9	49.2	36.2	9	37.3	34.0
10	51.6	34.9	10	41.0	32.2
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 50.0 percent of Ripon Area School District students achieved proficient or advanced performance levels in English language arts compared to 35.0 percent statewide. In mathematics, 36.2 percent were proficient or advanced compared to 27.0 percent of juniors statewide.

Testing Year	ACT ELA by Grade	Ripon % Proficient	State % Proficient	ACT Math by Grade	Ripon % Proficient	State % Proficient
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 Aspire and 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 are 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, particularly at the high school level. Improving access to post-secondary readiness options is one way to close the achievement gap and address equity issues in Wisconsin.

District	ACT Aspire 9 & 10 ELA % Proficient
Winneconne	56.3
Ripon	46.6
Green Lake	46.0
Rosendale-Brandon	41.2
Markesan	38.8
Princeton	37.9
Omro	34.5
Berlin	34.4
State	32.3

District	Forward Math % Proficient
Winneconne	69.2
Ripon	52.4
Princeton	44.2
Omro	43.0
Markesan	42.0
Berlin	41.1
State	39.2
Rosendale-Brandon	39.7
Green Lake	39.2

District	ACT Aspire 9 & 10 ELA % Proficient
Winneconne	60.3
Ripon	50.5
Rosendale-Brandon	49.0
State	35.6
Omro	32.9
Green Lake	32.6
Princeton	29.7
Berlin	27.2
Markesan	25.2

District	ACT Aspire 9 & 10 Math % Proficient
Winneconne	56.3
Rosendale-Brandon	42.1
Ripon	39.2
Markesan	36.0
Omro	34.7
State	33.2
Green Lake	26.9
Berlin	26.3
Princeton	24.1

District	ACT 11 ELA % Proficient
Winneconne	54.5
Ripon	50.0
Green Lake	48.1
Rosendale-Brandon	47.2
Berlin	39.8
Omro	38.8
State	35.0
Princeton	24.1
Markesan	23.3

District	ACT 11 Math % Proficient
Winneconne	44.6
Ripon	36.2
Green Lake	33.3
Berlin	29.6
Omro	27.1
State	27.0
Rosendale-Brandon	26.4
Markesan	21.9
Princeton	10.3

Ripon Superintendent Mary Whitrock commented, "I am exceedingly proud of the efforts of all of our staff, students and parents as we move forward post COVID. 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.

###