

# Guide to 2020 Ohio School Report Cards





Ohio School Report Cards give parents, caregivers, community members, educators and policymakers information about how districts and schools are performing — to celebrate successes and identify areas for improvement.

The information provides transparent reporting on student performance, drives local conversations on continuous improvement and identifies schools to receive intensive supports. The goal is to ensure high expectations and equitable outcomes for all Ohio's students.

The state's education community experienced unprecedented changes during the 2019-2020 school year due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. As a result, and in line with legislative action allowing schools to forego certain state tests, limited data is available for the 2019-2020 academic year compared to prior years. Given these developments, the report cards this year will look a bit different – each area will be noted with explanations in this guide.

[reportcard.education.ohio.gov](https://reportcard.education.ohio.gov)

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## How well is Ohio's education system performing?

So much has changed since the last time the Ohio School Report Cards were issued. The 2019-2020 school year was disrupted in ways we never predicted, and those disruptions are reflected, in part, in this year's report cards. We often look to our report cards to see academic performance and progress, but they will not have that information this year. The data provided in these report cards also won't give a description of how teachers left their physical classrooms and took volumes of tried and true lesson plans and practices and adapted them to remote learning methods practically overnight. This report card won't reflect the hours of planning, strategizing and preparing school administrators performed to ensure learning could continue in a safe way despite the coronavirus pandemic. This report card doesn't mention the custodians, food service staff, transportation staff and numerous support professionals who went above and beyond to make sure students got the services they needed even though they couldn't be together in a school building.

Throughout these challenges, we've never lost sight of the mission of [Each Child, Our Future](#), Ohio's strategic plan for education. This plan calls for our education system to challenge, prepare and empower each student for future success to the best of his or her ability regardless of the circumstances that might ensue.

In that spirit, the Ohio Department of Education worked closely with educators across the state to produce high-quality resources and supports aimed at helping schools navigate the switch to remote education. In the same way, the Department has pursued data-driven resources to assist schools as they start the 2020-2021 academic year. We've enlisted the help of regional data leads, as well as curriculum and readiness professionals to offer Student Readiness Toolkits, Benchmark Tests and Checkpoint Assessments. These supports are designed to help educators re-immense students in the academic year, while gauging their needs and progress since the ordered school-building closure took place.

This year, the Ohio School Report Cards will not feature overall grades for any districts or buildings. There will be no individual grades for given components or measures, and there will be no rankings of schools or buildings. This is in keeping with legislation passed in the spring as a result of the coronavirus pandemic that also canceled the administration of most state tests for the last portion of the 2019-2020 school year. This edition of the Ohio School Report Cards will, however, provide the available information about graduation rates, Prepared for Success indicators and kindergarten to grade 3 reading diagnostics. In addition, much of the usual demographic and enrollment data will be published, along with other district and school operational details.

Our goal is to carry forward the teamwork, collaboration and care we've seen over the past school year into the 2020-2021 academic year and beyond. We have never been more focused, united and determined to ensure each child is challenged to discover and learn, prepared to pursue a fulfilling post-high school path and empowered to become a resilient, lifelong learner who contributes to society.



*Laura Kohler*  
**Laura Kohler**  
 President, State Board of Education



*Paolo A. DeMaria*  
**Paolo DeMaria**  
 Superintendent of Public Instruction

# How did the ordered school-building closure impact the report cards?

## *Cancellation of Spring Testing*

In March 2020, the emergency state legislation and federal waiver allowed Ohio to waive most state testing requirements for the 2019-2020 school year due to the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) health crisis. Schools were not required to administer Ohio's State Tests in the spring of 2020. This included the Alternate Assessment for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities and Ohio English Language Proficiency Assessment. All spring tests that were in progress were halted as of March 17 with the ordered school-building closure.

With the cancellation of these tests, the data that feeds into several measures on the report cards are not available this year.

### Achievement



The state tests feed into the Performance Index and Indicators Met measures. Without spring testing, these measures cannot be calculated. These measures are not available on the district and school report cards, the report cards for schools operating Dropout Prevention and Recovery programs, or the Career-Technical Planning District Report Cards.

### Gap Closing



The English language arts, mathematics and English language proficiency improvement measures will not be available because of the cancellation of spring testing; the graduation data are available but will be reported only in the Graduation Component. This component will not be available on the district or school report cards or the report cards for schools operating Dropout Prevention and Recovery programs.

### Progress



The state tests are used to calculate academic growth in the Progress Component. While prior-year testing data are available, these measures cannot be calculated without the spring testing results. This component will not be available on the district or school report cards or the report cards for schools operating Dropout Prevention and Recovery programs.

### Improving At-Risk K-3 Readers



Fall diagnostic test results are used for this component for students in kindergarten through second grade and will be reported on the report cards; for students in third grade, Ohio's State Test results typically are used but will not be available this year. The Third Grade Reading Guarantee promotion rate will be reported, and the fall diagnostic information for students in kindergarten through third grade also will be reported. This component is only found on the district and school report cards and will be adjusted this year as described above.

## How did the ordered school-building closure impact the report cards?

### *Temporary Requirement Waivers*

In March 2020, Ohio law temporarily waived several program requirements for the K-12 education system. With these waivers, it is important to note that while data still may be available on certain programs, the interpretation of the data is slightly different because of the waived requirements. The reported data is valuable but should be compared to prior years with the understanding about requirement changes.

#### **Third Grade Reading Guarantee**

Newly enacted Ohio law temporarily removes the requirement that a student meet the promotion threshold for the 2019-2020 school year to advance to fourth grade. Specifically, no school district, community school or STEM school and no chartered nonpublic school that is required to administer assessments to scholarship students shall retain a student in the third grade following the 2019-2020 school year based solely on the student's academic performance in reading. However, if the student's principal and reading teacher agree that reading skills demonstrate the student is reading below grade level and is not academically prepared to be promoted to fourth grade, the student may be retained.

#### **Teacher and Principal Evaluations**

Due to the timing of the ordered school-building closure, educators found it difficult to complete the student growth measures and other required components of the educator evaluation systems. Ohio law temporarily provided districts the option to leave educator evaluations incomplete by using the COVID-19 exemption. Statewide, more than 80 percent of districts elected to use the exemption for some or all of their teachers and more than 50 percent elected to use the exemption for principal and school counselor evaluations. For these reasons, the pie charts showing teacher and principal evaluation results will not be available on the report cards this year.

#### **Wellness and Physical Education**

Physical education assessments are governed locally, and the physical education benchmark evaluations were not excused as part of the House Bill 197 requirement waivers. School districts determined how to manage the physical education assessments for the 2019-2020 school year. For the report cards this year, this item will display as "NC" for Not Calculated for all districts and schools. While the data were required to be submitted, there was variability in how districts addressed these assessments. In light of that, rather than place a rating label on this item, the Ohio Department of Education will display "NC" for the benchmark evaluations only. The wellness and physical education data on compliance, Body Mass Index (BMI) screenings and participation in the pilot program still will be available on the report cards.

# How did the ordered school-building closure impact the report cards?

## *Temporary Reporting Changes*

In March 2020, several reporting guidelines for data were adjusted to address the impact of the ordered school-building closure. The Department updated the Education Management Information System (EMIS) manual to address limited and specific reporting situations, and several offices shared additional reporting guidance for specific programs. The reported data is valuable but should be compared to prior years with the understanding the reporting changes may alter the interpretation of the data.



## **Chronic Absenteeism and Attendance**

Reporting instructions were quickly adapted to address the ordered school-building closure. Attendance reporting and how it contributes to the calculation of student-, school- and district-level chronic absenteeism were impacted beginning in March through the end of the school year. In some cases, calendars were altered or attendance was tracked for students in new virtual settings. Additional details on these changes are available in the [COVID-19-related informational documents on attendance and instructional hours](#). The Department is reporting these data in accordance with state law. It is, however, important to acknowledge that any comparisons to prior years should be made with caution due to the potential changes in attendance tracking.

## What to expect on the Ohio School Report Cards for the 2019-2020 school year.

Districts and schools report information for the Ohio School Report Cards on specific measures within six broader components. The components are Achievement, Progress, Gap Closing, Improving At-Risk K-3 Readers, Graduation Rate and Prepared for Success. Districts and schools earn letter grades on each of the six components, most of the individual measures and an overall summative rating. This helps give Ohio parents and schools a snapshot of the quality of education provided to students. *The 2019-2020 report cards will have no grades or ratings and limited data due to the coronavirus pandemic and ordered school-building closure.*



### Achievement

This component represents whether student performance on state tests met established thresholds and how well students performed on tests overall. *The data for this component are not available this year.*



### Progress

This component looks closely at the growth that all students are making based on their past performances. *The data for this component are not available this year.*



### Gap Closing

This component shows how well schools are improving or meeting the performance expectations for all students in English language arts, math, graduation and English language proficiency. *The data for this component are not available this year.*



### Improving At-Risk K-3 Readers

This component looks at how successful schools are at improving reading for at-risk students in grades K-3. This component also includes information on the Third Grade Reading Guarantee Promotion rate. *These data are partially available this year.*



### Graduation Rate

This component shows the percentage of students who are successfully finishing high school with a diploma in four or five years. *The data are available and were not impacted for the reporting years.*



### Prepared for Success

This component looks at how well-prepared Ohio's students are for future opportunities, whether training in a technical field or preparing for work or college. *The data are available and were not impacted for the reporting years.*

## What to expect on the Career-Technical Planning District Report Cards.

The Career-Technical Planning District Report Cards include specific marks of performance, called measures, within broad categories called components. They receive grades for up to six measures and four components. The majority of the components and measures on the Career-Technical Planning District Report Cards are based upon career-technical education concentrators who left school in the prior year and/or are in the four- and five-year graduation cohorts (which are lagged a year). As a result, most of the data for the 2019-2020 report cards are available to report for planning and informational purposes. *The 2019-2020 report cards will have no grades or ratings and limited data due to the coronavirus pandemic and ordered school-building closure.*

### Achievement



The Achievement component represents the number of students who pass the state's tests and the technical assessments that measure the skills and knowledge learned in a student's career-technical program. *These data are partially available this year.*

### Career and Postsecondary Readiness



Whether training in a technical field or preparing for work or college, the Career and Postsecondary Readiness component looks at how well prepared Ohio's students are for all future opportunities. *The data are available and were not impacted for the reporting years.*

### Graduation Rate



The Graduation Rate component looks at the percentage of students who are successfully finishing high school with a diploma in four or five years. *The data are available and were not impacted for the reporting years.*

### Post-Program Outcomes Component



The Post-Program Placement measure includes the proportion of students who are employed, in an apprenticeship, join the military or enrolled in postsecondary education or advanced training in the six months after leaving school. The Industry Credentials measure includes the proportion of students earning industry credentials before they leave high school or in the first six months after leaving school. *The data are available and were not impacted for the reporting years.*

## What to expect on the Dropout Prevention and Recovery Report Cards.

Schools that receive the Dropout Prevention and Recovery Report Cards receive ratings for up to eight measures and four components. *The 2019-2020 report cards will have no grades or ratings and limited data due to the coronavirus pandemic and ordered school-building closures.*



### Achievement

The Achievement component, previously called the High School Test Passage Rate component, represents the number of students who meet applicable criteria on assessments that are required for graduation. *The data for this component are not available this year.*



### Progress

The Progress component looks closely at the growth all students are making during the school year. *The data for this component are not available this year.*



### Gap Closing

This component shows how well schools are improving or meeting the performance expectations for all students in English language arts, math, graduation and English language proficiency. *The data for this component are not available this year.*

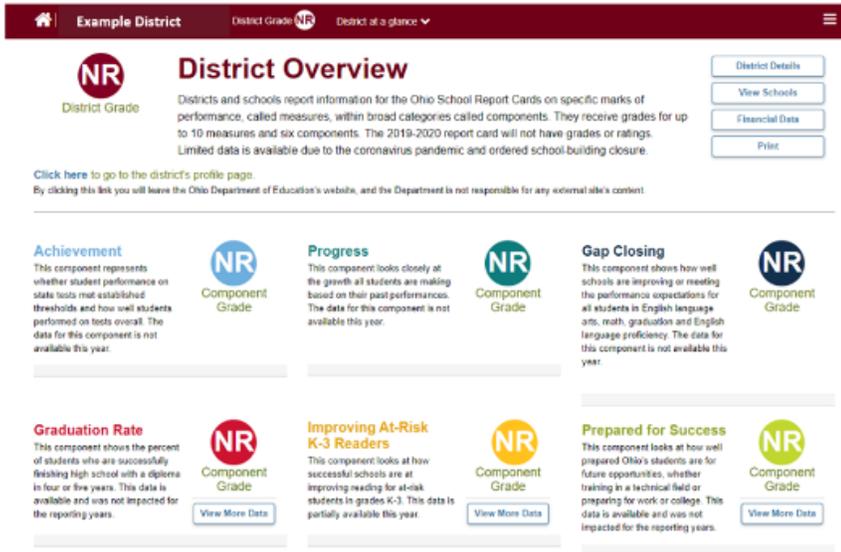


### Graduation Rate

The Graduation Rate component looks at the percentage of students who are successfully finishing high school with a diploma in four, five, six, seven or eight years. *The data are available and were not impacted for the reporting years.*

# What to expect on the Ohio School Report Cards for the 2019-2020 school year.

Additional information reported on the Ohio School Report Cards that will be available this year includes student enrollment, attendance and absenteeism; information about teachers and staff; school choice options; financial data; Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports implementation status; and wellness and physical education program data.



This image shows what the District Overview page will look like this year. It will be similar for the School Overview page. Readers will see “NR” listed instead of a letter grade – this means Not Reported and shows there are no ratings or grades this year. Readers also will notice that for the Achievement, Progress and Gap Closing components, there no longer is a button to click to “View More Data.”

The Career-Technical Planning District and Dropout Prevention and Recovery Report Cards also will have “NR” instead of ratings or grades this year.

# Additional Resources

**Technical Documents** – Technical Documents are available for each measure and component of the Ohio School Report Cards, Career-Technical Planning District Report Cards and report cards for schools operating Dropout Prevention and Recovery programs. These documents explain the history and calculation in typical years.

**Report Card FAQs** – The Report Card Frequently Asked Questions are updated regularly with information on the 2019-2020 report cards. The FAQs also include a link to a Report Card Quick View document that outlines what data will be reported on the report cards and what will be available via download files.

**2019 Report Card Guide** – The 2019 Report Card Guide provides helpful information on the value and use of each report card measure and data points in prior years. This can be used to help compare what data is available in a typical year versus what is available this year.

**COVID-19 Informational Pages** – Since the ordered school-building closure began, the state’s education community has stepped up to ensure student success. This page is dedicated to helping educators, parents, caregivers and students maintain learning momentum in the midst of the coronavirus.

**Reset and Restart Information** – This page is intended to spur local-level, partnership-based discussions and decision-making in areas critical to the start of the 2020-2021 school year. The information promotes a coordinated and collaborative approach for codesigning and framing various considerations in planning the Reset and Restart of Ohio’s schools.

***For additional questions:*** Office of Accountability, [accountability@education.ohio.gov](mailto:accountability@education.ohio.gov), (614) 466-5853

## Ohio School Report Cards

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