



Elkhart Lake – Glenbeulah School District

DISTRICT OFFICE / HIGH SCHOOL

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On November 21, the Wisconsin Department of Instruction released report cards for all public school districts in the state. Copies of the report cards for each of our individual schools and the district as a whole are attached. **As a district and as schools individually, ELG continues to perform extremely well.** For the first two years report cards were issued (2013, 2014), both the high school and elementary/middle school rated as schools that “Exceed Expectations” and as a District, ELG earned the same rating. Due to legislative action and changes in the state assessment, no report cards were issued in 2015. ELGS again did well in 2016. As a district, we were rated as “Exceeds Expectations.” The elementary/middle school received the highest rating of “Significantly Exceeds Expectations” and the high school received the rating of “Met Expectations”—missing the level of “Exceeds Expectations” by .4%.

For 2017, the District continued to receive the rating of “Exceeds Expectations” and the high school again moved into this same category of “Exceeds Expectations.” For the second year in a row, the elementary/middle school received the highest ranking of “Significantly Exceeds Expectations.” All quite noteworthy achievements! While the report cards reflect only a small component of ALL that happens in our District each day, we are proud of the rating we received and believe it reflects the efforts put forth by our students, staff, parents, and community in supporting the educational experience for our District’s children.

Similar to the School Report Card, the District Report Card provides valuable information on how our district is performing—identifying what we do well and where we can improve. It provides us with a broader, district-wide perspective that supplements and enriches the information found in each individual School Report Card. The School and District Report Cards are intended to help all districts get a better picture of how they prepare graduating students for college and careers.

The District Report Cards are calculated for the district as a whole. In other words, these report cards treat the district as if it were “one big school” responsible for all students in the district. District Report Cards look very similar to the School Report Cards with one primary exception: District Report Cards include both attendance and graduation scores.

Here is how the report cards work. Each public school and district earns 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.** The score is based on our 2016-2017 performance in the following four priority areas:

- **Student Achievement** measures the level of knowledge and skills among students in the school/district, compared to state and national standards. It includes a composite of English language arts (ELA) and mathematics performance by the “all students” group in the Wisconsin Student Assessment System (WSAS) for all tested grades in the school/district.
- **School/District Growth** describes how much student knowledge of ELA and mathematics in the school/district changes year to year. It uses a value-added score that compares the change in a student’s scores to those of observationally similar students.

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- **Closing Gaps** provides a measure that reflects the statewide goal of having all students improve, while narrowing the achievement and graduation gaps between groups of students. This measure acknowledges districts that raise the performance between specific student groups (comparing English language learners, low-income students, students with disabilities, and members of a racial or ethnic group with their peers).
- **On-Track and Postsecondary Readiness** indicates the success of students in the school in achieving educational milestones that predict postsecondary success, such as graduation rate, attendance, and various achievement measures.

Schools and districts are also evaluated on their test participation rates, chronic absenteeism rates, and dropout rates when applicable. These are measures of student engagement. Based on our scores, our district and schools were placed into one of five categories, from *Fails to Meet Expectations* to *Significantly Exceeds Expectations*.

Our District's 2016-17 overall score is 82.2 and rating is Exceeds Expectations.

Our Elementary/Middle School's 2016-17 overall score is 83.1 and rating is Significantly Exceeds Expectations.

Our High School's 2016-17 overall score is 73.6 and our rating is Exceeds Expectations.

The plans are for the School and District Report Cards to be issued every year. Individual student results on state assessments will continue to be reported separately. DPI has produced two versions of each Report Card: one labeled "School Report Card" and the other lengthier version, "School Report Card Detail," which includes extensive information about the data used in the report cards. Both versions can be accessed online at <https://dpi.wi.gov/accountability/report-cards>.

The report cards are one part of a statewide accountability system for schools. The State Superintendent, Governor, legislative leaders, and DPI staff worked closely with parents, educators, and members of the business community to develop the system. The U.S. Department of Education has reviewed changes to the accountability system. Both the accountability system and the report cards will continue to improve and evolve in future years as more data becomes available. **There were several changes made to the calculation methodology to improve last year's report cards (2015-16). This year, the DPI changed how scores were weighted from prior years and also used a different methodology for calculating student growth. Both of those changes could greatly impact a district, either positively or negatively. In addition, with the legislatively required assessment transitions the past years, this round of report cards is based on different state assessments being given to our students over the past three years. While the state attempted to account for this, changing the required state test three times in the past four years is a definite disruption to the continuity of the scoring system for the report cards. For these reasons, we as a District, and the WI Department of Public Instruction, caution people from making comparisons from prior years or drawing too many conclusions from the overall results until we have more years based upon the new calculations that were used for the 2016 and 2017 report card.**

However, I am confident that these report cards, as well as many other changes being implemented throughout our state and our school system, will help our schools/district identify our strengths and continue to address our challenges. Please let me know your thoughts and questions as they arise.

On behalf of all the staff in our District, we look forward to working with you as parents and community members to make 2017-18 a successful school year for ALL of our students!

Sincerely,

Dr. Ann Buechel Haack

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