



NEWS RELEASE

Utah State Board of Education

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Accountability Reports for Utah Public Schools Released

New Parent-focused Tool Includes More Detailed Information on School Performance

SALT LAKE CITY – The Utah State Board of Education (USBE) today released new, redesigned [2018 school accountability report cards](#). The interactive tool was developed over the past 18 months with educators, parents, and community members. It includes several new features based on that feedback including ratings for each indicator and the ability for schools to highlight self-selected performance information.

In 2017, the Utah Legislature revised the school accountability system to include additional measures to assess school performance including success in readiness coursework, progress on English language proficiency and academic growth of a school’s lowest-performing students. The Legislature defined what constituted [scores for A-F letter grading scales for schools](#), but allowed USBE to suspend assigning school grades for the 2017-18 school year.

“It is my hope that parents will take the opportunity this year to look more deeply into their child’s school performance,” said State Superintendent of Public Instruction Sydnee Dickson. “The comprehensive data that will now be publicly available offers a clearer picture of school progress and achievement in core subjects and advanced coursework.”

For the first time the report card provides schools with ratings on each indicator used to assess school performance. Ratings are reported on a five-point scale using the following descriptors (from highest to lowest): exemplary, commendable, typical, developing, critical needs. These indicator ratings capture different aspects of school performance and include academic proficiency and growth in core subjects, progress on English language proficiency, graduation rate, performance on the ACT college entrance exam, and success in readiness coursework, which includes such items as Advanced Placement and concurrent enrollment participation as well as students who complete career and technical education Career Pathways. Users will be able to drill down for more information including how well a school performs on each indicator compared to other schools in the district and in the state.

Other new pieces include the testing participation rate for each school and the percentage of students consistently attending the school. The latter statistic counts only students who remain in a single school for at least 160 of the 180-day school year and are in school attendance at least 90 percent of the time.

[Student scores](#) – including demographic disaggregation – on some of the same proficiency tests used to measure school accountability were released in September. Individual student scores are not released to the general public but have been available to teachers since that time.

This year's school accountability reports are available at the [Utah State Board of Education website](#).

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SCHOOL REPORT CARD FAQ FOR PARENTS



[Utah School Report Cards](https://utahschoolgrades.schools.utah.gov) will be published for parents and community stakeholders on January 3rd, 2019. (URL: <https://utahschoolgrades.schools.utah.gov>). This FAQ is designed to help parents navigate the new school report card site, answer frequently asked questions, and assist parents in understanding the information on the school report card for their child's school.

Q. WHAT IS THE NEW SCHOOL REPORT CARD?

 The School Report Card is just one piece of information that, when combined with other information, shows how a school is performing in multiple areas. It is designed to show each school's strengths and areas in need of improvement in order to ensure Utah schools are meeting the needs of all students. The new school report card is an interactive, online tool designed for parents that is easily searchable, provides detail into specific content areas, and clearly displays school-level information. Reports are available for all schools, charter schools, districts, and the state.



Q. HOW CAN I USE THIS INFORMATION AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

 The Utah School Report Card is an interactive online tool for parents and communities. You can use this information to learn about the school, evaluate the performance of your school across multiple areas of school performance, compare your child's school to the local school district and state, and see the school's progress over time. Select the 'View Details' buttons to learn more about each area.

Q. WHAT YEAR DOES THE SCHOOL REPORT CARD APPLY TO?

 Each year, The School Report Card published shows student performance during the prior school year. This year's report cards show schools' performance during school year 2017-2018. Graduation rate is lagged an additional year, showing the graduating class of 2017.



Q. EACH INDICATOR HAS A METER, OR RATING. HOW IS THIS RATING CALCULATED?

 Each indicator of school accountability has a number of points possible assigned for that indicator. The meter shown is based on the number of points earned for that indicator. The ratings of "Exceptional", "Commendable", "Typical", "Developing", and "Critical Needs" help you to interpret how well the school performed in each area.

Q. WHY IS THE SCHOOL ONLY EVALUATED IN CERTAIN AREAS?

-  School report cards are a way for the State of Utah to evaluate school performance, or school accountability. While each school is unique and different, the measures, or indicators, included in school accountability are just some of the key measures of school success that are comparable across all schools. Schools also have the opportunity to share additional information about their school in areas that are unique to their school in the Self-Reported Indicators section of your child's school report card.



Q. HOW WILL THE REPORT CARD IMPACT MY CHILD'S SCHOOL?

-  The information on the school report card gives schools a roadmap to becoming a better school. It can drive instruction, help schools know where to focus resources, and help them develop improvement plans.

Q. WHAT IF MY SCHOOL ISN'T PERFORMING AS WELL AS I WOULD LIKE?

-  Ask how you can help. To help you support your child's learning and growth, schools want to listen to you and other parents. Ask about your worries, and share your goals for your children. Your voice and contribution can help improve the actionable tools and resources schools develop and curate for your child. Research supports that strong parent engagement has positive benefits for schools and their child's education.



Q. WHERE CAN I GO FOR MORE INFORMATION?

-  More information can be found here on [Utah's Accountability system](#), or on the Utah State Board of Education's [Assessment and Accountability website](https://schools.utah.gov/assessment): <https://schools.utah.gov/assessment>

