



Elkhart Lake – Glenbeulah School District

DISTRICT OFFICE / HIGH SCHOOL

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On November 13, 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. 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%. In 2017, the elementary/middle school maintained the “Significantly Exceeds Expectations” rating and both the District and high school were rated at “Exceeds Expectations.”

For 2018, the District continued to receive the rating of “Exceeds Expectations”—missing “Significantly Exceeds” by 1 point! The high school ranked as “Meeting Expectations” and for the third 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 ratings 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.

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 2017-2018 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.
- **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 2017-18 overall score is 82.0 and rating is Exceeds Expectations.

Our Elementary/Middle School's 2017-18 overall score is 83.3 and rating is Significantly Exceeds Expectations.

Our High School's 2017-178 overall score is 69.3 and our rating is Meets Expectations.

As people might question why the variation in the high school report card ratings as compared to the steady rating at the elementary/middle school, we would like to provide some insight into the composition of the report cards. At the high school, due to its small size, the report card is based on only two data points: the graduation rates from the past four years and the performance of the last three Junior classes on the ACT test in the areas of ELA (English/Language Arts) and math. For the past three years, the number of Junior students tested was 46, 29 and 34. Due to these low numbers, the high school achievement scores will show much more fluctuation than those of the elementary/middle school where the report card includes testing data from all students in grades 3-8. For example, in 2017-18, 34 high school students were included in report card data, while at the elementary/middle school, there were 182 students who participated in the testing. Also, as the elementary/middle school has a larger pool of students, their report card is placed on more factors. When you compare the report cards, you will see that all categories in the elementary/middle school report card, with the exception of graduation rate, contain a score. This compares to just three scores at the high school. As the District report card is a combination of the two, all categories receive a score.

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: the "School Report Card" and a lengthier version, "School Report Card Detail," which includes extensive information about the data used. 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. As a result, 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 report card. Over the years, in addition to changing the assessments from which the data comparisons are made, the DPI has changed how scores were weighted and also used a different methodology for calculating student growth. Either of these changes could greatly impact a district, either positively or negatively.

The ultimate goal is for these report cards, as well as other changes being implemented throughout our state and our school system, will help our schools and district identify our strengths and continue to address our challenges. However, we caution this is only one piece of information, and as a small district, our results are more subject to fluctuation due to our smaller student population. Report cards cannot, and do not, measure all the important work we do. So while very pleased with these results, we feel an equally valid measure of achievement of our schools and district is how we constantly strive to personalize our students' instruction to meet their learning needs so they can be successful both in and out of the classroom. This is where you can become involved. Please let us know your thoughts and/or 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 2018-19 a successful school year for ALL of our students!