

School and District Report Card 2018 Redesign

The 2015 federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires that states publish an annual report card for each school and district in the state. Report cards help families, teachers, and community members understand how the school or district as a whole is doing on a wide variety of measures.

Since 2007, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has published school and district report cards on our [School and District Profiles website](#). While ESSA requires that we add new information to our school and district report cards, we want to make sure that the information most important to you is front, center, and easy to access. For this reason, as we prepare to redesign these reports, we would like to know what information you think would be most valuable on a school or district report card.

1) Select the statement that best describes your connection to Massachusetts' public schools. You may choose more than one option if you fit multiple descriptions.

- I am a parent
- I am a teacher
- I am a student
- I am a school or district leader
- I am a school committee member
- I am an education advocacy group representative
- I am an education researcher
- Other - Write In: _____

2) Which statement below best describes your comfort level with education data?

- "I prefer having detailed school, district, and state education data so that I can dig into it."
- "I am really only interested in the basics of how a school, district, or the state is doing."

3) How familiar are you with the school and district report cards published by the Department?

- I have never seen a school or district report card.
- I look at school or district report cards once or twice a school year.
- I look at school or district report cards more than twice a school year.

4) Please rank the following topics from most important least important based on how critical that information is to help you judge the quality of a school or district.

- _____ Student demographics (e.g., enrollment by race/ethnicity, gender, disability status)
- _____ How students perform on state tests (e.g., MCAS)
- _____ School or district accountability status/information (e.g., Level 1, Level 2, etc.)
- _____ Educators meeting state licensure requirements
- _____ Information on curriculum and instruction offered (e.g., arts, advanced coursework)
- _____ Class size (e.g., student-teacher ratio)
- _____ Student attendance (e.g., attendance rates, chronic absenteeism, etc.)
- _____ School or district finances (e.g., teacher salaries, dollars spent per student, etc.)
- _____ School climate and environment (e.g., student discipline, safety, engagement, etc.)
- _____ Student outcomes (e.g., graduation rates, college enrollment)

5) Indicate the level of detail you would most like to see on a school or district report card. You may choose more than one option.

- Information about the school or district as a whole
- Information broken down by student groups (e.g., racial/ethnic groups, students with disabilities, English learners)
- Information displayed over time (e.g. the last 5 years of student enrollment)

6) Select the top reasons you would use a school or district report card. You may choose more than one option.

- To understand how a school or district is doing in a given year
- To see changes in school or district data over time
- To compare schools or districts to one another
- To compare a school to the district average or the state average
- To understand how resources are assigned (e.g., staff, funding)
- Other - Write In: _____

7) How would you prefer to view the report card? You may choose more than one option.

- On paper
- On a computer screen
- On a phone or tablet screen

Below is a sample of the current report card. Please familiarize yourself with the current format before answering questions 8, 9, and 10.

8) What do you like about the current report card?

9) What do you find confusing about the current report card?

10) Is there any information about the school that you would like to know that is missing? And if so, what would you like us to add?

Thank You!

Thank you for your feedback. We plan to use your thoughts to help redesign these report cards and publish them in the fall of 2018.