

Suggested Talking Points

General

- The Iowa School Report Card makes it easier for our community to access and understand important information about our schools. Numbers and ratings, however, do not tell the whole story.
- Parents and community members can use the Iowa School Report Card to celebrate areas of growth and to ask questions, such as how our school is addressing a certain challenge and what they can do to help.
- Our schools can use the Iowa School Report Card as one resource to refine achievement goals, identify professional development needs, and to reflect on the effectiveness of school improvement efforts.
- Information in the Iowa School Report Card can enhance conversations in our community about the work under way to prepare students for success.

About the 2016 Iowa School Report Card

- School report cards and ratings are common nationally.
- Iowa's School Report Card was developed by the Iowa Department of Education in response to a 2013 legislative requirement that called for a web-based system for evaluating and rating Iowa schools.
- The Iowa School Report Card includes information on student proficiency rates in math and reading, student academic growth, narrowing achievement gaps among students, college and career readiness, student attendance, graduation rates, and staff retention.
- Based on each school's performance on those measures over a two-year period, the report card assigns one of six ratings: Exceptional, High-Performing, Commendable, Acceptable, Needs Improvement, and Priority.
- For most measures, ratings are based on the 2014-15 and 2015-16 school years.
- The 2016 Iowa School Report Card includes the following changes:
 - Minor changes in methodology to include more schools in scores and ratings.
 - Two additional categories in the "Closing Achievement Gap" measure, which initially measured the progress a school made in narrowing gaps in achievement among students with disabilities, students who are eligible for free and reduced-price meals and English Language Learners. The two new categories include information on achievement gaps by race and ethnicity.
 - A summary of responses to a statewide survey of Iowa teachers on their practices and perceptions regarding parent involvement. This summary is provided for informational purposes and is not included in school scores or ratings. A survey of Iowa parents regarding parent involvement will be distributed

statewide in 2017. Parent involvement eventually will become a measure on the Iowa School Report Card, as required by law.