

NYS School Report Card Database Cheat Sheet

To download, go to <https://data.nysed.gov/>

Select **DOWNLOADS**, then the current year **Report Card Database**. That 140 megabyte zip file expands to a 1.3 gigabyte Access file.

In Access, you'll see many tables, but the two most relevant to regents analysis are *Regents Common Core Examination Annual Results* (ELA and Math) and *Regents Examination Annual Results* (Science & Social Studies).

To analyze them, export to Excel. They will be HUGE tables with three years of data for every public school and subgroup in the state. One is about 3/4 of a million rows, the other is about half that size. You might wish to limit your export to the districts, years, and subgroups in which you're interested.

Sort the Excel file by ENTITY_CD (ascending), Year (descending), SUBJECT (ascending), and SUBGROUP_NAME (ascending). Adding a second identical sheet and plotting both to the same scatter plot allows for comparisons between one school or district and another set of schools (a BOCES, perhaps all schools in the county, or maybe just another group you're interested in).

BEDS Codes

The first two digits show the county in which the district is located. BOCES are organized by county so you can filter the list to show just the schools in the area a BOCES serves.

Digits:	Indicate:
1-2	County of Location
3-4	City/Town of Location
5-6	School District Number
7-8	District or LEA Type
9-12	Reserved for Building

When:	Then:
Digit 1 = 3	Entity = New York City School/District and Digits 3 & 4 indicate Community School District
Digits 7 & 8 = 86	Entity = Charter School
Digits 9-12 = 0000	Entity = District

School Districts and Charters

xxxxxxxx0000 School District (BEDS code ends in 0000)

xxxxxx86xxxx Charter School (BEDS code has 86 in positions 7-8) Note that charter school BEDS codes do NOT end in 0000.

Needs Index Codes

A NEEDS_INDEX is a Need to Resource Capacity Category that is a measure of district's ability to meet the needs of its students with local resources. While they are not necessarily similar schools, the broad categories can be useful. There are several aggregated group sub-categories that also show as ENTITY_CDs.

Code:	Category:
1	New York City
2	Large City High N/RC Districts
3	Urban-Suburban High N/RC Districts
4	Rural High N/RC Districts
5	Average N/RC Districts
6	Low N/RC Districts
7	Charter Schools

Aggregated Performance

000000000001 NYC Public Schools

000000000002 Large Cities

000000000003 High Need/Resource Urban-Suburban Districts

000000000004 High Need/Resource Rural Districts

000000000005 Average Need Districts

000000000006 Low Need Districts

000000000007 Charter Schools

0000xx000000 County performance, where XX is the County Code (01 to 68, alphabetically)

NYSED's entire list can be found at: <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/irs/beds/Code%20Manual-2015-16/home.html>