

"Notes From School"

2016-17 School and District Report Cards v. Redefining Ready!

School and District report cards for the 2016-17 year from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction were released for all schools on Tuesday, November 21. The School District of Mondovi earned 3 out of 5 stars on the state report card, which means the 72.8 rating Meets Expectations for educating students. Mondovi High School earned a 3 star, 64.0 rating that Meets Expectations. Mondovi Middle School earned a 4 star, 73.5 rating that Exceeds Expectations. Mondovi Elementary School earned a 4 star, 75.9 rating that Exceeds Expectations.

Report cards underwent major changes that were part of Wisconsin Act 55 in the 2015-17 state budget. Those changes included variable weighting to address the impacts of poverty on student achievement, a new model for measuring student growth based on value-added methodology developed by the University of Wisconsin – Madison, and the legislative requirement to change from the Badger Exam offered through the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium to the Forward Exam. Student performance on the Wisconsin Student Assessment System (WSAS) is the foundation of Report Cards. WSAS data include Forward Exam, ACT and Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) in 2015-16 and 2016-17; Badger Exam, ACT and DLM in 2014-15; and Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts (WKCE) and Wisconsin Alternate Assessment-Students with Disabilities (WAA-SwD) in 2013-14 and before. Although report cards provide a snapshot of school and district performance, the 2016-17 report cards should not be compared to report cards from years prior to 2015-16 for these reasons.

Report card ratings are based on four priority areas: 1) student achievement in English language arts and mathematics, 2) student growth in English language arts and mathematics, 3) closing gaps between student populations in English language arts, mathematics, and graduation rates, and 4) measures of readiness for graduation and postsecondary success in the areas of graduation rates, attendance rates, 3rd grade English language arts achievement, and 8th grade mathematics achievement. Additionally, schools and districts could have point deductions for failing to meet targets for student engagement indicators: test participation (95% for all students and each subgroup), absenteeism (less than 13%), and dropout rates (less than 6%). Test participation deductions were not applied to district report cards for 2016-17.

On the other hand, the American Association of School Administrators (AASA) has launched a national campaign called "Redefining Ready!" Rather than compare school districts on snapshot assessments, they have introduced new research-

based metrics to more appropriately assess that students are college ready, career ready, and life ready.

Students are **College Ready** if they meet either the academic indicators or standardized testing benchmarks listed below.

Academic Indicators

GPA 2.8 out of 4.0 and one or more of the following academic indicators:

- Advanced Placement Exam (3+)
- Advanced Placement Course (A, B, or C)
- Dual Credit College English and/or Math (A, B, or C)
- College Development/Remedial English and/or Math (A, B, or C)
- Algebra II (A, B, or C)
- International Baccalaureate Exam (4+)

Standardized Testing Benchmarks (minimum score)

- SAT Exam: Math (530), Reading and Writing (480)
- ACT Exam: English (18), Reading (22), Science (23), Math (22)
- College Readiness Placement Assessment

Additional Factors that Contribute to College Success

- Earning A's, B's, and C's
- FAFSA Completion
- Enrollment in Career Pathway course sequence
- College Academic Advising
- Participation in College Bound Bridge Programs
- Senior year math class
- Completion of math class after Algebra II

Students are **Career Ready** if they have identified a career interest and meet two of the behavior and experiential benchmarks listed below.

- 90% attendance
- 25 hours of Community Service
- Workplace Learning Experience
- Industrial Credential
- Dual Credit Career Pathway Course
- Two, or more, organized Co-Curricular activities

Students are **Life Ready** if they embrace the qualities listed below.

- Leave high school with the grit and perseverance to tackle and achieve their goals
- Possess the growth mindset that empowers them to approach their future with confidence, to dream big, and to achieve big.

- Possess social and emotional support and experiences to equip them with the life skills they will need for success in the future

Report Cards v. Readiness? The School District of Mondovi looks at both.