

A Quick Guide to the 2004 School Report Cards

School Report Cards consist of three pages: Overview, English Language Arts Achievement, and Mathematics Achievement.

The Overview shows whether the school has met its annual targets, and it compares the school's results with those of the district and the state as a whole.

As required by federal law, the R.I. Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (RIDE) has established annual targets in both English and mathematics. The school as a whole and students in each of the eight groups listed must meet the targets.

RIDE has also established targets for the participation rates on the state tests and for either the attendance rate or (for high schools) the graduation rate.

There is a total of 21 targets.

Schools that substantially surpass the targets are classified as "high performing." If they improved sufficiently since last year, they are classified as "improving." Otherwise, they are "sustaining."

All other schools meeting the targets are classified as "moderately performing." If they improved sufficiently since last year, they are classified as "improving." Otherwise, they are "sustaining."

Schools that miss only a participation, attendance, or graduation target may be classified as moderately or high performing "with caution" for one year only.

All other schools that miss any of the targets are classified as "in need of improvement."

Some of the schools that are "in need of improvement" have been making substantial progress toward meeting their targets, and they are classified as "making progress." Other schools that missed their targets are classified as making "insufficient progress."

Note that the scores on the Overview page are based on three years of testing (2002, 2003, 2004). These scores *do not* represent the percent of students who met the standard. The scores could range from 0 to 100 (100 = all students met or exceeded the standard).

Also note that in some instances the three-year score (shown on the card) is below the target, but the school has met the target based on the most recent year of testing (2004) only. Schools also get credit for meeting the target if they are making rapid progress toward the target (Safe Harbor) or if they have too few students in a group (fewer than 45 over three years) to calculate results.

The next two pages of the report show the school's Achievement in English and mathematics, for the school as a whole as well as for various groups of students within the school.

Results are shown for the 2004 tests as well as for the 2003 tests.

Unlike the Overview page, the Achievement pages show the percent of students in each of the six scoring categories on the state tests.

The three columns to the right-hand side show the percent of students who met or exceeded the standard in the school, district, and state.

Notes: All information on these cards is required to be reported by federal law. The law requires that we report data on migrant students as well, but no district has a sufficient number of migrant students to calculate results.

All report cards are posted on the RIDE Web site, www.ridoenet.net.

There you will also find a brochure and a technical bulletin on accountability, which supply further detail on the school-classification process.