



A Quick Guide to the 2009 School Report Cards

The School Report Card shows whether the school has met its annual targets, and it compares the school results with those of the district and the state as a whole. The report card also shows the performance classification of the school.

As required by federal law, the R.I. Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (RIDE) has established annual targets in both English and mathematics, based on the state tests, which were administered in October 2008. The federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) also sets a target of 95 percent for the participation rate on the state tests. The school as a whole and students in each of the eight student groups listed must meet the targets for the school to make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) as defined by NCLB.

RIDE has also established a target of 90 percent for the attendance rate for elementary and middle schools and a target of 70.1 percent for the four-year graduation rate for high schools.

Each school faces a total of 37 potential targets, though schools must meet targets only when student groups of 45 or more are enrolled in the tested grades in the school:

| | English | | Mathematics | |
|-----------------------------|---------|---------------|-------------|----------------|
| | Score | Participation | Score | Participation |
| All students | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| African-American | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Asian | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Hispanic | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Native American | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| White | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Students w/ disabilities | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| English-language learners | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Economically Disadvantaged | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Total | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 = 36 |
| Plus: Attendance/Graduation | | | | 1 = 37 targets |

Schools that meet all targets have made Adequate Yearly Progress (Met AYP).

All schools that miss targets are classified as making “insufficient progress” except that schools missing up to three targets may be classified as “caution” for one year only.

Schools that have attained exceptionally high scores, have made significant progress, or have significantly closed gaps between student groups are designated as “commended schools.”

Note that the scores RIDE uses to determine school classifications do not represent the percent of students who achieved proficiency on the state tests. The classifications are based on an index score that RIDE calculates, based on the test results of all students in all tested grades in the school. The index scores could range from 0 to 100 (100 = all students met or exceeded proficiency).

Also note that in some instances the index score (shown on the card) is below the target, yet the school has met the target. Schools may get credit for meeting the target if they are making rapid progress toward the target.

See the RIDE Web site, www.ride.ri.gov, under School Report Cards, for additional information.