



A Quick Guide to the 2011 School Report Cards

The School Report Card shows whether the school has met its annual targets. It compares the school results with those of the district and the state as a whole. The report card also shows how the Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (RIDE) has classified the performance of the school.

As required by federal law (the No Child Left Behind Act or NCLB), RIDE has set annual targets in both English and mathematics, based on the state tests. The tests, the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP), were administered in October 2010. RIDE has also set a target of 95 percent for the participation rate on the state tests. The school as a whole must meet these targets for the school to make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), as defined by NCLB. In addition, students in each of the eight student groups listed in the table below must meet the targets.

In addition, RIDE has set a target this year of 90 percent for the attendance rate for elementary and middle schools and a target of 76.7 percent for the graduation rate for high schools. The graduation rate is a hybrid rate which combines the 4-year cohort rate (based on students who entered 9th grade 4 years prior) and the 5-year cohort rate (based on students who entered 9th grade 5 years prior). The 4-year and 5-year rates make up 60% and 40% of the hybrid rate, respectively. (Schools may also meet the target using the 4-year rate alone.)

Each school must meet up to a total of 37 possible targets. However, most schools do not have all 37 targets because they do not have enough students in each student group. Except for the “all students” group, there must be at least 45 students enrolled in a student group before that group is checked against the target in language arts, mathematics and participation rates. In addition, there must be at least 30 students in the cohort for the graduation rate to be checked.

	English Test Score	English Test Participation	Math Test Score	Math Test Participation	Attendance/ Graduation	Total
All students	1	1	1	1	1	5
African-American	1	1	1	1	-	4
Asian	1	1	1	1	-	4
Hispanic	1	1	1	1	-	4
Native American	1	1	1	1	-	4
White	1	1	1	1	-	4
Students w/disabilities	1	1	1	1	-	4
English-language learners	1	1	1	1	-	4
Economically Disadvantaged	1	1	1	1	-	4
Total	9	9	9	9	1	37 Targets

Schools that meet all targets have made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). Based on their current and past AYP status, schools are classified into five categories:

1. Met AYP and Commended
2. Met AYP
3. Delay
4. Caution
5. Insufficient Progress

“Met AYP and Commended” means that the school met all of its targets and also met one of three other criteria. It either: 1) had exceptionally high scores; 2) made significant progress; or 3) significantly closed gaps between student groups.

“Met AYP” means that the school met all of its targets.

“Delay” means that the school met all of its targets this year but not in prior years. A school in Delay is still considered to be in need of improvement (see below).

“Caution” means that the school missed at least one – but no more than three – of its targets. Also, none of the missed targets can be for scores of the “All students” group. Finally, a school cannot be in Caution for two years in a row.

“Insufficient Progress” means that the school that missed targets but does not meet all of the criteria to be in Caution.

Schools that do not meet their targets for two or more years in a row may also be labeled “In Need of Improvement.” Schools in Need of Improvement may face sanctions through NCLB and the state accountability system. It takes two years in a row of meeting targets to stop being In Need of Improvement.

Please note that the scores that RIDE used for school classifications are different from the percent of students who were proficient on the state tests. Classifications are based on an index score that RIDE calculates. The index score is based on the test results of all students in all tested grades in the school. The index scores range from 0 to 100. 0 means that all students showed no evidence of achievement; 100 means that all students met or exceeded proficiency.

Also shown on the report cards are Error bands. Error bands show how much scores may vary due to random chance or measurement errors. These values are added to the index scores for any subgroup before checking if it has met the target. In some instances, a school has met the target even though the index score plus the error (or the graduation rate) shown on the report card are *below* the target. This is because, under federal guidelines for “Safe Harbor,” schools may get credit for meeting the target if they are making rapid progress.

For additional information, please go to the RIDE Website (www.ride.ri.gov) and click on, “School Report Cards” under the “**Public Schools**” heading.