**A Quick Guide to the 2010 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 RI 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 2009. The federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) also set 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.

For this year, RIDE has established a target of 90 percent for the attendance rate for elementary and middle schools and a target of 73.4 percent for the four-year graduation rate for high schools.

Each school faces a total of 37 potential targets. There is a requirement of at least 45 or more students enrolled in a student group before that group is evaluated in language arts, mathematics and participation rates. The "All students" group is not subject to minimum N requirements. For graduation rates, we require at least 30 students in the cohort population.

| | English Score | Participation | Math Score | 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 |
| Eng.-language learners | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 4 |
| Econ. Disadvantaged | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 4 |
| **Total** | **9** | **9** | **9** | **9** | **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 1) attained exceptionally high scores; 2) made significant progress; or 3) 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 shown on the report cards are 95% confidence interval or "CI" bands associated with the subgroup average index score. These values are added to the index scores before we determine if the subgroup has met the target. Notice that in some instances the index score plus the error and graduation rate (shown on the report card) are *below* the target, yet the school has met the target. Under federal guidelines for "Safe Harbor," schools may get credit for meeting the target if they are making rapid progress toward the target.

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