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To: School District of Waupaca Parents & Guardians

From: Mark Flaten, Director of Teaching and Learning

Date: 12/2/2024

Re: State Issued Report Cards

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As a learning community *Committed to Excellence in Education*, we are continually looking to improve the School District of Waupaca. One source we use to reflect on our strengths and areas for improvement is the School Report Card. The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) annually generates a School and District Report Card for every school and district in the state that receives public funding. The report cards are intended to help schools and districts utilize performance data to target their improvement efforts so that students are ready for their next educational step – including the next grade level, graduation, college, and careers. State reports cards can be found on district and school webpages, along with the DPI website:

<https://dpi.wi.gov/accountability/report-cards>.

The current **School Report Card** is **primarily based on last year's performance, the 2023-24 school year**, though multiple years of data are used throughout the report card. At the foundation of the report cards are four priority areas. Schools and districts receive a score for each priority area:

- **Student Achievement** measures proficiency in English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics of students grades 3-11 on the annual state assessments
- **Student Growth** measures year-to-year academic progress in ELA and math achievement for students in grades 4-11
- **Target Group Outcomes** compares outcomes of students in grades 4-11 who are in the bottom quartile (25%) of a school versus their school alike peers
- **On-Track to Graduation** measures reliable predictors of how successfully students are progressing toward completing their K-12 education

The priority area scores are aggregated into an overall accountability score, from 0 to 100. This score is displayed on the front page of the school or district report cards. It is important to note that the 0 to 100 accountability score

is not a “percent correct” measurement. Based on its score, a school or district receives one of five rating categories, from *Fails to Meet Expectations* to *Significantly Exceeds Expectations*, as well as corresponding one to five stars.

The School District of Waupaca is proud to have all four of our schools “meet,” “exceed,” or “significantly exceed” expectations. While we are pleased with the overall improvements of the new report cards and the areas of focus, we also **understand that our schools serve many purposes beyond just the academic measures reported on these report cards, such as the happiness and mental health of our students.** Regardless of this one public measure, we continue working to meet the objectives of our strategic plan and we thank you for sending us your best and for your continued support of all that we do to *develop our students’ capabilities and confidence to achieve their dreams and make the world a better place* (SDW Mission).

Our district and school report cards, along with explanatory resources, can be accessed online at: <http://dpi.wi.gov/accountability/report-cards>. Navigating WISEdash, the state maintained website where report cards are found, is easy. When you click on the <http://dpi.wi.gov/accountability/report-cards> link, you will be redirected to a website where you can select any school (ex: Waupaca Learning Center) or district (Waupaca) report card. In addition to viewing multiple years of report cards, on this page is a link for more detailed information about the creation and scoring for the report cards: [Report Card Resources](#). On the [Report Card Resources](#) page you will find a variety of supplement explanation documents. If you have any questions about navigating the WISEdash website, please let me know and I’ll be happy to assist.

We have also uploaded each school report card to the respective school’s web page. Look for the School Report Card in the *ABOUT OUR SCHOOL* drop down menu. The overall District report card is located on the district’s web page in the *OUR DISTRICT* drop down menu.

These report cards are just one of several sources of information about our district and schools we continuously use to reflect and improve. Please contact your school’s building principal with your thoughts and questions as they arise.

To review our annual notice of educational options for children who reside in the School District of Waupaca, please [click here](#).

Sincerely,
Mark Flaten
Director of Teaching & Learning