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To: School District of Waupaca Parents & Guardians
From: Mark Flaten, Director of Teaching and Learning
Date: 12/12/2023
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 publicly funded school and district in the state. 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.

The current **School Report Card is primarily based on last year’s performance, the 2022-23 school year.** 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 the left side of the website is a link titled “About the Report Cards.” Clicking on this link will redirect you to a new page that breaks down school and district report cards. Two of our favorite resources we utilize when reviewing state report cards are the: [Report Cards At-a-Glance](#) and [Report Card Guide](#) 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