

Key Messages on the New State Report Card

- Our students are seeing success—with graduation rates, ACT scores, and college-going rates on the rise—but there is still more work to do to ensure that every school serves every student well. Parents and community members need easy-to-understand information about their schools to support this progress.
- Over the past year, the Tennessee Department of Education worked with educators, parents, and community organizations to develop a new report card that presents a dashboard of key information about every school and district in the state. The report card contains a variety of metrics ranging from students' academic performance to how often students are missing school. It also shows how all students and specific student groups are performing.
- The report card groups information into six main categories or indicators. Each one looks at a different aspect of student success. The six categories on the new report card for 2017-18 are:
 - **Academic achievement** (whether students are performing on or above grade level)
 - **Student academic growth** (whether students are making progress from year to year, regardless of whether they are on grade level yet)
 - **Chronically out of school** (students who miss at least 10% of school – or about 18 days of school if they were enrolled the full year)
 - **Progress on English language proficiency** (whether English learner students are making progress in their understanding of the English language)
 - **Ready graduate** (the percentage of students who graduate and receive at least a 21 on the ACT, or equivalent on the SAT, demonstrating readiness for college and careers)
 - **Graduation rate** (percentage of students graduating from high school)
- Each school receives a rating, ranging from 0 to 4, on each of these categories. This rating is based either on how well the school is doing on that metric or how much it improved in the past year. The school gets the higher rating between the two.
- You can think of this rating like a GPA, with a 4.0 being the highest score. But just like a GPA, the context is important—no school can be judged on a single number. For each rating, parents can click to see more information and make a decision about whether they are satisfied—or not—with how their child's school is doing. The information on the report card is intended to be a catalyst for conversation, not a defining characteristic of a school.
- The 2017-18 report card is a first version that will be improved and added to in future years. We will continue to work with school districts and organizations to gather feedback on how to make this resource useful and easy for families to navigate.
- **Visit the new report card at reportcard.tnk12.gov.** For additional data on schools and districts, families and community members can visit the [Data Downloads page](#), which has some additional, updated metrics from the 2017-18 school year that will be included on future versions of the report card.
- The new school report card is an important tool for parents, educators, and communities to understand how our schools are serving all of our students—and how they can do better. With this knowledge, we can continue to build on our state's progress to ensure that every Tennessee student has the opportunity to succeed.