



School District of Milton

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SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MILTON PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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School District of Milton Releases State Report Card Information

The School District of Milton is pleased to share its 2015-2016 state report card data with our community. The School District of Milton earned four stars on the state report card from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, issued for the 2015-16 school year. Based on the star rating, the School District of Milton “Exceeds Expectations” for educating students. Notably, all four of the district’s elementary schools, including our two Title I-designated schools, were rated as “Significantly Exceeds Expectations” schools.

Report cards are issued based on four priority areas: student achievement in English language arts and mathematics, student growth, closing gaps between student populations, and measures of readiness for graduation and postsecondary success. While school and district report cards provide information to the community, they do not represent a full picture of the work happening at a school.

School District of Milton Director of Curriculum and Instruction Heather Slosarek commented on the results within the district’s report card by stating, “We view these positive school report card results as an affirmative reflection of our most recent updates to math and literacy curriculum across our PreK-12 buildings. Most notably, we are thrilled to see all four of our elementary buildings significantly exceeding expectations, as they serve such varying populations of students while building a strong foundation for student learning in the district. The School District administration and staff are invested in using this data to explore additional areas for improvement, specifically identifying opportunities to support student growth, no matter their starting point, at all levels.”

The 2015-16 report cards underwent major changes that were part of Wisconsin Act 55, the 2015-17 state budget. Those changes include variable weighting to address the impacts of poverty on student achievement, a new model for measuring student growth based on value-added methodology developed by the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and the legislative



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requirement to change from the Badger Exam offered through the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium to the Forward Exam.

Because report cards rely on multiple years of data, the 2015-16 report cards are based on one year each of Badger and Wisconsin Forward exams for grades three through eight and the ACT Plus Writing as well as Dynamic Learning Maps assessments in grades three through eight and grade 11. The third year of data came from the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Exam and Wisconsin Alternate Assessment for Students with Disabilities.

Using data from three different assessments in calculations, along with other legislated changes, makes comparisons of school and district performance to prior report card ratings inaccurate and inadvisable.

District Administrator Tim Schigur commented on the state's release of the report card data by stating "I'm extremely pleased with this year's report card for our school district. The Board of Education and I are very proud of our students, staff, and families, who through their work together in partnership, are helping to ensure that learning potential is being maximized in the School District of Milton. Like all assessments, we use tools like this to celebrate our many successes, and continue to look at areas where we can continue to grow and improve together."

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