

School District of New Berlin ‘Significantly Exceeds’ Expectations on State-Issued Accountability Report Card

New Berlin, Wis. – All School District of New Berlin schools “significantly exceed” or “exceed” expectations according to state-issued District and School Report Cards released today. The District also “significantly exceeds” expectations.

This is the third year for District Report Cards and the fourth for School Report Cards (though none were issued in 2015). Both are intended to offer accountability of how well schools and districts statewide are preparing students to graduate college and career ready.

“What we are most pleased is that this year’s report cards affirm what we and our community already knew: the School District of New Berlin is focused on providing the best education that we can for all students,” Superintendent Joe Garza said. “These scores can be attributed to the daily hard work of our students, staff and families. We’re immensely pleased with our ‘grades.’”

Report cards provide an accountability index score from 0-100 based on performance in four priority areas:

- **Student achievement** in English Language Arts and mathematics on state assessments;
- **Student growth**, how rapidly students are gaining knowledge and skills from year to year, focusing on the pace of improvement in students’ performance;
- **Closing gaps** in performance between specific student groups (comparing English language learners, low-income students, students with disabilities and members of racial or ethnic groups with their peers);
- **On-track and postsecondary readiness**, or how successfully students are achieving educational milestones that predict later success.

Additionally, schools and districts are evaluated on the following student engagement indicators: test participation rate, absenteeism rate and dropout rate.

Since the last report cards were issued in 2014, the state changed the formulas that determine the report card scores. Additionally, students from previous years took different standardized tests as the students reflected in the 2016 score did. Those two factors make a comparison to previous scores challenging. Nevertheless, the district score and all six school scores have increased significantly (see chart).

All schools scored extremely well in the areas of student achievement, student growth and on-track/postsecondary readiness and will continue to build on those successes while also focusing on improving its score in closing gaps.

	2014 Score	2016 Score
District	78.8	85.5
Elmwood	90.4	96.5
Orchard Lane	78.8	90.1
Poplar Creek	78.5	85.9
Ronald Reagan	78.5	85.9
Eisenhower	80.5	89.5
West	75.1	77.6

“We’re proud of the results and that we are achieving at a high level,” Garza said, “but this is just one data point in a collection of data points that we’ll use as we move our district improvement plan forward.”

All SDNB report cards can be viewed at www.nbexcellence.org/district/school-report-cards.cfm.

Please note: The School District of New Berlin has unique grade-level structures (elementary grades K-6, secondary grades 7-12) that should be taken into consideration when community members, media and others compare scores and ratings to other districts and schools.

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