District Report Cards *- continued from page 1…*

The priority area scores are then aggregated into an overall accountability score, from 0 to 100. This score is displayed in the top left corner 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. The score is primarily based on our performance last year, the 2015-16 school year, across the priority areas which were factored into a district or individual school's report card. This year, three sets of rules were applied when determining the report card scores for Columbus schools. **So for example, Columbus Elementary School had three priority areas applied** and **Discovery Charter School only had two. Therefore, it is important to remember that the individual schools <u>should not be compared to each other</u> using that final report card score.** They were scored using **different** criteria.

Schools and districts are also evaluated on their level of student engagement – test participation rates, chronic absenteeism rates, and dropout rates when applicable. 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 one to five stars.

Here's some information we'd like to share from our Columbus School District report card:

The State of Wisconsin rated Columbus School District as **Exceeds Expectations**. The district report card reflected all four priority areas being applied. Columbus scored really well overall on the On-Track and Postsecondary Readiness priority area. The district earned 90.8 out of 100 points. Focus areas for the upcoming years will include closing achievement gaps and increasing overall student achievement.

Given the changes required by the legislature, many school and district scores changed as compared to the last report card. The changes include a weighting formula to account for poverty when priority area scores are combined into the overall score; a new method of calculating student growth; and the use of Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Exam, Badger Exam, and Forward Exam data, reflecting three different state tests in three years. Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Exam as well as ACT were used in high school calculations. These changes impacted all schools and districts in the state.

Again, as DPI stresses, these report cards are just one source of information about our school. So much more goes on in a school than will ever be reflected by a report card. Community, parents, staff, and students all play such an important role in shaping the educational experience of a student.

If you have thoughts or questions, please contact Annette Deuman, Superintendent, or Becky Schmidt, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, at 920-623-5950. Columbus School District looks forward to being a cycle of continuous improvement for all stakeholders and making 2016-2017 a successful school year for all our students!

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Columbus
District Report Card | 2015-16 | Summary

Overall Score

77.6

★★★★☆

Exceeds Expectations

Overall Accountability Ratings	Score
Significantly Exceeds Expectations	83-100 ★★★★★
Exceeds Expectations	73-82.9 ★★★★☆
Meets Expectations	63-72.9 ★★★☆☆
Meets Few Expectations	53-62.9 ★★☆☆☆
Fails to Meet Expectations	0-52.9 ★☆☆☆☆

Priority Areas	District Score	Max Score	State Score	Max Score
Student Achievement	**76.8/100**		**67.5/100**	
English Language Arts (ELA) Achievement	37.8/50		33.6/50	
Mathematics Achievement	39.0/50		33.9/50	
Student Growth	**73.7/100**		**66.0/100**	
English Language Arts (ELA) Growth	41.6/50		33.0/50	
Mathematics Growth	32.1/50		33.0/50	
Closing Gaps	**68.4/100**		**60.8/100**	
English Language Arts (ELA) Achievement Gaps	37.6/50		16.7/25	
Mathematics Achievement Gaps	30.8/50		16.2/25	
Graduation Rate Gaps	NA/NA		27.9/50	
On-Track and Postsecondary Readiness	**90.8/100**		**86.6/100**	
Graduation Rate	38.9/40		36.4/40	
Attendance Rate	38.0/40		37.0/40	
3rd Grade English Language Arts (ELA) Achievement	7.3/10		6.8/10	
8th Grade Mathematics Achievement	6.6/10		6.4/10	

Student Engagement Indicators	Total Deductions: 0
Test Participation Lowest Group Rate (goal ≥95%)	NA
Absenteeism Rate (goal <13%)	Goal met: no deduction
Dropout Rate (goal <6%)	Goal met: no deduction

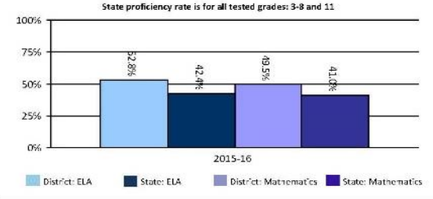
District Information

Grades	K4-12
Enrollment	1,318
Within District Mobility	0.0%
Between District Mobility	3.1%
Race/Ethnicity	
American Indian or Alaskan Native	0.8%
Asian	1.7%
Black or African American	1.7%
Hispanic/Latino	5.2%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.0%
White	87.9%
Two or More Races	2.7%
Student Groups	
Students with Disabilities	13.7%
Economically Disadvantaged	27.6%
Limited English Proficient	2.7%

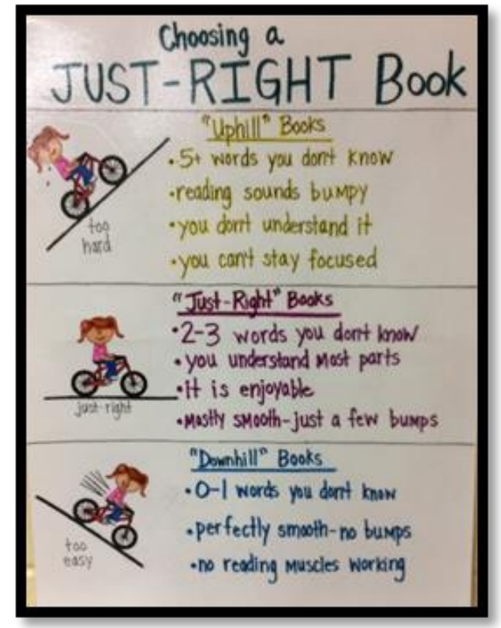
Wisconsin Student Assessment System Percent Proficient and Advanced

Includes Forward Exam (grades 3-8), ACT (grade 11) and Dynamic Learning Maps (grades 3-8 and 11).

State proficiency rate is for all tested grades: 3-8 and 11



Notes: Overall Accountability Score is an average of Priority Area Scores, minus Student Engagement Indicator deductions. The average is weighted differently for districts that cannot be measured with all Priority Area Scores, to ensure that the Overall Accountability Score can be compared fairly for all districts. Accountability Ratings do not apply to Priority Area Scores. Details can be found at http://dpi.wi.gov/accountability/report-cards.



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https://www.facebook.com/ColumbusWisconsin

CES/DCS Students Receive New Guidance Curriculum

The Columbus Elementary School/Discovery Charter School has a new curriculum for the 2016-17 school year. Mrs. Jacque Pittz, a Columbus School District Counselor, comes to the elementary three times a week and teaches valuable lessons to the K-3 students. The program that she is using for classroom guidance is called "Second Step." Mrs. Pittz shares, "At the elementary school level, the Second Step program helps integrate social-emotional learning in to classrooms through their Bullying Prevention and Child Protection curriculum. I think integrating this kind of program into schools at an early level is essential."

Through monthly classroom guidance lessons, this program can help students hone assertiveness skills, and learn how to protect themselves. Second Step provides communication and learning, not only for students, but for teachers, staff, and families, which will allow all of us to "work together to keep kids safe from abuse," <u>www.cfchildren.org/child-protection</u>. The Columbus Elementary School/Discovery Charter School is lucky to have her on our staff.

"Read In" for Students in Grades 4 – 8

December 23rd

Students remain in their classrooms to read!

9:45 AM Principal Glasbrenner Reading
10 AM Guest Readers
10:30 – 10:50 Milk & Treats
10:50 – 11:45 Silent Reading
11:45 Reading Awards
12 PM Lunch

Book Drive

The Columbus Middle School Student Council is continuing their gift of giving by coordinating a book drive in the month of December in coordination with the NICC Foundation. NICC, which stands for Neighbors in Constant Care, coordinates holiday giving for area social service and non-profit organizations to make sure that no one has to go without over the holidays.

Students will also have a Read In on December 23rd with special programming to celebrate literacy. A huge thank you to our sponsors *(Cardinal Embroidery, Sassy Cow Creamery, and Culvers)* for helping our students with prizes and donations. The schedule includes home room activities, guest readers, and time devoted to literacy.

Elementary School Students Learn to Give

At a young and crucial age, the CES/DCS students are given the opportunity to give to the local NICC foundation. Neighbors in Constant Care (NICC) is a foundation here in Columbus where families are supported during the holiday season, and year round. Last year CES/DCS raised over $800 to support multiple families during the holiday season. They raised money to purchase items like snow pants, boots, hats, coats and clothing. 1st grade teacher, Mrs. Walker says, "I think it is a really good way to teach kids about helping others in need." The students experience firsthand how it feels good to give through this event. The coin drive will be running until the 16th of December.

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December, 2016

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School Report Cards

Dear Community,

It is hard to believe, but our school year is almost to the half-way point! We received great community input at Launching a New Legacy in October and are busy developing an action plan for addressing the priorities that emerged from that conversation. As a learning community, we are continually looking to improve Columbus School District. One source we use to reflect on our strengths and areas for improvement is the School Report Card.

The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) creates a School Report Card and District Report Card for every publicly funded school and district in the state. These report cards can be accessed online here: http://dpi.wi.gov/accountability/report-cards. The Report Cards are intended to help all schools and districts utilize data on specific measures to target improvement efforts to ensure students are ready for the next educational step – including the next grade level, graduation, college, and careers.

The current School Report Card, based on the 2015-16 school year, looks a bit different than in the past due to changes required by the legislature. At the foundation of the report cards are four priority areas. Because of the rules determining when a priority area is counted, as little as two or as many as four of these areas are factored into a school's report card.

- **Student Achievement** proficiency in English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics on state assessments
- **Student Growth** measured by year-to-year improvements in achievement
- **Closing Gaps** in performance between specific student groups (comparing English language learners, low-income students, students with disabilities, and members of a racial or an ethnic group with their peers)
- **On-Track and Postsecondary Readiness** is a measurement using reliable predictors of high school graduation and potential post high school success

Continued on page 2…

Message from Superintendent

Greetings!

In this newsletter, you will find a large article reviewing the state's report card on the district and our individual schools. The report card is based on how our students perform academically. And yet, our work in schools to prepare students to be successful contributing members of our community is about developing the whole child.

At this time of year in particular, we have the opportunity to work with various community groups and organizations to teach our students about giving to their community.

To teach them that giving doesn't mean just reaching into their wallet; giving means sharing your skills, attributes, and most preciously, your time with those who need it. If you are involved with a group or organization and would like to partner with the schools to help teach our students how to be contributing members of our community, please contact me.

Tis the season to give!
Learning Today,
Leading Tomorrow.

ANNETTE DEUMAN

Mission

Columbus School District empowers students to be community, career, and college ready.

Upcoming Events

December, 2016

7	Late Start – Classes Begin at 10 AM
8	Middle School Winter Concert – 6:30 PM
12	School Board Meeting – City Hall – 7 PM
20	High School Winter Concert – 7 PM
23	"Read In" for Grades 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8
23	Early Release – Classes dismiss at 12:30 PM
26 – 30	No School – Christmas Break

January, 2017

9	School Board Meeting – City Hall – 7 PM
13	End of Quarter / End of Semester
16	No School – Teacher Work Day
18	Late Start – Classes begin at 10 AM

Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow