

TITLE I CALENDAR

Connecting Home and School



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SCHOOL AND DISTRICT REPORT CARDS

Federal law (ESSA) requires that districts send out school report cards to the parents/guardians of all children enrolled in district schools. Electronic versions of these reports will be sent out shortly. These report cards, newly formatted, contain information about teacher quality, assessment and accountability for the district and its schools.

The Department of Education has issued a glossary of terms for families to reference when looking at these reports. For a more detailed version of this glossary, visit reportcards.doe.mass.edu.

GENERAL INFORMATION (Basic information about the school or district)

Title I Status: Whether the school or district receives Title I funds. Schools and districts with large populations of students from low income families receive federal Title I grant money to help ensure that all children meet challenging state academic standards.

STUDENTS AND TEACHERS (Information about student enrollment and teacher qualifications)

Students with Disabilities: Students with special needs who have an Individualized Education Program (IEP).

Economically Disadvantaged: Students who receive assistance through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Transitional Assistance for Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC), the Department of Children and Families' (DCF) foster care program, or MassHealth.

High Needs: Students who belong to one or more of the following groups: students with disabilities, current or former English learners, and/or economically disadvantaged students.

Full-Time Equivalency: The number of full-time teaching positions in the school or district. Some teaching positions are part time and therefore are reported as a decimal (for example, 0.8).

STUDENT ATTENDANCE AND DISCIPLINE (Information about student attendance and discipline)

Chronic Absenteeism: The percentage of students who miss 10 percent or more of the school year (18 or more days)

Student Discipline: The percentage of students who are suspended, expelled, or removed from regular classroom activities as a result of negative behavior.

STUDENT PERFORMANCE ON STATE TESTS (Information about student performance on the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) tests)

Achievement: Students' MCAS scores.

Student Growth: The student growth percentile (SGP) shows how one student's MCAS score compares with other students with similar prior MCAS scores. A school or district's SGP represents the average growth for the school or district.

ACCOUNTABILITY (Information about the school or district's most recent accountability results. The accountability system brings together a set of measures in order to provide clear, actionable information about district and school performance that can be used to help schools improve)

Progress Toward Improvement Targets: The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) sets annual improvement targets, or goals, for every district and school. Targets are set for achievement, growth, English learner progress, chronic absenteeism, high school completion, and advanced coursework completion. Schools and districts are expected to make annual progress toward these targets in order to improve student performance, and DESE reports on each school's and district's progress each year.

Accountability Percentile: Accountability percentiles indicate how a school is performing overall compared with other schools. A school's percentile is calculated by combining information related to achievement, growth, English learner progress, chronic absenteeism, high school completion, and advanced coursework completion. Schools with higher percentiles are generally higher performing, and schools with lower percentiles are generally lower performing. Districts do not receive an accountability percentile.

Overall Classification: Schools and districts are placed into two categories: those that require assistance or intervention from the state, and those that do not.