Sample School Report Cards Letter to Choice Parents

November 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We have had a wonderful fall at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (school)! We are excited about \_\_, \_\_, and \_\_. As a learning community, we are continually looking to improve \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (school). The school report card is one resource we use to reflect on our strengths and areas for improvement each year. Our school report card is called the *Private School – Choice Students Report Card (Private School – Choice Students Report Card).*

The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) is required by state statute ([Wis. Stat. 115.385](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/115/II/385)) to generate a school report card and district report card for every publicly funded school and district in the state. Report cards for private schools participating in the Private School Choice Program have been required since the 2015-16 school year. The report cards are intended to help schools use performance data to improve their efforts to prepare students for their futures. These public report cards can be found online at: <http://dpi.wi.gov/accountability/report-cards>.

The current **school report card is primarily based on last year’s performance for the 2022-23 school year.** Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, DPI encourages caution when interpreting scores and ratings on the 2022-23 report cards. DPI encourages caution when interpreting scores and ratings. Multiple years of data impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic are used throughout the report card.

At the foundation of the report cards are four priority areas. Schools receive a score for each priority area:

* **Achievement** - proficiency in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics on the annual state assessments
* **Growth** - year-to-year progress in ELA and math achievement
* **Target Group Outcomes** - outcomes for students with the lowest test scores
* **On-Track to Graduation** - reliable predictors of how successfully students are progressing toward completing their K-12 education

The priority area scores are aggregated into an overall accountability score, from 0 to 100. This score is displayed on the front page of the school report card. It is important to note that the 0 to 100 accountability score is not a “percent correct” measurement and is not aligned with traditional 0-100 grading scales. Based on its score, a school receives one of five rating categories, from *Fails to Meet Expectations* to *Significantly Exceeds Expectations,* as well as corresponding one to five stars.

School report cards can be accessed online at <http://dpi.wi.gov/accountability/report-cards> along with resources that explain the report cards. I have included the report card for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (school) here as well. Our school report card is also posted on our website: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

We have also opted to receive a separate *Private School – All Students Report Card*, which includes all students in our school. Both the Choice Students and the All Students report card(s) can be found online at: <http://dpi.wi.gov/accountability/report-cards>.

Please feel free to contact me with questions as they arise. I look forward to working with you to make 2023-24 a successful school year for your students!

Sincerely,

(Name and contact information of principal/administrator)