

## Quick Guide to the Iowa School Report Card

The Iowa School Report Card is a new system to show how each public school is performing on certain educational measures. Schools receive a score for each measure, and then the scores are combined into an overall score. Based on the overall score, one of the following ratings is assigned to each school: Exceptional, High-Performing, Commendable, Acceptable, Needs Improvement, and Priority. The Iowa School Report Card can help Iowans stay informed and can enhance conversations about their schools' strengths and challenges. The Iowa Department of Education developed the rating system in response to a 2013 legislative requirement (House File 215).

### Educational Measures in the Iowa School Report Card:

The Iowa School Report Card rates schools across a number of educational measures\*:

- **Proficiency:** The percentage of students scoring proficient or better on reading and mathematics assessments.
- **Closing Achievement Gap (FRL, IEP and ELL):** A measure that reflects a statewide goal of narrowing the gap in achievement for students with disabilities, students who are eligible for free and reduced-price meals, and English Language Learners.
- **Closing Achievement Gap (Minority student within school comparison):** A measure that reflects a statewide goal of narrowing the gap in achievement for between minority and non-minority students. This measure reports the difference in proficiency levels between student groups within the school.
- **Closing Achievement Gap (Minority student to state average):** A measure that reflects a statewide goal of narrowing the gap in achievement for between minority and non-minority students. This measure reports the difference in proficiency levels between minority students in the school to the statewide average.
- **College and Career-Ready Growth:** The percentage of students who are making the year-to-year growth necessary to be ready for college and career training by the end of high school.
- **Annual Expected Growth:** The percentage of students making a year of academic growth in a year's time on reading or mathematics assessments.
- **College and Career Readiness:** The percentage of students who score at or above a level of performance in reading and mathematics that predicts a higher probability of postsecondary success. (Middle/high schools only.)
- **Graduation Rate:** The percentage of ninth-grade students who finished high school within five years. (High schools only.)
- **Attendance:** The average daily attendance of students, which is the total number of days students were enrolled and present divided by the total number of possible attendance days.
- **Staff Retention:** The percentage of teachers, school administrators and other licensed staff members who remained employed in a school over consecutive school years.
- **Parent Involvement Teacher Survey:** A survey of teacher practices and perceptions of parent involvement. This measure is for information purposes only and is not included in the overall rating. This measure along with a parent survey to parents will be included in the ratings in future versions of the report card.

## How Ratings are Calculated

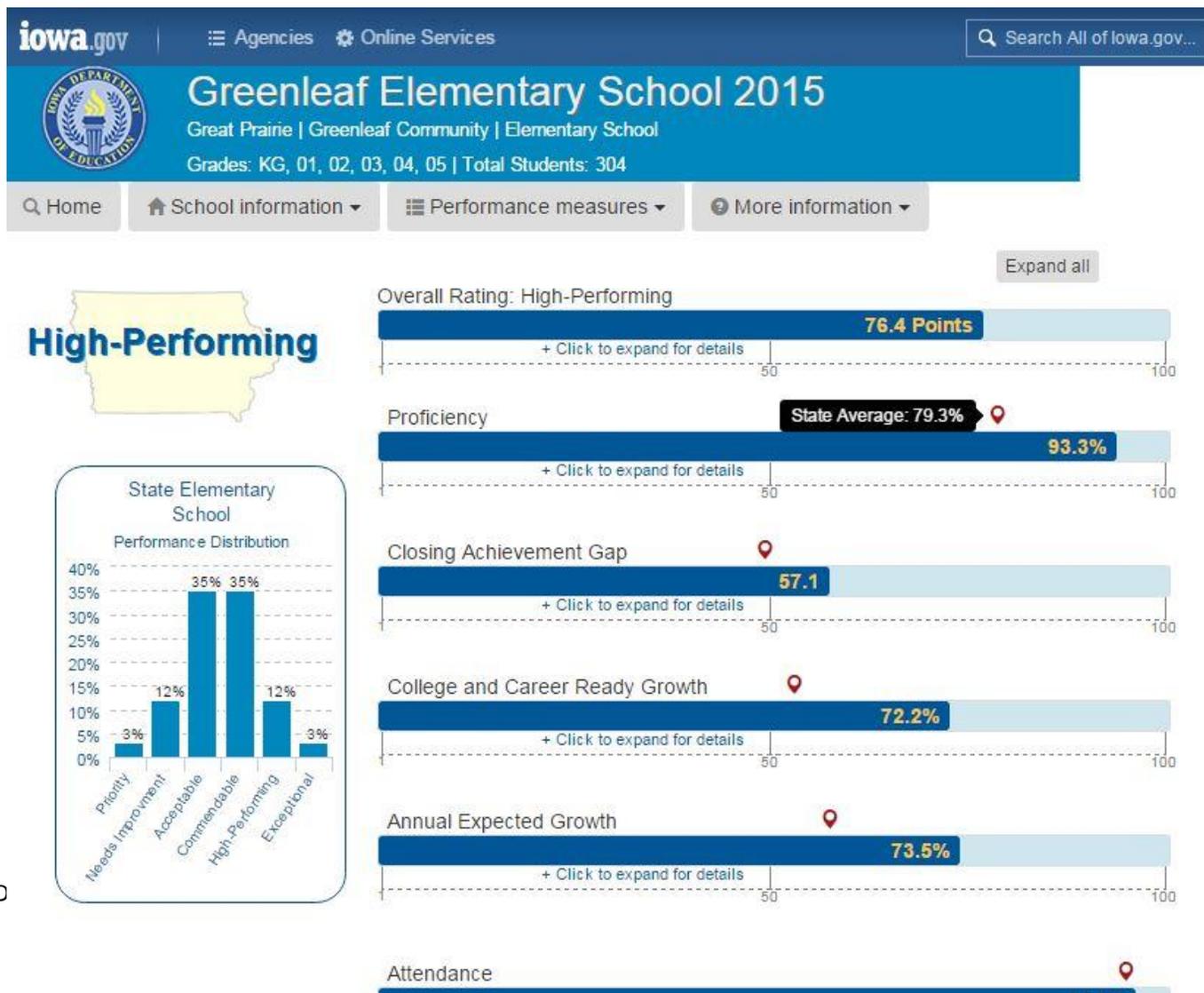
School ratings represent a combination of scores across several educational measures. Because some measures have more impact than others on overall performance, each measure was assigned a weighting, or value it contributes to the overall score.

Each measure has a value from 1 to 100, which is multiplied by the weight to create a score for each measure. The score for each measure is determined, and then all measures are added together for an overall score. A school's overall score determines its rating. Each measure is based on data from the two most recent school years.

## Reports Provided in the Iowa School Report Card

### Report Card – Summary View

The summary view of the Iowa School Report Card includes a school's overall rating, as well as scores for each educational measure. The summary page also includes a "performance distribution" bar chart, which shows the percentage of schools statewide represented in each of the six ratings. In this example, the fictitious Greenleaf Elementary School is among 12 percent of Iowa elementary schools rated overall as "High-Performing."



## Report Card – Expanded View

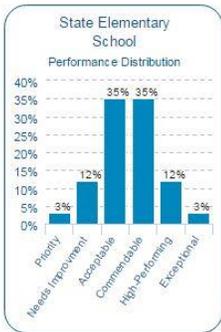
The expanded view of the Iowa School Report Card builds upon the summary view by providing detailed explanations of a school’s overall rating, as well as the definition of each educational measure and how the school performed on the measure. Access the expanded view from the summary page by clicking “Expand all” or by double-clicking each of the horizontal blue bars. Drill down further into the data by clicking on the white bars below each section.

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**Greenleaf Elementary School 2015**  
 Great Prairie | Greenleaf Community | Elementary School  
 Grades: KG, 01, 02, 03, 04, 05 | Total Students: 304

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**High-Performing**



Expand all or collapse all detail here

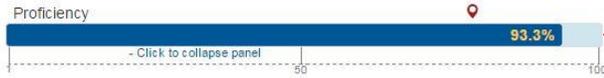
How is a school's overall rating calculated?

**Performance Categories**

|                   |              |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Exceptional       | 79 and above |
| High-Performing   | 73.0 - 78.9  |
| Commendable       | 67.0 - 72.9  |
| Acceptable        | 61.0 - 66.9  |
| Needs Improvement | 55.0 - 60.9  |
| Priority          | 0.0 - 54.9   |

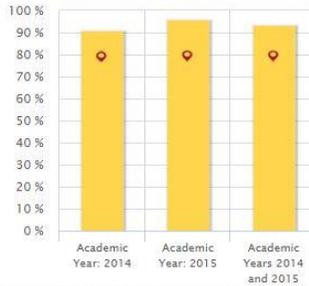
The school ratings are composed of a combination of multiple measures included to calculate an overall score for each school in Iowa. Each of the measures gets calculated as a value between 0 and 100 and is then multiplied by a weight amount, producing a percentage score for each measure. The weighting is the value assigned to each indicator. The score for each measure is determined and then all measures are added together to create an overall score.

Click here for a detailed look at our school performance ranking process



Expand a specific section by clicking on the blue bar

What percent of students meet or exceed proficiency targets?



Proficiency describes a school's success at meeting minimally sufficient performance level benchmarks, in the subjects of **Reading**, **Mathematics**, or a combination of both

The chart at left combines **Reading** and **Math** across the prior two years, to provide a stable picture of school proficiency performance. Districts and schools assess students annually in these two key subject areas.

Click to drill down into this school's Proficiency data by student demographic

Further data detail



Is progress being made in closing the achievement gaps between subgroups?

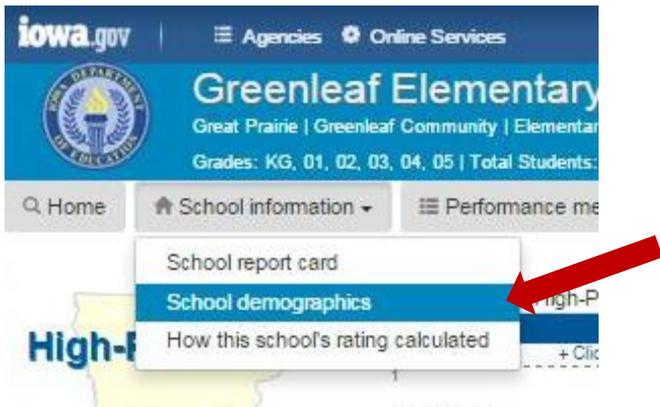
Closing the achievement gap provides a measure which reflects the statewide goal of having all students improve while narrowing the performance gap for students who are eligible for free-or-reduced priced lunch, students with disabilities and English Language Learners.

Click to drill down into this school's Closing the Achievement Gap data



## School Information & Demographics

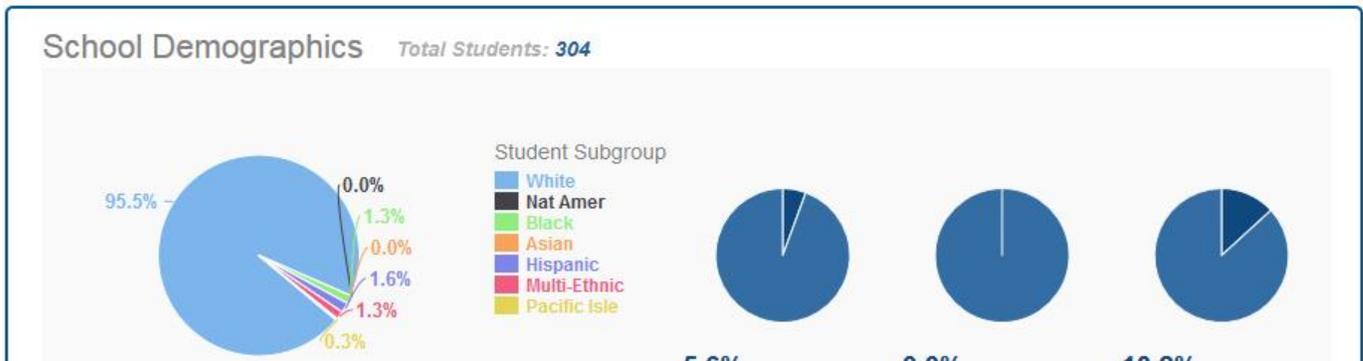
For each school, this section includes the percentage of students by gender and race/ethnicity, as well as percentages of students in special education (Individualized Education Programs), English Language Learners, and students who are eligible for free and reduced-price meals. This section also includes a school's address and contact information. Access this section from a school's summary view by clicking on the gray tab labeled "School Information" and choosing "School Demographics" from the drop-down menu.



### School Information

|            |            |          |            |
|------------|------------|----------|------------|
| Principal: | [Redacted] | Phone:   | [Redacted] |
| Address:   | [Redacted] | Fax:     | [Redacted] |
|            |            | Email:   | [Redacted] |
|            |            | Website: | [Redacted] |

50.3% Male  
49.7% Female





## Educational Measures

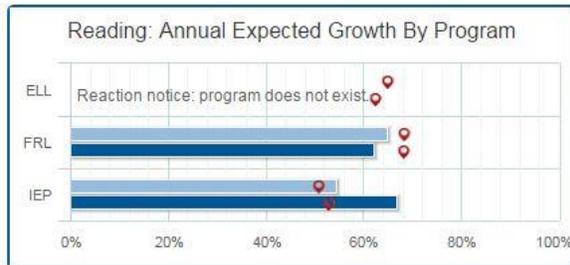
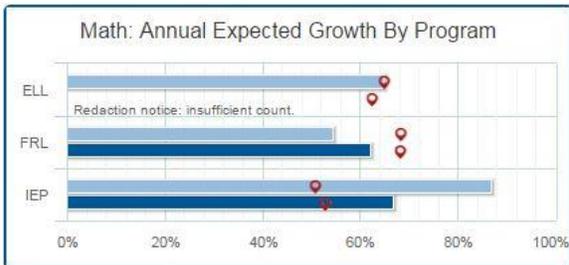
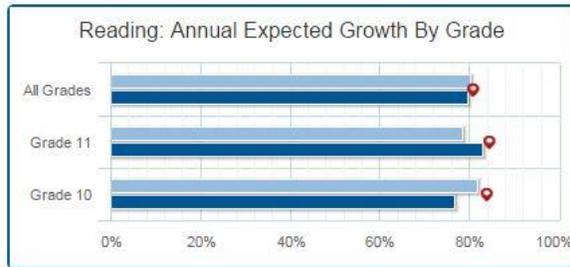
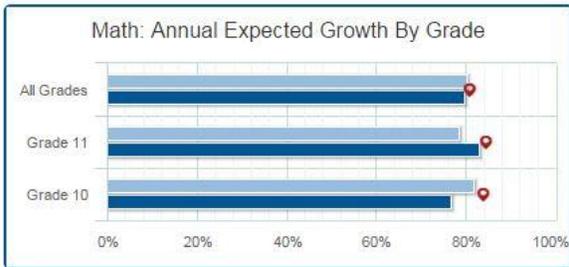
The educational measures section provides a detailed picture of a school’s performance on each educational measure by year, by student demographic subgroup, and by grade level for 2013-14 and 2014-15. This example displays the “Annual Expected Growth” category for the fictitious Greenleaf Elementary School. Access the educational measures section in one of two ways: 1. Click on the gray tab labeled “Educational Measures” and choose a measure from the drop-down menu. 2. In the expanded view, click on the white bar at the bottom of each educational measure section.

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**Greenleaf Elementary School 2015**  
 Great Prairie AEA | Greenleaf Community School District | Elementary School  
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### Annual Expected Growth What is the percent of students achieving a year of academic growth in a year's time?





## Interpreting a School's Results

- An overall school rating does not provide contextual information about a school, nor does it make a conclusion about the quality of the staff or reflect ongoing work to raise student achievement.
- Stakeholders can use these data to compare a school against the state average and to identify trends in student performance.
- Schools can use this information to help develop achievement goals, to identify professional development needs, and to reflect on how performance informs instruction.
- While the Iowa School Report Card only tells part of the story about Iowa schools, it does offer a high-level view of student performance across a number of measures. A composite score is generated from multiple years of data, depicting a stable picture of performance across time.
- The Iowa School Report Card should create a constructive dialog between educators, school administrators and parents and community members about the work under way to prepare students for success and to help them achieve their full potential.