



# SCHOOL REPORT CARD FAQ 2021



This FAQ is designed to help parents, schools, and LEAs navigate the 2020-2021 [Utah School Report Card](#), answer frequently asked questions about the unique circumstances for 2020-2021, and to provide clarity for schools, parents, and communities.

## Q. WHAT IS THE SCHOOL REPORT CARD?

- A** The School Report Card, based on Utah’s School Accountability System, is one piece of information that, when combined with other information, shows how a school is performing in multiple areas. It is designed to give parents, caregivers, community members, educators, and policymakers information about how districts and schools are performing — to celebrate successes and identify areas for improvement. The information provides transparent reporting on student performance. Although the information included on the Utah School Report Card is impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic, the goal remains to ensure high expectations and equitable outcomes for all Utah students.

## Q. HOW HAS THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL REPORT CARD BEEN IMPACTED BY COVID-19?

- A** The state’s education community experienced unprecedented challenges during the 2020-2021 school year due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic. As a result of state-wide school impacts, all data should be interpreted with a high degree of caution. Comparisons to prior years or between schools, student groups, and districts are not advised. Additional information with explanations are provided in this guide.

## Q. WHAT DECISIVE ACTIONS AFFECTED THE SCHOOL REPORT CARD?

- A** Each year, the School Report Card shows student performance from the prior school year. This year’s report card shows school information available for school year 2020-2021. In April 2021, the Utah State Board of Education sought and was granted a federal accountability [waiver](#), allowing Utah flexibility for the accountability requirements for the 2020-2021 school year due to the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19).

## Q. WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED ON THE 2020-2021 REPORT CARD?

- A** With the cancellation of testing in Spring 2020, student growth cannot be calculated for the 2020-2021 Utah School Report Card. State legislation suspended assigning overall grades for any schools, Schools will not receive points for the accountability indicators for 2020-2021. There will be no ranking of schools for 2020-2021, or any new identification of low-performing schools.



## Q. WHAT IS INCLUDED ON THE REPORT CARD FOR 2020-2021?

This edition of the Utah School Report Card will provide the data that is available and meaningful for school year 2020-2021. Information about student achievement in language arts, math, and science are reported. High school graduation rates, college and career readiness course completion, postsecondary enrollment, and consistent attendance are included. Utah was able to complete all WIDA ACCESS testing for English Learners in 2020-2021, so English Learner Progress information is made available. Student demographics, enrollment, and information about teacher experience are reported for schools, districts and the state.

## INTERPRETING 2020-2021 REPORT CARDS

### Q. WHAT CAUTIONS SHOULD BE TAKEN WHEN INTERPRETING DATA?

- A** The Utah School Report Card must be interpreted along with other information, including both local assessment and student opportunity to learn information, to best determine the actions necessary to address learning disruptions. State assessment results in 2022 will be an important source of confirmatory information, but presently, parents, educators, and school leaders must rely on assessment information closest to the teaching and learning process to guide acceleration efforts. The USBE and The National Center for the Improvement of Educational Assessment, Inc. (NCIEA) have conducted a comprehensive set of studies to help understand the effects of pandemic-related disruptions on students' academic performance during the 2020-2021 academic year.
- A** While schools and students experienced unprecedented and significant impacts to learning conditions in 2020-2021 that must be considered when interpreting the information on the School Report Card, the data are still meaningful in that the results must be interpreted as a call to action for parents and educators. The learning acceleration requires the support and resources of school leaders, educators, and local communities to sustain the necessary interventions well beyond the 2020-2021 school year.

### Q. WHY IS GROWTH NOT REPORTED?

Student Growth Percentiles, or [SGPs](#), are calculated based on prior years of student performance. Due to the Utah State Board of Education's [decision](#) to forego certain statewide tests in Spring 2020 and the U.S. Department of Education 2020 Assessment and Accountability [waiver to states](#) suspending federal requirements to administer Spring statewide tests, no state summative testing took place in 2019-2020. Without assessment data from the prior year, a comparable growth measure could not be calculated for the purposes of accountability.



## Q. WHY DO ELEMENTS ON THE REPORT CARD SHOW “ND”, “NA”, OR “N<10”?

- A** In cases where assessment data is not available to calculate a piece of information, NA indicates that the element is not applicable. Similarly, ND indicates that there is no data available. N<10 indicates where there are fewer than 10 individual students in a group and the data is suppressed to protect personally identifiable information.

## Q. WHAT CAN WE EXPECT FOR 2021-2022 SCHOOL REPORT CARD?

- A** While schools are working tirelessly in 2021-2022 to respond to the impact of COVID-19, 2021-2022 still presents many unknowns and learning is occurring in a wide variety of ways. The effects of COVID-19 will continue to reach every corner of our state, which in turn is reflected in the information contained in the School Report Card. The Utah State Board of Education is hopeful that Spring assessments can be administered to students as planned, growth can be calculated, and Report Cards can continue to provide meaningful information to stakeholders. The USBE continues to create [resources](#) to support students and families to create educational success now and in the future.



## ADDITIONAL FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Q. WHERE CAN I FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY?

- A** The [Utah Accountability Technical Manual](#) describes the accountability system purpose, the method for calculating each indicator, and provides more information about the Utah School Report Card. It can be found on the Utah State Board of Education’s [Assessment and Accountability Resources](#) website. It is important to note that the manual describes the Utah Accountability System as it operates in a typical school year for the purpose of documentation and reference. This FAQ guide describes the unique circumstances and impacts for the 2020-2021 Report Card.

### Q. WHY ARE SELF-REPORTED INDICATORS MEANINGFUL IN 2020-2021?

Schools may choose to describe up to two additional pieces of information about how their school is supporting students. In this reporting year, where information on the School Report Card is heavily impacted by the learning conditions of 2020-2021 and COVID-19, the self-reported indicators may add more value than ever. Self-reported indicators are optional but can provide the opportunity for schools to highlight successful practices, programs, use of federal COVID-19 relief funds, and provide rich information to their school community.

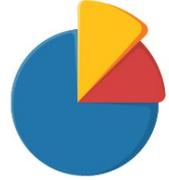
### Q. WHAT IS PARTICIPATION RATE?

- A** It is critical to consider participation rate when interpreting the 2020-2021 School Report Card. The participation rate shown on the School Report card is the percentage of students who participated in their assigned RISE or Utah Aspire Plus tests during 2020-2021. Participation rate

excludes students who did not participate for valid reasons, such as parental exclusion. This participation rate is used to calculate all the indicators published on the School Report Card. ACT participation is not included in this participation rate percentage.

## Q. WHAT ARE INDICATOR LEVEL RATINGS?

- A** Each indicator that can be calculated for a school shows a rating, displayed as a meter, for that indicator to provide additional context for comparison and interpretation of the indicators for school accountability. The meters shown in each indicator tile on the school performance page show the school's performance for that indicator on its own. Indicators are rated as Exemplary, Commendable, Typical, Developing, or Critical Needs. Each indicator-level rating is based on the points earned by the school for that individual indicator.



## Q. HOW SHOULD STAKEHOLDERS INTERPRET ENGLISH LEARNER PROGRESS?

- A** The English Learner Progress measure shows the percentage of students learning the English language that have made adequate progress or reached proficiency in the areas of listening, reading, speaking, and writing on the WIDA ACCESS assessment. Adequate progress targets for English Learners are set for each student based on initial proficiency level, grade level at the time of enrollment, and time in Utah's English Learner program. These adequate progress targets are defined in the [Accountability Technical Manual](#) on pages 18-20.

## Q. WHAT IS POSTSECONDARY READINESS AND POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENT?

- A** Postsecondary Readiness is an indicator for high schools. This indicator includes 1) graduation rate, 2) ACT performance, and 3) readiness coursework. Graduation rate is the percentage of students who graduated with a regular diploma. ACT Performance is the percentage of students who earned an ACT composite score of 18 or higher in the 11th grade statewide administration of the ACT. Readiness coursework is the percentage of students who, during high school, took at least one Advanced Placement, concurrent enrollment, or International Baccalaureate course, or completed a CTE Pathway. Postsecondary enrollment is displayed for high schools. It is the percentage of students who enroll in a Utah college or university within two years after graduation.



## Q. HOW WILL THE SCHOOL REPORT CARD IMPACT MY CHILD'S SCHOOL?

- A** The information on the school report card gives schools a roadmap to becoming a better school. It can drive instruction, help schools know where to focus teaching and resources, and help them develop school improvement plans. Parents can help by sharing your goals for your child and ask about your concerns. Your voice and contribution can help improve student achievement, growth, and the actions schools take to support your child's learning.