



HOWARD-SUAMICO

SCHOOL DISTRICT

SERVING • LEARNING • ACHIEVING – TOGETHER

September 17, 2013

Dear Parents and Guardians,

This week, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) will issue a **School Report Card** for every public school in Wisconsin and a District Report Card for each district as well. The School and District Report Cards, using multiple measures of student learning, will provide valuable guidance on how our schools are doing and where we can improve. The new report cards will help all Wisconsin public schools and districts get a better picture of how well they help children learn, advance to the next grade, and graduate ready for college and career.

The District Report Cards are calculated for the district as a whole. In other words, these report cards treat the district as if it were “one big school” responsible for all students in the district. District Report Cards look very similar to the School Report Cards with one primary exception: District Report Cards include both attendance and graduation scores.

Each public school and district earns 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 based on our 2012-13 performance in the following four priority areas:

- **Student Achievement** - proficiency in reading 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.

Schools and districts are also evaluated on their test participation rates, chronic absenteeism rates, and dropout rates when applicable. These are measures of student engagement. Based on our scores, our district and schools will be placed into one of five categories from *Fails to Meet Expectations*, to *Significantly Exceeds Expectations*.

The School and District Report Cards will be issued every year. Individual student results on state assessments will continue to be reported separately. DPI has produced two versions of each Report Card: "School Report Card" and "School Report Card Detail." Both versions can be accessed online at http://acct.dpi.wi.gov/acct_accountability.

The report cards are one part of a statewide accountability system for schools. The State Superintendent, Governor, legislative leaders, and DPI staff worked closely with parents, educators, and members of the business community to develop the system. The U.S. Department of Education has reviewed the recent changes to the accountability system. Both the accountability system and the report cards will continue to improve and evolve in future years as more data becomes available.

I am confident the School Report Cards, as well as the many other changes being implemented in Wisconsin schools, will help Howard - Suamico School District identify our strengths and its opportunities for improvement. The following links offer a useful summary and related information on the state's accountability system.

<http://youtu.be/ORnr6fvDeR8>

[e-Learning Module: A Guide to Wisconsin's School Report Card](#)

Your Partner in Education,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Damian LaCroix". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "L".

Damian LaCroix
Superintendent of Schools