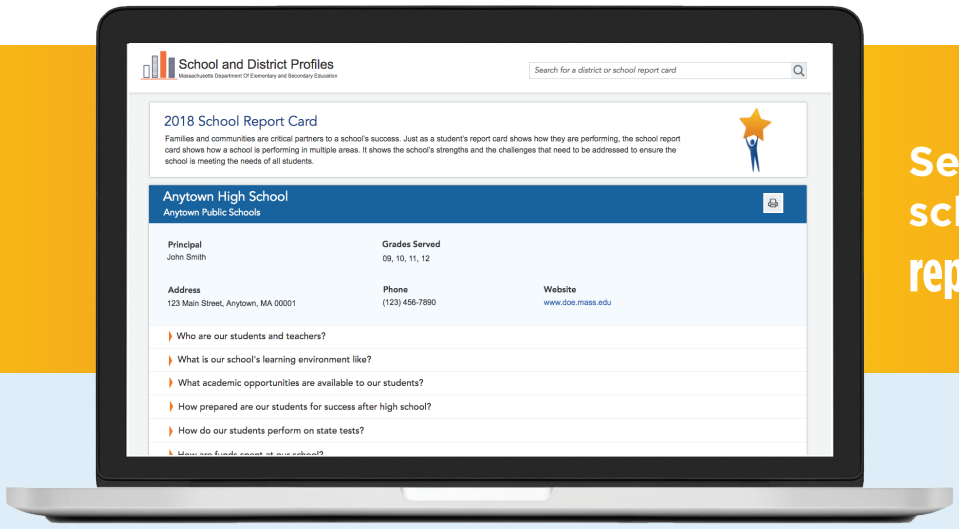
LEARN MORE ABOUT MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOLS!



Search for your school's report card at reportcards.doe.mass.edu

5 Quick Facts

ABOUT THE SCHOOL REPORT CARD

1. Just as a student's report card shows how they are doing in different subjects, the school's report card shows how a school or district is doing in different areas.
2. The report cards include a variety of information, more than just MCAS scores.
3. School report cards reflect the information that is most valuable to Massachusetts families.
4. School report cards identify where a school is doing well and where it needs to improve to ensure that all students' needs are met.
5. District leaders and principals can use report cards to support schools and students and to identify ways to help schools continue improving over time.

Families are critical partners in the success of Massachusetts students. The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education is committed to providing detailed information for families, so they have a better understanding of their child's education.

Visit reportcards.doe.mass.edu to find the school report card for every public school in the state.

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

Report Card Glossary

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 though 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).

ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES

Information about student participation in broad and challenging courses.

Advanced Coursework: Courses that are considered advanced include Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, dual enrollment, and other challenging classes in a variety of subjects.

MassCore: MassCore is a state-recommended program of study that outlines the minimum core courses needed to meet four-year college and workforce expectations. MassCore includes four units of English, four units of mathematics, three units of a lab-based science, three units of history, two units of the same foreign language, one unit of the arts, and five additional core courses.

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 (for example, 18 or more days in a typical 180-day school year).

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

SUCCESS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Information about graduation, dropout, and college-going rates.

High School Outcomes: Graduation, dropout, and college-going information is reported for schools and districts that serve grades 9 through 12.

STUDENT PERFORMANCE ON STATE TESTS

Information about student performance on the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) tests. Each year, students in grades 3 through 8 and 10 take MCAS tests in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics, and students in grades 5, 8, and 10 take science 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.

SPENDING

Information about how much money is spent per student.

Dollars Spent per Student: Amounts vary based on enrollment, staffing, special programming, and the needs of the students in the school.

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. A small number of schools and districts, including those that are new or very small, are classified as having "insufficient data."