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Humphries Calls for Revamping School Report Cards to Make them “Genuinely Open, Honest, and Transparent.”

Candidate for State Superintendent calls existing report cards a “disaster”

Following up on his pledge to hold himself accountable through a State Board of Education, candidate for Wisconsin Superintendent of Public Instruction John Humphries, released the following statement announcing a plan for holding all schools in the state truly accountable for results:

“Under Tony Evers’ school report cards, a school with less than 40% of students proficient in reading is rated as ‘Meeting Expectations,’” Humphries said.

“Dumbed down expectations may be good for career politicians, but they’re a disaster when schools get passing grades without providing the reading, math, and writing skills to prepare students for careers, college, and life.”

“I know that with the proper supports, all students can learn and will exceed even our highest hopes for them. That is why I am calling for a new school report card that provides parents, educators, students, and taxpayers with information on school performance that is genuinely honest and transparent.”

Highlights of the Humphries Plan for Honest School Report Cards are attached.

John Humphries is a candidate for State Superintendent of Public Instruction.
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Humphries Plan for Honest School Report Cards Highlights:

- Revise the standard for proficiency on state tests. Rather than an arbitrary measure, the new standard will be among the highest in the nation and will indicate an 80% chance of success at the next level of learning. In other words, if a child is proficient on the 10th grade test, they are 80% likely to be on track for college or a career. If a child is a proficient in 3rd grade, they are 80% likely to be on track for success in 4th grade.
- Just like students, schools will be graded using a letter grade system that tells the truth about student skill levels, rather than using confusing terms designed to hide or inflate true performance.
- To earn an “A” for academic achievement, at least 80% of students must be proficient. If a school has less than 50% proficiency they earn an “F” in this area.
- To earn an “A” for growth, students in a school must be learning at a rate higher than 70% of their peers from across the nation.
- For high schools, report cards will focus on graduation rates and college remediation rates. They will help to break the school-to-prison pipeline by focusing heavily on schools with less than 70% of students graduating in 4 years so additional supports can be provided.
- The report cards will track the percentage of students in each school on pace to close achievement gaps. Parents of prospective attendees will be able to tell if their child is likely to catch up if they attend a particular school.
- Report cards will give parents information they can actually use about whether their child is likely to be on track. If she’s behind, how long will it take for her to catch up? And if she’s above grade level, is the school doing everything they can to help her keep growing to her full potential?
- Report card scores will be less closely correlated with family income than the current model, so kids in every zip code have a chance at success and parents can choose wisely when deciding on the best environment for their children.
- Report cards will also provide important information about school climate, safety, and non-academic factors like student activities.
- Finally, Humphries will work with the Legislature to enshrine the grading criteria in law, so that no future state superintendent can manipulate the information to suit their political agenda.