



# School District of Altoona

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Dr. Connie M. Biedron, Superintendent

[www.altoona.k12.wi.us](http://www.altoona.k12.wi.us)

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

Today the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) released the School Report Cards for 2016/2017. The DPI creates a School Report Card and District Report Card for every publicly funded school and district in the state. The Report Cards are intended to help all schools and districts utilize data on specific measures to target improvement efforts to ensure students are ready for the next educational step – including the next grade level, graduation, college, and careers.

On the current Report Card, based on the 2016/17 school year, each school receives an Overall Accountability Score from 0 – 100. This score is calculated by combining the weighted average of the Priority Area scores minus any Student Engagement Indicator deductions. The four Priority Areas are:

- **Student Achievement** proficiency in English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics on state assessments
- **School Growth** focuses on the pace of improvement in students' performance
- **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** how successfully students are achieving educational milestones that predict later success

Schools and districts are also evaluated on their level of student engagement – test participation rates, chronic absenteeism rates, and dropout rates when applicable. Based on its score, a school or district receives one of five rating categories, from *Fails to Meet Expectations* to *Significantly Exceeds Expectations*, which then equate to one to five stars.

The report cards are just one source of information about schools and districts, and do not take into account the talent of students in areas like music, art, languages, sports, technology and the most important aspects of how students work together as teams and help and support one another in our hectic world. I am happy to share with you that our district received four out of five stars which put us in the “Exceeds Expectations” category! We are all so very proud of the work we do here every day and so proud of the students, staff and positive reputation our district shares with our community.

For a detailed look at our district and school report cards you can go to this link: <http://dpi.wi.gov/accountability/report-cards> where you will find the report cards and a great deal of other information regarding the report card process. Our report cards can also be accessed directly from our website at <http://www.altoona.k12.wi.us/schoolreportcards.cfm>.

Please let me know if you have questions regarding this information. I look forward to continuing our work together to provide another successful school year for the students of our community.

Sincerely,

Dr. Connie M. Biedron, Superintendent

**Engage. Equip. Empower.**  
*“Proud to be a Railroader”*