

**Messmer Catholic Schools (MCS) and the
Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
School or District Accountability Report Card for 2017
A Summary from MCS Administration: December 2017**

What is the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) School or District Accountability Report Card?

DPI produces a report card for every publicly funded school and district in Wisconsin, which includes data on multiple indicators for multiple years across four Priority Areas (Student Achievement, Growth, Closing Gaps, and On-track and Post-secondary Success). The Report Cards also measure chronic absenteeism and dropout rates. In recent years, MCS administration has participated in meetings to improve the relevance and equity of the evaluation process that determines the results. As responsible stewards of both taxpayer and donor funds, Messmer supports full and fair accountability and transparency.

Why is this the "first" report card for Messmer Catholic Schools?

While public school districts have received a published state report card for five of the last six years (since 2011), this is the first year that voucher/choice schools have been included. By law, DPI began collecting data for use in the Report Card for voucher/choice schools in 2015, and uses data from 2015-16 and 2016-17 to produce a Report Card for schools like MCS.

Public school Report Cards are produced by school--the different elementary and high schools within a district can be view separately. Why is Messmer only reported as a single system?

Although MCS has three schools at separate campus locations, we receive one report card that does not separate the three schools. We have requested--directly and in collaboration with other organizations--that DPI report individual school data for choice voucher schools in the same manner that is reported for public schools. Messmer believes this individual school data should be provided to parents and all interested stakeholders.

The last line of the official WI DPI Report card states, "Report Cards for different types of schools or districts should not be directly compared." Why?

For the reasons detailed above (inadequate data in four of eleven measures that determine the "grade," and the lack of individual school report cards for voucher schools), DPI acknowledges an "apples to apples" comparison is not valid. Again, Messmer looks forward to complete and compatible reporting in 2018 and beyond.

Why is MCS rated in only seven (7) of the eleven (11) priority area scores?

As noted above, DPI only has two years of data for voucher schools. Thus, in four of the eleven areas, insufficient comparative data exists to assess growth rates. Graduation rates are involved in two of the missing (NA) categories, which require a four-year data set. Messmer looks forward to being issued more complete report cards in 2017-18 and 2018-19.

How is Messmer Catholic Schools (MCS) doing?

Based on this first/partial WI DPI card, our overall score is **61.9**. We missed *Meets Expectations* (the "green zone") by 1.1 points. A brief summary of the components:

Elementary ELA (often referred to as *Reading/Literacy*): **Significantly improved**

Over the past three years, Messmer students are growing at a faster rate than the state average. In Wisconsin, about 43% of students are rated as proficient in reading. In 2014, less than 10% of MCS students were proficient in ELA. In 2017, 19% are proficient.

Elementary Math: **Unsatisfactory**

Messmer students lag in math achievement and growth rate. See below for more information.

High School ELA: **Unsatisfactory, but improving**

Messmer High School accepts students from over 70 elementary and middle schools. The average 9th grade student arrives at a reading level below 6th grade. Our ACT data shows modest reading growth, but better than expected writing growth. (Note: The ACT does not include the Writing Score in the composite ACT score).

High School Math: Significantly improved in the past two years, through a reformed and intensified 9th grade Algebra program. Upon arrival at MHS, only about 5% of students are proficient in math. By 10th Grade, 20% are proficient. The Wisconsin average for proficiency in math averages 41%.

Attendance: Messmer **exceeds** the state average for attendance rates.

Graduation Rate: **Not rated yet by WI DPI**

As noted above, this report card does not reflect our graduation rate, as WI DPI indicates insufficient data. Our historic and current graduation rate data looks significantly better than the comparable market.

What is Messmer Catholic Schools (MCS) doing to increase student achievement?

MCS is pleased with the growth in primary grades ELA proficiency, which has been our top strategic priority since 2014-15. Our current growth trajectory, with a more complete report card in 2018 and beyond, provides a data trend that should place us confidently in the "Meets Expectations" zone. We must continue our elementary ELA growth and accelerate ELA growth in 9th and 10th grade. Our goal within our own system is to maintain the gains we have made in the primary grades so that our own MCS elementary graduates arrive on grade level for 9th grade--in addition to providing intervention at Messmer High School for students from outside MCS who need to close the literacy gap to succeed in their secondary coursework.

Our data confirms the need to improve our math proficiency growth rate to match our improved ELA improvement rate. While the DPI report card emphasizes 8th grade math, Messmer High School has quadrupled the number of proficient students in the past two years from Grade 9 to Grade 10. We are optimistic that math reforms implemented in 2017 will extend that improvement to our elementary grades.

In December 2016, the MCS Board of Directors adopted a **2017-2021 Strategic Plan**, including these priority goals:

- MCS ELA proficiency will meet or exceed 75% of the Wisconsin average by 2021, which would currently be 33% or better proficiency. At our current growth rate since 2014, we are on track to exceed that goal.
- MCS Math proficiency will meet or exceed 50% of the Wisconsin average. Growth prior to 2017 was inadequate; growth in the current year is improved and projects to reach this goal.