

School Report Card Letter to Choice Parents

November 2016

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Our school year is off to a great start! We are excited about our the academic progress we have made, our new entrepreneurship program, and the construction of our new gymnasium. As a learning community, we are continually looking to improve everything we do as a school. One source we use to reflect on our strengths and areas for improvement is student performance data. This year we will begin receiving a Choice Student-School Report Card.

The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) creates School Report Cards and District Report Cards for publicly funded schools and districts in the state. Starting with the 2015-16 school year, report cards for private schools participating in the choice program are required. These report cards, issued in Fall 2016, and based only on data for choice students in the school, can be accessed online here:

<http://dpi.wi.gov/accountability/report-cards>.

The Report Cards are intended to help schools see a clear picture of how well they are preparing students to be ready for the next educational step – including the next grade level, graduation, college, and careers.

The Choice Student-School Report Card **has some key differences compared to public School Report Cards this year**. This is because all choice schools participated in a new data collection system for the first time in the 2015-16 school year. As a result, DPI only has a single year of data for choice students, and the report cards require multiple years of data to produce a score. Given these data limitations and the core value of treating all schools the same in Wisconsin's accountability system, the Choice Pupil Report Cards for 2015-16 do not report:

- Any scores or ratings. This is because calculations require at least two years of data. All choice schools will be "Not Rated" for their first year of report cards.
- Attendance or absenteeism rates. This is because those rates lag by one year and DPI does not have student-level attendance data from the 2014-15 school year from choice schools.
- Graduation rates. This is because these rates require four years of data to calculate.

DPI produces two versions of each Report Card: a one-pager labeled "School Report Card" and lengthier, detailed version labeled, "School Report Card Detail." Both versions can be accessed online at <http://dpi.wi.gov/accountability/report-cards> along with resources that explain the report cards.

The legislative requirements to produce these report cards allow choice schools to opt-in to receive a report card for all students attending the private school. DPI will have both options available beginning next year (data limitations do not permit this option for the 2015-16 report cards). We have chosen to opt into the Private School Report Card for next year's report.

Please feel free to contact me with questions as they arise. I look forward to working with you to make 2016-17 a successful school year for your child!

Sincerely,

Tim Befus, Head of School