

Dear East Marshall Parents and Families,

The state is now providing an additional source of information with the release of the Iowa School Report Card. This is a new web-based tool that provides a snapshot of every Iowa public school's performance on certain educational measures, such as student attendance and proficiency rates. The vast majority of data is taken from the Iowa Assessment which is a two-hour test taken February 2015, last school year. The Iowa Department of Education developed this tool in response to a 2013 legislative requirement (House File 215).

Specifically, the Iowa School Report Card scores schools on up to eight educational measures and assigns an overall rating to each school based on its performance on the measures. On the website, www.educateiowa.gov/schoolreportcard you will find an explanation of the eight measures used on the state report card.

While I believe this information can add to conversations in our community about how we're preparing our students for success, these measures are based on limited data. And, as we know from other accountability initiatives such as the federal No Child Left Behind Act, schools are so much more than labels. Labels and ratings do not tell the whole story. For example, there may be a school in the state of Iowa that is labeled a School In Need of Assistance (SINA) as designated by the No Child Left Behind Act, while the same school can be ranked as an "Exceptional" school on the Iowa School Report Card.

There will be more information provided by the building principals in the next day or two.

Sincerely,

Dianne D. Anderson
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The East Marshall Community School District instills a passion for learning to INSPIRE and to PREPARE students to ACHIEVE