

FROM REPORT TO RESULTS

Every year your school district and state must release a school report card.

The report cards include important information about school environment, demographics and performance on the state local and school level. Although the reports need to be accessible to every parent, the information doesn't always speak for itself. Getting familiar with this information can help you turn these reports into results for your child's school.

It's PTA's mission to ensure that parents and families are meaningfully supported and engaged in their children's education. Here's a look at some resources to help you understand and act on school report cards.

Finding the Report

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) puts a special emphasis on making sure parents are empowered to engage in their children's education. One way the law makes that happen is by making these report cards accessible. While each state will have a different website where you can access school report cards, here are a few steps you can take to find this information:

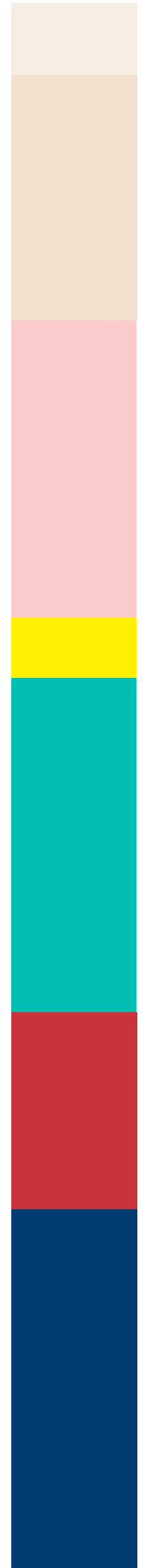
Use an online search tool to look for your state's school report card.

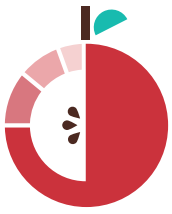
Visit your state's education administration website and look for the school report card.

Ask an administrator or school leader where you can find publicly reported education data on your child's school.

Call your school or district office and ask for a printed copy.

It can be hard to know where to start, but once you're able to find your school's report card you'll have access to a powerful tool that enables better educational outcomes and helps create equity.





Interpreting What You Find

These report cards include information that reveal some important details about your child's school. The information available includes deep insights that go far beyond test scores. However, to find the most interesting information you may need to take a closer look. With ESSA in place you have access to:

- School progress information
- Details on school learning environment
- Information on teacher qualifications
- Among other key data points
- School spending per student

You can look at all the above information segmented by race, ethnicity, gender, income, disability, English language learner, and migrant status. It is also possible to compare your specific school with district or state data.

Consider asking school leaders if they provide any training or workshops for parents that you can take to better understand and use the education data available to you. After you've read and reviewed the data take a moment to consider what you want to improve and how you can advocate for those improvements.

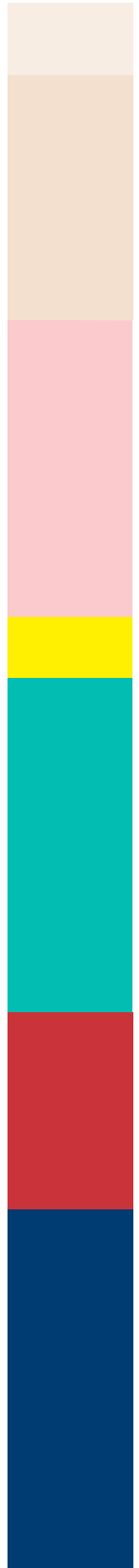
From Information to Improvements

When you have numbers and data, you have access to a critical tool to help you improve schools. School report cards give us a framework that can shape the conversation on education equity, while also giving parents information they need to make important decisions for their children.

Parents can influence the way this data is used. Here are a few ideas to empower you to take this information to spark necessary improvements:

- Find out how your school helps educators and staff understand school report card data to improve student success and academic outcomes.
- Develop a partnership with your state's education agency to engage on data literacy and utilization.
- Bring interested parents together for a meeting with your principal and/or school district leaders to discuss report card findings and where there is room for improvement.

By reviewing school report card data we empower ourselves with an important tool to help us push schools to see the improvements and results our children deserve.



Why Does Information About Schools Matter?

To understand your child's educational experience, you need to know more than just their test scores. By exploring information about your school, you can gain a deeper understanding of their day-to-day life at school and also have specific insights into what you want to change.