



Academies of Racine - Gifford

8332 Northwestern Ave.
Racine, WI 53406
(262) 619-4550
www.rusd.org/gifford



My Choice, My Future

November 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We have had a wonderful fall at the Academies of Racine Gifford. We are excited about engaging our elementary students with the focus on Literacy and the community partnerships that our middle schools students get to experience. As a learning community, we are continually looking to improve student achievement in English Language Arts and Mathematics as well as having students experience social and emotional growth. The school report card is one resource we use to reflect on our strengths and areas for improvement.

The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) is required by state statute ([Wis. Stat. 115.385](#)) to generate 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 schools and districts use performance data to celebrate successes and improve their efforts to prepare students for their futures. These public report cards can be found online at: <http://dpi.wi.gov/accountability/report-cards>.

The current **school report card is primarily based on last year's performance during the 2022-23 school year**. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, DPI encourages caution when interpreting scores and ratings on the 2022-23 report cards. Multiple years of data impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic are used throughout the report card.

At the foundation of the report cards are four priority areas. Schools and districts receive a score for each priority area:

- **Achievement** - proficiency in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics on the annual state assessments
- **Growth** - year-to-year progress in ELA and math achievement
- **Target Group Outcomes** - outcomes for students with the lowest test scores
- **On-Track to Graduation** - reliable predictors of how successfully students are progressing toward completing their K-12 education

The priority area scores are aggregated into an overall accountability score, from 0 to 100. This score is displayed on the front page of the school or district report cards. It is important to note that the 0 to 100 accountability score is not a "percent correct" measurement and is not aligned with traditional 0-100 grading scales. Based on its score, a school or district receives one of five rating categories, from *Fails to Meet Expectations* to *Significantly Exceeds Expectations*, as well as corresponding one to five stars.

Here is some information we'd like to share from our school/district report card:

We saw an increase in proficiency levels in English Language Arts for the Hispanic or Latino, Asian and English Learners- sub groups. In the area of Mathematics, the Black or African American subgroup had an increase in their proficiency level.

*Vision: Gifford Gators will achieve excellence by surpassing individual growth goals and contributing to our community.
Mission: Preparing every student to be high school ready through exploration and discovery.*



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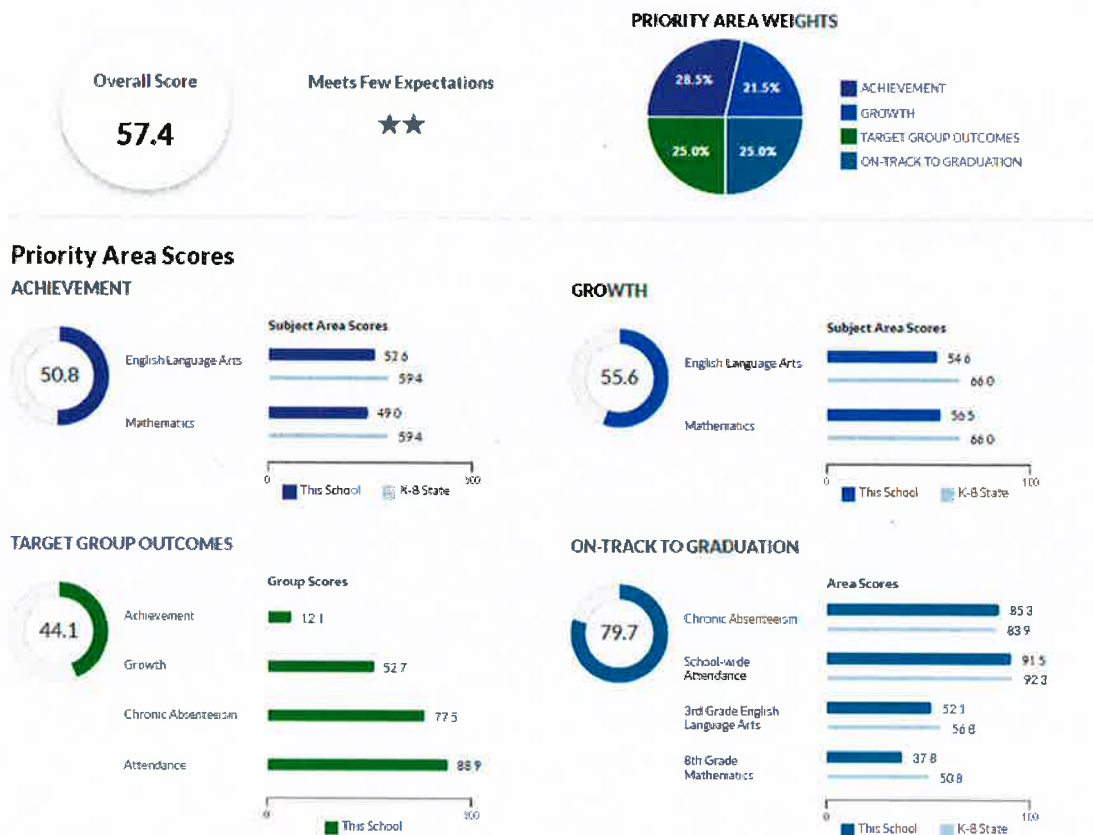
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Our rating overall score decreased slightly bringing us into the Meets Few Expectation category. We are actively working to improve our students' performance. Our first step is student engagement with school. We are on the right track. Our attendance rate for last year and this year has improved and our chronic absenteeism has declined. Thank you for partnering with us in this endeavor. Our second step is small group instruction both in the classroom and individual pull out sessions.

I want to share these results with you because they help illuminate some of our successes and help pinpoint areas of focus at Gifford. But as DPI stresses, these report cards are just one source of information about our school. Here are some additional results from our report card.



School and district report cards can be accessed online at <http://dpi.wi.gov/accountability/report-cards> along with resources that explain the report cards. Our school report card is also posted on our website: [Gifford](#)

Please let me know your thoughts and questions as they arise. I look forward to working with you to make 2023-24 a successful school year for our students!

Sincerely,

Sue Milder
Executive Principal
Academies of Racine Gifford

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