

# FAQ

## School Report Cards 2017-18

**Q:** What denominator was used in calculations by item and report card type?

**A:** The denominators used are as follows:

**HIGH SCHOOL REPORT CARDS**

**College and Career Readiness**– students who earned a diploma from the high school between June 16, 2017 and June 15, 2018

**Graduation Rate**– students in the four-year on-time graduation cohort file (includes graduates and non-graduates)

**Academic Achievement and Preparing for Success: English, Algebra, Biology, & US History and the Constitution**– students in the base file of the four-year on-time graduation rate cohort (includes graduates and non-graduates)

**ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL REPORT CARDS**

**Academic Achievement and Preparing for Success: English, Math, Science and Social Studies** – Students who were enrolled on the 45th day of the school year and on the 160th day of the school year, with no break in enrollment.

**Student Progress** - all students in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics in elementary and middle schools that have been operational for more than one year.

**Q:** The overall index score for my elementary school is the same as the middle school down the street, but why is my school rating Average and that other school Above Average?

**A:** The index scores that determine ratings are specific to the school level. For example, an overall index score of 38 is assigned a rating of Below Average for an elementary school, Average for a middle school, and Unsatisfactory for a high school. The rating score ranges and cut scores are displayed in the table below.

<b>RATING</b>	<b>ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS</b>	<b>MIDDLE SCHOOLS</b>	<b>HIGH SCHOOLS</b>
Excellent	61 to 100	56 to 100	67 to 100
Good	53 to 60	48 to 55	60 to 66
Average	42 to 52	36 to 47	51 to 59
Below Average	34 to 41	29 to 35	40 to 50
Unsatisfactory	33 and below	28 and below	39 and below

**Q:** My school does not have the data that would allow index scores to be calculated for the school progress indicator, but I have an overall index score and rating. Why?

**A:** When an elementary or middle school is missing the student progress data, the achievement index is given double the points.

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### 2017-18

**Q:** Why do I not have a rating for each indicator on the elementary report card?

**A:** Ratings are calculated for those indicators included in the overall rating. Indicators not rated still provide useful information about student safety and classroom environment. A rating for English Learner's Progress is only calculated when there are sufficient numbers of students attending the school for whom English is not their native language.

**Q:** Why is prime instructional time missing for my school?

**A:** To calculate this metric, the information provided by schools on the Teacher Attendance Survey, Summer Survey, and student attendance is used. If this information is missing, the school did not answer the following questions on the surveys. The survey portal is closed as of November 26, 2018.

#### **Questions from the Summer Survey used in this calculation**

##### **TEACHER FTE FOR STUDENT/TEACHER RATIO CALCULATION**

Grades K-12 Teacher FTE – Total number of teachers, in FTE, of self-contained students with disabilities enrolled in grades K-12 in the school:

Grades K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Teacher FTE – Total number of K-5 English/language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies regular classroom teachers in FTE (EXCLUDING counselors, librarians/media specialists, foreign language teachers, and teachers of art, music, physical education).

##### **TEACHER FTE FOR STUDENT/TEACHER RATIO CALCULATION BY SUBJECT**

Grades 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 Teacher FTE - Total number of 6-12 regular classroom teachers in FTE by subject area. Enter zero if your school has no 6-12 teachers.

English Language Arts FTE: Mathematics FTE: Science FTE: Social Studies FTE:

##### **COURSE ENROLLMENT**

Grades K-12: Unduplicated count of self-contained students with disabilities enrolled in grades K-12 in the school.

Grades K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5: Unduplicated count of students NOT enrolled in self-contained special education classes.

Grades 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12: Unduplicated count of students enrolled in English/Language Arts or Mathematics or Science or Social Studies courses: Exclude students in self-contained special education classes.

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- Q:** The denominator for the end-of-course test results at the district level is not the same as the school denominators summed. Isn't the district denominator the sum of the school denominators?
- A:** The denominator for the end-of-course test results is the four-year on-time graduation cohort. Sometimes this graduation cohort file includes high school age special education students who are housed in a middle school and are then included in the district denominator not a high school, thus the district denominator may differ slightly than the local high school.
- Q:** The items "Second graders who are on track for success in English Language Arts at the third grade" and "Second graders who are on track for success in Mathematics at the third grade" are wrong.
- A:** These two items and the items about first graders on track for success at the second grade are questions on the Summer Survey. The information displayed on the report card is the same information entered into the Summer Survey. The survey portal closed as of November 26, 2018.
- Q:** In the College & Career Readiness section of the report card, the information appearing on bar charts on each screen matches, but when you click on the left of the screen to look at the results for the individual components, those numbers do not match.
- A:** The data displayed under the individual test results and dual enrollment are from the 2017-18 school year only. That information is noted at the top of that column. The College & Career Readiness data displayed in bar charts are the results of matching to the students who earned a diploma from June 16, 2017 through June 15, 2018.
- Q:** On the College and Career Readiness (Detail) page the number on the right side of the bar charts are wrong. (17/200)
- A:** These numbers display the proportion of your diploma earners who met the criteria for college/career readiness on the specific item. If 17/200 appears next to the SAT bar, this means that 17 of the 200 diploma earners at your school scored 1020 or greater on the SAT. This does not mean that 183 students did not score 1020 or greater. It is possible that only 50 students even took the SAT. Similarly, if your school does not have an International Baccalaureate (IB) program the numbers displayed next to "Diploma earners who earned an IB score of four or higher" will be 0/200, since you had no students in an IB program and would not administer IB exams.
- Q:** The assessment results appearing on the report card do not match the reports on the SCDE website.
- A:** The reports on the SCDE website display assessment results for all students who took the assessment at the school. Assessment results displayed on the report cards are for a subset of all students based on continuous enrollment or are based on longitudinal data.

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**Q:** Where does the number of students completing a FAFSA come from?

**A:** The US Department of Education reports that information at this website:  
<https://studentaid.ed.gov/about/data-center/student/application-volume/fafsa-completion-high-school>

**Q:** Where can I find more detailed information about the report card data elements and calculation methodologies?

**A:** The 2017-18 Accountability Manual prepared by the Education Oversight Committee details the data elements to appear in the report card and calculation methodologies. The document is available here:  
<https://eoc.sc.gov/sites/default/files/Documents/RC%202018%20Info/AcctManual.09042018.pdf>

**Q:** Are there any resources we can share with parents that would explain the report cards?

**A:** A document prepared by the Education Oversight Committee for the general public is available here: <https://eoc.sc.gov/school-report-cards/information-families-and-communities>