

Parents' Guide to Progress Reports 2008-09

The Progress Report measures each school's contribution to students' academic performance and progress. Every fall, each school receives a Progress Report that includes a letter grade of A, B, C, D, or F based on the school's success in helping students learn during the previous school year. Families can use Progress Reports to choose among schools and to identify areas in which their schools are performing well and areas in which their schools can improve.

The Progress Report is one of many tools the Department of Education created to enable families to see for themselves how well their schools are helping children learn and progress. The more parents know about their children's schools, the more informed their choices will be, and the better they'll be able to support their children's learning—both in the classroom and out of it.

The Progress Report evaluates schools in three areas:

1. **School Environment** evaluates student attendance as well as the necessary conditions for student learning as determined by direct feedback from parents, teachers, and students on the Learning Environment Survey.
2. **Student Performance** evaluates elementary and middle schools' student skill levels in English Language Arts and math as measured by results of State exams. For high schools, Student Performance evaluates a school's graduation rate.
3. **Student Progress** evaluates elementary and middle schools' average student improvement from one year to the next in English Language Arts and math. For high schools, Student Progress evaluates annual student advancement toward graduation.

Schools also receive additional credit for helping high-need students advance. Schools' performance in each area is evaluated relative to the performance of all schools serving the same grades citywide and to a unique peer group of up to 40 schools that serve the most similar students across the City.

Important changes to this year's Progress Reports

Based on feedback we received from parents, schools, and community leaders, we've made some important changes to the how schools are graded this year. The most important changes are described below.

- We're giving schools a letter grade in all three categories in which they are evaluated, as well as one overall letter grade that aggregates the three.
- We're doing more to reflect the challenge that schools undertake by serving special education and other high-need students.
- We're recognizing all students who score at Level 4 in consecutive years as having made one year of progress. This way, schools with consistently high-scoring students will receive greater recognition for their students' progress.

For more information, please visit www.nyc.gov/schools/Accountability/SchoolReports/ProgressReports.

How to access your school's Progress Report

2006-07 Progress Reports are available online. 2007-08 elementary and middle school Progress Reports will be available online in early fall, and high school Progress Reports will be available online later this fall. To get your Progress Report online, please follow these steps:

1. Go to the New York City Department of Education Web site at www.nyc.gov/schools
2. Enter the school code or school name in the green section in the middle of the page where it says "FIND A SCHOOL." This will bring you to the school's Web page
3. Click on "Statistics," which is a link on the left side of the page

Click on the report you want to see and it will pop up. (You must have the free program Adobe Acrobat on your computer to view the report.) Translated guides for the Progress Reports are available at www.nyc.gov/schools/Accountability/SchoolReports/ProgressReports.