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Blake A. Peuse
Superintendent

District and School Accountability Report Cards

December 5, 2017

Dear Parents,

Our school year is off to an excellent start! We are excited about our efforts toward building highly effective instructional experiences for all students through our Gradual Release of Responsibility (GRR) Instructional Framework, advancing initiatives with kinder and more compassionate schools, and growing district capacity with technology. As a learning community, we are continually looking to improve student achievement in the St. Francis School District. One source we use to reflect on our strengths and areas for improvement is the District and School Report Cards.

The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) creates a School Report Card and District Report Card for every publicly funded school and district in the state. These report cards can be accessed online here: <http://dpi.wi.gov/accountability/report-cards>. The Report Cards are intended to help all schools and districts utilize data on specific measures to target improvement efforts to ensure students are ready for the next educational step – including the next grade level, graduation, college, and careers. With this link, you will also be able to see previous years' report cards as well as report cards from other districts. Please keep in mind, however, that the report card was not issued for the 2014-15 school year and that the scoring was changed in the 2015-2016 report card.

The overall idea for how report cards work is the same. At the foundation of the report cards are four priority areas. Schools and districts receive a score for each priority area:

- **Student Achievement** proficiency in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics on state assessments (Forward and ACT)
- **Student Growth** measured by year-to-year improvements in achievement
- **Closing Gaps** in performance between specific student groups (comparing English language learners, low-income students, students with disabilities, and members of a racial or an ethnic group with their peers)
- **On-Track and Postsecondary Readiness** is a measurement using reliable predictors of high school graduation and potential post high school success

The priority area scores are then aggregated into an overall accountability score, from 0 to 100. This score is displayed in the top left corner 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. The score is primarily based on our performance last year, the 2016-17 school year, across the four priority areas.

Schools and districts are also evaluated on their level of student engagement – test participation rates, chronic absenteeism rates, and dropout rates when applicable. 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 one to five stars. The St. Francis School District received an overall Accountability Score of 72.3, up from 70.4 in 15-16, which is at *Meets Expectations*.

Here is some additional information we would like to share from our St. Francis School District report card:

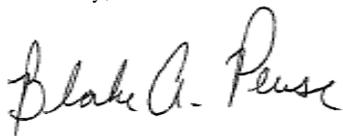
Given the changes required by the legislature in the 2015-16 school year, many school and district scores changed as compared to previous report cards. The changes include a weighting formula to account for poverty when priority area scores are combined into the overall score; a new method of calculating student growth; and the use of Forward Exam data, now in its second full year of implementation yet still the third state test in four years. For the St. Francis School District, it meant our score increased slightly as compared to the last report card from the 2015-2016 school year.

DPI has produced two versions of each Report Card: a quick one-pager labeled “School Report Card” and lengthier, detailed version labeled, “School Report Card Detail.” Both versions can be accessed online at the link listed above along with resources that explain the report cards. I have included the one page District Report Card for the St. Francis School District here for informational purposes.

Again, as DPI stresses, these report cards are just one source of information about our schools. Given that, our district has other indicators, such as MAP and STAR that help illuminate some of the successes and areas for future progress in our schools and district. We would also like to direct you to our website at www.stfrancisschools.org for further information on our continuing efforts to provide high quality instruction and information that shows a great breadth and depth of educational improvement for all students in the St. Francis School District.

Please let me know your thoughts and questions as they arise. I look forward to working with you to make 2017-18 a successful school year for your child!

Sincerely,



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