# 2024-25 School and District Report Cards:
## Scoring Updates Resource

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## Executive Summary

The following scoring updates will take effect on the 2024-25 report cards:

- Two Years of Achievement Data
- No 2023-24 Scale Adjustment
- Norming Update

### 1. Use of Two Years of Achievement Data

Achievement scores on the 2024-25 report cards will use two years of data, 2023-24 and 2024-25, reflecting the transition to updated statewide assessments. Normally, up to three years of data are used (when available). The three-year approach will resume with the 2025-26 report cards.

### 2. Discontinuation of the 2023-24 Scale Adjustment

To stabilize scores and to support year-over-year comparability, the 2023-24 report cards applied a one-year-only scale adjustment to Achievement scores to align them with 2022-23 distributions. This temporary adjustment has been removed for 2024-25 report cards, as the new assessments are now fully implemented and only the new assessments will be included in the Achievement scores (see 1 above).

### 3. Norming Change: Aligning to Growth

Report cards use an index system, weighted and averaged to create a 0-100 overall score and a corresponding 1-5 star rating. The four priority areas that contribute to this score are: Achievement, Growth, Target Group Outcomes (TGO), and On-Track to Graduation.

Because schools may differ in which priority areas apply, similar scoring distributions across Achievement, Growth and TGO are essential. Otherwise, some schools could receive higher or lower scores simply due to which indicators are present based on data availability. Norming also helps ensure that all priority areas have the appropriate influence on the overall score and rating.

Historically, Growth and TGO have been normed to Achievement, but the new assessments and updated cut scores have shifted Achievement scores and caused bunching at the high end. To prevent this from distorting overall ratings, Achievement and TGO will be normed to Growth, the most stable distribution, in 2024-25.

This “norming” adjustment ensures the overall score and rating system is consistent and fair across schools, so that the 2025 standard setting panelists have a comparable distribution across Achievement, Growth, and TGO priority areas from which to establish new cut scores.

**Note:** *A report card standard setting took place over the summer of 2025 in which a panel of education leaders across Wisconsin made recommendations to the report card rating category score ranges. A copy of this resource was shared with the panelists prior to the standard setting. The scoring updates described in this resource were also factored into the preliminary data that the 2025 report card standard setting panelists utilized in determining their overall score range recommendations.*

## Introduction

This document outlines the scoring updates that will take effect for the 2024-25 school and district report cards: achievement scoring will be calculated using two years of assessment results, the 2023-24 scale adjustment that was applied to achievement scoring will no longer be used, and the Achievement and Target Group Outcomes (TGO) priority areas will be normed to the Growth priority area. This document does ***not*** describe any changes to the overall rating category score ranges resulting from the 2025 report card standard setting and all results are preliminary until the final release of report cards in November 2025.

## Two Years of Achievement Data

Achievement is scored on the school and district report cards using a points-based proficiency system that gives partial credit for Approaching performance and extra credit for Advanced performance. The score is a multi-year average of English language arts and mathematics component scores. In past years, up to three years of data are used when available (a minimum of two years is required). Achievement scores on the 2024-25 report cards will be calculated by using two years of data (2023-24 and 2024-25), as these achievement data reflect the updates to statewide assessments that took place starting with 2023-24 results. This applies to all achievement scoring components in the Achievement, TGO, and On-Track to Graduation priority areas. The 2025-26 report cards will resume using three years of data.

## No 2023-24 Achievement Scale Adjustment

The assessment cut scores that were updated in 2023-24 resulted in higher proficiency rates compared to previous years. As such, the scoring of achievement on the 2023-24 report cards was modified to allow for comparability and stability in the system and to allow schools and districts to more easily compare the 2023-24 report cards to report cards from 2022-23. Specifically, the DPI applied a "scale adjustment" to the 2023-24 achievement scores to align with the 2022-23 achievement distribution, which, in effect, lowered achievement scores on the school and district report cards. This 2023-24 specific scale adjustment will no longer be applied to achievement scoring on the 2024-25 report cards.

## Norming Achievement and Target Group Outcomes Priority Area Distributions to Growth Priority Area Distribution

School and district report cards utilize an index system that results in an overall score from 0-100. The overall score corresponds to one of five overall report card ratings. The overall score is derived from a weighted average of scores from up to four priority areas: Achievement, Growth, Target Group Outcomes, and On-Track to Graduation.

In order to make scoring fair across schools and districts with differing priority areas and weights, the Achievement, Growth, and TGO priority areas must have similar scoring distributions. Otherwise, the presence or absence of a priority area could impact how these schools are scored. Figure 1 below shows the preliminary raw distributions for these priority areas, which are *not*

similar, and if left unmodified would make scoring unfair for schools with and without these priority areas.

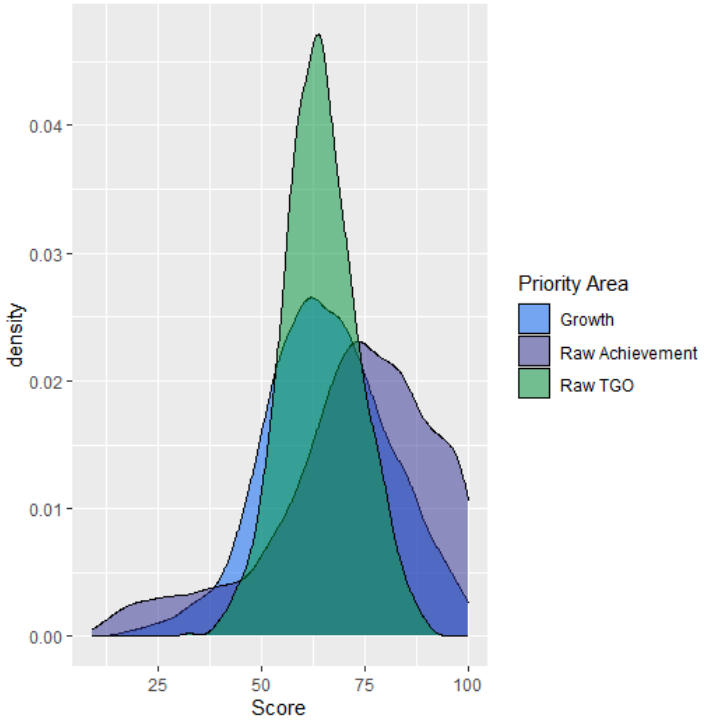


**Fig. 1.** Projected distributions for Growth, raw Achievement, and raw Target Group Outcomes.

In order to make the priority area distributions similar, a mathematical adjustment to align these different distributions must be made - a process called norming. Through the 2023-24 report cards, Growth and TGO priority areas have been normed to align with Achievement, resulting in a similar scoring distribution to the Achievement priority area (Fig. 2).

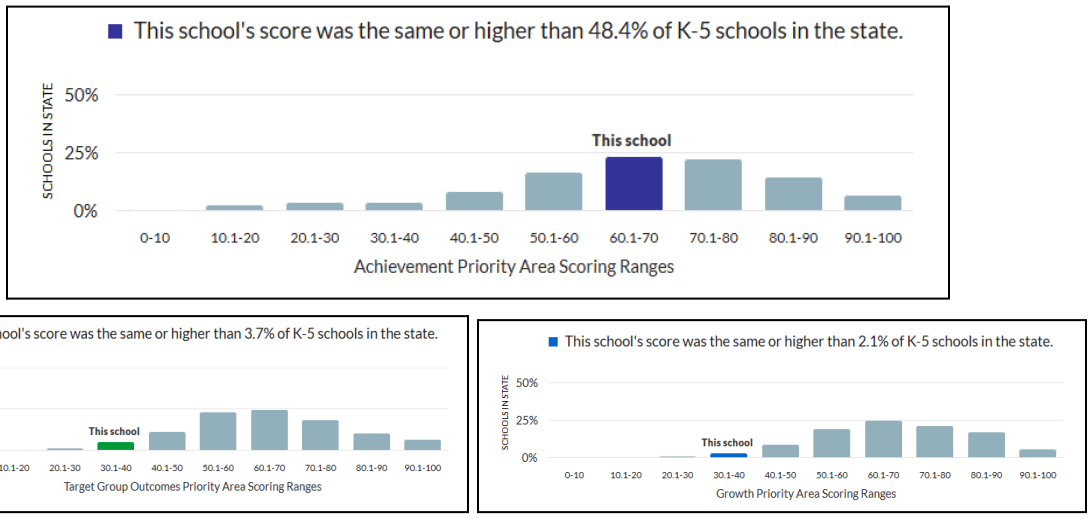


**Fig. 2.** K-5 Achievement, Growth, and Target Group Outcomes distributions from the 2023-24 report card.

With the 2023-24 updates to assessments and assessment cut scores, our analysis determined that the statewide distribution of Achievement scores will shift up, with bunching at the high end of the distribution. If Growth and TGO continue to be normed to Achievement, the score distributions for each of these priority areas would also rise with bunching at the high end. As a result, overall scores and score distributions would increase, resulting in inaccurate perceptions of overall school and district performance.

To address this, DPI consulted with a panel of district and CESA accountability experts and the Wisconsin Accountability Technical Advisory Committee. Both groups advised that Achievement and TGO should be normed to the Growth priority area distribution to mitigate the effect of rightward bunching. By norming to Growth instead of Achievement, the three impacted priority areas (Achievement, Growth, and Target Group Outcomes) will have similar score distributions to each other making overall scoring comparable and fair (Fig 3).

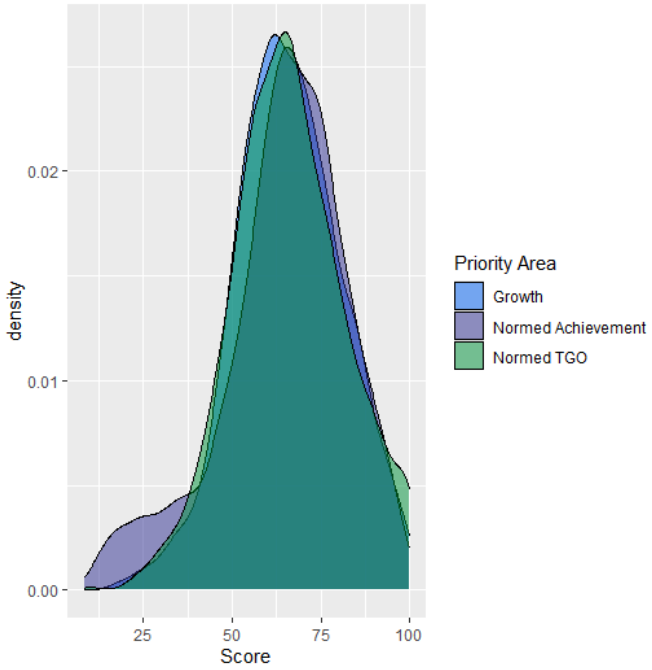


**Fig. 3.** Achievement and Target Group Outcomes distributions normed to Growth.

To align the distributions of Achievement priority area, the TGO priority area, and the Achievement-based component scores of the TGO priority area, and the On-Track to Graduation priority area to the Growth priority area, a linear transformation is performed to all pre-normed values. The methodology used in this process matches historical norming practices used in report card calculations in which the formula is derived by equating the 25th and 75th percentile values of the distributions. See the complete walkthrough on how to calculate these scores in the Report Card Technical Guide.

*Please visit the Report Card Resources page to find additional resources. You can also contact the OEA team with questions at reportcardhelp@dpi.wi.gov.*