

Frequently Asked Questions About Oklahoma's A-F School Grading System



■ What is the A-F School Grading System?

The A-F School Grading System gives all schools and school districts in the state of Oklahoma a grade of A, B, C, D, or F, similar to grades given to students. The A-F grading system will be implemented for the 2012-13 school year based on data from the 2011-12 school year, and will be reported annually thereafter. The reform offers easy-to-understand and concise information for parents and citizens, so they can access information about schools quickly and at their fingertips.

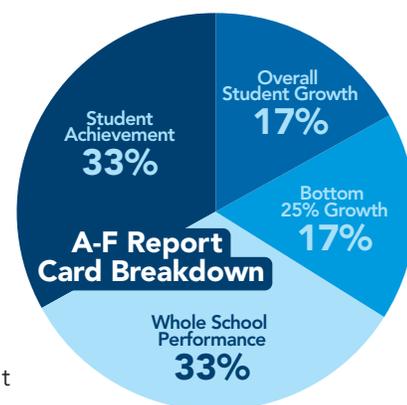
■ Why is an A-F School Report Card important?

In 2011, the Oklahoma Legislature adopted the A-F School Grading System to provide incentives to schools to challenge all students to reach high levels of college and career readiness. A-F report cards will be used to help schools focus on areas of excellence as well as areas where improvement is needed. The new A-F report cards will make school performance clear in a transparent manner easily communicated to the public. The new report cards also will give schools a tool to encourage more parental and community involvement. Schools with higher levels of parent and community involvement have a better chance of succeeding. With this important reform, Oklahoma is empowering everyone — whether school administrators, parents, classroom teachers or citizens — to make informed choices and to identify ways to strengthen and improve all of our schools for the benefit of each student in Oklahoma. Each school's and district's report card will be available to the public on the State Department of Education's Website. The State Department of Education will develop an honor roll of schools that receive an "A".

■ How is a school or district's A-F grade calculated?

A-F Report Card grades are calculated using the following four categories:

- 33 percent of a school's grade will be based on **student achievement** on state exams.
- 33 percent of the grade will be based on **whole school performance** factors such as student attendance rates, dropout rates, graduation rates, advanced course participation and performance, and more. Bonus factors are school climate surveys, and parent and community involvement.
- 17 percent of the grade is **overall student growth**.
- The remaining 17 percent is **student growth of the bottom 25 percent of students**.



A letter grade will be awarded in each of these categories and combined to award an overall letter grade for a school. Districts will receive report cards based on the grades of all school sites in the district. The State Department of Education in April released a comprehensive A-F Report Card technical guide (go.usa.gov/7q1) to all Oklahoma school districts. The technical guide explains each factor used to determine grades and gives schools and districts a step-by-step methodology to calculate their own grades.

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■ When can schools and districts expect to receive their A-F grades?

Preliminary embargoed data will be released in draft form to districts by late August. The districts will have 30 days to review the data used to factor the grades and/or request a review of the grade received. Once requests and corrections have been approved, report cards will be released to the public.

■ Where can I find rules governing the implementation of A-F?

In compliance with the new state law directing an A-F School Grading System, the Oklahoma State Department of Education developed detailed rules for implementation of the reform. These rules were approved by the State Legislature and Governor Mary Fallin during the 2012 legislative session. The entire rules document can be found on the Oklahoma State Department of Education Website at go.usa.gov/7q2.

■ What is the law governing A-F?

In 2011, the Oklahoma State Legislature passed House Bill 1456, authored by State Representative Lee Denney (R-Cushing) and State Senator Clark Jolley (R-Edmond). Governor Mary Fallin signed HB 1456 into law in the spring of 2011. The text of the bill can be located at go.usa.gov/7q4.

