



Higher WKCE Expectations Adopted for Math and Reading

In the School District of Greenfield, and across the state of Wisconsin, we are working to ensure that our students are ready for further education and future careers. Our state assessment has been changing to reflect this priority.

In the next couple of months, Wisconsin public schools will receive the results of the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examinations (WKCE) that students in Grades 3 through 8 and 10 took this fall. This year, Wisconsin raised the WKCE scores needed for students to reach the basic, proficient, and advanced performance levels in reading and math. As a result, fewer students will attain a ranking of “proficient” or “advanced” than in the past. Please remember that the reason many students’ proficiency levels will be lower this year is because the bar has been raised. Note that even with growth our children may have a lower proficiency levels due to the higher expectations the state has put in place for students and schools. This is a reflection of the higher standards that are essential if we want to raise the achievement of our students.

Higher expectations have been established as a better measure of student progress toward college and career readiness.

The new college and career readiness proficiency levels are based on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), often called the “Nation’s Report Card.” The adoption of NAEP performance standards is part of a statewide plan to continue to improve school performance, and part of a national movement to prepare all American high school graduates to compete in a global society.

The change affects WKCE results for reading and math. It does not affect other WKCE content areas, such as social studies, science, and language arts, or WAA-SwD scores, an alternative assessment taken by a small portion of Wisconsin students.

The School District of Greenfield is moving with the state of Wisconsin on a rapid trajectory toward higher standards. This includes implementation of the Common Core State Standards, Wisconsin School Report Cards, upgraded curriculum standards for students with disabilities and English language learners, and improved next-generation assessments. Raising the WKCE benchmarks is part of a strategic effort to ensure our children are ready for college and careers in today’s rapidly changing, global society and economy.

Adjusting to higher expectations for student performance is a challenging endeavor, but it is essential if we want to raise the achievement of our students and of our schools. We look forward to our continued work together to ensure this achievement!