

# Michigan's Parent Dashboard for School Transparency

## *Facts for School and Community Leaders*

### MiSchoolData.org/ParentDashboard

Michigan has updated the way it provides transparency about its public schools and how well they are performing.

The online [Parent Dashboard](#)—which received more than 1,000,000 views in its first year--shows the performance of every public school in Michigan, including public school academies, also known as charter schools.

Phase II of the Dashboard, released January 2019, offer families and others an even more complete picture of how their child's school is providing services to students. It includes:

- Updated data, from the most recent school year
- New metrics (measures) for students and staff
- School Services and Offerings—describing some of a school's unique "Points of Pride"
- Enhanced school search and mapping functions
- Ability to view the schools included in peer average calculations for each metric (measure) by distance or characteristic

Families also can use the dashboard to compare a school's performance with the average performance of other similar Michigan schools.

The creation of an easy-to-use Parent Dashboard is rooted in the belief that *all* Michigan residents have a right to know how well public education is serving our state's children.

### What's the Dashboard all about?

After the passage of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act in December 2015, every state got the opportunity to revise their accountability systems to improve their schools and ensure students are prepared with all the learning and skills they need for their future.

In Michigan, literally thousands of stakeholders called for information that was easier to understand and that relied on more than just state test scores.

That's why in 2017, Michigan's State Board of Education called for a parent-friendly dashboard that can show a more complete picture of how students and schools are doing.

While it's not part of Michigan's formal Accountability plan under ESSA, the parent dashboard complements other state and federal reporting to give parents and communities clear answers about measures that matter to them.

### Who created the Parent Dashboard?

The Parent Dashboard is a website created by the Michigan Department of Education (MDE), in collaboration with the Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI), for parents and other caregivers who are interested in learning more about schools at the **building level**.

Parents and other people interested in education played a big role in the planning and design of the website throughout the process. Parent feedback will continue to be gathered and used for future phases of the dashboard.

## How can parents use the new Dashboard?

The website is designed to meet two major needs identified by parents:

- I want to improve the way my child learns and the ability of his or her school to serve our family.
- I want an easier way to research schools where my child is likely to attend.

Families and others also can use the dashboard to compare any school's performance with the average performance of other similar Michigan schools.

## What is included in the Parent Dashboard?

- The Parent Dashboard is filled with important school-level information that parents and others are interested in knowing about their child's public schools.
- The dashboard is a user-friendly tool that reports on more than 20 different factors—or measures—that parents and other stakeholders have said are important to them when evaluating the quality of a school.
- Phase 2 (Released January 2019) includes the following measures:  
(New metrics in **blue**)

### **SCHOOL OVERVIEW DATA**

- State assessment performance
- State assessment progress
- Students with on-track attendance
- English Learner progress
- Assessment participation

#### Non-secondary:

- Ratio of students to instructional staff
- **Teacher retention**
- **Qualified teaching staff**

#### Secondary:

- Graduation rate
- Advanced Coursework  
(e.g. Advanced Placement, early middle college, International Baccalaureate (IB), dual enrollment, career/technical education)
- Postsecondary Enrollment

### **ADDITIONAL DATA**

#### **School**

- Student support staff
- **Teacher years of experience**

#### **Student**

- Student transfers
- Dropout rate
- Attendance rate
- College & Career Readiness:
  - Enrolling and passing coursework
  - Graduates proficient on the SAT
  - Postsecondary Persistence
  - Postsecondary Completion

*NEW in 2019! SCHOOL SERVICES AND OFFERINGS: voluntary submissions by schools describing their “Points of Pride”*

- Advanced Placement (AP)
- Arts
- Career Technical Education (CTE)
- Clubs
- Comprehensive Support Services
- Early Learning Access in the Public School System
- International Baccalaureate (IB)
- Music
- National Honor Society
- Out-of-School Time Programming
- Partnerships with Other Agencies
- Recess
- School-sponsored Sports
- Services for Students with Disabilities
- Services for English Learners
- Student Mentorship Program
- World Languages

### Where does the information come from to populate the dashboard?

- Most information included in the dashboard comes from data that already are collected from schools.
- Most items in the School Services and Offerings section—released during Phase 2 in January 2019—comes from information submitted voluntarily by schools through the Education Entity Master (EEM). A few items come from data already collected from schools through the Michigan Student Data System (MSDS).

### Why a dashboard?

- The Parent Dashboard resulted in part from stakeholder input during Michigan’s planning for the federal Every Student Succeeds Act and is an essential component in Michigan’s plan to become a Top 10 education state.
- The easy-to-use Parent Dashboard allows every parent and caregiver to view and understand school information.
- The information in the Dashboard can inform decisions and encourage richer conversations about school progress—with their kids, with other parents, with school leaders, and within their communities.
- Users say the dashboard is easier to understand and offers a more balanced picture of school quality than MDE's former school report card, which assigned each school one of five colors based on student performance.

### Where does this tool fit within Michigan’s overall accountability system?

- The Parent Dashboard is Michigan’s newest tool in its commitment to provide transparency concerning school and district performance.
- The Parent Dashboard was designed specifically with the needs of parents in mind. Parent input and ideas for improvements played a big role during the development of this new tool.
- The Parent Dashboard complements other state accountability tools such as the School Report Card (required by Federal ESSA law) and financial data reporting (required by Michigan law).

## Can educators and the public provide input or suggest improvements?

- Yes! The dashboard is a “living tool” that will be updated as new school data becomes available, including additional measures.
- Broad feedback will help shape the current and future versions of the dashboard so that it is helpful to parents in every community.
- The current version of the Dashboard represents Phase Two of a three-phase process.
- The Michigan Department of Education’s [Parent Dashboard information page](#) ([www.michigan.gov/MDE-ParentDashboard](http://www.michigan.gov/MDE-ParentDashboard)) offers more detail.
- Links within the dashboard allow users to provide input for future improvements or revisions. Users can also provide feedback by emailing [MDE-ParentDashboard@michigan.gov](mailto:MDE-ParentDashboard@michigan.gov).