



Milwaukee Public Schools

2003–2004

District Report Card



Student Achievement Data – At A Glance

Achievement Trends		Student Achievement Data			Brief Analysis			
Category	Description	Data Groups	2000-01	2003-04		+/-		
Enrollment	Enrollments reflect the total number of students served by MPS, including contracted early childhood programs, Headstart, and K4.	K – 12	97,941	97,359	- 635	Enrollment in MPS schools has declined since the 2000-01 school year. An increasing number of Milwaukee families choose suburban schools under open enrollment or voucher schools under the Choice Program.		
Student Attendance	Attendance is calculated by grade span and reflects the number of days attended divided by the total number of days scheduled.	K – 5	93%	93%	No Change	Student attendance rates have been stable at the elementary level while showing improvements at the secondary level.		
		6 – 8	86.9%	88.4%	+ 1.5%			
		9 – 12	76.1%	80.1%	+ 4.0%			
High School Dropouts	The dropout rate accounts for all grade 9-12 dropouts, divided by the grade 9 – 12 Third Friday enrollment.	9 – 12	10.6%	Not Yet Available	-	Beginning with 2003-04, the WI Department of Public Instruction will compile and report dropout information from statewide files.		
High School Graduation Rate	The graduation rate is calculated using a quasi-longitudinal method developed by the National Center for Education Statistics.	9 – 12	55%	64% (est.)	+ 9%	The 2003-04 graduation rate is estimated; the WI Department of Public Instruction will publish the final rate sometime in 2005.		
Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examination (WKCE)	The state of Wisconsin annually assesses students' skills in reading, English language arts, math, science and social studies in grades 4, 8, and 10 using the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examinations (WKCE). Results of the assessments are reported in terms of the percent of students attaining scores in the proficient and advanced ranges. These results are used for school accountability under No Child Left Behind.	Grade 4		Reading	52%	67%	+ 15%	In the past four years, significant improvements in student achievement have been observed at the elementary level across all subject areas. Science and math results have been lower than the other content areas.
		Grade 4		Language Arts	41%	64%	+ 23%	
		Grade 4		Math	35%	53%	+ 18%	
		Grade 4		Science	40%	57%	+ 17%	
		Grade 4		Social Studies	50%	76%	+ 26%	
		Grade 8		Reading	37%	52%	+ 15%	
		Grade 8		Language Arts	27%	42%	+ 15%	
		Grade 8		Math	8%	29%	+ 21%	
		Grade 8		Science	19%	29%	+ 10%	
		Grade 8		Social Studies	39%	52%	+ 13%	
		Grade 10		Reading	34%	36%	+ 2%	
		Grade 10		Language Arts	27%	35%	+ 8%	
Grade 10		Math	10%	29%	+ 19%			
Grade 10		Science	15%	29%	+ 14%			
Grade 10		Social Studies	36%	34%	- 2%			



Milwaukee Public Schools 2003-04 District Report Card

Highlights of Student Achievement and Outcomes

This year's Report Card of school and district achievement reveals that elementary schools again are leading the way in performance on the state's assessments (WKCE and WRCT). There were notable increases in student attendance rates at the middle grades and high schools. The percentage of students promoted to the next grade rose significantly in high school grades in 2003-04, and the district's high school graduation rate rose for the 4th straight year. While these are important achievements, there is need for greater achievement at the middle and high schools. The district's initiatives to expand K-8 schools and redesign high schools are intended to help better connect students to learning and in turn, improve student achievement.

Elementary schools leading district achievement gains:

- The percentage of grade 4 students scoring at/above the proficient level rose in all five subject areas assessed on the WKCE in 2003-04 over the year before, including a 5 percentage point gain in reading (62% to 67%) and a 7 percentage point rise in math (46% to 53%).
- Nearly 7 of every 10 elementary schools posted gains in reading and math in 2003-04.
- Of the lowest achieving elementary schools in 2002-03, the average gain in percent scoring at/above proficient was 8 percentage points in reading and 12 points higher in mathematics.
- Just over 40% of all MPS elementary schools met, exceeded or were within 90% of the statewide percentage of students scoring proficient/above in reading in 2003-04, up from 32% the year before and 18% the year before that.

In math, nearly 35% of all MPS elementary schools met, exceeded or were within 90% of the statewide percentage of students reaching the proficient/above level in 2003-04, compared to 25% the year before and 18% the year before that.

Grade 8 and 10 achievement picture is more mixed:

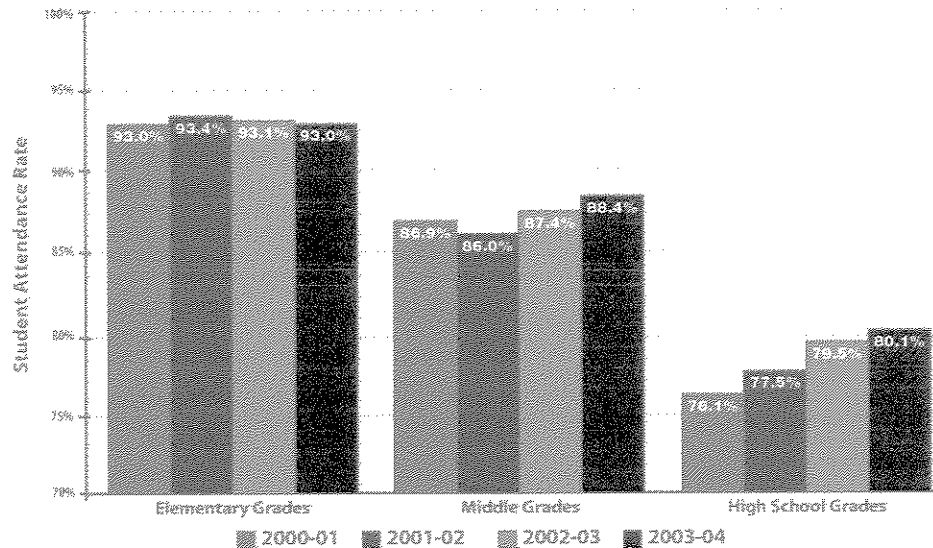
- As with the state, the percentage of 8th graders scoring at/above proficient declined in reading, math and science last year, but the percent rose in language arts and social studies.

At grade 10, the percentage of students reaching the proficient/above level rose in math, science and social studies, but declined from last year in reading and language arts.

Achievement gaps are narrowing:

- The achievement gap with the state has narrowed in each of the last 4 years, particularly at grade 4 in reading (26% to 15%) and in math (30% to 21%).
- The achievement gap between whites and African Americans in grade 4 Reading has decreased from 30% to 21% in reading over the last four years and in grade 8 reading from 34% to 27%.
- The achievement gap between whites and Hispanics has narrowed over the last four years in grade 4 Reading by 17 percentage points (36% to 19%) and by 10 points in grade 8 Reading (29% to 19%).
- While these are positive trends, the achievement gap between whites and African Americans and Hispanics is widest in the upper grades and actually widened at grade 10 in 2003-04.

Student Attendance Rate — By Grade Level



Student attendance rose at middle and high school grade levels in 2003-04:

- Student attendance in 2003-04 remained at about 93% at elementary grades but rose to over 88% at middle grades and increased to over 80% overall at the high schools for the first time in many years in 2003-04.
- Nearly two-thirds of all MPS middle grade schools and high schools had higher attendance rates in 2003-04 compared to the year before.
- The four high schools (20% of all MPS general high schools) with the lowest attendance rates in 2002-03 had an average rise in student attendance of more than 4 percentage points in 2003-04.

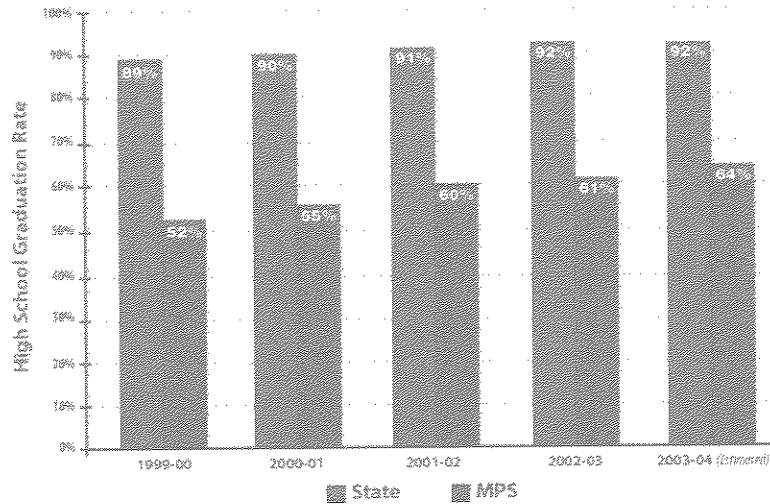
Student suspension rate declines again at the middle grade level:

- The percentage of students suspended at least once has declined for the last two years at the middle grade level, historically the grade level with the highest number of suspensions. And, of the 65 schools with middle grade students, schools with the highest rates of suspension the year before had the sharpest drop (an average of 12 percentage points less) in 2003-04.
- However, the percent of students suspended rose at every grade at the high school level, with the highest rate at grade 9 with 44% of all students enrolled suspended at least once in 2003-04.

Promotion rates improve across all high school grades 9, 10, 11 and 12:

- Proportionately more students successfully moved to the next high school grade in 2003-04 compared to the year before; grade 9 to 10 (74% to 78%), grade 10 to 11 (85% to 89%), grade 11 to 12 (85% to 90%) and from grade 12 to graduation (92% to 94%).
- Almost 80% of the 21 MPS high schools recorded an improvement in the percent of high school students successfully moving to the next grade in 2003-04 compared to the year before.

MPS and State High School Graduation Rate



Student enrollment in Advanced Placement (AP) courses rises:

A total of 79 AP courses were offered at 18 MPS high schools last year. Semester enrollment in AP courses rose by over 7%, with a significant increase for African Americans. A total of 798 students took AP exams last year, an increase of 36% compared to the year before.

Graduation rate has risen four straight years:

- The estimated high school graduation rate for 2003-04 is 64%, the fourth straight year of increase (52% in 1999-00, 55% in 2000-01, 60% in 2001-02, 61% in 2002-03, and 64% in 2003-04).

Number of SIFI schools drops in 2003-04:

- A total of 29 traditional and 11 alternative/partnership/other Schools were Identified For Improvement (SIFI) in 2003-04 (about 20% of all 217 schools). The number is down from 2002-03 when 57 schools were identified for improvement.

A full version of The MPS Report Card can be viewed on the MPS Web site at:

www.milwaukee.k12.wi.us

Click on Administration, then Office of the Superintendent, then Assessment and Accountability.

Click on Data/Reports.

If you have additional questions, please contact the Office of the Superintendent at (414) 475-8001.

Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examination (WKCE) — All Subjects

