

PA School Performance Profile: Year 2 Profiles Now Available

In 2013, the Pennsylvania Department of Education released the Pennsylvania School Performance Profile (SPP). This public site (<http://www.paschoolperformance.org>) provides an academic performance score for public schools in the state.

A new feature of the SPP site is the ability to view trend analysis. Users can select the graph icon and see performance trends from Year 1 of the SPP to the current display. This feature is available for the building level academic score and for each performance measure.

An addition from last year is the ability of an International Baccalaureate (IB) school to earn extra credit for advanced achievement for 12th-grade students scoring 4 or higher on an IB exam taken over the course of their educational experience. This is in addition to extra credit for 12th-grade students scoring 3 or higher on at least one AP exam taken over the course of their educational experience.

The 2013-14 School Performance Profile scores have been calculated based upon 2013-14 assessment data, including PSSA, PASA, and Keystone Exam performance as well as progress schools have made in closing the achievement gap in science. As Pennsylvania is transitioning to more rigorous standards and assessments in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics, closing the achievement gap data/results will not be reported until 2015-16 for ELA/Literature and Mathematics/Algebra I as 2014-15 will serve as the baseline year for these subjects.

The School Performance Profile is based upon many data points. State assessment scores, college readiness tests, industry standards-based assessments, progress in closing achievement gaps, and degree of student growth over time are factored into the scoring while other identifiers of high-achieving schools are also considered: graduation, promotion and attendance rates as well as evidence of offering rigorous courses factor into the calculation. Schools may also earn extra points beyond the 100 point scoring system for those students who have earned advanced scores on the state, industry, and Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate exams.

In addition to the scoring aspect of the site, the public can compare schools within their geographical area and across the state. For schools, the site also offers supports to consider as they identify needs associated with the performance measures in the School Performance Profile.

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