

## News Release

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### Wisconsin among national leaders in ECS school accountability report

MADISON — Wisconsin’s school and school district report cards were ranked in the top six in the nation by parents for their ease of reading and usefulness in a recent report by the Education Commission of the States. Additionally, that report put the state in the top nine for overall public school accountability systems.

The ECS Report, *“Rating States, Grading Schools: What Parents and Experts Say States Should Consider to Make School Accountability Systems Meaningful,”* praised Wisconsin as one of “only two states whose report cards were top picks by parents while also meeting and reporting all five essential indicators.”

“Wisconsin is a state dedicated to creating a high-quality accountability system and to effectively communicating the results of such a system to the public,” said ECS President Jeremy Anderson. “Transparency of accountability systems is essential for parents, educators, and policymakers to make informed decisions about their students and schools.”

“Wisconsin’s place among the top states is a testament to the hard work by many stakeholders,” said State Superintendent Tony Evers. “I am especially pleased that Wisconsin was named by parents as having one of the best report cards. They are the target audience of this data and providing it to them in an accessible fashion is critical.”

The ECS report asked three different groups of people — researchers, parents, and experts — to evaluate each state’s accountability system and report cards. The researchers were asked to rank the difficulty of finding report cards; parents were asked to rank report cards based on ease of reading, providing sufficient data, and overall usefulness; and experts selected five categories — student achievement, student academic growth, achievement gaps closure, graduation rates, and postsecondary and career readiness— as essential for a state school accountability system.

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**NOTES:** A Wisconsin specific report prepared by ECS is available on the Department of Public Instruction newsroom website <http://news.dpi.wi.gov/newsroom>. The full report, *“Rating States, Grading Schools: What Parents and Experts Say States Should Consider to Make School Accountability Systems Meaningful,”* is available at <http://www.ecs.org/docs/rating-states,grading-schools.pdf>. This news release is available online at [http://news.dpi.wi.gov/files/eis/pdf/dpinr2014\\_74.pdf](http://news.dpi.wi.gov/files/eis/pdf/dpinr2014_74.pdf).