

## School Report Card Scavenger Hunt

Everyone, from families to community members to state policymakers, deserves information about the quality of their state's public schools. Unfortunately, that information is often difficult to find and understand. This activity will take you on a tour of your state's report card.

The search terms and questions here are based on the items that the Data Quality Campaign searches for when we review states' annual school report cards. This tool will help you go deeper—looking at school and district performance and starting a conversation about whether the information your state provides about district and school performance meets your needs and the needs of other parents in your community.

### YOUR ROLE

During this exercise, imagine that:

- You are a parent or guardian who has only a few minutes to learn about the schools in your community. You may be a parent who has the opportunity to choose a school for your child or a parent who just wants more information about whether a district or school has what is best for your child.
- You must use your phone or a computer at work or in a public library to access the Internet.
- You may choose to “wear the hat” of another parent as you explore demographic information (e.g., a parent of another race or ethnicity, someone who speaks English as a second language, a military family).

### FIND IT

1. Use your favorite search engine to search for “(Your state's name) school report card.” If you were from Tennessee, you would search for “Tennessee school report card.”
2. Look for your state's report card among the results. Where in the search results did it show up (e.g., third from the top)?
3. Click on the result. What comes up when you click on that link?
4. Once you have landed on your state's report card for the past school year, locate the information about your child's school or school district.

### USE IT

Use the available information about your district or school to answer the following questions. You may need to look at an elementary, a middle, and a high school report card to find answers.

*For further exploration: What data throughout your state's report card is broken down by student group?*

1. Is this report card written and presented in a way that is easy for you to read and understand? Is it written in a language that you speak? Do the descriptions (if any) make sense to you? Is the visual presentation clear?

2. How does the state measure academic performance and other indicators of student performance? What do those indicators tell you?
  
3. Are those academic performance metrics broken out by different groups of students? Federal law requires states to share data that shows they are serving students equitably, which includes breaking down performance data by the following student groups:
  - Race and Ethnicity?
  - Disability Status?
  - English Proficiency?
  - Economic Background?
  - Homeless Status?
  - Migrant Status?
  - Gender?
  - Foster Care Status?
  - Military-Connected Status?
  
4. Who makes up the teaching staff (e.g., demographics, qualifications) and how long have they been teaching? Which students have access to the most qualified teachers?
  
5. Where do students go after high school? Is there information on the many different options students can pursue after high school, or is the information limited to data about specific pathways?
  
6. How do different schools in your district compare to one another? Are you able to compare this year's data to last year's data?
  
7. Did anything else stand out to you about your state's report card?

*For more information on what all 50 states and the District of Columbia report, how they display data, and where they make it easy to access and understand for a public audience, visit [www.dataqualitycampaign.org/showmethedata](http://www.dataqualitycampaign.org/showmethedata).*