

School Quality Snapshot

Frequently Asked Questions for Families

1. What changes are being made to the NYCDOE's school accountability system?

This year, the NYCDOE introduced two new accountability tools that replace the Progress Report and that identify a school's strengths and needs across multiple measures of school quality.

The reports, called the School Quality Snapshot and School Quality Guide, are designed to present information from expert reviews, community feedback, and student and progress achievement data all in one place and in a user-friendly format in order to provide a more complete picture of school quality.

2. What's the *School Quality Snapshot*?

The *School Quality Snapshot* is designed specifically for families and is meant to provide a user-friendly summary of school quality based on multiple measures of a school's practices, the school environment, and student performance.

The *Snapshot* also includes comparisons to citywide, district (for elementary and middle schools), and borough (for high schools) averages to give families a sense of how the school is doing compared to schools that are located in a close to them as well as all schools throughout the city.

The *Snapshot* also includes information about the schools attended and postsecondary options pursued by students after leaving the school.

3. What's the *School Quality Guide*?

The *School Quality Guide* is meant mainly for educators and schools, but it will also be publicly available on the NYCDOE's website for anyone who wants to take a closer look at the school's information.

The *Guide* includes multiple years of data so that trends can be tracked over time. It does not include an overall rating, but does include section ratings based on whether a school meets targets that were set specifically for that school based on the historical performance of similar schools and all schools citywide.

4. Why don't the new reports include an overall rating or letter grade?

The Progress Report letter grades painted an oversimplified and inaccurate picture of school quality. The idea behind removing any sort of overall rating and instead providing different pieces of information about key areas of school quality is to support families in making their own decisions about what aspects of school quality are most important to them, instead of making the decision for them by weighting each section and combining them into an overall score.

5. What kind of information can I find in the School Quality Reports?

Unlike the Progress Report, neither of the new school quality reports includes an overall rating or grade. Instead, the reports include information about the following key areas of school quality:

- [Quality Review](#) - this section includes information from a formal evaluation of the school by an experienced educator based on visiting the school, classroom observations, and conversations with parents, students and school leaders

School Quality Snapshot

Frequently Asked Questions for Families

- **Student Progress**: for elementary and middle schools, this section includes information on student improvement on the State tests in English and math, compared to other students who scored at the same level last year; for high schools, progress students make towards graduation by accumulating credits and passing Regents exams is included here
- **Student Achievement**: for elementary and middle schools, student performance on the State tests in English and math and course pass rates (for middle schools only) are included here; for high schools, graduation rates after four and six years are reported in this section
- **School Environment**: parent, student and teacher satisfaction levels with the school's learning environment, as reported in the [NYC School Survey](#), are found in this section
- **Closing the Achievement Gap**: this section highlights significant gains that schools make with English Language Learners, students with disabilities, and students who scored in the lowest third citywide on State tests last year; movement of students with disabilities into environments with non-disabled peers is also included here
- **College and Career Readiness**: for high schools, student readiness for college and careers, based on their achievements in high school and their outcomes after leaving high school can be found in this section

6. How am I supposed to figure out the quality of a school using the *School Quality Snapshot*?

By not including an overall rating, we're asking families to take a look at the information in each section of the *Snapshot* and place their own value on that information based on what's most important to them. We also urge families to use the *Snapshot* to have a conversation with other members of their school community, including educators, other parents, and their children, about what the information in it means and how they can use that information to improve school quality.

7. Where can I find my school's *School Quality Snapshot*?

School Quality Snapshots and *School Quality Guides* for elementary, middle, K-8 and high schools are available on the [School Quality Report website](#). There you will also find additional resources about the reports including trainings and guides for interpreting them.