2009-10 Progress Report Overview

Department of Education

ELEMENTARY and MIDDLE SCHOOLS

School: **M.S. 51 William Alexander (15K051)**

Principal: Lenore Berner
Address: 350 5 AVENUE
BROOKLYN, NY 11215
Main Phone: 718-369-7603
School Type: Middle
Enrollment: 1071

For a translation of this overview, please visit
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http://schools.nyc.gov/accountability/tools/report

The NYC School Progress Report informs families about the school's strengths and weaknesses, emphasizing how far students have come in the past year. Progress Report grades are made up of 3 sections: student progress, student performance, and school environment. To view your school's Progress Report in detail, visit ARIS Parent Link at arisparentlink.org.

Overall Progress Report Grade

A

Student Progress

B

35.3 out of 60

0 60

The Student Progress grade is based on the *change in student scores* on State tests in English Language Arts and Math *between 2009 and 2010*, compared to other students in the City who started at similar levels.

Student Performance

B

13.5 out of 25

0 25

The Student Performance grade is based on the results of students in your school on *2010* State tests in English Language Arts and Math.

School Environment

B

9.1 out of 15

0 15

The School Environment grade is based on *student attendance* and your school's *NYC School Survey*, where parents, teachers, and students rate academic expectations, safety and respect, communication, and engagement.

Additional Credit

8.0 (15 points max)

Schools receive additional credit if they make exceptional gains with students with disabilities, English Language Learners, and students with the lowest proficiency citywide.

Overall Grade

A

65.9 out of 100

0 100

The Overall Grade is based on the total of all scores above, including additional credit.

Note: In light of changes in State tests and Progress Report methodology, schools cannot drop more than two letter grades from last year to this year. Further, schools with top performance on English and Math tests cannot receive a grade lower than C.

My Student's Performance

1. How can I learn more about my student's academic performance?

To learn about your student's State test scores, grades, and other information, speak to your student's guidance counselor, principal, or teacher. You can also visit ARIS Parent Link at arisparentlink.org.

2. Why did fewer students score "proficient" on State tests this year?

This year, New York State held students to tougher academic standards to help ensure that our students graduate with the skills they need to be successful in college and beyond.

To raise the bar, the State changed the way it graded the English and Math tests so that a score that last year was high enough to earn a rating of 3, or "proficient," this year would only be a rating of 2, or "basic." The tougher grading system resulted in a significant drop in overall ratings across the City and the entire State.

A student whose State test results dropped did not necessarily learn less than in previous years. In fact, City students generally earned scale scores, or actual scores, that were about the same as last year. The State just changed what is needed for each level.

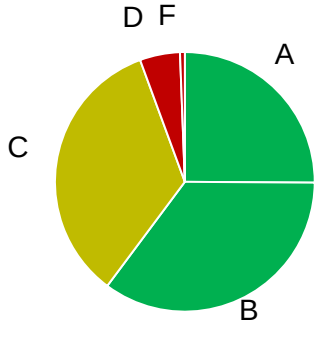
To learn more about what your student's score means for his or her academic achievement, or how as a parent you might help your child directly, speak to your student's guidance counselor, principal, or teacher.

My School's Performance

3. Why did fewer elementary and middle schools earn an "A" on the Progress Report this year?

New York City has also raised the bar by changing the way Progress Report grades are calculated. This year's Progress Report applies a set distribution of grades. This means the percent of schools receiving top grades was set in advance, so only the top scoring schools received As and Bs:

- The top 25% of middle schools received As
- The next 35% received Bs
- The next 34% received Cs
- The next 5% received Ds
- The bottom 0.6% received Fs



4. What happens if a school receives a D or an F?

Schools that receive Ds or Fs, or Cs for 3 years in a row, or that scored below proficient on the school Quality Review, are evaluated to determine the reasons for their poor performance and provided with intensive support so they can improve.

5. Where do I go if I have specific questions about my student's school?

Your school's principal can answer questions about the school, this overview, and the Progress Report.

In addition, many schools have a Parent Coordinator. The Parent Coordinator works to create a welcoming school environment for parents, conduct outreach to engage parents in their children's education, and strengthen parent involvement in their children's education.

To contact your school's principal or Parent Coordinator, call the main office. You can reach this school's main office by calling 718-369-7603.