



Under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the federal education law, Rhode Island updated its School and District Report Cards. These report cards will provide the foundation for our system of school accountability, and include a broader range of performance metrics. We see this as an opportunity to anchor our accountability work in the levers that we know make a difference, including not only traditional indicators – like test scores – but also leading indicators like attendance and suspension rates, which give a more holistic view of school climate, culture, and performance.

These Report Cards are designed to provide data in an accessible, transparent way for educators, policymakers, and, most importantly, students and families. We want all stakeholders to feel empowered to not only understand their school community, but also to make informed decisions for their families.

While the Report Card platform is data driven, we want to give schools and districts the opportunity to provide some context for their community. In 300 words or less, please provide a brief introduction that describes your school or touches upon the issues you think are most important to communicate to the public and to your families, including possible challenges or achievements. Please note that summary data for your school, such as enrollment and number of teachers, and summary data for your district, such as number of schools, is already displayed on the Report Card landing page, so there is no need to include that in your introduction text.

If you are unsure of where to start, review the sample introduction below, or consider the following questions:

- For a family who is new to your school, what do they need to know before they enroll?
- How would you characterize your school’s climate and culture?
- Is there anything you’re particularly proud of in your school?
- What challenges that you face or unique context of your community would help stakeholders to better understand the data?

Sample Introduction:

Below is an example, written about fictional school in a fictional community, which illustrates the types of content you may consider including in your Report Card introduction.

Rhody Elementary is a K-5 school in the diverse and dynamic community of Oceantown, a city of 70,000 residents in central Rhode Island. The mission of Rhody Elementary is to support, teach, and inspire our students to be hard workers, problem solvers, and empathetic global citizens. We live that mission every day, both in and out of the classroom, and we believe wholeheartedly that education does not take place between teacher and student alone. Education flows both ways. Our team of teachers and support professional learn daily from our students, and we learn from our families, as well. Rhody Elementary is a *community*, not just a school.

In our school, as in our community, we face challenges. A lack of affordable housing, in particular, is a significant issue in Oceantown, and as a result, we have a high proportion of student mobility. But with

every challenge comes an opportunity, and we work hard daily to ensure stability and consistency for our students. We also have a large population of English Learners, which presents us with an exciting opportunity to strengthen language instruction across the board. We have embedded dual language instruction in our school, and are educating all students to understand the value of multilingual skills in a 21st century economy.

Rhody Elementary students are far from starting their careers, but we know that the foundation we lay for them today will shape their future tomorrow. We are always looking for new ways to expose our students to the opportunities that await them in secondary school, higher education, and beyond. We know that we are one piece of a continuum of education, and we aim to meet every student where they are and provide personalized instruction and support that will prepare them for what comes next.