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School District Report Cards Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Answers to the following questions are provided to explain federal and state requirements for publishing School District Report Cards.

Question: Is publication of the Report Card in a local newspaper required by law?

Answer: State law requires that the report card "shall be published at least once each school year in a newspaper of general circulation in the county where the school district is located." Section 22-2C-11, NMSA 1978. LEAs MUST publish their report card in a newspaper of general circulation under state law. If districts and state chartered charter schools wish to provide the community additional access to this information, they may use additional means for distribution such as posting on the internet or distribution through public agencies, public libraries, etc. However, these additional venues do not replace the requirement of publication in a local newspaper.

Question: Are school districts and state-chartered charter schools required to publish the "District Report Cards?"

Answer: By statute, the annual report cards are called "School District Report Cards", which encompasses state-chartered charter schools as well as school districts. School districts should also publish the data for all locally authorized charter schools within their school district. This is because under ESEA, locally chartered charter schools are not independent LEAs and therefore the responsibility of publishing the report card falls on the school district that authorized the local charter school. Currently, PED's assessment office issues individual report cards for locally-chartered charter schools that are separate from the school's authorizing district. Nonetheless, a school district should publish the reports for both the district AND for any locally-authorized charter schools within its boundaries. Finally, there are a few circumstances in which a locally authorized charter school has converted itself into a state-chartered charter school within the year of the report card. In these instances, the local school district is still responsible for publishing the charter school's report card since the data dates back to a point in time when the school was a part of the school district.

Question: Are districts and state-chartered charter schools allowed to use a different format for their District Report Cards?

Answer: State statute mandates that PED is responsible for adopting the format for the district report card (Section 22-2C-11 (A)(3), NMSA 1978). PED annually issues camera-ready individual report cards in the preferred format, and it is made available to districts and charter schools to publish in their local newspapers. Although PED will continue issuing these report cards, an abbreviated format may also be used by districts and state-chartered charter schools for dissemination and publication if they so choose. This condensed format is endorsed by PED and may save schools and districts some publication costs. The template is available electronically on the PED website on the *District Report Cards* page, accessed through the "A to Z Directory".