



Resource 6

# What *NCLB* Says About School and District Report Cards\*

Parents have a right to know about their child’s progress in school. District report cards are used to show how the schools and district are performing and where improvement is needed. Under the *No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act*, schools districts must now distribute a District Report Card on how each school and the district as a whole are performing. District Report Cards should be made available for staff and parents to view.

**The *No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act* requires public schools and school districts to be accountable.**

1. Each fall, school districts must send out a report card showing how each school and the district has performed.
2. In New Mexico, the school and district accountability reports include results in these areas:
  - Reading and math achievement from statewide assessments, with results reported by subgroup including: subgroup results must include: ethnicity, English language proficiency, disability status and low income status. Science assessments must be in place by the school year 2007-2008; and
  - Attendance and graduation rates.

The district report card must also include the number and percentage of schools identified for improvement, which have received an *NCLB* designation.

3. Schools should hold parent meetings to explain the report cards and to help parents understand their children’s individual test results.

What you can do:
<p><b>Make sure you receive an invitation to view the District Report Card.</b> If you do not have access to the District Report Card, talk to your principal or parent leader.</p>
<p><b>Review the report card.</b> If you do not understand everything in the report card, ask for explanations.</p>
<p><b>Ask the principal to schedule a meeting to explain the results.</b> This meeting would also be a good time for the principal and other staff to show parents how to interpret their child’s individual test results.</p>
<p><b>Ask about the <i>Educational Plan for Student Success (EPSS)</i>.</b> Every school in New Mexico must have an EPSS. Look for ways it addresses the information from the school and district report cards. Parents should be involved in the development of the EPSS.</p>

\* For more information and current revisions of the *No Child Left Behind Act* go to the US Department of Education’s *NCLB* web site page at <http://www.ed.gov/nclb/landing.jhtml>

Adapted from : Parents Reaching Out , [www.parentsreachingout.org](http://www.parentsreachingout.org)