



## PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Dr. Melanie J. Oppor – District Administrator  
[moppor@manawaschools.org](mailto:moppor@manawaschools.org) (920) 596-2525  
Mrs. Carmen O'Brien – Curriculum Director  
[cobrien@manawaschools.org](mailto:cobrien@manawaschools.org)

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### 2015-16 School and District Report Cards Released

The School District of Manawa is proud to report that it earned four (4) stars on state report cards from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, issued for the 2015-16 school year. Based on the star rating, the School District of Manawa exceeds expectations for educating students.

Report cards are issued based on four priority areas: student achievement in English language arts and mathematics, student growth, closing gaps between student populations, and measures of readiness for graduation and postsecondary success. While school and district report cards provide information to the community, they do not represent a full picture of the work happening at a school.

Manawa Elementary School also received four (4) stars and exceeds expectations as set by the Department of Public Instruction. Little Wolf Junior/Senior High School received five (5) stars, the highest rating available. Five stars is described as significantly exceeding expectations. Overall, both schools had very strong student growth scores in both mathematics and English language arts. This means that when the scores of Manawa students are compared with similarly performing students, the SDM students' scores grew more than what had been predicted per the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction's prediction formula. Dr. Oppor, District Administrator, states that "this is a strong indication that the recent instructional changes, new materials, and staff professional development are showing positive results for student learning." The district will continue to focus on literacy and mathematics goals as part of the strategic plan. District goals include ensuring that all third graders are reading at or above grade-level by the end of third grade and that all eighth graders are at or above grade-level in math skills. Student attendance rates have improved since the district has

established an attendance/truancy plan; however, continued attention will be given to reinforcing the importance of regular school attendance. The research shows a strong connection between regular school attendance and student learning. In addition, the district will continue to work to close achievement gaps between the schoolwide group of students and their peers with disabilities or those identified as economically disadvantaged so that all students achieve at high levels. “The School District of Manawa could not be more proud of the accomplishments of our students and staff. It is certainly a time to celebrate the hard work and dedication that has made these student learning accomplishments possible. However, we do not rest on our laurels. Work continues daily across the district to provide the best instruction and resources available for all our students,” states Dr. Oppor.

The 2015-16 report cards underwent major changes as part of Wisconsin Act 55, the 2015-17 state budget. Those changes include variable weighting to address the impacts of poverty on student achievement, a new model for measuring student growth based on value-added methodology developed by the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and the legislative requirement to change from the Badger Exam offered through the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium to the Forward Exam. Report cards rely on multiple years of data; the 2015-16 report cards are based on one year of Badger and one year of Forward exams for grades three through eight and the ACT Plus Writing for grade 11, as well as Dynamic Learning Maps assessments in grades three through eight and grade 11. The third year of data came from the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Exam and Wisconsin Alternate Assessment for Students with Disabilities. Making comparisons of school and district performance to prior report card ratings is inaccurate and inadvisable as statewide student assessments have changed and the formulas used for calculating report card results have changed.

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**NOTE:** Report cards can be found on the Department of Public Instruction’s Office of Accountability [School and District Report Card webpage](http://dpi.wi.gov/accountability/report-cards), <http://dpi.wi.gov/accountability/report-cards>.