2026 Illinois Report Card

How to Read a Profile of Performance

Start with the individual measures, then consider how the parts work together.

What You Are Looking At

A Profile of Performance contains individual indicator results, performance levels for those indicators, and information about student group performance. Read the pieces first. Then use the decision rules to understand how the school's final profile is determined.

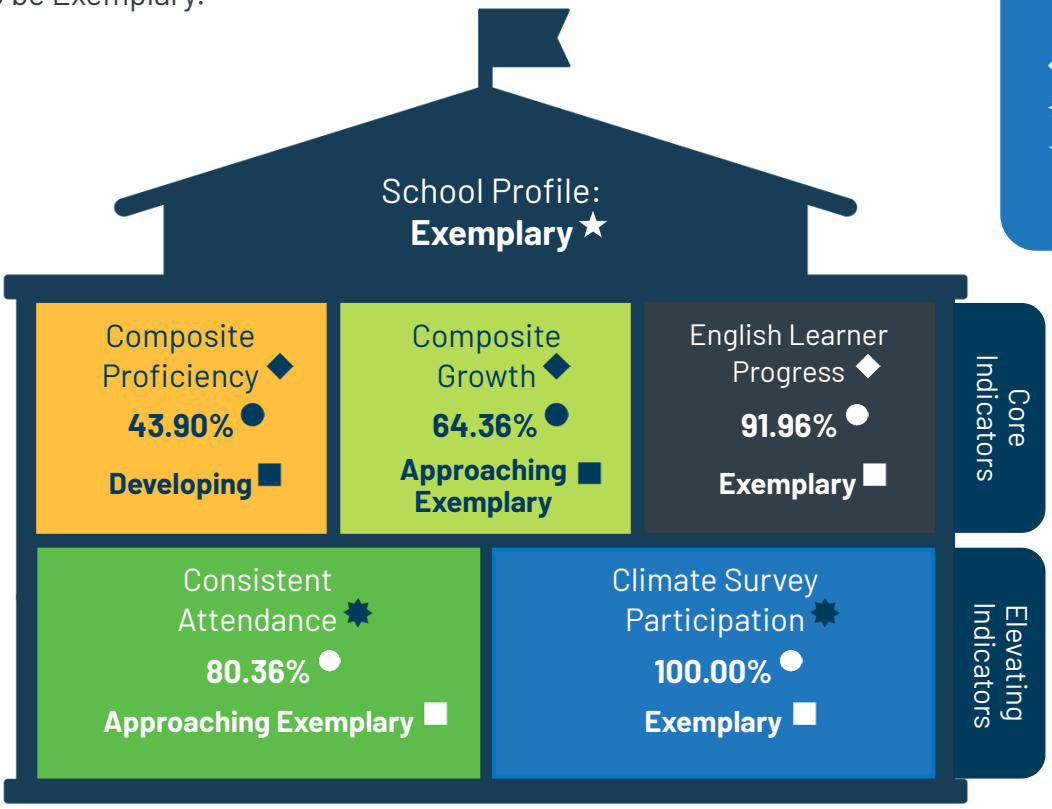
Part of the report	What to look for
School's calculated result ●	The calculated value for an indicator, such as a percentage, score, rate, or progress measure
Performance level earned ■	The statewide level that the result meets: Exemplary, Approaching Exemplary, Commendable, Developing, Comprehensive, or — when applicable — Automatic Comprehensive
Core indicators ◆	Proficiency, Growth, and Graduation Rate when applicable. These are used to determine core performance.
Elevating indicators ✸	English Learner Progress, Consistent Attendance, and Climate Survey Participation. Strong performance can raise the final profile when requirements are met.
Overall profile (designation) ★	The final designation, when considering the entire profile

Reading a Profile of Performance

This example shows how different strengths can work together. It is not necessary for every indicator to be Exemplary for the final profile to be Exemplary.

Legend

- ● = School's calculated result
- ■ = Performance level earned
- ◆ = Core indicators
- ✸ = Elevating indicators
- ★ = Overall profile (designation)



Assumption: The school has no Comprehensive student group profiles.

How to Interpret the Example

- Growth is the strongest core indicator, so the school's core performance begins at Approaching Exemplary.
- The school has strong elevating-indicator results, including Exemplary results for English Learner Progress and Climate Survey Participation. Those strengths meet the requirements to raise the final profile one level.
- The school has no Comprehensive student group profiles, so the student group rule does not cap the final profile at Commendable.
- The final profile is Exemplary even though Proficiency is Developing. The profile shows multiple ways for a school to demonstrate strengths.
- An Exemplary profile does not mean that every area is strong or that improvement is finished. The individual measures show where continued attention may be useful.

Read the Profile in Four Passes

1

Read each indicator on its own. Ask:

- What does this measure help us understand?
- What is the result?
- What performance level does the result meet?

2

Look just at core performance.

- What is the strongest core indicator?
- Are any core indicators Comprehensive?

3

Consider the elevating indicators.

- Is there at least one Exemplary elevating indicator? (A school can't elevate without at least one.)
- Is there a second Exemplary elevating indicator? (A second is needed to elevate into Exemplary or Approaching Exemplary.)
- If not, is there also an Approaching Exemplary elevating indicator? (This can elevate schools into Developing or Commendable.)

4

Check student group performance.

- Do any student groups have a Comprehensive profile?

Use the Profile as a Starting Point

- Celebrate what the school is doing well and look for practices that may be worth sustaining or sharing.
- Investigate patterns, changes over time, and differences among student groups.
- Prioritize next steps with educators, students, families, and community partners.

The profile provides a common starting point for a continuous improvement conversation. It does not replace local evidence, professional judgment, or the voices of students and families.

Related Resources:
An Overview of Profiles of Performance; Accountability Indicators Measure by Measure; Why Student Group Performance Matters; Using Profiles for Continuous Improvement