



Taylor Elementary

Dear Taylor Families,

Knowing where you are and where you want to go is a key part of growth and improvement. Our school regularly uses education data to tell us how our students are progressing and to adjust instruction for better results.

The state of Iowa provides an annual report called the Iowa School Report Card. This is a web-based tool first launched two years ago. Rankings are reported on an annual basis and provide a snapshot of every Iowa public school's performance on certain educational measures, such as student attendance and proficiency rates. Please keep in mind that the data used for the rankings is from 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17, and does not represent data from this school year.

The goal of the Iowa School Report Card is to present certain education data in a way that makes it easier for the public to find and understand. The Iowa Department of Education developed this tool in response to a 2013 legislative requirement (House File 215). Specifically, the Iowa School Report Card scores schools on up to eight educational measures and then assigns an overall rating to each school based on its performance on the measures. The attached guide provides an explanation of the eight measures. Our school's overall rating is priority.

While we believe this information can add to conversations in our community about how we're preparing our students for success, these measures are based on data from a single assessment. In the Cedar Rapids Community School District, we use multiple assessments with students on an ongoing basis. As we know from other accountability initiatives such as the federal No Child Left Behind Act, schools are so much more than labels. Labels and ratings do not tell the whole story.

I encourage you to explore the information provided in the Iowa School Report Card, I also urge you to get to know the school behind the label. Taylor staff is dedicated to providing opportunities for every student to make growth in all areas. We discuss student progress daily and provide instruction matching student needs regularly. Staff also works with various community organizations such as The University of Iowa PROPEL Literacy Project, Mt Mercy University- Professional Development School, Matthew 25 Book Buddies, VIP Reading Volunteers, TANA and Tanager Place to collaborate and provide resources for teachers and students. Our School Improvement Plan focuses on student and staff culture/climate, leadership and student learning. I encourage you to ask questions about our improvement efforts, and ask what you can do to support our teachers and students. It takes a village to support a school. Our next PTA/Parent meeting is January 9th at 5:30 at Taylor.

You can locate our school's results, as well as more information about the Iowa School Report Card, on the District website at www.cr.k12.ia.us. Several support materials have been posted with the report to help you navigate and understand the information. You can also find the report at www.educateiowa.gov/schoolreportcard

[2017 IA School Report Card FAQ.pdf](#) [2017 IA School Report Card Quick Guide.pdf](#)

Thanks for all you do for our school.

Sincerely, Andrea Scott- Principal