

**Subject: Your school report cards (letter grades)**

Dear Superintendent Perzanoski:

Your school report cards are ready for your review. We will not publicly release school grades until this Wednesday at 1 p.m. in a press event and on the Maine DOE website. Please share the report cards with your school principals so that they, too, will be able to prepare for Wednesday's public release.

**Please read the NOTES below.**

Below is a link to a folder that contains draft copies of the letter grade report cards for your schools only. Please click on the link to open the folder and download the files. No username or password is necessary, and it should work fine if you have a recent version of any of the major browsers. Some older versions, especially of Internet Explorer, may not work as well. If you experience any difficulty, please try using a different browser or upgrading your browser. If that doesn't work, please contact Peter Bernard, [peter.bernard@maine.gov](mailto:peter.bernard@maine.gov), or Jennifer Pooler, [jennifer.pooler@maine.gov](mailto:jennifer.pooler@maine.gov), for assistance.

In addition to school report cards, your district's folder may contain one or more "exclusion notices." These are for schools that will not receive a report card this year for one or more of the following reasons: a) the school is too new and does not have sufficient data; b) the school does not include the grade levels necessary to calculate a grade, e.g., a K-3 school; c) the "n-size" for one or more of the measures included in the report is less than 10, e.g., you have fewer than 10 students proficient-and-above.

If you are the superintendent of an AOS or CSD, all of your schools will be accessible from the link below. If you are the superintendent of more than one school district, you may receive multiple links in one email or in separate emails.

In order to give you a couple days' advance viewing, we had to manually generate the report cards and email them to you. We have checked them carefully, but if you receive the wrong report cards, are missing report cards, or think there are any errors, please contact Peter Bernard, [peter.bernard@maine.gov](mailto:peter.bernard@maine.gov), or Jennifer Pooler, [jennifer.pooler@maine.gov](mailto:jennifer.pooler@maine.gov), right away so that we can look into it. As you know, the data itself is all previously publicly released data, so we do not anticipate any issues there.

A reminder: we have a growing collection of materials to help you understand the Maine School Performance Grading System and to help you prepare for your own local sharing of information at our temporary website: [maine.gov/doe/mspgs](http://maine.gov/doe/mspgs). We will include all of these materials, as well as links to the report cards, on a more accessible website, [maine.gov/doe/schoolreportcards](http://maine.gov/doe/schoolreportcards), on Wednesday.

As we described in last week's webinars, our intent with the report cards is to provide transparency and ease of understanding. We know that the letter grade does not tell the whole story of a school. We will encourage parents and others to dig deeper into school data through the new [Education Data Warehouse](#). And we will remind the public that every school, regardless of its letter grade, can improve, and that many schools with low grades are doing excellent work, including several I have recently visited on my [Promising Practices Tour](#).

I'm aware that this will be a challenging week, and also an opportunity for dialog, as you explain to your communities your school's grade and the initiatives you have in place and planned for making further improvements. We plan to offer support in whatever ways we can to your efforts.

Sincerely,

Stephen Bowen

## **YOUR SCHOOLS' GRADES**

School district: Brunswick School Department

Superintendent: Paul Perzanoski

Link to report cards: <http://www.mediafire.com/?plp9jnepp4vri>

## **NOTES**

The data in the report cards are correct. We are finalizing some formatting and spelling issues and plan to have those corrected by Wednesday's public release. A few important notes for you as you review the report cards:

- These are 2013 School Report Cards (not 2011-12, as it currently reads)
- On page 2 of the elementary school report cards, you will see bar charts with NECAP results in reading and math. They x-axis should be labeled with the years: 2011 and 2012. The bars indicate percent proficient.
- On page 2 of the high school report cards, the Maine High School Assessment bar charts should be labeled with the years: 2009, 10, 11, 12. (In a few instances, where only three years of data is available, those are starting with the year 2010).
- On page 2 of the high school report cards, the Graduation Rate bar charts should be labeled with the years 2011 and 2012.

Again, these are cosmetic edits, not data changes, and will be corrected in the final versions released on Wednesday.