



October 27, 2017

Dear Saco families:

We recently received our 2016-2017 Annual School District Report Card. This report card serves as a summary of our students' performance on standardized tests administered during the previous school year. Each district in the nation is required, by law, to report these results to the public.

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) requires all states, school districts, and schools to provide annual reports to parents and communities. The ESEA, as amended, was formerly known as the No Child Left Behind Act. The new authorization is called the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Maine's ESEA report cards have changed from previous years to reflect changes in the law.

Maine's ESEA Report Cards include Maine Educational Assessment (MEA) data disaggregated into subgroups, additional accountability indicators, and information about teacher qualifications. This report card also displays statewide academic achievement results in grades four and eight on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) reading and mathematics assessments.

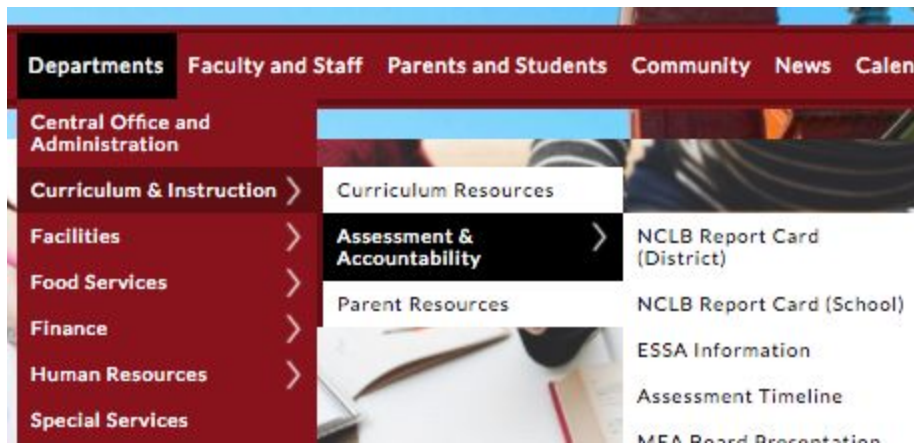
- MEA Data 2015-2016: Assessment data for English language arts/literacy and mathematics are provided for students in grades 3-8. Only students in 5th, 8th, and in the 3rd year of high school participate in the science assessment. Data are disaggregated to show performance for subgroups of students. The MEA data in the 2016-17 ESEA Report Cards is from the tests given in the spring of 2015-16. This data was previously presented to our Board of Education in December of 2016 and can be accessed via the Curriculum link on our website: [December Board Presentation](#)
- ESEA Accountability: Accountability reports summarize how well districts and schools are enabling their students to progress toward state expectations in English language arts/literacy and only the students that have been in their charge for a full academic year.

Maine is in the process of developing a new system of accountability to meet the requirements of the Every Student Succeeds [www.maine.gov/doe/essa](http://www.maine.gov/doe/essa).

- Qualifications of Teachers: Information about the qualifications of teachers is provided for two areas: 1) the professional qualifications of teachers; and 2) the percentage of teachers with emergency or conditional certificates. This information is intended to help you understand the backgrounds and preparation of the teachers who are working with your child.

The following are the ways in which this report card will be available to the public:

- On the district web page, [www.sacoschools.org](http://www.sacoschools.org) - go to Departments:



- Linked to our weekly Superintendent's Message
- The public is invited to comment on these accountability data in a public session of the school committee - see website for board meeting dates.

Thank you for your continued interest in the education of our Saco students. We are extremely proud of our learning community and appreciate all you do as parents and families to stay connected. Should you have any questions about this information, please do not hesitate to contact me at [jsmyth@sacoschools.org](mailto:jsmyth@sacoschools.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Julie Smyth'.

Julie A. Smyth

Director of Curriculum & Instruction

