



SOUTHWESTERN COMMUNITY UNIT DISTRICT 9

"Southwestern Students Succeed"

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Parents/Guardians,

The Southwestern CUSD #9 2017 District and School Report Cards are available on the district website at www.piasabirds.net. After reading the summary of 2017 standardized test scores and initiatives taking place to improve student achievement, click on the "Southwestern Community Unit School District Report Card Link" at the top of the page to be directed to the district and school report cards. Access to the new report cards can also be gained by visiting www.illinoisreportcard.com and searching for the Southwestern School District.

Please join me in thanking our faculty, staff, administrators, and families for the impact each of them has in educating our students and preparing them for each phase of their lives. Our PARCC Assessment scores improved over last year and Southwestern students are achieving equal to or better than the state average on the PARCC and SAT Assessment respectively. While there is always room for improvement, I want to compliment everyone on a job well done!

If you would like a printed copy of the district and/or a school's report card, please contact (618)372-3813 extension 0.

Mark B. Skertich
Superintendent

"Proud to be Piasa"

[Southwestern Community Unit School District Report Card Link](#)

The above link will allow each visitor to review the 2017 Southwestern CUSD #9 District Report Card as well as each individual building's report card. Below is a snapshot of student standardized test scores and initiatives that have been put in place to improve student achievement.

Overall student performance on the 2017 PARCC Assessment showed 39.7% of 3rd – 8th grade students, met or exceeded the Illinois Learning Standards compared to the State average of 34% in math and English/Language Arts. The spring of 2018 will be the third-time students will be administered the PARCC Assessment in grades 3rd – 8th. High school students will be administered the SAT for the second year this spring as the state has transitioned away from the ACT.

45% of Southwestern students met or exceeded on the 2017 PARCC English and Language Arts Assessment compared to the state average of 37%. 34% of Southwestern Students met or exceeded on the 2017 PARCC Math Assessment compared the state average of 32%. District wide, Southwestern students scored better than the state average on the PARCC English and Language Arts and Math Assessments and are performing as well or better than school districts in our area. A breakdown by building is listed below:

<u>Assessment Area</u>	<u>Building</u>	<u>State</u>
MS ELA	42	37
MS Math	36	32
5-6 ELA	52	37
5-6 Math	34	32
3-4 ELA	42	37
3-4 Math	35	32

*Met or Exceeded percentages dropped state wide with introduction of the PARCC Assessment that increased rigor and contains higher expectations.

The following reflects how 2017 Southwestern High School 11th graders performed on the SAT when compared to the State of Illinois Met or Exceeded averages.

<u>Area</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>State</u>
English	49	40
Math	26	37
Composite	37	39

The following information details ongoing initiatives and plans for improvement during the 2018 School Year:

In grades kindergarten through sixth grade ongoing data analysis, using the STAR 360 Screening and Progress Monitoring Assessment, is taking place as students engage in benchmark assessments for their respective grade level, progress monitoring of identified deficit areas and level mastery in the classroom. Supplementary focused interventions are in place to support learning in reading, writing and math for at-risk and special education students

In grades 7 through 11, ongoing assessment and data analysis, using the STAR 360 Screening and Progress Monitoring Assessment, is taking place. This information is being utilized by teachers to identify skill deficits present and provide additional instruction in these areas as needed.

Teachers in grades 3rd – 8th grade and high school review State Assessment Data which details our students' areas of strength and areas that need improvement from data collected in the previous year's state assessment (PARCC and SAT). This information allows our teachers the opportunity to adjust curriculum and lesson plans to improve student skills.

In grades 9 through 11, students are placed, based on ability, in the appropriate language arts and math classes. This information is also utilized when creating or adapting lesson plans to help meet the needs of students daily.

Common Assessments are being utilized by grade levels and departments in kindergarten through 12th grade to determine student growth from the start of the school year through the conclusion of 1st semester. This data helps teachers determine the effectiveness of the lessons, curriculum and whether students are retaining the information and skills.

Teachers from Medora Intermediate, Southwestern Middle School and Southwestern High School are participating in 1:1 Technology Training throughout the 2017/2018 school year. Piloting programs are also taking place in each building with a planned rollout during the 2018/2019 school year in grades 5/6 and 9/10.

District Open House Schedules, 7th Grade Orientation and Freshman Orientation have been altered to allow parents to meet teachers, learn about expectations, inquire about procedures and ask about the respective curriculum prior to the beginning of the school year.

The high school Support for Academic Success (SAS) and middle school advisory classes have been moved to the end of the day to help better meet the needs of students. Students who need assistance in math or English can get assistance from their math or English teachers during this time. This allows math or English teachers to work with students individually at the end of the day.

The high school Freshman Academy, is a curriculum being led by upper class mentors and facilitated by Freshman Academy teachers. The annual program provides students the opportunity to improve study skills, time management, career exploration, organization, and an overall better understanding of the high school culture.

Southwestern High School freshman and sophomores take the PSAT test. This test provides feedback on how to better prepare students for the SAT test their junior year. In addition, juniors take a full length practice SAT test and are provided free resources through the Khan Academy to help them prepare for the SAT test in the spring.

PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports) Tier 1 and Tier 2 continues to produce positive results. Student behavior data, which is collected monthly and reviewed, indicates behavior has and continues to improve. School-wide acknowledgements are occurring and are constantly reviewed to make sure positive behaviors are being encouraged.

Attendance, behavior and academic goals are established annually in each building. The goals provide a solid focus with attainable outcomes for students, faculty and staff.

Early dismissals and School Improvement Days have been scheduled during the school year to allow teachers to develop assessments, align/update curriculum, collaborate across grade levels and departments, and participate in professional development activities.

Faculty are currently evaluating a new curriculum for English and Language Arts in grades K-2.