

# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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## **What is the 2019-2020 End-of-Year Report?**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated school closures, multiple state and local assessments were cancelled for the 2019-2020 school year. As a result, the School District of Philadelphia is not able to release a scored School Progress Report (SPR) for 2019-2020.

The End-of-Year Report (EOYR) is an unscored data summary that will take the place of the SPR for the 2019-2020 school year. The report includes information on the subset of metrics that are normally included on the SPR and for which 2019-2020 data is available.

## **Why are some data points not available?**

Some assessments were not given in the 2019-2020 school year due to the COVID-19-related closures; as such, assessment performance and growth data was not available for inclusion on the EOYR. Other metrics are not displayed on the 2019-2020 reports if the data was not available from the vendor/provider, or the standard metric calculation was not possible due to the COVID-19-related closures.

Please note that, in November 2020, a “preview” report was released for District schools only. This report included a subset of the metrics that are available in the full reports released in January 2021.

## **Where is a school’s overall score or tier?**

This 2019-2020 EOYR is unscored. As such, there are no overall, domain, or metric points and tiers.

## **Are the metrics on the EOYR comparable to those from previous years?**

The EOYR displays three years’ worth of data wherever possible. However, any comparisons should be made with extreme caution as the 2019-2020 data may differ from prior years’ data due to the COVID-19-related closures. For example, the 2019-2020 student attendance and suspension metrics reflect data for school days through March 13, 2020, but previous years’ metrics are based on data through the end of the school year in June.

The EOYR includes brief notes about changes to the metrics displayed. More information is available in the public business rules and the EOYR User Guide.

## **Where did the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 data come from?**

This information is taken directly from a school’s prior SPRs. No changes have been made to this data.

## How do schools perform relative to each other on the report?

The EOYR focuses on how a particular school is performing as opposed to how it is performing relative to other schools.

However, users can identify comparison schools using the demographic data available on [School Profiles](#) or the [Open Data](#) webpage.

## Are students enrolled in alternative education programs included in the EOYR?

Students enrolled in alternative education programs -programs for out-of-school youth, students who are significantly at risk for dropping out, and students who are subject to disciplinary transfer or expulsion - are excluded from the calculation of all metrics and do not count toward their neighborhood school's performance.

## Is there more information on how each metric is calculated?

Business rules for each calculation are on the [End-of-Year Reporting webpage](#). These rules are intended to provide a high-level overview of what goes into each metric, including the source of the data, which students are included in the calculation, and which schools are eligible for a metric.

## Why might the metric scores on the EOYR differ from similar information shared elsewhere?

There are several reasons why the EOYR may display different information when compared to other sources, including:

- **Sample.** The EOYR sometimes reflects a different sample of students than other data sources, such as the FRI or a school's internal information system. For example, the attendance metrics on the EOYR reflect the performance of students who were enrolled for at least 10 days; the FRI looks at students enrolled for at least 90 days.
- **Timing.** Other sources may look at a different time period than the EOYR. For example, the First-Fall College Matriculation Rate displayed on the 2019-20 EOYR reflects the Fall 2020 enrollment of students who graduated in 2019-20. However, the matriculation rate displayed on the FRI "lags" a year – that is, the matriculation rate on the 2019-20 FRI reflects the enrollment of students who graduated in 2018-19.
- **Definition.** Metrics on the EOYR may be calculated slightly differently than similarly-named metrics available elsewhere. For example, the attendance metric on the EOYR reflects the percentage of students attending 95% or more of instructional days, while an attendance calculation posted by a partner agency may reflect another calculation, like Average Daily Attendance.

## Have any of the metrics that are displayed on the EOYR changed from last year's SPR?

The metrics on the 2019-20 EOYR differ from the 2018-19 SPR in the following ways:

- It suppresses **state and local assessment results** for those tests that take place primarily in the spring;
- It adjusts the **attendance and suspension** metrics to reflect school performance through mid-March only;

- It re-introduces a measure of **growth for English learners** for District schools due to new data availability from the Pennsylvania Department of Education; and
- It includes a new **student survey participation rate** metric to reflect the percentage of 3<sup>rd</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students responding to the survey.

### **Why do some schools have two EOYRs?**

Like the SPR, the EOYR evaluates student outcomes for specific grade bands. Thus, schools serving both lower and high school grades receive separate reports for each grade band so that student outcomes may be evaluated separately. For example, a school serving grades 5-12 would receive a Middle School report (for grades 5-8) and a High School report (for grades 9-12).

### **Why don't some schools have an EOYR?**

Alternative education schools and schools that serve a single grade level within a grade configuration do not receive an EOYR. For example, a school that met all requirements to receive an EOYR but was ineligible due to its limited grade span (grade 12 only) and/or unique school model.

Additionally, not all charter schools choose to participate in the EOYR.

### **Which charter schools participated?**

This year's release includes approximately 99%, or all but one, of all eligible charter schools operating in 2019-2020.

### **How are survey metrics scored?**

The EOYR contains six survey metrics that use data from the 2019-20 District-Wide Parent & Guardian Survey and the 2019-20 District-Wide Student Survey:

1. Parent/Guardian Survey: Participation Rate
2. Parent/Guardian Survey: Climate Rating
3. Student Survey: Participation Rate
4. Student Survey: Climate Rating
5. Student Survey: College and Career Rating
6. Student Survey: Student Perception of Teacher Practice

The Parent/Guardian Participation Rate represents the percentage of households from which parents/guardians of K-12 students completed the survey. However, a separate parent or guardian response is highly encouraged for each student enrolled at the school.

For 2019-20, the Parent/Guardian Climate Rating and the student survey metrics are not displayed if the school did not meet the minimum participation threshold (for parents/guardian, 10%; for students, the greater of 25% of students in grades 3-12 or 50 students). For 2017-18 and 2018-19, these metrics display a score of 0% if the school did not meet the minimum participation threshold.

### **Which questions are included in the survey metrics?**

The [Office of Research and Evaluation](#) develops the survey metrics and administers the [District-Wide Survey](#). While the specific questions included in a metric may change over time, the metrics generally include all questions from the relevant domain (e.g., Climate) that contain clear positive and negative options, such as "strongly agree" or "strongly disagree." More information

on the surveys, including responses to individual survey items, is available [online](#).

### **How were student and parent surveys affected by the COVID-19 pandemic?**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all students transitioned to digital learning by March 16, 2020. This was in the middle of the survey window, which lasted through June for students and parents. Respondents who had not already completed the survey were able to do so from home and were instructed to answer survey questions based on their overall experience for the entire school year. Additionally, paper copies of parent surveys that schools submitted to the Office of Research and Evaluation by July 10 are included in the school's survey metrics.

However, rates and responses may differ from those in previous years, in part as schools may not have been able to engage in their normal outreach regarding the District-Wide Survey.