



## **Report Card Definitions:**

**Proficiency:** Measures the number of students in a school building that meet the state criteria for proficiency in Math and English Language Arts.

**Growth:** Measures the number of students in a school building that have shown one year of growth from their starting point.

**English Learner Progress:** Measures students who have less than two years of English instruction.

**Graduation Rate:** Measures the 4-year, 5-year and 6-year cohorts of students graduating in that building.

**Comparison of Like Schools:** Measures proficiency grades of buildings with similar federal free lunch populations.

**PA 601 of 2018:** The state law that requires the Michigan Department of Education to publish a report card of the above mentioned items, and three additional rankings, each September starting in 2019 for every public school building in the state of Michigan.

**\*\*** The Michigan Legislature repealed this law in May, 2023 making it harder for parents to find transparent information about school performance.

## **Methodology:**

PA 601 of 2018 required that not more than 5% of schools receive an F grade so using that and a common bell curve representation, the data was ranked and grades applied to each of the school buildings with enough reported data. An "x" will indicate no data available. When a group of schools received the same percentage ranking but was near a cut line, those schools were moved to the higher of the two grade options.



### **Frequently Asked Questions:**

- **Why are you creating report cards for schools?**
  - There was a law in Michigan that as of September 1, 2019 every public school building in the state is required to have a school report card published by the Michigan Department of Education. Since that time the Department has reluctantly produced report cards, for the 2018-2019 and 2021-2022 school years. However the Michigan legislature just repealed this law. We believe teachers, parents and taxpayers deserve to have as best a representation of school performance data as possible.
- **How long did it take you to create these report cards?**
  - It took a few individuals a few hours to collect the data and create the grading scale for buildings with enough public data. It took an additional 15-20 hours to create the report cards, create the website and organize all materials. Special thanks to the Mackinac Center for Public Policy for their work to provide technical support and use of their Context and Performance scores.
- **Why did you pick these factors to grade?**
  - PA 601 of 2018 required these five indicators to receive letter grades for each school building.
- **How did you come up with the grading scale?**
  - Since PA 601 of 2018 left great latitude to the Michigan Department of Education on how to create the scale for school building grades, with the only specification that not more than 5% of buildings are an F grade, we felt a standard bell curve method would be the least objectionable.
- **What do you intend to do with these report cards?**
  - Parents, teachers, taxpayers and lawmakers will be able to view all school building report cards at [www.glep.org](http://www.glep.org) so that they can find out how their local school is performing. The most important information that teachers and parents need to best impact teaching and learning is found in the indicators of these report cards.