



What Student Data is collected in Wisconsin? *Fact Sheet*

Improving student performance through the effective and responsible use of student data empowers educators' data driven decision making and ultimately changes conversations on how to improve student academic achievement. Through accurate data analysis and discussions, students and their parents, teachers and administrators are able to collaborate, improve assessments, and innovate instructional practices.

The [Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act \(FERPA\)](#) protects the privacy of student education records and gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's education records. In addition, the [WI Pupil Records Law \(Wis. Stat. § 118.125\)](#), provides for further restrictions and limitations in regards to the use and disclosure of student data. The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction uses additional guidelines and strict processes to protect the privacy of every student and ensure the confidentiality and security of all data collected and managed.

What student information does DPI collect?

Basic Student Data:

- Unique state assigned ID number (WISEid)
- Student Demographics/Characteristics
- Enrollment Counts
- Attendance Rates
- Postsecondary Enrollment
- High School Completion

State Assessments:

- Wisconsin Student Assessment System (WSAS)
 - ACT Statewide (Grade 11)
 - Forward
 - DLM
 - Aspire
- Other Assessments
 - National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)
 - Advanced Placement (AP) Exams
 - ACT Graduates

The DPI does not collect school and district level pupil records such as patient healthcare records, pupil physical health records, or biometric data. DPI also does not collect religious preference, political affiliation, or gun ownership.

Why does DPI collect student data?

DPI collects data to meet all required school, district, state, and federal reporting mandates, e.g., [Every Student Succeeds Act \(ESSA\)](#), [Individuals with Disabilities Education Act \(IDEA\)](#), and [Title II Higher Education Act](#). These data inform education research and data analysis and to help determine funding allocations. Through the DPI dashboard and reporting tools, DPI staff, teachers, administrators, parents, and researchers are better able to understand and improve educational outcomes for Wisconsin students. The collection of that data is also needed for the DPI to create accurate school and district report cards mandated by state law. Collecting these required data provides additional benefits such as informing improvement planning at the local level.

How is student data used?

Individual Student Data Uses:

- Improve student outcomes
- Dropout Early Warning System (DEWS)
- Allocation of state funding
- Administering state assessments
- Calculating individual student growth

Aggregated Student Data Uses

- Allocation of state funding
- Inform policy decisions
- School and District Report Cards
- Achievement Gap Analysis
- Program audit and evaluation
- School and District Improvement Plans
- Federal reporting through ED Facts and CRDC
- Public reporting

Student Data Collection, Protection, and Privacy



How is the data safeguarded?

- Data Redaction
 - Suppression of small N-sizes for aggregated students data reports
- Multi-Tiered Data Request Process with Data Destruction Protocol
- Three Tiers of Local Security Management
 - Role Based Access
- Data Security Infrastructure
 - User Security
 - Application Security
 - Network Security
 - Data Encryption
 - Email Safeguards
 - WISEdata Secured Data Services
 - Secure File Transfer Protocol

Meeting and exceeding federal and state student privacy laws

- Student privacy procedures adhere completely to the guidelines set forth in Federal and State law. DPI also includes additional safeguards such as:
 - Student Data Access Policy 4.300
 - Confidentiality of Individual Pupil Data and Data Redaction Policy 4.315
 - Student Data Access: Policy 4.300 & Confidentiality of Individual Pupil Data and Data Redaction: Policy 4.315 Procedures Guidebook
 - District Training Modules available on the [DPI Data Privacy Webpage](#)
 - Data Governance and Data Privacy Work groups
 - Data Request Review Board to review research requests and ensure confidentiality
 - Data breach notification and liability clauses in vendor contracts and agreements that involve individual student data

Who has access to student data?

- Authorized and authenticated DPI staff and designated personnel
- Authorized and authenticated school and district personnel
- Contracted vendors with signed privacy agreements.
- Specific program audit and evaluation requests but only with a signed privacy agreement.

Online Resources

- [Wisconsin Information System for Education \(WISE\)](#)
- [Data @ DPI](#)
- [Student Data Overview FAQ](#)
- [Data Resources](#)
- [Data Privacy](#)
- [WISEdash Public Portal](#)