COVID-19 IMPACTS ON ISPP

This page outlines the disruptions to Iowa's school accountability system and reporting on the Iowa School Performance Profiles (ISPP) caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. An overarching description is below while the two links at the bottom of the page outline detailed measure-level statuses for the 2020 and 2021 reporting years.

In the spring of 2020, the Iowa Department of Education sent a request to the U.S. Department of Education (which was subsequently approved) to waive the requirements to administer all federal required assessments in the 2019-2020 school year. As such, many of the measures in the ISPP that would normally be reported were not available for the 2020 reporting year.

All state assessments were administered in the spring of 2021, although the disruptions from the prior year were still having an impact on the data reported in the ISPP for the 2021 reporting year. School index scores and school rating categories were calculated with data from the 2020-2021 school year and are displayed on the ISPP for the 2021 reporting year. Some one-year changes to how index scores were calculated to accommodate pandemic-related impacts to the data were made, such as reducing the weight of the Growth measure and increasing the weight of the Proficiency measure to compensate. A full list of the one-year methodological changes can be found in the Technical Guide.

Coinciding with a waiver received from the U.S. Department of Education in September 2021, no new schools were identified for Targeted or Comprehensive Support and Improvement (TSI/CSI) in the 2021 reporting year. Schools previously designated for TSI/CSI continued with their previous designations and had access to all training and support that was able to be supported via electronic/distance options. The 2019 ESSA support status for each school is displayed on the 2021 ISPP for reference.

In the 2022 reporting year, previously designated CSI/TSI schools were eligible to exit their status if they met the exit criteria and a new round of CSI, TSI and Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI) schools were identified. This was the first opportunity for schools identified in the 2018 and 2019 reporting years to exit their status. This was also the first round of new TSI identifications since the 2019 reporting year and CSI identifications since the 2018 reporting year. CSI and TSI exits and entries (and ATSI entries) for the 2022 reporting year were based on data from the 2021-2022 school year. The weights used for the accountability index score calculations were the "Year Three" weights from lowa's original ESSA State Plan.

2021 Reporting Year Impacts 2020 Reporting Year Impacts