



For Immediate Release

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The Lincoln Academy Earns a Four-Star Rating on State Report Card for 2024-25

BELOIT, Wis - The Lincoln Academy is excited to announce that it received a 4-star rating ("Exceeds Expectations") on the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) School Report Card for the 2024-25 school year. DPI is required by state statute to generate a report card for every publicly funded school and district in the state.

What the rating means

Each year the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction issues school and district report cards that evaluate performance in key priority areas:

- Achievement (performance on state assessments)
- Growth (year-to-year scholar progress on statewide tests)
- Target Group Outcomes (outcomes for scholars with the lowest test scores)
- On-Track to Graduation (indicates how scholars are progressing toward completing their K-12 education)

Based on those measures, schools are assigned an overall accountability score and a star rating. A 4-star rating means the school performed at a level above the expectations and is recognized as having stronger outcomes than many peers statewide.

TLA's priority area scores are:

- Achievement = 55.2
- Growth = 73.6 (*TLA surpassed state scores in this area for both subjects*)
- Target Group Outcomes = 67.7
- On-Track to Graduation = 85.1

According to the Wisconsin DPI, school report cards are not the same as standardized assessments. While assessments measure how individual scholars perform on specific tests, report cards provide a

broader view of school performance. They combine multiple indicators—such as scholar growth, closing achievement gaps, and readiness for graduation—offering a more comprehensive picture of how well a school is serving all learners.

Key takeaways from TLA's report card include:

- TLA increased its overall Achievement score by 8.4 points.
- Target Group Outcomes improved by 10 points.
- TLA surpassed the state score in both ELA and Math for growth.
- Every scholar group (race, economically disadvantaged, English Learners, Scholars with Disabilities) beat the state growth average in ELA & Math.
- TLA's growth score was higher than 85% of Wisconsin K-12 schools!
- TLA exceeded the state in scholars completing dual enrollment by 6.3% and scholars involved in work-based learning by 12.6%.
- In On-Track to Graduation category, TLA beat the state in 3 of 4 areas: chronic absenteeism, school-wide attendance and 3rd grade ELA proficiency levels.
- TLA has 53% of our 3rd grade scholars reading at grade level which also beat the state average of 50%.

Report cards serve as a valuable resource for families to understand how their school or district is performing. They also provide schools with important insights to guide continuous improvement and ensure every scholar receives the support they need to succeed.

TLA CEO, Dr. Kristi Cole, states, "TLA has once again demonstrated strong performance in multiple dimensions of scholar learning and growth. This rating reflects the commitment of our staff, scholars, and families to high standards, continuous improvement, and focused support."

She continues, "We view the 4-star rating not as a finish line but as a milestone. It underscores that our current strategies are effective and that we will continue to deepen excellence for every scholar."

Kari Flitz, TLA Chief Instructional Officer, notes, "A 4-star rating sends an important message. That TLA is delivering an educational experience that is performing above the state expectation benchmark. For families, this means the school is not only focusing on scholar proficiency, but also on scholar growth, closing gaps and preparing learners for the next stage of their academic and life journey."

Dr. Cole says, "For our community in Beloit and beyond, it conveys that our school is a strong partner in education, committed to excellence, accountability, and a culture of continuous improvement. We are celebrating this success, but it also fuels our ambition to reach even higher."

She adds, “We are seeing strong results because of our culture of high expectations and the dedication of our incredible staff. Our team of outstanding educators works tirelessly to hold our school to the highest standards while always putting children first in everything they do.”

Report cards are publicly available at: <https://apps6.dpi.wi.gov/reportcards/home>. You can find a copy of TLA’s latest report card at <https://www.thelincolnacademybeloit.com/year-in-review>.

About The Lincoln Academy

The Lincoln Academy (TLA) is an innovative K4–12 public charter school in Beloit, Wisconsin, chartered through the University of Wisconsin System’s Office of Educational Opportunities. Since 2021, TLA has provided a free, high-quality education for Wisconsin families, with enrollment determined by a random lottery when the number of applications exceeds available seats. Learn more at www.thelincolnacademybeloit.com.

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