



February 9, 2022

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Thank you for entrusting Helena Public Schools with your child's education. We are committed to helping your child reach their full academic potential. Part of that responsibility is sharing your student's academic progress with you.

This letter is to make you aware that you will receive one or more important student reports from Helena Public Schools, separate from this email. Depending on your student/s grade level/s you will receive one or more of the following reports:

**Acadience Reading (If you have a student in kindergarten or first grade this school year, you will receive a separate email with your student's Acadience results).**

Acadience Reading monitors your child's development in reading to identify students who need additional help, and to guide the teacher's classroom instruction. Acadience reading is not used as a grade for a child. Acadience Reading consists of several brief tests that are used as indicators of critical skills that students need to master to become good readers. Much like measuring a child's height and weight provides an indicator of that child's overall growth, each Acadience test provides an indicator of how well a child is doing in learning a particular early reading skill.

**Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBAC) (If your student was in grades 3-8 during the 2020-2021 school year, you will receive separate emails with your student's SBAC results).**

Montana students took the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBAC) test in Spring 2021. The SBAC measures student progress and proficiency in mathematics and reading/language arts for grades 3-8. The assessment is based on state-established goals for what all students should know and be able to do in each grade.

You will receive a separate email with your student's SBAC assessment results. For help interpreting your child's report, please visit the [Starting Smarter](#) website. Please keep in mind that this assessment was administered last spring, when your child's learning may have been influenced by COVID-19 disruptions, such as remote learning days and COVID-related absences due to quarantine, isolation, or illness.

**i-Ready Assessment (If you have a student in grades 1-11 for Math, and 2-11 for Reading this school year, you will receive separate emails with your student's SBAC results).**

Helena Public Schools students recently took the i-Ready assessment in Mathematics and English

Language Arts (ELA). i-Ready helps us determine your child's strengths and areas for growth. The i-Ready assessment provides data on your child's learning level so we can meet them where they are, personalizing instruction and monitoring progress throughout the school year.

i-Ready, Acadience, and SBAC assessments provide critical information about student learning. While no assessment should be the sole factor in making educational decisions, assessments help provide a valuable picture of your child's abilities and progress when combined with grades, classroom activities, unit quizzes and tests, and district-level assessments. If you have any questions about either assessment, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or principal.

The link provided with each email is only available for 7 days. If you would like to save a copy, click "download" in the top right corner. Reports are also available through your school if you experience issues.

Thank you for your continued support and for being a partner in your child's learning.

Sincerely,

Helena School District