



## Transparent Data Fact Sheet

Transparent data refers to the idea that data maintained by the district should serve as an integral resource for both instruction and accountability. The transparent data concept is based on the belief that data should be readily accessible, accurate and identified by its official source. This is accomplished by properly maintaining collected data and ensuring that it is available to key stakeholders including: parents, teachers, administrative staff, external organizations and the Aurora community. The importance of the use of data is evident throughout the VISTA 2015 Action Plan with the word “data” being mentioned numerous times along with the availability of “transparent” data being implied in various objectives.

### Why do we have a need to maintain data transparency?

- Recent research has shown that students in schools where student-achievement data are made public perform at higher levels than students in schools that do not make student-performance results public<sup>1</sup>.
- Long-held resistance to providing transparent education data has been a point of frustration for business leaders, philanthropists, policymakers and astute parents, who now demand to know more about the performance of schools and school districts<sup>2</sup>.

### Who does transparent data impact?

- Transparent data provides information to community members and external organizations about the current status and progress Aurora Public Schools is making towards the education of its students.
- Transparent data helps teachers and administrators reliably determine the effectiveness of their instructional curriculum and assists with the development of student-focused instruction.
- Transparent data helps parents to be knowledgeable about school/district decision-making processes and provides them with tools to contribute more effectively to the success of their children’s education.

### What data should be transparent?

- All data required by state and federal law should be readily available and explained. This includes Adequate Yearly Progress Reports and School Accreditation Reports.
- Other “transparent” data include District Survey Results, Financial Reports, Achievement Reports, Program Evaluations, and Community/Demographic Reports.

### How does Aurora Public Schools maintain transparent data?

- All school-level assessment and survey data are made available within the Division of Accountability and Research web-site at: <http://assessment.aurorak12.org>.
- The Division of Accountability and Research maintains numerous databases and serves as a technical resource regarding the use and interpretation of data.
- Data walls and data teams are present in schools to inform staff directly about school status and progress.
- Key school data (e.g., AYP status) and district progress status are provided in informational letters to parents as needed.

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<sup>1</sup>PISA Results scoured for secrets to better science scores. Education Week, January 9, 2008.

<sup>2</sup>Argument is not numeric: who’s afraid of transparency. Converge Online, 6, 2006.

OPR: Division of Research & Accountability