

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

#1 in declining academics

To the editor:

The following is a compiled list of 2020-'21 Department of Public Instruction (DPI) test scores for 26 local high schools.

The rankings are based on a scale of 100 and are as follows:

1. Kohler High 94.8
2. Sheboygan Area Lutheran High 86.2
3. Roncalli 80.9/100
4. Sheboygan Falls High 76.6
5. Manitowoc Lutheran 76.3
6. Oostburg High 75.8
7. Valders 75.8
8. Cedar Grove-Belgium High 72.8
9. Plymouth High 72.6
10. Sheboygan Christian 72.3
11. Elkhart Lake High 70.7
12. New Holstein High 70.7
13. Reedsville High 68.3
14. Howards Grove High 67.3
15. Random Lake High 66.2
16. Chilton High 64.7
17. Hilbert High 64.5
18. Mishicot High 62.3
19. Kewaskum High 61.6
20. Campbellsport High 56.8
21. Lincoln High 55.3
22. North High 55
23. Two Rivers High 52.2
24. Brillion High 50.9
25. Kiel High 50.3
26. South High 49.3

Kiel High ranks 25 out of 26 with a score of 50.3/100.

Compare the last two years of DPI reported scores for these 25 high schools and you will find:

2018-'19: Kiel ranks 19 out of 25 with 67.4/100 (one school had no report this year)

2018-'17: Kiel ranks 16 out of 23 with 67.4/100 (three schools had no report this year)

Many local high schools dropped in DPI scores post-COVID; however, upon closer comparison to the listed high schools you will find that Kiel

dropped 17.1 percent. This is the largest, most significant decline out of these 25 schools. This ranks Kiel High School as #1 in declining academics.

Comparing Kiel High against the entire state shows an even more drastic decline that has been progressing rapidly over the last three years.

The data is as follows:

2015-'16: Kiel ranks 282nd out of 433 meaning 65 percent of high schools rank higher than Kiel High

2016-'17: Kiel ranks 251st out of 456 meaning 55 percent of high schools rank higher than Kiel High

2017-'18: Kiel ranks 234th out of 450 meaning 52 percent of high schools rank higher than Kiel High

2018-'19: Kiel ranks 357th out of 493 meaning 72 percent of high schools rank higher than Kiel High

2020-'21: Kiel ranks 463rd out of 494 meaning 93 percent of high schools rank higher than Kiel High

*Kiel High School rankings in comparison to the DPI reported high schools in the State of Wisconsin

The state's most basic standards clearly illustrate our academics in the high school were in decline prior to COVID, which only exacerbated the problem. Three years of declining academics for our high school at KASD. Academic excellence? A score of 50.3/100 is failing, at least with traditional mathematics. The data and facts are telling a very different story. Here is the link to the facts.

Check the data for yourself: <https://apps2.dpi.wi.gov/reportcards/home>

As they say, you get to decide on April 5. Do we want more of the same or is it time for change?

Respectfully,

Katie Wimmmler
Elkhart Lake