

An Introduction to the Future Ready PA Index

Methacton School District

October 2018





What is the Future Ready PA Index?

The Future Ready PA Index is the new school measurement tool for communities to evaluate how schools are doing in preparing students for college, career, and community after graduation.

Why is Pennsylvania adopting the Future Ready PA Index?

Pennsylvanians know that students, and the schools that serve them, are more than just standardized test scores, and wanted a tool for evaluating schools that doesn't rely solely on standardized test results.

In 2015, the state Department of Education started engaging with communities around the state to learn what was important to them and to develop a new measure. As a result, in 2018 Pennsylvania reduced PSSA testing time by 20 percent, and established a new meaningful set of indicators.



Indicators

State Assessment Measures

- PSSA & Keystone Proficiency
- Annual Growth
- Percent Advanced on PSSA/Keystones

On-Track Measures

- English Language Proficiency
- Regular Attendance
- Grade 3 Reading/Grade 7 Mathematics

College and Career Measures

- Graduation Rate
- Career Standards Benchmark
- Industry-Based Learning
- Percent Advanced on Industry Competency
- Rigorous Courses of Study
- Post-Secondary Transition to School, Military, or Work

The screenshot displays the 'Future Ready PA Index' website for a 'Sample Area School'. The page features a navigation bar with 'Find a School' and a dropdown menu. Below the navigation, there are tabs for 'School Performance', 'School Fast Facts', and 'District Fast Facts'. A central section titled 'Select a set of measures to get started' includes a dropdown menu set to 'Key for progress measures'. Three main content areas are visible:

- State Assessment Measures:** Includes 'Percent Proficient/Advanced in Mathematics/Algebra I' (All Student Group Meets 2030 Statewide Goal), 'Percent Proficient/Advanced in English Language Arts/Literature' (Did Not Meet 2030 Statewide Goal/Improvement Targets), 'Academic Growth Expectations in Mathematics/Algebra I' (Meets the Standard Demonstrating Growth), and 'Academic Growth Expectations in ELA/Literature' (Did Not Meet the Standard Demonstrating Growth).
- On-Track Measures:** Includes 'English Language Proficiency' (Meets Interim Improvement Target) and 'Regular Attendance' (Meets Performance Standard).
- College and Career Measures:** Includes 'Career Standards Benchmark' (Meets Performance Standard) and 'Four-year Cohort Graduation Rate' (Meets Interim Improvement Target).


Each category has a 'View All' button at the bottom. The footer contains the Pennsylvania Department of Education logo, copyright information (© 2017 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania), and links for Research, Glossary of Terms, FAQ, Contact Us, and Data Files.

PSSAs are administered in grade 3-8 in math and English Language Arts and grades 4 & 8 in science. Keystone Exams assess Algebra I, Literature and Biology.

Why a dashboard?

The Future Ready PA Index provides an opportunity for communities—not the state—to determine school success based on local priorities and values.

The dashboard provides a comprehensive snapshot that reduces dependence on standardized test scores, and gives educators an opportunity to focus on the curriculum that is important to their students and their communities.

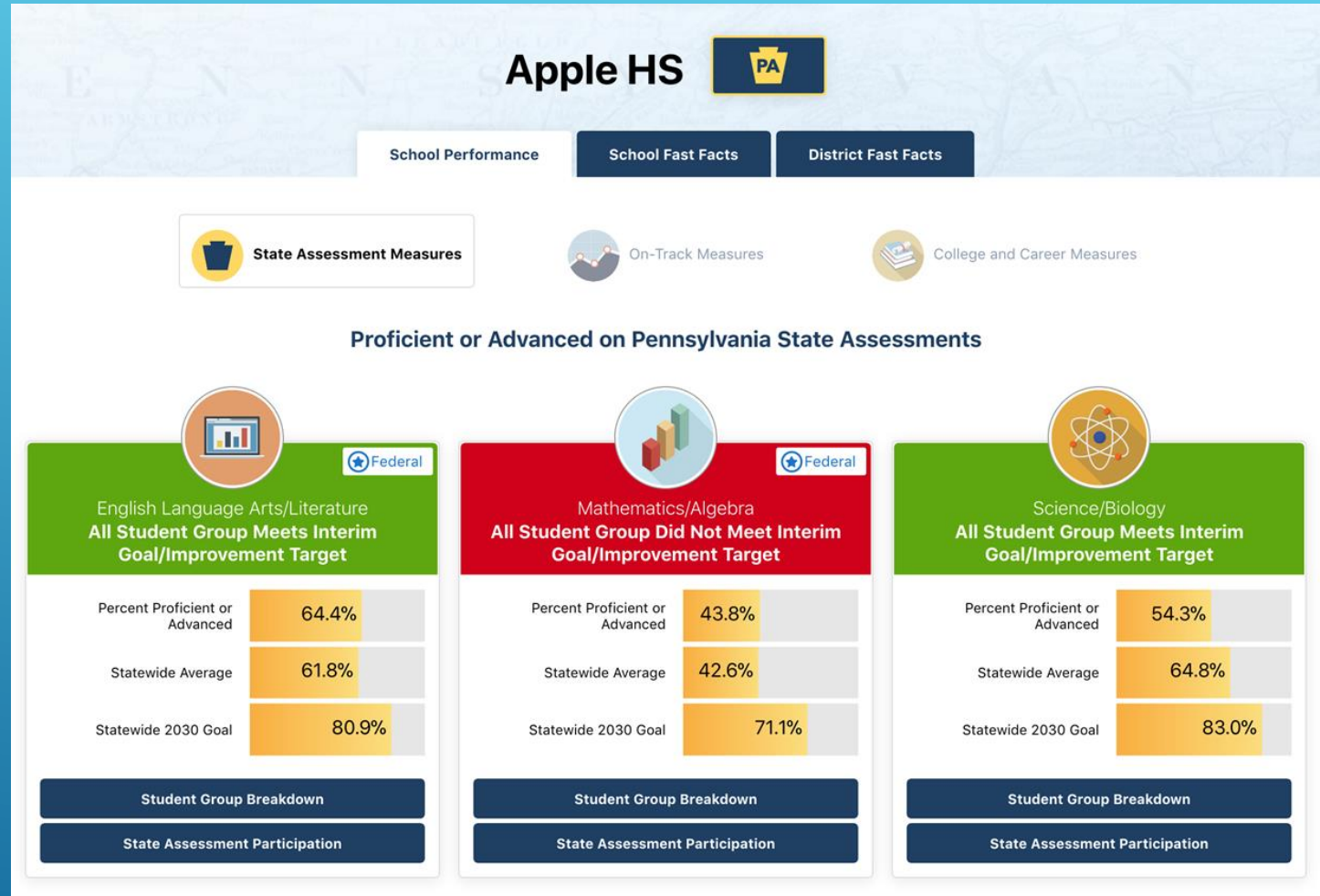
A decorative graphic consisting of several parallel white lines of varying lengths and thicknesses, arranged in a diagonal pattern from the bottom right towards the top right of the slide.

Why a dashboard?

Measures displayed on the dashboard are practical, and easy to read and understand.

The dashboard treats the accountability system as a tool for continuous improvement.

Overall school performance is apparent, and areas of strength or in need of improvement are evident.



Why is the Future Ready PA Index valuable to educators?

The Future Ready PA Index recognizes that students – and the schools that serve them – are more than just standardized test scores.

The Future Ready PA Index allows educators to determine successes and identify areas for improvement in their schools and programs.

The Future Ready PA Index's easy-to-navigate, advanced search function allows an educator to find schools with similar demographics and collaborate to determine what is working for students in the commonwealth's classrooms.



Why is the Future Ready PA Index valuable to our community?

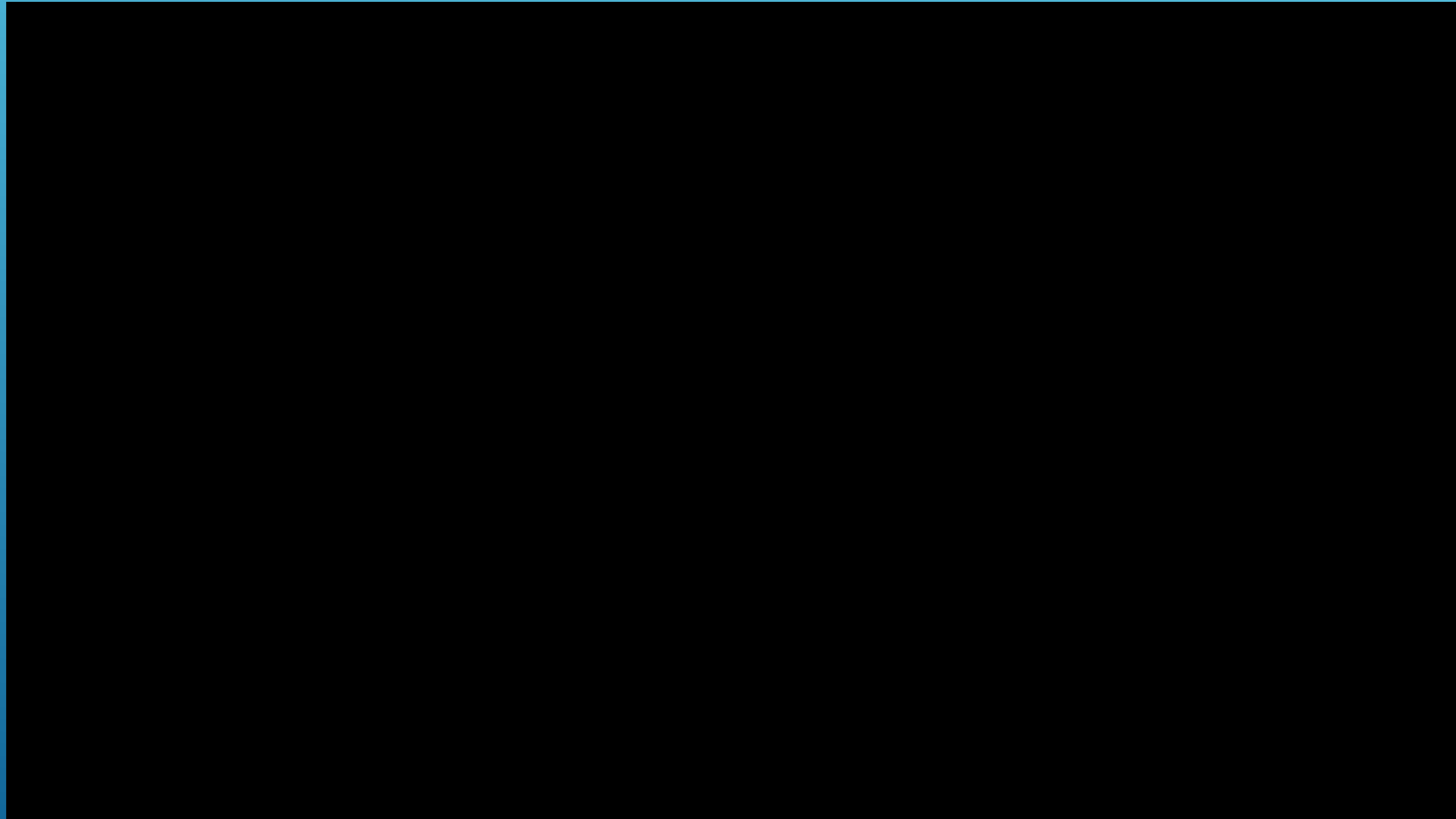
- ▶ Increases emphasis on student growth measures, which incentivizes a focus on all learners and is less sensitive to demographic variables.
- ▶ Measures English language acquisition among ELL students, not simply performance on a test of grade level ELA standards.
- ▶ Incentivizes career awareness instruction beginning at the elementary level.
- ▶ Addresses the issue of unequal weighting of content areas, evident in the School Performance Profile.
- ▶ Provides indicators of student success after graduation.
- ▶ Increases the emphasis on student access to course offerings such as AP, college credit, and CTE programs of study.
- ▶ Allows LEAs to include locally-selected reading assessments (Grade 3) and math assessments (Grade 7) as additional snapshots of student progress.
- ▶ Incentivizes schools to offer career pathways that culminate with high value, industry recognized credentials.

PA Future Ready Index Communications

Methacton School District will continue to provide our community with updates regarding the PA Future Ready Index according to when the PA Department of Education (PDE) releases information to districts.

Please also review documents posted to our website and visit the PDE website at <https://www.education.pa.gov>

**Watch a video that will help you learn how to
navigate the Future Ready PA Index**



<https://youtu.be/rMBFM3wN5hU>