

How Do I Find and Compare Data? (Script for Video)

The NC School Report Card provides a lot of data that tells you about student achievement and the schools and districts where students learn. But how do you find this data? How do you find a school or district? How do you compare the data to other schools or districts? In this tutorial I'm going to show you how to find reports and compare data for schools and districts in the NC School Report Card, so let's get started.

The School Report Cards website gives you the option to view data for districts, schools or the state. To view school-level report cards select the School Report Card link. To view the district-level report cards, select the District Report Card link. To view the state-level report card, select the State Report Card link.

The landing pages for the School and District Report Cards are like the table of contents, that provide links to reports such as school and district profile and contact information, performance data, school and district environments and personnel. To access a particular report, select the link to the report you want to see. Now, let's take a look at the State Report Card because it looks different than the school and district report card landing pages. The State Report Card provides state-level reports on student performance and teacher credentials. Tabs that identify the state-level reports are located at the top. You can select a tab to see a specific report.

Let's take a look at some school-level reports so you can see how to search for data for a school or district and compare it to other schools. I'll start by selecting a report from the School Report Cards landing page. I'm selecting the link for "End of Grade Tests" under the School Performance section.

Now that I have located the report, I want to tailor my search so I can see a specific school. I'm going to use Davis Drive Elementary School for this example. On the right side of the page I'll choose the "Select Schools" dropdown menu. You probably noticed that the first school on the list was already selected when I opened the report, so here's an important tip to remember: - the selection tool automatically defaults to the first school on the list. You can remove the default school by scrolling down to the school or schools that you want to view, select them, then scroll up to the first school on the list and click on the box beside the school to remove the checkmark. Choose no more than five schools to view. This will make it easier for you to compare the data.

If you want to limit your search to schools within a specific school district choose the "Select District" dropdown menu first, then the "Select Schools" dropdown menu. When you choose the "Select Schools" dropdown menu, only schools in the selected district will appear.

Let's go back to the End-of-Grade Test reports for Davis Drive Elementary. At the

top, you can see that there are tabs to additional reports. These are all the reports that are available under the School Performance section. To view another report within a section, select the report you want to view from the tabs. Each time you select a new report be sure to return to the “Select Schools” dropdown menu to select the school that you want to view. This brings up the another tip that’s important to remember while searching for data – When you select a new report be sure to return to the “Select Schools” dropdown menu to select the school or schools that you want to view. Your school selection doesn’t transfer each time you view a new report.

If you want to take a look at report for a district, choose the “District Report Card” link from the homepage, than select the report that you want to see. Choose the district or districts you want to view from the Select District(s) dropdown menu on the right. Like the School-level reports the selection tool automatically defaults to the first district on the list. Similarly, you can remove the default district just like you would for the “Select Schools” dropdown menu. If you want to see another report in the section, select it from the tab across the top.

We don’t recommend that you view all the schools or all the districts together for a report, however, you can by picking the “Select Districts” or “Select Schools” dropdown menu and right click anywhere in the menu. Choose the “Select All” option. If you would like to go back to a landing page to find other district- or school-level reports use the back button at the top

Some reports give you the option to look at data for a particular academic year. If you’re looking at a report that gives you that option double check the dropdown menu to make sure you are looking at the correct year. Here’s another important tip: for reports where you can select the academic year, double-check the dropdown menu. Reports do not automatically default to the most current year.

Let’s review some tips to remember:

1. The Select Districts and Schools dropdown menus default to the first school on the list.
2. School and district selections don’t transfer when you view a new report.
3. Reports where you can select the academic year do not automatically default to the most current year.

Well, that’s it for this tutorial. If you have specific questions about the NC School Report Cards website, please contact us by selecting the “Contact Us” link on the homepage or in the top right corner of the School or District Report Cards landing pages. Thanks for watching.