

Milwaukee's Share of Low-Performing Schools

Spencer Schien

9/25/2019

The purpose of this document is to answer the following question: **What share of Wisconsin's low-performing schools are in Milwaukee?**

First, it is instructive to know what share of Wisconsin schools are in Milwaukee in general.

- **Milwaukee:** 271 (11.3%)
- **Not Milwaukee:** 2124 (88.7%)

Performance as indicated by the School Report Card Overall Ratings

First, we will label schools as *low-performing* based on having the following School Report Card ratings:

- Alternate Rating - Needs Improvement
- Fails to Meet Expectation
- Fails to Meet Expectations^

By this definition, a Milwaukee school is 20% more likely to be low-performing than a school not in Milwaukee, and a school not in Milwaukee is 18% LESS likely to be low-performing.

Milwaukee Indicator	Total Schools	Low Performing Schools
Not Milwaukee	2124	42
Milwaukee	271	55

Performance as indicated by Spencer's Benchmarking

Next, we will label schools as *low-performing* based on the the Benchmarking model Spencer created. **It should be noted that the original model was optimized for Milwaukee, meaning no out-state schools were included.** Therefore, the results listed below should be interpreted with caution.

Also recall that this model depends on the Achievement Score, and schools are omitted when they don't have that score. This is why the number of *Total Schools* are different.

Milwaukee Indicator	Total Schools	Low Performing Schools
Not Milwaukee	1798	26
Milwaukee	235	13

This table labels as low-performing those schools whose *Difference from Benchmark* is greater than two standard deviations **below** the mean—put another way, it's about the bottom 2.5%.

By this definition, a Milwaukee School is 18% more likely to be low-performing than a school not in Milwaukee, but a school not in Milwaukee is only 2% less likely to be low-performing.