**Educator Evaluation and the use of the Early Warning Indicator System (EWIS)**

The following information about the state’s Early Warning Indicator System (EWIS) may be helpful as districts continue to rollout educator evaluation systems aligned to the Massachusetts Educator Evaluation Framework.

***What is the EWIS?***

The Department first released the Early Warning Indicator System (EWIS) data for grades 1-12 in the 2012-13 school year. The Department created the EWIS in direct response to educators' requests for early indicator data across multiple grade levels. The EWIS is a *tool to systematically identify students that may need additional attention in order to reach an upcoming academic goal* (expected student outcome). The EWIS was developed by looking at the actual outcomes of Massachusetts students in prior years and statistically validating a wide range of student level data to best predict whether our current students are on track to meet upcoming academic goals.

The Massachusetts EWIS is for grade levels 1 through 12 and is connected to relevant academic goals throughout the academic trajectory.

**Massachusetts EWIS Grade Level Groupings and Associated Academic Goals**

| The Massachusetts EWIS | | | |
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|  | **Age Group** | **Grades** | **Academic Milestones: Expected student outcomes** |
| K–12 | Early Elementary | 1, 2,3 | **Reading by the end of third grade** Meeting or exceeding expectations on the 3rd grade ELA Massachusetts State Assessment |
| Late Elementary | 4, 5, 6 | **Middle school ready** Meeting or exceeding expectations on 6th grade ELA and Mathematics State Assessments |
| Middle Grades | 7, 8, 9 | **High school ready** Passing grades on all 9th grade courses |
| High School | 10, 11, 12 | **High school graduation** Completing high school graduation requirements in four years |
| Postsecondary | **College Enrollment** Enrolling in postsecondary education |
| **College Persistence** Enrolling in a second year of postsecondary education |

The EWIS is a resource for educators to use in conjunction with other data and sources of information to better target student supports and interventions. Schools can use information from the EWIS to support students who are at risk of not meeting an expected academic goal with both school-wide strategies and targeted interventions. Districts and schools can also use EWIS data to examine school-level patterns over time in order to address systemic issues that may impede a student's ability to meet academic goals.


High Risk At risk for not reaching the upcoming academic milestone
Approximately 25% of high risk students  meet this milestone

Moderate Risk Moderately at risk for not reaching the upcoming academic milestone
Approximately 60% of moderate risk students meet this milestone

Low Risk Likely to reach the upcoming academic milestone
Approximately 90% of low risk students meet this milestone


EWIS data are available through [EDWIN Analytics](https://gateway.edu.state.ma.us/EdwinAnalytics/servlet/Gateway?b_action=xts.run&m=portal/cc.xts&gohome=), a free tool for all public school districts in the state. There are five reports for the 2022-23 School Year.

* + EW301 EWIS District View
  + EW318 EWIS K–12 Subgroup Analysis
  + EW320 EWIS Risk Level Indicator Analysis
  + EW601 EWIS Student List
  + EW611 Attendance and Suspension Monitoring

EWIS data are updated at the beginning of every school year, based on student information from the prior school year. Access to the EWIS reports in Edwin Analytics is granted through your district’s [directory administrator](http://www.doe.mass.edu/infoservices/data/diradmin/list.aspx). The [EWIS website](https://www.doe.mass.edu/ccte/ccr/ewis/) includes more information about the EWIS, including video tutorials and technical documentation.

***How might EWIS data be used in the context of educator evaluation?***

Because the EWIS is a prediction tool and not an accountability metric, it is inappropriate to use changes in EWIS student risk levels (low, moderate, and high) as a way to measure student learning, growth, or achievement for educator evaluation purposes. Many of the indicators included in the EWIS risk model are not instructionally sensitive. Instead, consider the following ways to potentially incorporate EWIS data with your educator evaluation implementation:

**Self-assessment.** The centerpiece of the new educator evaluation framework is the five-step evaluation cycle that culminates in a Summative Performance Rating. In Step 1, Self-Assessment, educators analyze student data and reflect on prior performance and educator practice. EWIS data will be available around the beginning of September each year, making it a very timely and appropriate tool to incorporate into the self-assessment process. Educators are encouraged to review EWIS data as an additional source of information about their students. While the EWIS by itself is not a diagnostic tool, it does provide a wealth of information that can be used in conjunction with other data sources in order to interpret and understand student symptoms and underlying student needs. The Student List report in Edwin Analytics provides the risk levels for all current students, as well as the data (e.g., attendance, Special Education level, MCAS results, course performance) that were used to determine students’ EWIS risk levels. The Student List report also provides students’ prior year EWIS risk level.

**Identification of a target population**. In Step 2 of the five-step cycle, Goal Setting and Plan Development, educators use the results of their self-assessments to develop at least one student learning goal and one professional practice goal. Often, educators will identify a subgroup of students to target with their student learning goals. EWIS data provides a method of identifying a target population based on multiple pieces of data instead of a single factor (e.g., special education level of need, ELL status, low income) alone. For example, an administrator might develop a student learning goal aimed at improving fluency across all second grade students with high EWIS risk levels or a high school teacher might craft a student learning goal aimed at improving writing skills across all students with high and moderate EWIS risk levels. Note that while using EWIS risk levels may be an appropriate and powerful way of identifying target populations, change in EWIS risk level is not an appropriate basis for a student learning goal, since goals must focus on instructional outcomes.

**Classroom context for evaluators**. The educator evaluation framework calls for evaluators to use professional judgment after considering a vast evidentiary base to determine an educator’s Summative Performance Rating. Reviewing an educators’ students’ EWIS data may provide an evaluator with valuable information about the make-up of an educator’s classes, possibly providing additional context as the evaluator makes a judgment about overall educator performance.