EWIS Frequently Asked Questions

What is new?
To support educators in understanding whether students are on track to succeed after high school, EWIS now covers three postsecondary milestones: College Enrollment, Academic Readiness and College Persistence.

What is the EWIS?
The Department first released the Early Warning Indicator System (EWIS) data for grades 1-12 in 2012-13. The Department created the EWIS in direct response to educators' requests for early indicator data at earlier grade levels and throughout high school. The EWIS is a tool to systematically identify students that may need additional attention in order to reach an upcoming academic goal. The EWIS was developed by looking at the actual outcomes for 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.

What is the K-12 EWIS model?
The Massachusetts K-12 EWIS for students entering grades 1-12 shows the likelihood of missing relevant academic milestones throughout the academic trajectory – if no interventions are provided.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Academic Milestones</th>
<th>Expected student outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early Elementary</td>
<td>1, 2, 3</td>
<td>Reading by the end of third grade</td>
<td>Proficient or advanced on 3rd grade Massachusetts State Assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late Elementary</td>
<td>4, 5, 6</td>
<td>Middle school ready</td>
<td>Proficient or advanced on 6th grade ELA and Mathematics State Assessments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle Grades</td>
<td>7, 8, 9</td>
<td>High school ready</td>
<td>Passing grades on all 9th grade courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School</td>
<td>10, 11, 12</td>
<td>High school graduation</td>
<td>Completing all local and state graduation requirements</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What is the Postsecondary EWIS model?
The Massachusetts Postsecondary EWIS for students in grades 10-12 shows the likelihood of missing college success milestones after high school – if no interventions are provided.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Groups</th>
<th>Grade Levels</th>
<th>Academic Goals</th>
<th>Expected student outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High School</td>
<td>10, 11, 12</td>
<td>College Enrollment</td>
<td>Enrolling in postsecondary education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11, 12</td>
<td>Academic Readiness</td>
<td>Enrolling in credit-bearing courses without developmental education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11, 12</td>
<td>College Persistence</td>
<td>Enrolling in a second year of postsecondary education</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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How do I use the EWIS?
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 the EWIS to support high-risk students with both school-wide strategies and targeted interventions. Districts and schools can also use EWIS data to examine school-level patterns over time to address systemic issues that may impede a student's ability to meet academic goals.

What are Early Warning Risk Levels?
A Risk Level is calculated for each student using data from the previous year. Risk Levels are the likelihood of missing an academic milestone without intervention.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk Level</th>
<th>Based on data from last school year, the student is ...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>High risk</strong></td>
<td><strong>At risk for not reaching</strong> the upcoming academic milestone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Approximately 25% of high-risk students meet the upcoming milestone.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Example: A 7th grade student identified as High Risk in EWIS is at high risk of missing the next academic milestone: passing all 9th grade courses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Moderate risk</strong></td>
<td><strong>Moderately at risk for not reaching</strong> the upcoming academic milestone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Approximately 60% of moderate risk students meet the upcoming milestone.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Example: A 2nd grade student identified as Moderate Risk in EWIS is at moderate risk of missing the next academic milestone: proficient or advanced on the 3rd grade ELA MCAS.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Low risk</strong></td>
<td>** Likely to reach** the upcoming academic milestone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Approximately 90% of low risk students meet the upcoming milestone.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Example: An 11th grade student identified as Low Risk in the K-12 EWIS is likely to meet the next academic milestone: graduating from high school.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The same student has three additional Risk Levels in the Postsecondary EWIS: college enrollment is Moderate Risk, academic readiness is High Risk and college persistence is Moderate Risk. Although this student is Low Risk in the K-12 model – and is likely to graduate high school – the student is moderately at risk for enrolling in a first and second year of college, and at high risk for academic readiness – likely to require developmental education or remediation courses.
Where can I find EWIS Reports?
EWIS data for the 2015-2016 school year are available through EDWIN Analytics, a free tool for all public school districts in the state. There are currently five K-12 reports and one Post-secondary report.

K-12 EWIS Reports for High School Graduation outcome:
1. District View (EW301)
2. Subgroup Analysis (EW318)
3. Graphical View (EW302)
4. Risk Level Indicator Analysis (EW317)
5. Student List (EW601)

Postsecondary EWIS Report for Postsecondary Success outcomes:
6. Student List-Postsecondary (EW602)

All reports may be filtered to look at a particular school, grade, and/or student population group.

What reports are available for the EWIS K-12 Model?

EW301 EWIS District View
This report is a good place to start your review. It provides a district-wide summary of student risk levels, by school and by grade. Use it to address questions such as –
- Where can the district channel additional resources to get students back on track for meeting the next academic goal?
- Where might the district prioritize support?

EW318 EWIS Subgroup Analysis
The Subgroup Report summarizes Risk Levels for demographic subgroups such as Racial/Ethnic groups, groups with High Needs and gender. Use this report to consider –
- Is there a noticeable difference in risk levels for certain subgroups?
- How do the Risk Levels within a district (or school or grade) vary across racial/ethnic groups and gender?
- Are there student populations with similar characteristics – for example, African American students, or students formerly in ELL – who might benefit from additional services or interventions?

EW302 EWIS Graphical View
This report has graphs of student Risk Level comparing a subgroup to the district and the state currently, and for the past five years. It is most useful for understanding –
- How does one student subgroup compare to the district and the state?
- What are the past Risk Levels of my current students?
  ○ For example, what are the historical Risk Levels on my current 4th grade male ELL students?
- What are the past Risk Levels for students with these characteristics?
  ○ For example, what are the historical Risk Levels on 4th grade male ELL students, from each of the past five years?

EW317 EWIS Risk Level Indicator Analysis
This report can be used to analyze specific attendance, behaviors, and course indicators to provide nuance across and within risk groups, which is useful in diagnosing and planning interventions. This report is helpful to answer –
- Do attendance and suspension rates vary across Risk Levels?
- Which courses do High Risk students pass the least? Which do they pass the most?
- Are there areas within a grade where universal (Tier I) changes may help students?
EW601 EWIS Student List
This report is useful for educators investigating particular students. The student list includes Risk Levels for each student alongside other information such as indicators used in the EWIS model, past Risk Levels and student characteristics. Use this when you are considering:

- What are the current Risk Levels of my students? What are their Risk Levels from last year?
- Who are my High Risk students?
- What data points or indicators went into the calculation to determine the Risk Levels?

What report is available for the EWIS Postsecondary Model?
EW602 EWIS Student List- Postsecondary
This report is useful for educators investigating particular students. The student list contains Risk Levels for High School Graduation plus the three Postsecondary milestones, alongside student data used in the EWIS model and other student characteristics. Use this when you are considering:

- What are the current Risk Levels of my students?
- Are the Risk Levels different for College Enrollment, Academic Readiness and Persistence?
- What are the indicators, or individual data points used in the Risk Level calculation, for my students?

How do I get access to EDWIN Analytics?
EDWIN Analytics is available through the Mass/Edu Gateway/Security Portal. If you did not have access to Edwin Analytics, contact your district’s Directory Administrator to request it: http://www.doe.mass.edu/infoservices/data/diradmin/list.aspx.

What level of data access is needed to see the EWIS Reports?
Several EWIS Reports are available to users with access to school and district aggregate reports within the education data warehouse. Student List reports are available to users who have access to student-level information within a school and/or district.

Why am I seeing only a few students – or no students – in my district or school?
Why are students or grades listed in the incorrect school?
Until the student claiming process is complete, the students in each district, school and grade may be incorrect. Students are listed in the school where they were most recently claimed. To update the school where a student currently attends (e.g., for students that went from a middle school last year to a high school this year), complete the student claiming process outlined here – http://www.mass.gov/edu/docs/ese/edwin-analytics/student-claiming.pdf. This will ensure that all students are listed in their current school for this year.

Incomplete data for SIF-enabled districts occurs when 2016 students have been un-claimed and not re-claimed for 2017. SIF-enabled districts must rollover their Student Information System (SIS) and configure their SIF agent for the 2017 school year in order to claim their current students and view their EWIS data.

If you have questions about student claiming, contact the EDWIN team using the web form with EDWIN Analytics in the subject line. http://eoe.state.ma.us/contactus.aspx.

Why are retained students listed in the incorrect grade?
Students are listed in their anticipated grade for this school year. For example, if the student was reported as enrolled in 7th grade last year, they are listed in the 8th grade in the EWIS Reports. Students retained last year are likely listed in the incorrect grade in the August EWIS Reports. Grade assignments will be refreshed in the fall to reflect any retained students once the October SIMS is finalized (likely the December/January update).

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When will the EWIS reports be updated during the school year? What will change?
The EWIS Reports will be updated in October and again in December/January.
The October update will have two changes compared to the earlier release:
• There may be Risk Levels assigned for additional students. This affects districts that submitted the Student Course Schedule (SCS) data after the earlier deadlines.
• There may be a small number of students whose Risk Level changes as final MCAS data are introduced. This is due to small differences between preliminary MCAS results (used for the initial release) and final MCAS results. We expect very minimal changes to EWIS Risk Levels with this change.

The December/January update will have one change from the October release:
• Student grade levels may change to reflect October SIMS. This will not result in a change to student Risk Levels. Also, students who were not enrolled in Massachusetts public schools the prior year will appear with a NA risk level. No risk level can be determined since the Department does not have data about the students’ prior school year.

Once calculated, the risk level for an individual student will not change (except for rare instances from changes in MCAS score or other data). However, students who move schools and districts throughout the school year will appear on different reports once the school/district claims them. Therefore, the numbers, percentages and students who appear on district and school reports may change throughout the year to reflect your current school/district enrollment. An individual student’s risk level is not recalculated throughout the school year.

Are there more EWIS Reports planned?
Several of the EWIS reports have been developed based on feedback from users like you. We are currently planning additional Postsecondary reports, and we would like to hear your ideas! Please let us know how EWIS Reports can be even more useful to you. Email EWIS@doe.mass.edu with your suggestions.

Where can I learn more?
The EWIS team has compiled a variety of resources here – including a 5-minute presentation, a one-page summary, and more. http://www.doe.mass.edu/ccr/ewi/

I still have questions. Who can help?
Email the EWIS team at EWIS@doe.mass.edu and we’ll get back to you with a response.