

A-F Report Card Cell Suppression under the [Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act \(FERPA\)](#) and the [Oklahoma Student Privacy and Information Act](#)

The Oklahoma State Department of Education (SDE) has utilized a multi-tiered method for redacting information which, in certain situations, could result in the release of student-level data. The Department has implemented a redaction system that not only redacts (suppresses) N-sizes of less than ten individual students, but also utilizes secondary suppression and “top and bottom coding” in public reports.

Secondary Suppression

For the Performance and Growth components of the A-F Report Card, the SDE reports test results both by subject area and overall (i.e., all subjects combined). When one subject area is redacted due to having an N-size of less than ten individual students (primary suppression), then additional information from other subject areas must be redacted so that it is not possible to identify the results for the subject area that has less than 10 students by subtracting the results of the remaining subject areas from the overall results.

Example:

If a school has 12 students for Overall Growth in Math and 9 students in Overall Growth in Reading for an overall student count of 21, then Reading must be suppressed because it is less than 10. If additional information for Math is not secondarily suppressed, then you can subtract 12 from 21 to reveal that the number that was originally suppressed was, in fact, 9.

Top and Bottom Coding

For Bonus Points, the SDE currently reports >95% for any percentages over 95% (top coding) and <5% for any percentages less than 5% (bottom coding).