Pioneer named among state's top performing districts

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Pioneer Regional School Corporation has been recognized by the Center for Business and Economic Research at Ball State University as one of the top 10 school corporations in Indiana for overall value-added performance and also one of the top 10 most improved school corporations in value-added growth.

The Ball State study evaluates school performance using a "value-added" model, which measures the impact a school corporation has on student outcomes while controlling for external factors such as socioeconomic status. This approach provides a more comprehensive and equitable assessment of school effectiveness by identifying the contribution of the district itself to student learning and growth, according to the evaluators.



Charles Grable

According to the study, Pioneer Regional School Corporation ranked among the top 10 districts statewide in 2025 value-added performance, demonstrating a significant positive impact on student achievement relative to expectations. Additionally, Pioneer was identified as one of the Top 10 most improved districts from 2022 to 2025, with an increase of 18.7 percentage points in value-added performance, highlighting substantial academic growth over time.

Notably, Pioneer is one of only a few districts in Indiana to earn recognition on both lists.

"This recognition reflects the dedication and hard work of our students, staff, and community," said superintendent Dr. Charles Grable. "Our focus has remained on ensuring high levels of learning for all students, and this study validates the impact of those efforts. We are proud of the progress we have made and remain committed to continuous improvement."

The Ball State analysis found that while a significant portion of student achievement is influenced by socioeconomic factors, a substantial share is attributable to the practices and decisions within school corporations — referred to as "value-added." The results in this area indicates that the district's instructional strategies, leadership, and student support systems are making a meaningful difference in student outcomes, according to press release from PRSC.