

# SCOTT COUNTY COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1

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October 31, 2018

Dear Winchester CUSD #1 Community Members,

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) released our annual School Report Card today. This Report Card is designed to show how schools are progressing on a wide range of educational goals, based upon data from standardized testing. For those of you unfamiliar with 'standardized testing', they are designed to identify strengths and weaknesses of individual students / curriculum / schools. The exact same test is given to every single student in the same grade level in the state. Our 5th graders take the exact same test as 5th graders in suburban Chicago schools and those in metro-east St. Louis schools.

The four possible school designations set forth by the Illinois State Board of Education are:

<b>School Designations</b>			
<i>Exemplary</i>	<i>Commendable</i>	<i>Underperforming</i>	<i>Lowest-Performing</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Performance in the top 10% of all schools</li> <li>● High schools with graduation rate higher than 67%</li> <li>● No underperforming student groups at or below the "all students" group in the lowest-performing 5% of all schools</li> <li>● Eligible to apply to serve as an IL-EMPOWER Learning Partner</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Performance <b>not</b> in the top 10% of all schools</li> <li>● High schools with graduation rate higher than 67%</li> <li>● No underperforming student groups at or below the "all students" group in the lowest-performing 5% of all schools</li> <li>● Eligible to apply to serve as an IL-EMPOWER Learning Partner</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● One or more student groups underperforming at or below the "all students" group in the lowest-performing 5% of all schools; groups must have at least 20 students in at least three indicators</li> <li>● Completes a Work Plan for School Improvement and provided targeted support through IL-EMPOWER process</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● In the lowest-performing 5% of Title I eligible schools statewide</li> <li>● High schools with graduation rate at or below 67%</li> <li>● Completes a Work Plan for School Improvement and provided comprehensive support through IL-EMPOWER process</li> </ul>

Winchester High School has received a "Commendable" designation, with several notable indicators:

- \* 94% graduation rate while State average is 85.4%
- \* 88.4% of our Freshmen are considered 'on track'
- \* 67% of our students Proficient in Science (the State average is 51%)
- \* 64% of our Seniors are enrolled in early college classes
- \* 76% of our Seniors are enrolled in a college program
- \* 30% of our teachers have a Master's Degree or higher
- \* We have an 11:1 student/teacher ratio

We are proud to be able to offer numerous elective / vocational classes such as Agriculture, Auto Mechanics, and Family & Career Sciences. To enhance instruction for Special Education students, several classes are co-taught and our students are afforded numerous cross-curricular opportunities.

Winchester Elementary School has received an "Underperforming" rating which means we will have access to additional funding, tools, and learning partners to power our success. Our designation is a fact, not a judgment, and represents one moment in time when the students took the test. Improvement begins with taking an honest and comprehensive look at where we are, so we can chart the path to where we want to go. One factor in this designation is the large number of students with IEPs (Special Education). We offer an outstanding Special Education program which not only draws families to our district, but is also recognized by adjoining districts who pay tuition to send some of their special needs students here to benefit from our educational services and process.

Notable accomplishments at Winchester Elementary School include:

- \* A steady decline in discipline reports over the past seven years; going from 365 to 171
- \* Our Pre-K program has been awarded the ISBE "Gold Circle of Quality" award
- \* Average class size is 17, while the State average is 20
- \* Implementation of a WIN (What I Need) program for IEP students
- \* RTI (Response to Intervention) provides extra support to regular education class students
- \* Revised Junior High schedule and STEM offerings
- \* New school based testing program for 3rd - 8th grade students
- \* Promethean Boards in every classroom
- \* A learning environment in newly renovated building with caring, dedicated staff
- \* Outstanding community support

Our district is strongest when we all work together, and as such - be looking for notification of a parent survey to give your input on the educational process in CUSD #1. We hold high expectations for all students and we believe every student can meet these expectations with the proper support. Thank you for your continued partnership to ensure every child is thriving!

As always - please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or require any further information.

Sincerely,



David C. Roberts  
Superintendent