



Illinois State Board of Education

100 North First Street, Springfield, Illinois 62777-0001
www.isbe.net

James T. Meeks
Chairman

Tony Smith, Ph. D.
State Superintendent of Education

October 30, 2018

Dear Superintendent Zinni,

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) provides the opportunity for districts and schools to build on existing strengths and to close academic achievement gaps. ESSA creates the statewide conditions to support districts, schools, and most importantly, students who need additional assistance and resources. The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) is beginning its comprehensive implementation of ESSA as required by the federal government.

Please note that this summative designation is based on a data set consisting of 2018 PARCC, SAT, and DLM-AA proficiency scores, growth (grades 4-8), English language progress to proficiency (grades 1-12), chronic absenteeism (grades 1-12), and ninth grade on track and graduation rates (for high schools only). The Illinois Report Card will report a more comprehensive picture of your district and school(s). The statutorily required designation allows districts and schools timely access to support and resources to aid in their continuous inquiry and improvement process.

The chart attached to this letter identifies school(s) in your district and their summative designation(s), as defined below.

Please note ISBE will share schools' summative designations publicly beginning no sooner than 4PM on Tuesday, October 30, 2018. The designations are under an embargo until that time.

- **Exemplary:** A school that has no underperforming student demographic groups at or below the “all students” group of the lowest 5 percent of all Title 1 schools, a graduation rate of greater than 67 percent, and whose performance is in the top 10 percent of schools statewide. Schools that receive an Exemplary School designation may apply to serve in the IL-EMPOWER network of partners.
- **Commendable:** A school that has no underperforming student demographic groups at or below the “all students” group of the lowest 5 percent of all Title 1 schools, a graduation rate greater than 67 percent, and whose performance is not in the top 10 percent of schools statewide. Schools that receive a Commendable School designation may apply to serve in the IL-EMPOWER network of partners.
- **Underperforming:** A school in which one or more student demographic groups is performing at or below the “all students” group of the lowest 5 percent of all Title 1 schools. Schools that receive an Underperforming School designation will receive Targeted Support services through IL-EMPOWER.

- **Lowest Performing:** A school that is in the lowest-performing 5 percent of Title I schools in Illinois and any high schools that have a graduation rate of 67 percent or less. Schools that receive a Lowest Performing School designation will receive Comprehensive Support through IL-EMPOWER.

Schools that are designated as either Underperforming (Targeted Support) or Lowest Performing (Comprehensive Support) will receive funding through School Improvement Grants authorized under Section 1003(a) of Title I of ESSA. These grants allocate funds to the district to provide resources to help improve the learning environment and outcomes for our highest-need students. The base amount of funding support for Lowest Performing schools will be \$100,000 and the base amount for Underperforming schools will be \$15,000. Additional dollars above the base amount will be provided that will be calculated by a formula that takes into account a district's enrollment in October and fiscal year 2019 percentage of district adequacy. These amounts will be populated in the grant application for each district that will be available in IWAS beginning November 1, 2018. Schools that received funding support based on the June 2018 preliminary designation will maintain that allocation of support for one year regardless of a final designation in October, 2018. In addition to greater funding, examples of support could include technical assistance, professional development, and the development of resources.

If a school or schools in your district were identified on the June 29, 2018, Preliminary list of Summative Designations, you should be in the final phases of receiving approval for your preliminary grant application. Districts with newly identified schools on the final 2018 list, which will be made public on October 31, will need to submit either a new application if previously none of their schools were on the preliminary list or amend their grant to include their new allocations in support of the schools on the final list. The project start date for these funds will be the date of submittal of the Title 1 School Improvement 1003(a) grant application.

A school identified for Comprehensive Support will receive assistance from an ISBE school support manager and will collaborate with an approved IL-EMPOWER Learning Partner(s), managed by the district, to create and implement a Work Plan for School Improvement. A school identified for Targeted Support will have access to IL-EMPOWER Learning Partners but not an assigned school support manager.

The school may elect to use its funds in the first year for planning purposes. ***If your school intends to use the 2018-19 school year as a planning year, please alert ESSA@isbe.net by November 15, 2018, if you have not already done so.***

Should you or your school district have any questions regarding your summative designation(s), please contact Rae Clementz, Director of Assessment and Accountability, at aclement@isbe.net. If you have questions about the School Improvement Grants, please contact Annie Brooks, Federal Liaison and Director of Title Grants, at abrooks@isbe.net.

ISBE staff look forward to working collaboratively with your district to ensure successful learning experiences for each child in every school.

Sincerely,



Ralph Grimm
Acting Chief Education Officer
Illinois State Board of Education

School Name	Summative Designation	Reason for Designation	Type
Hickory Creek Middle School	Exemplary	All Students	ES
Chelsea Elem School	Exemplary	All Students	ES
Grand Prairie Elementary School	Exemplary	All Students	ES