

November 19, 2018

CUSD # 7 Educational Community,

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) released annual School Report Cards on Oct. 31. The Report Card shows how well schools in CUSD #7 are progressing on a wide range of educational goals. CUSD #7 has been identified as a Tier I district in the greatest need of financial support as we sit at only 55% of funding capacity to meet expectations. New evidence based funding enables our district to identify areas of need and address them appropriately. We can continue to build upon our success and implement new programming to provide improved educational services across the board.

As part of the new support and accountability system that launched this year, the Illinois State Board of Education has identified our middle school to receive targeted supports to accelerate academic progress. We will now have an opportunity to provide support to an outstanding group of teachers and support staff as interventions and initiatives will be implemented to improve performance.

Each school’s Report Card also now includes a designation, a descriptor of how well our schools are meeting the needs of all students, based on 10 measures of performance, including growth. Our designation is not a descriptor of how our schools are doing overall, but instead is a descriptor of how one specific group of students is doing compared to all students statewide, and represents one moment in time. It is imperative we analyze where we are and where we want to go.

The four possible school designations are:

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

Our school’s designations are: Gillespie High School/Commendable, Gillespie Middle School/Underperforming, Ben-Gil Elementary School/Commendable, which means we have access to additional funding, tools, and learning partners as resources in our improvement process. We look forward to maximizing new opportunities for students and providing support to ongoing initiatives.

The Administrative Team has already started working with teachers and staff members to identify paths to improvement. Analysis of all data relevant to the improvement process will be critical. Similarly, collaboration between all members of the educational community will be important.

I have never wavered from my expectations for all the students and staff in CUSD #7. I want all students to continue to succeed and aspire to do better. All CUSD #7 educators are prepared to challenge every student every day to learn and prosper.

You may access the School Report Card at illinoisreportcard.com. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions at 217-839-2464.

Best Regards,

Joseph Tieman
Superintendent
Gillespie CUSD #7