



November 1, 2018

Dear Woodland Families,

On Wednesday October 31st, Illinois released its first school designations as part of the new Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). We are excited to share with you Woodland Elementary School(s), Woodland Intermediate School and Woodland Middle School all received a designation of "Commendable." Woodland Primary School will not have a designation this year. More information on Woodland's designations can be found at www.illinoisreportcard.com.

These designations are reflective of measures through the Every Student Succeeds Act. Multiple indicators of student success are included in the new determination, including academic performance, individual student growth, chronic absenteeism and English language proficiency. Individual student growth accounts for 50% of the designation determination.

We are pleased to see both proficiency and growth included in this new evaluation. At Woodland, we assess our kindergarten students in the first forty days of school. As a result of this readiness assessment less than 27% of our kindergarten students have sufficient early literacy and math skills to enter kindergarten. These percentages are also below state averages.

The new ESSA designation confirms just how much Woodland students grow throughout their years at Woodland. By the time students leave us in eighth grade, they are above the state average in both English Language Arts and Mathematics.

The four ESSA summative designations are:

- Exemplary School - No underperforming student groups, and performance in the top 10 percent of schools statewide
- Commendable School - No underperforming student groups, with performance not in the top 10 percent of schools statewide
- Underperforming School - One or more student groups performing at or below the "all students" group in the lowest 5 percent of Title I eligible schools statewide
- Lowest Performing School - In the lowest performing 5 percent of Title I eligible schools statewide.

We would like to thank you, our parents and families, for the continued support of your children's schools and your child's academic success.

Sincerely,

Steven Thomas, Ph.D.

Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning