



# HEARTLAND HIGH SCHOOL

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To: MDSD Board of Trustees

From: Kim Arrasmith, Principal, Heartland High School

Heartland High School (HHS) ranked among the Top 10 alternative high schools in Idaho, as reported by *Idaho Education News*. A recent statewide ranking published by *Idaho Education News* identified Heartland High School as one of Idaho's highest-performing alternative high schools.

This distinction reveals the strength of HHS's innovative, student-centered approach and its impact on student success. This recognition is especially meaningful given the unique population served at HHS, including students requiring flexible pathways, credit recovery, and individualized supports to achieve graduation and postsecondary readiness. The rankings are based on accountability data from the Idaho State Department of Education, aligned to Idaho's Consolidated State Plan under the *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)*. Schools are evaluated using a composite accountability score.

This recognition highlights the effectiveness of Heartland's alternative education model, the strong staff-student relationships and individualized supports, our focus on Perseverance, Patience, and Purpose in student growth, and the alignment with state accountability expectations and continuous improvement efforts. HHS continues to demonstrate that alternative pathways can produce exceptional outcomes for students when high expectations are paired with meaningful support systems.

This achievement reflects the dedication of Heartland staff, the resilience of our students, and the continued support of the MDSD Board of Trustees. We will continue to align HHS practices with Cognia accreditation goals and High Reliability Schools (HRS) frameworks, work to expand college and career readiness opportunities (including internships and apprenticeships), and maintain focus on student growth, engagement, and graduation outcomes.

I would like to extend my appreciation to the Heartland staff for their dedication to students and to the Board for its ongoing support of alternative education programming in our district. Please join me in celebrating this accomplishment.

Respectfully,

Kimmi Arrasmith

Principal, Heartland High School

Director of Special Programs, McCall-Donnelly School District