

October 27, 2025

Dear Superintendent Empen,

I'm writing to inform you about the 2025 Annual Summative Designations for each school in your district.

What is an Annual Summative Designation?

The Every Student Succeeds Act requires all states to annually assess the performance of elementary and secondary public schools. These designations describe schools excelling across [various academic and student success indicators](#) and identify schools requiring support and improvement.

To fulfill this requirement, Illinois issues five Annual Summative Designations:

- *Exemplary* acknowledges the top-performing 10% of schools.
- *Comprehensive* identifies a) schools in the lowest-performing 5% and b) schools with overall performance above the lowest-performing 5% that have one or more individual student groups who remain Targeted, even after completing a full Targeted school improvement cycle.
- *Intensive* identifies schools that remain in the lowest-performing 5%, even after completing a full Comprehensive Support school improvement cycle.
- *Targeted* recognizes schools with overall performance above the lowest-performing 5% but with individual student groups performing similarly to the lowest 5%.
- All other schools receive a *Commendable* designation.

Your district's 2025 Annual Summative Designations are listed in Appendix A at the end of this letter. These designations can also be viewed on the [Illinois State Report Card](#), including data visualizations showing school and student group performance data overall and at the indicator score level. If you have schools in improvement status, please expect to receive a letter from ISBE Director of School and District Improvement Nikki Combs, providing details on the school improvement program requirements and accompanying grant.

To learn more about Annual Summative Designations, check out [this webpage](#) for a catalog of resources, including a recorded webinar series. You can also schedule a personalized 30-minute data review to have an ISBE staffer assist in interpreting your data in any of the following areas:

- [Summative Designation Deep Dive](#)
- [English Learner Progress to Proficiency Indicator](#)
- [ELA, Math and Science Proficiency Indicators](#)
- [Communicating Your Summative Designation](#)
- [Useful Reports for Summative Designations](#)
- [Understanding Student Growth](#)
- [30 Minute Data Review](#)

We look forward to working with your district to ensure a thorough understanding of these designations.

Please direct questions about your annual summative designations and associated data to Milton Leathers and questions about school improvement or grant requirements to Nikki Combs at the contact information below.

Milton Leathers, Director

Accountability

☎ (312) 814-9690

✉ mleather@isbe.net

Nikki Combs, Director

School and District Improvement

☎ (217) 524-1817

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Sincerely,



Dr. Kimako Patterson

Chief of Staff

Illinois State Board of Education

Cc Nikki Combs, Director, School and District Improvement
 Milton Leathers, Director of Accountability

School Name	2025 Annual Summative Designation	Reason	School Improvement Status	Cohort
Dixon High School	Commendable	All Students	N/A	Not In Status
Jefferson Elem School	Commendable	All Students	Comprehensive	RC23
Madison School	Commendable	All Students	Comprehensive	RC23
Reagan Middle School	Commendable	All Students	N/A	Not In Status
Washington Elem School	Commendable	All Students	N/A	Not In Status