
MEMO

TO: BOARD OF EDUCATION
FROM: HILLARY STANIFER, SUPERINTENDENT
DATE: NOVEMBER 2023
RE: SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The IL School Report Card was released at the end of October. The scoring for the report card is calculated by combining multiple scores, including growth and proficiency in the subjects that have been assessed at the state level, along with other measures of student success, such as chronic absenteeism, graduation rate, and the 5Essentials Survey. For those who would like to dig deeper into how designations are calculated, please refer to the Enhanced Summative Designation document created by the IL State Board of Education (ISBE). It is linked for you here: <https://5il.co/287bd>.

I would also invite you to take time on the IL School Report Card site, which can be found here: <https://www.illinoisreportcard.com/>. You can type in Blue Ridge CUSD 18 and from there, you can look at either district level data, or data specific to each of our three buildings.

Of special note this year, when reviewing school level data, you can click on Accountability, then Summative Designation to find a new graphic that displays the various components that make up the overall index score. Building level highlights include:

- Schneider Elementary- ELA growth and Math proficiency
- BRIJHS- ELA growth and ELA proficiency
- BRHS- ELA proficiency and graduation rate

Overall, the state reports strong progress in students' recovery from the pandemic – with increased proficiency rates and the highest graduation rate in 13 years. Major increases in the English language arts proficiency were noted, along with an encouraging, yet comparatively smaller, increase in the math proficiency rate. That said, proficiency rates remain below pre-pandemic levels and chronic absenteeism remains alarmingly high, indicating more work must be done to ensure full academic and social-emotional recovery from the pandemic.

Blue Ridge is committed to a continued pursuit of social-emotional and academic growth. We remain open to your partnership as we believe that strong connections between home and school greatly benefit students. Thank you to all who were able to attend our recent Parent Teacher Conferences. If you were unable to attend, but would like to speak with your student's teacher(s), please reach out via email or phone to make arrangements.

The tax levy is brought to the board in draft form in November and then presented in its final form to the board in December. The overall tax rate was lowered by more than \$0.06 during the last levy and it is our goal to make yet another small reduction for levy year 2023 due to the increase in our Equalized Assessed Valuation (EAV) from the Sapphire Sky Windfarm in McLean County.

We conducted intruder drills in each building this month. Two scenarios were read and discussed in each classroom before a final scenario was read and acted upon. Drills help us practice our responses and also provide us with information on how we can improve our procedures. We will continue to discuss our safety plans as we prepare for evacuation and reunification drills for each building in Spring 2024.

Other Tasks:

- BACC Board Meeting
- ROE Superintendent Meeting
- CICEO Group Business Pitch
- Board Training with Patrick Allen
- Bond Rating and Due Diligence Calls
- Fall Festival at BRIJHS
- ISBE and ISP Webinar
- Administrative Council
- TCSEA Board Meeting
- Bond Workshop