



Tony Sanders, Chief Executive Officer

October 30, 2019

Dear Century Oaks Parent or Guardian,

I am writing to tell you about the state of Illinois' efforts to comply with the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the education accountability law that aims to ensure all students are meeting high academic standards in public schools across our nation. All of us at Century Oaks strongly support that goal, and it aligns with our School District U-46 mission "Academic Success for All."

As part of ESSA, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) issues an annual report card for each school in the state. Those report cards become public at noon Oct. 30, and are posted on the [Illinois Report Card](#) and will be on our school website next week. The report card includes school demographics and metrics such as attendance, our students' performance and growth on the IAR test, and more. The state's focus on growth – how much each student grows on the state assessment – supports our District commitment for personalized and individualized learning experiences.

As the state releases this year's results, it will also release school [designations](#) based on the above-cited metrics and a process that weighs performance data across the state to create an index. This year, two schools are ranked "Exemplary," 46 schools are deemed "Commendable," while five are designated as "Underperforming." There are no schools in U-46 that were deemed "Lowest Performing."

In School District U-46, many students attend a school other than their designated neighborhood school to take advantage of special programs such as Dual Language, gifted classes, special education services, or Magnet Academies. This is important to note as there has been a change in the Illinois State Board of Education's calculation process that impacts the composite state test scores of some schools. This year, unlike the previous years, state test scores are captured under the neighborhood school rather than the school that is serving these students. This led to some dramatic changes, both increases, and decreases, in some schools' composite scores. This change impacts some of our schools' trend data and makes it harder to compare this year's results to last year. Importantly each individual student's score, already sent home by our school, remains valid and can be compared to last year's results and District scores can be compared over time.



Tony Sanders, Chief Executive Officer

---

Century Oaks received the “Commendable” designation, the state’s second from top designation. This means we are meeting state standards for proficient progress and student growth with areas of improvement identified. We want to continue to build on the hard work of our teachers and staff in collaboration with families and community partners.

Our school continues to use our School Improvement Plan (SIP) Team to review our practices, data, and ensure we are working to improve student learning. If you would like to consider being part of our School Improvement Plan Team, please contact me to discuss.

Our SIP Team has already led our school to:

- focus on standards-based learning and assessment to deliver on student growth and achievement
- PBIS Platinum Designation for outstanding Multi-Tiered System of Supports Implementation
- implement new strategies to grow our family and community engagement

We remain committed to continuous improvement, and we believe we have the capacity to help every child succeed. If you have any questions about our school’s status under the state report card, or anything else, please contact me or you can contact U-46 administration through [Let's Talk](#), our customer service tool. Thank you for your dedication and cooperation as engaged parents.

Dr. Andrea Erickson, Principal, Century Oaks