



Janice K. Jackson, EdD
Chief Executive Officer

LaTanya D. McDade
Chief Education Officer

Chief Executive Office

42 West Madison Street, 3rd Floor • Chicago, Illinois 60602
Telephone: 773/553-1573 • Email: CEO-Jackson@cps.edu

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Dear CPS Parents,

This week, the Illinois Board of Education (ISBE) released their annual Illinois State School Report Card (SSRC) for schools, districts, and the state. The report card provides a snapshot of performance on a range of educational goals using data that ISBE collects from districts across the state.

For the first time, ISBE is assessing individual schools and assigning performance designations based on achievement in several areas. Under ISBE's new system, schools are categorized as Exemplary, Commendable, Underperforming or Low Performing, with 10 percent of schools statewide categorized as Exemplary, and five percent noted as Lowest Performing. Schools in the Underperforming and Lowest Performing categories will receive supplemental funding from the state to drive academic progress.

While the ISBE system provides an additional set of data to consider and leverage for improvement, there are several key differences between the state's system and the trusted SQRP rating system that the district has utilized for several years.

At the elementary level, SQRP uses NWEA, which we have found to be the strongest and most useful assessment of student performance, while the state uses PARCC, which is being replaced by a new state assessment this year. At the high school level, SQRP captures your child's academic growth and progress, but the state system is not able to capture growth.

Beyond the different metrics and methods that SQRP and SSRC use to rate your child's school, SQRP is designed to evaluate absolute quality and ensures your child is receiving a high-quality education. Measuring school quality requires a nuanced understanding of a particular set of schools, and after 5 years of fine tuning SQRP for our schools, we are confident it is most effectively tailored to the educational vision that we have set as leaders of the district.

The state's system provides a different perspective into school performance. If you are interested in learning more about your school's SRCC results, please visit www.illinoisreportcard.com.

Sincerely,

Janice K. Jackson, Ed.D
Chief Executive Officer
Chicago Public Schools

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