



# Illinois State Board of Education

100 North First Street • Springfield, Illinois 62777-0001  
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Jesse H. Ruiz  
Chairman

Christopher A. Koch, Ed.D.  
State Superintendent of Education

February 2010

Denise Thomas, Principal  
Southwest Elem School  
Evergreen Park ESD 124  
9900 S Central Park  
Evergreen Park, IL 60805

Re: Academic Excellence Award – 2009 Illinois Honor Roll

Dear Principal:

Congratulations! Your school has earned an Academic Excellence Award! The Illinois State Board of Education commends you and your faculty on all the good work required to sustain academic excellence in your school.

Across the state, 438 schools earned the Academic Excellence Award for 2009. Many of these schools receive national recognition for their long-time exemplary performance.

To earn an Academic Excellence Award, a school must meet the following criteria:

- In PK-8 schools, 90 percent of students must have met or exceeded state standards in both reading and mathematics for at least three consecutive years;
- In high schools, 80 percent of students must have met or exceeded state standards in both reading and mathematics for at least three consecutive years; and
- Schools must have made Adequate Yearly Progress in 2008 and 2009, which includes:
  - at least 70 percent meeting and exceeding standards in both reading and mathematics;
  - 95 percent participation rate in state assessments for all students in each subgroup;
  - attendance rate of at least 90 percent for elementary and middle schools and a graduation rate of at least 78 percent for high schools.

Enclosed you will find a certificate commemorating this award. At <http://www.ilhonorroll.niu.edu> you can learn more about the Illinois Honor Roll, which includes three categories of awards – Spotlight Schools, Academic Improvement and Academic Excellence. At this website, you will find a page devoted to your school and a customized logo for your use. Also, you will find the criteria for the awards and a full list of award winners.

We encourage you to celebrate your success and share your good news with students, parents and all community partners. Again, I extend my congratulations and very best wishes for continuing success.

Sincerely,

Christopher A. Koch, Ed.D.  
State Superintendent of Education

Enclosure

cc: Dr Diane Cody, Superintendent  
Evergreen Park ESD 124