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October 30, 2019

Dear Parent(s) and Community Members:

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) released our annual School Report Card today. You can access it by going to <https://www.illinoisreportcard.com> and entering each school name or input Tri City CUSD 1 (no hyphen) to look up our district. The Report Card shows how well each of our schools is progressing taking a detailed look at each school's progress on academics, student success, school culture and climate, and financial investments.

The four possible school designations are:

School Designations			
<i>Exemplary</i>	<i>Commendable</i>	<i>Underperforming</i>	<i>Lowest-Performing</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performance in the top 10% of all schools</li> <li>• High schools with graduation rate higher than 67%</li> <li>• No underperforming student groups at or below the "all students" group in the lowest-performing 5% of all schools</li> <li>• Eligible to apply to serve as an IL-EMPOWER Learning Partner</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performance <b>not</b> in the top 10% of all schools</li> <li>• High schools with graduation rate higher than 67%</li> <li>• No underperforming student groups at or below the "all students" group in the lowest-performing 5% of all schools</li> <li>• Eligible to apply to serve as an IL-EMPOWER Learning Partner</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One or more student groups underperforming at or below the "all students" group in the lowest-performing 5% of all schools; groups must have at least 20 students in at least three indicators</li> <li>• Completes a Work Plan for School Improvement and provided targeted support through IL-EMPOWER process</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the lowest-performing 5% of Title I eligible schools statewide</li> <li>• High schools with graduation rate at or below 67%</li> <li>• Completes a Work Plan for School Improvement and provided comprehensive support through IL-EMPOWER process</li> </ul>

The following is how each of our schools ranked for the last two years:

School	Designation 2018	Designation 2019
Tri-City Elementary	Exemplary	<b>Exemplary*</b>
Tri-City Junior High	Lowest Performing	<b>Commendable</b>
Tri-City High School	Commendable	<b>Commendable</b>

\*Illinois State Board of Education is holding T-C Elementary in a "hold harmless" status due to a trend in younger grades transitioning from pencil paper to online testing in addition to shorter tests. If ISBE hadn't identified this anomaly, Tri-City Elementary would be Commendable.



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Please help me congratulate the staff and students of Tri-City Elementary, Tri-City Junior High, and Tri-City High School!

As you can see, the Tri-City Junior High demonstrated growth earning the school designation of “Commendable”. The Junior High staff worked very hard and continues to do so every day. I applaud how the Tri-City Board of Education approved personnel changes last November to include a Student Support Specialist position. I thank the students for adjusting to their new schedules of a 94 minute period block of English Language Arts instruction replacing two separate periods of 47 minutes in November of 2018. I praise the Tri-City Junior High teachers for being honest and deliberate in taking a comprehensive look at where they were and charting there they wanted to go. This involved countless hours in collaborating with the IL-EMPOWER Student Support Manager, conducting a needs assessment and utilizing tools for continuous improvement. During these processes, data was collected and evidence was documented comparing our current organizational and instructional practices. Learning Partners were selected that could best serve the needs that were identified. One of the learning partners conducted a curriculum audit on site. The teachers have spent a considerable amount of time last school year, the summer of 2019, and so far this school year working on curriculum mapping, teacher clarity, academic vocabulary, and rigor through training, collaboration, being observed and having reflective conversations with learning partner consultants, and completing professional development modules. All of these ongoing improvement efforts, initiatives, and additional personnel were made possible by additional federal funding focusing on curriculum and instruction. The Tri-City Junior High will continue to get this additional federal funding this school year, and a portion in 2020-21, and the remainder in 2021-22.

As we move forward, you need to be aware that the “Designations” evolve each year. This means that the Illinois State Board changes what is measured in the “Indicators for Success K – 8” and “Indicators for Success 9 -12” each year. For this school year, here is the breakdown:

Indicators for Success K – 8		Indicators for Success 9 - 12	
<b>Academic Indicators -75%</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ELA Proficiency (7.5%)</li> <li>• Math Proficiency (7.5%)</li> <li>• ELA &amp; Math Growth (50%)</li> <li>• English Learner Progress to Proficiency (5%)</li> <li>• Science Proficiency (5%)</li> </ul>	<b>School Quality Indicators-25%</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chronic Absenteeism (20%)</li> <li>• Climate Survey (5%)</li> </ul>	<b>Academic Indicators-75%</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ELA Proficiency (7.5%)</li> <li>• Math Proficiency (7.5%)</li> <li>• Graduation (50%)</li> <li>• English Learner Progress to Proficiency (5%)</li> <li>• Science Proficiency (5%)</li> </ul>	<b>School Quality Indicators- 25%</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chronic Absenteeism (10%)</li> <li>• Climate Survey (6.67%)</li> <li>• 9<sup>th</sup> Grade On-Track (8.33%)</li> </ul>

The two new indicators for 2019 are the science proficiency and climate survey student participation (5Essentials). As parents, you play a role in these indicators. It is by you supporting your child’s achievement in school by reading to them daily when they are younger, setting high expectations, assisting them with



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homework, monitoring grades, engaging in two-way communication with teachers, ensuring that your child attends school daily and is on time, and completing school surveys. As our district mission states “The Tri-City CUSD #1 is dedicated to providing every student multiple ways to success.” We are committed to continuous improvement and providing the supports for every child to succeed. I am very proud of all three of our schools and congratulate them in their success. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at the number above, extension 114 or by e-mail at [jl Larson@tricityschools.org](mailto:jl Larson@tricityschools.org).

Educationally yours,

Jill Larson, Superintendent