

February 26, 2010

The Illinois State Board of Education has named Western Avenue School in Flossmoor School District 161 to the Illinois Honor Roll, a distinction that places Western Avenue School among the state's highest achieving schools.

Out of more than 4,000 schools in Illinois, Western Avenue School was chosen as one of 438 schools to earn an Academic Excellence Award for 2009. This is the second year in a row that Western Avenue School has won the Academic Excellence Award.

To earn the recognition, schools must have 90 percent of its students meeting or exceeding state standards in both reading and mathematics for at least three consecutive years. In addition, the school had to have made Adequate Yearly Progress in both 2008 and 2009. AYP is based on the percentage of students meeting or exceeding standards in reading and mathematics as well as attendance of at least 90 percent.

“We are proud that Western Avenue School has received this important recognition from the State Board for its outstanding academic achievement,” said Dr. Donna C. Joy, Superintendent of Schools.

“District 161 is proud of its students, faculty, and parents for their dedication to a rigorous academic program. This is what exemplifies the high quality schools in District 161.”

Student achievement, as indicated by the state assessment, continues to increase in District 161. Longitudinal data for the District's overall composite ISAT scores spanning the last seven years reflects an increase in student achievement from 70% to 86% which is a 16% increase.