

## Board of Education

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## District #61 Board of Education

# Board News

News from the **Tuesday, Oct. 28, 2008** Regular Board Meeting

## Administration Presented Annual District Assessment Report and the 2008 Illinois District and School Report Cards

**Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Dr. Bob Carlo** presented an analysis of scores from the District and Schools' Illinois State Report Cards featuring data from the March 2008 Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT). The ISAT measures student achievement based on standards developed by the Illinois State Board of Education. All students in grades 3 through 8 are assessed yearly in Reading and Math. Additionally, Science is tested in grades 4 and 7, and Writing in grades 5, 6, and 8. Test results are evaluated by the State Board of Education on several different levels – the district as a whole, the individual school within the district, as well as various subgroups within the school district population -- to determine Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) as required under the *No Child Left Behind* Federal mandate.

Overall, 88% of District #61 students tested in March 2008 met or exceeded the standards established by the State of Illinois for the 2007-08 school year. This reflects a .5% increase in overall student performance from the previous year.

In mathematics, the number of students meeting or exceeding state standards continues to rank above 90% at all grade levels in our District. Additionally, student ISAT results continue to score above the state imposed AYP level for all identified subgroups. The AYP level for 2007-08 was set at 62.5%. The AYP percentage is designed to rise each year for all schools in the State.

In Reading, students continue to perform above the state standards at all grade levels. In addition, most subgroups performed above the State set AYP level. This year one exception was seen in the subgroup of students who have limited abilities in English. This Limited English Proficiency (LEP) subgroup was required to take the same grade level test as students fluent in English. In prior years, those children were provided an assessment designed for the limited English speaking population. As a result, the LEP subgroup scored, on average, 52.8% on the Reading portion of the ISAT – below the State AYP minimum target of 62.5%. It is important to note that each individual school achieved the AYP goals in all subgroups; the school district as a whole did not -- due to the aggregated LEP Reading scores.

Historically, the State Report Cards compare the test results of students from the current testing year to a different group of students at that same grade level from the prior year. For example, Reading test results from the 2007-08 third graders are compared to the Reading scores of the 2006-07 third graders. To better illustrate student growth, Dr. Carlo compared the 2007-08 data for each grade level to those same students' performance from years past, allowing the District to track the progress the same group of students makes over time. It is anticipated that the State will move toward this type of analysis in the future, as it provides a more useful measure of individual student and grade level performance.

The 2007-08 State Report Cards and Dr. Carlo's presentation can be found on the District web site at [www.darien61.org](http://www.darien61.org). Any questions may be directed to Dr. Carlo at 630-968-7505.

## Among Other Business...

### Among other business, the District #61 Board of Education...

- **heard** the Eisenhower Marching Band earned two trophies at the 10/26 Sycamore Pumpkin Parade: for First Place Band in the Junior High Division, and for Outstanding Drum Majors.
- **approved** two new members to the Citizens' Advisory Committee: Mrs. Cindy Bowman and Mr. Ray Conniff. These additions replace two resignations from the CAC.
- **held** a second reading and approved 15 policies for updating and addition to the District #61 Policy Manual. Held a first reading on five new policies processed by the Policy Committee.
- **celebrated** the accomplishments of two Eisenhower Junior High Cross Country members at the recent Illinois Elementary School Association cross country meet in Normal, Il. Eighth grader Sebastian Pique captured the Class AA Boys title, coming home a State Champion with a time of 10 minutes, 27 seconds. Sixth grader Kelly Flemm finished 39th out of 235 runners with a time of 12 minutes, 37 seconds becoming the first EJV sixth grader to earn a top-40 finish in the state. Congratulations to both of our students and their coaches, Julie Kowalski and Richard Lofgren!



## Scheduled Meetings

**The following meetings have been scheduled. Please check with the Superintendent's Office at 630/968-7505 or visit the District #61 website at [www.darien61.org](http://www.darien61.org) for any possible changes.**

**Regular** Board of Education Meeting      Tuesday, November 11  
7 pm at Lace

**Regular** Board of Education Meeting      Tuesday, November 25  
7 pm at Lace

**Regular** Board of Education Meeting      Tuesday, December 9  
7 pm at Lace

Minutes of all Board Meetings are available on the District website, upon Board approval.