United Community Unit School District No. 304

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2026 Illinois Report Card – School Summative Designations

Dear United CUSD 304 Parents, Staff, Students, and Community Members:

Each fall, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) releases the Illinois Report Card, providing information about student achievement, academic growth, school environment, and overall school performance. The 2026 Illinois Report Card brings an important change to the way school performance is measured and reported throughout Illinois.

This year, ISBE has transitioned to a new accountability framework called **Profiles of Performance**. This framework provides a more comprehensive picture of how schools are serving students and recognizes that student success involves much more than standardized test scores.

I would like to take this opportunity to explain the new summative rating designations and what they mean for each of our schools within United CUSD 304.

Understanding the 2026 Summative Designations

Under the new ISBE framework, schools receive one of five overall summative designations:

1. Exemplary
This designation represents the highest level of overall school performance. Schools demonstrate exceptional results across academic achievement, student growth, and other indicators of student success.

2. Approaching Exemplary
Schools receiving this designation demonstrate strong overall performance and are approaching the highest levels of achievement. These schools show positive results across multiple measures of student success.

3. Commendable
This designation represents schools demonstrating typical or average overall performance. Schools are meeting many expectations while continuing to identify opportunities to strengthen student achievement and growth.

4. Developing
This designation identifies schools performing below statewide expectations in certain areas. These schools should focus on identifying areas of need, strengthening instructional practices, and implementing strategies to improve student outcomes.

5. Comprehensive
This designation identifies schools experiencing significant challenges in overall performance. These schools require focused attention, additional support, and improvement efforts to strengthen student achievement and ensure success for all students.

How Are Schools Evaluated?

The 2026 Profiles of Performance framework considers three major components:

1. Core Academic Indicators

- Student proficiency: How well students are performing academically.
- Student growth: How much students are improving academically over time.
- Graduation rate: The percentage of students graduating from high school (applicable to high schools).

2. Elevating Indicators

These indicators recognize school conditions and practices that support student success:

- English Learner Progress: How effectively English Learners are progressing toward English language proficiency.
- Consistent Attendance: The percentage of students attending school consistently.
- Climate Survey Participation: Participation in surveys that provide feedback about the school environment from students, staff, and families.

Strong performance in these areas can improve a school's overall designation.

3. Student Group Performance

ISBE also examines how individual student groups are performing. This is an important component because overall school averages do not always reflect the experiences of every student.

The framework considers whether all student groups are experiencing success and ensures that significant performance concerns among student groups are not overlooked.

Importantly, a school does not receive its overall designation based on one test, one grade level, or one individual measure. The designation reflects how multiple indicators work together.

United CUSD 304 – School Summative Designations

The 2026 Report Card includes the following five designations within United CUSD 304:

School	2026 Summative Designation
United North Elementary School	Exemplary
United West Elementary School	Approaching Exemplary
United Intermediate School	Approaching Exemplary
United Junior High School	Approaching Exemplary
United Senior High School	Commendable

Each school's designation provides an opportunity to recognize successes, evaluate areas of need, and establish priorities for continued improvement. It is important to note that although **United Junior Senior High School** received their current Overall designations, the school did have a subgroup that is **Comprehensive Support and Improvement: Low Income.**

Our Commitment to Continuous Improvement

At United CUSD 304, we recognize that a summative designation is only one part of the story. It does not fully capture the relationships built between students and teachers, the dedication of our staff, the accomplishments of our students, or the countless opportunities provided throughout our schools.

We will use the information provided through the 2026 Illinois Report Card to celebrate our strengths, identify opportunities for improvement, and continue developing strategies that benefit every student.

I want to thank our teachers, administrators, support staff, parents, school board members, and community partners for their continued commitment to United CUSD 304. The work taking place in our classrooms and throughout our communities makes a difference in the lives of our students every day.

Thank you for your continued support of United CUSD 304.

Sincerely,

Thomas Hawkins
Superintendent
United Community Unit School District 304

United CUSD 304 serves the greater Monmouth area and the following communities: Alexis, Cameron, Gerlaw, Kirkwood, Little York, Monmouth, and North Henderson