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Dear District 156 Families,

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) released the 2025 Illinois Report Card at www.illinoisreportcard.com on Thursday, October 30. McHenry High School was recognized as a commendable school, earning the second-highest rating as part of the annual report cards on public schools that measure progress toward preparing students for college and career goals. This designation indicates that under the state’s accountability system, MCHS has a strong graduation rate and overall academic performance, with no subgroups underperforming.

2025 ISBE Summative Rating	
McHenry High School	Commendable

In 2018, the state shifted away from focusing solely on test scores and began including many other factors to assess whether schools are adequately preparing students for success. Below are the eight elements that make up the ratings for all Illinois high schools.

This rating system aligns with the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), signed into law in 2015. ESSA establishes four levels of school designations: exemplary, commendable, underperforming, and lowest-performing. Schools designated as underperforming or lowest-performing can seek assistance through the school improvement process and will receive additional funding to support these efforts. For more information about ESSA and the state accountability system, click the [What is ESSA Fact Sheet](#) on our district website.

High School

75%

Academic Indicators

1. English Language Arts Proficiency: 7.5%

2. Math Proficiency: 7.5%

3. Science Proficiency: 5%

4. Graduation (composite 4-, 5-, and 6-year graduation rate): 50%

5. English Learner Progress to Proficiency: 5%

25%

School Quality & Student Success Indicators

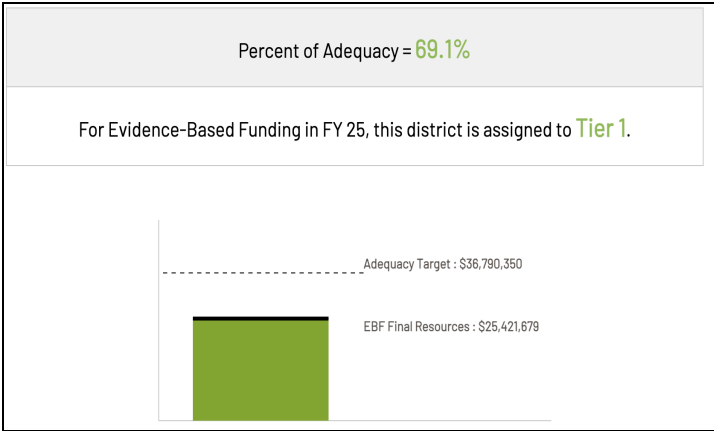
6. Chronic Absenteeism: 10%

7. Climate Survey: 6.67%

8. 9th-Graders on Track to Graduate: 8.33%

The 2025 Illinois Report Card also displays each district’s Evidence-Based Funding (EBF) tier and the amount of state funding received. The state revised its main funding formula in 2017 to allocate more funding to districts with the greatest financial need. A district’s percentage of adequacy compares its actual funding to the amount specified by the EBF statute as full funding for that district. Tier 1

districts have the lowest levels of funding relative to their needs, while Tier 4 districts have full funding or more. In FY25, District 156 was assigned a Tier 1 designation, indicating the lowest funding level. According to the state's Evidence-Based Funding model, District 156 is among the lowest-funded districts in the state, receiving 68 percent of the full funding adequacy target of 100 percent.



District 156 is dedicated to providing our students with a competitive and well-rounded educational experience that offers multiple options, opportunities, and ultimately success upon graduation from high school. We will continue to align our curriculum, programs, and course offerings with the new accountability system to ensure our students are progressing toward college and career readiness.

Respectfully,
Ryan McTague, Ph.D.
Superintendent

Carl Vallianatos, Ed.S.
Assistant Superintendent for Learning and Innovation