Blue Ridge CUSD#18
411 N. John Street, Farmer City, IL 61842
Phone: 309 928-9141
#br_u_knighted

10/30/2026

Dear Blue Ridge Community,

Families can now access Blue Ridge's updated Illinois Report Card, which offers a comprehensive view of student and school performance across key areas including academic achievement, student growth, attendance, graduation rates, and college and career readiness. Released annually by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), the Report Card provides a snapshot of our district's accomplishments alongside key opportunities for continued progress.

This year's Report Card highlights several notable achievements across our district. In English Language Arts (ELA), proficiency on the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) increased from 49.7% in 2024–2025 to 57.3% in 2025–2026, placing Blue Ridge above the state average. This strong growth reflects our district-wide rollout of a new K–8 ELA curriculum paired with solid instructional practices. Science proficiency also saw substantial improvement, rising from 35.3% to 50.4%. Additionally, Blue Ridge achieved a 92.7% graduation rate, comfortably exceeding the state average of 89.5%.

Starting this year, the Illinois Report Card features new Profiles of Performance, which replace previous state accountability designations to provide a more well-rounded look at school indicators. All three Blue Ridge district buildings earned Commendable performance profiles, which is a good accomplishment. Within those profiles, Blue Ridge High School and Schneider Elementary were identified for Targeted Support and Improvement based on performance outcomes within our low-income student subgroup. Over the next four years, both schools will receive Title I, Part A (Section 1003) grant funding to support achievement in this area. We will be partnering with Regional Office of Education 17, ISBE, and a School Improvement Coordinator from the ROE to guide this targeted process.

This year's state metrics also place a heightened emphasis on consistent attendance, which remains one of the strongest predictors of long-term academic success and graduation. In 2026, 76.2% of Blue Ridge students attended school consistently. To build on this foundation, each building is implementing/monitoring attendance tracking systems and positive attendance incentives to ensure every student consistently benefits from direct classroom instruction.

Mr. Ryan Peyton, Superintendent
Mr. Brian Easter, BRHS Principal Mr. Jim Kirkton, BRHS Assistant Principal
Mr. Burton Huddleston, BRIJHS Principal Mrs. Shawna Kollross, BRIJHS Assistant Principal
Mrs. Sunny McMurry, Ruth M. Schneider Elementary Principal
Mrs. Shaina Minneman, Ruth M. Schneider Assistant Principal

Blue Ridge CUSD#18
411 N. John Street, Farmer City, IL 61842
Phone: 309 928-9141
#br_u_knighted

While we celebrate our gains, we remain dedicated to continuous improvement for the 2026–2027 school year. Math proficiency is a primary focus area, and our District Math Committee is actively reviewing the state's new Numeracy Plan and evaluating evidence-based curricula to select an option that will best drive student achievement and growth.

We invite you to explore the full report card for Blue Ridge at www.illinoisreportcard.com. The Report Card is one of many tools that help us celebrate successes, understand growth areas, and foster ongoing improvement for all students. Thank you for your continued partnership, trust, and shared commitment to the success of our students and schools.

Sincerely,

Ryan Peyton, Superintendent

Mr. Ryan Peyton, Superintendent
Mr. Brian Easter, BRHS Principal Mr. Jim Kirkton, BRHS Assistant Principal
Mr. Burton Huddleston, BRIJHS Principal Mrs. Shawna Kollross, BRIJHS Assistant Principal
Mrs. Sunny McMurry, Ruth M. Schneider Elementary Principal
Mrs. Shaina Minneman, Ruth M. Schneider Assistant Principal