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

October 31, 2025

Dear Blue Ridge CUSD #18 Community,

The Illinois State Board of Education has released the annual Illinois Report Card which can be viewed by clicking here. The Report Card contains school performance data from the 2024-25 school year. One component of the Report Card is the Annual Summative Designation, a federally required accountability category. It identifies schools for support and describes how well our school is meeting the needs of all students based on indicators of performance. Indicators include ELA proficiency and growth, graduation rate, chronic absenteeism, climate survey, math proficiency and growth, 9th grade on track, and science proficiency.

We are proud to announce all three buildings received a summative designation of Commendable. Commendable is the second highest rating in the state of Illinois. While we are proud of this designation, we remain committed to achieving the highest rating of Exemplary.

At the same time, we recognize schools are about much more than test scores. They are a home away from home for our students and staff. Our schools focus not only on academic success but also on caring for the whole child. We aim to equip each and every one of our students with a well-rounded education that prepares them for success in their lives and chosen careers. We strive to forge strong bonds with families, build community, and prepare our students to thrive in the next step of their educational journey.

We are committed to investing in all academic areas in order to improve student achievement. Last year's initiatives included math coaching provided by ROE #17 math coaches, summer math workshops for K-12 teachers, and a high school student math camp. We have also offered professional development focused on K-12 ELA and the Science of Reading, reviewed ELA curriculums which aligned with the Illinois Literacy Plan, and strengthened writing instruction. In addition, we recently expanded dual credit course offerings to include English 101, English 102, First Year Experience, and Art Appreciation. Finally, we have worked toward PreK-12 alignment in Multi-Tiered Systems of Support which is aimed at closing the achievement gap across student groups.

Our current School Improvement Plan focuses on improving achievement scores through several key goals. We are growing in our use of data to inform instructional strategies and are continuously evaluating and monitoring curriculum and programming. We aim to provide all students with opportunities for both enrichment and intervention. By the end of the strategic planning cycle (2025-2030), our goal is for 70% of K-8 students to demonstrate at least one year of typical growth in English Language Arts and Mathematics on end-of-year diagnostics, as measured by i-Ready. Additionally, by the end of the same cycle, Blue Ridge High School will strive to maintain or exceed its current trend of outperforming the

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state average ACT composite score, with a target of achieving an average composite score at least 0.5 points higher than the state average each year.

We remain committed to continuous school improvement in order to provide the best possible services and supports for our students. In the coming year, we plan to improve ELA achievement through our investment in a new K-8 Amplify CKLA curriculum and professional development for teachers implementing this program. We are also planning to review our current K-12 math curriculum to determine whether additional supports or a new curriculum may be needed to better assist teachers and learners and to align with the new Illinois Numeracy Plan. Our teachers, administrators, and staff, working in partnership with families remain focused on increasing student achievement in both Math and ELA, while also continuing efforts to improve student attendance.

Our Report Card is an opportunity we welcome to celebrate our strengths and reflect on our goals, so that every student can reach their fullest potential. We at Blue Ridge District CUSD #18 believe every single student can meet high expectations and that you are a critical partner in your child's education. When we all work together on behalf of our students, we can achieve more. Therefore, we value your feedback and suggestions. We encourage you to ask questions about our Report Card and share your own vision for Blue Ridge's future. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to us by contacting Mr. Peyton at 309-928-9141. Go Knights!

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. Mary Diener, Ruth M. Schneider Interim Assistant Principal