

# Benjamin SCHOOL DISTRICT 25

Dr. Philip M. Ehrhardt, *Superintendent*  
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Dear Parents,

The state accountability system has been overhauled, and will impact our schools. Accountability for schools has shifted from the federally-driven No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) to the state-driven Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The intent of ESSA is to constructively improve the quality of education for all students.

On October 31, the 2018 Illinois State School Report Card will be released to reflect the new state accountability system. School quality is being measured and reported by indicators such as: Academic growth, English Learner progress, proficiency in math/language arts/science, chronic absenteeism (10% or more of excused or unexcused absences), and school climate surveys.

The state will designate each school as being exemplary, commendable, underperforming, or lowest-performing according to ten indicators. We do not know what the official state designation will be for each of our schools until October 31. Please keep in mind that each school's state rating may not accurately reflect the entire story of the school's success. A more accurate picture of how well our schools are performing is shown on the 2017-2018 District Scorecard Report, located on our website, [www.bendist25.org](http://www.bendist25.org) under the district tab or the link: ([https://www.bendist25.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC\\_ID=780817&type=d&pREC\\_ID=1281633](https://www.bendist25.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=780817&type=d&pREC_ID=1281633))

Our staff will continue to maximize continuous improvement efforts to achieve our mission to provide each child with the best educational opportunity to become a lifelong learner and achieve the highest personal growth. Please contact Mrs. Pfanenstiel, Mr. Fitzgerald, or myself if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Philip M. Ehrhardt Ed.D.  
Superintendent

Cc: School Board  
Faculty

