



Illinois State Board of Education

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Gery J. Chico
Chairman

Christopher A. Koch, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Education

January 2012

Mr. Gary Gruen, Principal
Mt Zion Elem School
Mt Zion CUSD 3
725 W Main St
Mount Zion, IL 62549

Re: Academic Excellence Award – 2011 Illinois Honor Roll

Dear Principal:

Congratulations! Your school has earned an Academic Excellence Award! The Illinois State Board of Education commends you and your faculty on all the good work required to sustain academic excellence in your school.

Across the state, 438 schools earned the Academic Excellence Award for 2011. Many of these schools receive national recognition for their long-time exemplary performance.

To earn an Academic Excellence Award, a school must meet the following criteria:

- Schools must have made Adequate Yearly Progress in 2010 and 2011 as required by No Child Left Behind.
- In schools serving grades 8 and below, 90 percent of students must have met or exceeded state standards in both reading and mathematics for the three most recent school years;
- In high schools, 80 percent of students must have met or exceeded state standards in both reading and mathematics for the three most recent school years.

Enclosed you will find a certificate commemorating this award. At <http://www.ilhonorroll.niu.edu> you can learn more about the Illinois Honor Roll, which includes three categories of awards – Spotlight Schools, Academic Improvement and Academic Excellence. At this website, you will find a page devoted to your school and a customized logo for your use. Also, you will find the criteria for the awards and a full list of award winners.

We encourage you to celebrate your success and share your good news with students, parents and all community partners. Again, I extend my congratulations and very best wishes for continuing success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher Koch".

Christopher A. Koch, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Education

Enclosure

cc: Dr. Travis Roundcount, Superintendent
Mt Zion CUSD 3