

Dear Oak Grove Families,

Each year, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) issues a State Report Card, and the 2023 report card was just released today. Congratulations are in order for our students, staff and families because **Oak Grove Elementary District is officially designated as Exemplary, ranking in the top 10% of scores in the state!**

ISBE's formula weights certain aspects of student learning: growth (50%), proficiency (20%), English learning proficiency (5%), chronic absenteeism (20%), and climate survey (5%). Growth makes up the bulk of the score and is measured on a percentile compared to similar students in the state.

**Key Takeaways from the Exemplary 2023 ISBE Report Card:**

- OGS students in every demographic and student group consistently outperform state targets and benchmarks in growth and proficiency.
- Proficiency levels in ELA and Math are twice as high as the state benchmark. The IL benchmark for proficiency is also the 4th highest in the country.
- We have met or exceeded our pre-pandemic proficiency in most grade levels. Our in-person learning during COVID (and robust remote learning program) prevented loss in performance as compared to those schools that did not return in-person.
- An area of improvement for OGS is chronic absenteeism, which has doubled since 2019. We know that when students are absent, this often contributes to lower growth and proficiency.

OGS uses multiple points of data, including but not limited to the ISBE report card, to identify learning and instructional needs. Our newly designed 3-year plan for teaching and learning and ongoing professional development revolve around these key findings. Below are a few of the action steps in motion as a result.

**Next Steps and Action Plans for Continued Excellence:**

- Intervention/Enrichment time was increased to provide targeted instruction to students on an individualized level, whether that includes Tier 2 or 3 supports or enrichment.
- A review of math standards is underway and will be followed by the 6-8 team piloting and selecting a more rigorous curriculum and resources for middle school math.
- Coming in 2024-2025 is a change to our English Language Arts (ELA) program, currently being piloted and reviewed, along with additional instructional time for ELA built into the day.
- Internal staff data-review days and standards-based learning professional development continue to enhance teacher/staff understanding of student needs.

The OGS learning experience must first be rooted in rigorous and standards-based academics. We know it doesn't stop there, however. Our students also benefit from the social-emotional learning supports in place and the **rich history of traditions** that bring facts and skills to life, such as our 8th-grade play, Veterans Day celebration, multicultural fair, and fine arts day. **This is what makes the OGS student experience unique.**

Overall, I am very proud of the work our students and staff do and how the report card results celebrate their growth and learning. We will not stop here; there is still so much more we can and will do to provide an excellent, collaborative, and welcoming learning environment for all. I look forward to your continued partnership as we charge forward on our journey to excellence!

Sincerely,  
Allison Sherman