

**Lincoln Rocks Message from Superintendent, Darryl Taylor, Ed. D**  
**January 2019**

Dear Lincoln ESD 156 Parents and Community Members,

The 2018-2019 school year is well underway and we have much to celebrate. I am happy to report on three central areas: student performance, financial performance, and program offerings. Lincoln Students have excelled academically for numerous years and we have not been on the State list for Low Student Academic Performance since 2014. Lincoln continues to be recognized for its fiscal responsibility in spite of receiving the majority of our revenue from the state, not property taxes. We are continuing to increase our program offerings for students at no cost to parents.

The Illinois State School Report Card is a valuable source to find out how Lincoln is performing. The State School Report Card is not a document created by Lincoln Staff but the State of Illinois for all schools and it is a great source of information. You can find it on our District website at <http://www.l156.org/main/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/FY18-State-School-Report-Card-for-LincolnElem.pdf>

Based on the State School Report Card, Lincoln Students were rated as “**Commendable**” on the state assessment for FY18. This is a great accomplishment and I am proud of our students for their efforts and the fabulous Lincoln Staff and Admin that worked hard to make sure students were able to meet and exceed state benchmark standards for six student groups: Low-income, Black, Hispanic, EL, IEP, and All. Lincoln does not have enough students in the other remaining student groups to be rated in those areas. The identification of student groups are based on state guidelines, not Lincoln’s. I am personally not surprised by our students’ academic performance as according to the State School Report Card 84.4% of our staff has a Master’s Degree or above while only 61% of the districts throughout the state on average have staff with a Master’s Degree or above. Great job, Lincoln!

Also, based on the State School Report Card, Lincoln was identified as having a “**Financial capacity to reach expectations**” as 55.1%. That means that while we struggle with funds to spend on education, only 19.5 % of our revenue comes from property taxes while other districts throughout the state have 63.1% of their revenue from property taxes, we have a healthy fund balance and students are performing at the commendable level. **Wow!** Over my last 12 years as the Superintendent and Business Manager for Lincoln ESD 156, Lincoln has received the highest recognition for finances, “**Financial Recognition**”. My message to all our tax payers is that over the past 12 years our Board has been extremely fiscally responsible. For this you should be proud.

We have again expanded our academic offerings this year to our students at no cost to our parents. We now offer Spanish classes to all students in grades 1-8. We have also expanded on our STEM courses so our students can learn more about engineering and robotics. We will soon be offering karate again and the dance classes are going well. We are desperately seeking to offer Spanish classes for our English speaking parents. The parent Spanish class will be held during the day so look for that opportunity in the near future.

It is great to be part of a District that does so much for its students and the community. We need your involvement and feedback so that we can continue to improve teaching and learning at Lincoln. Thank you for all that you do!

Educationally Yours,  
Darryl Taylor, Superintendent