



Illinois State Board of Education

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Jesse H. Ruiz
Chairman

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

February 2010

Douglas Higgins, Principal
Lincoln Elem School
Lincoln ESD 156
410 W 157th St
Calumet City, IL 60409

Re: Spotlight Schools Award – 2009 Illinois Honor Roll

Dear Principal:

Congratulations! Your school has been selected by the Illinois State Board of Education as a 2009 Spotlight School.

On behalf of the State Board of Education, I commend you and your staff for the hard work and effort that allows your students to succeed academically. As you well know, the Spotlight award recognizes a high poverty school where academic performance is closing the achievement gap. Your school is one of 425 Spotlight Schools located in urban, suburban and rural areas earning honors this year.

The criteria for selecting Spotlight Schools in 2009 are rigorous:

- At least half the students are from low-income families in 2009.
- At least 60 percent of students must have met or exceeded standards in both reading and mathematics in 2009.
- At least 50 percent of students met or exceeded standards in both reading and mathematics in the two previous years; 2008 and 2007.
- Schools must have made Adequate Yearly Progress in the two previous years as required by No Child Left Behind, which in 2009, meant the following:
 - at least 70 percent meeting and exceeding standards in both reading and mathematics;
 - 95 percent participation rate in state assessments for all students in each subgroup
 - attendance rate of at least 90 percent for elementary and middle schools and graduation rate of at least 78 percent for high schools.

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 the good news with students, parents and all community partners. Again, I extend my sincere congratulations and very best wishes for continuing success.

Sincerely,

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

Enclosure

cc: Darryl Taylor, Superintendent
Lincoln ESD 156



SCHOOLS

Award for Academic Achievement

For Exemplary Performance in
Closing the Achievement Gap,
Meeting High Standards, and
Opening a World of Opportunities

Lincoln Elem School

Lincoln ESD 156

Has earned a 2009 Spotlight Schools
Award

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

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

