

1/2/15
Lockport Legend

YEAR IN REVIEW

Progress in several areas at Fairmont

DR. SONYA WHITAKER,
Superintendent

The members of the Fairmont School District 89 Board of Education and superintendent are pleased to



Whitaker

share that the year of 2014 has resulted in a significant number of reasons to celebrate our successes.

We are humbled to share that Fairmont School District 89 has been given the very distinct honor of being recognized by the Illinois State Board of Education for the progress that has been made in the areas of fiscal responsibility and for improvements in student learning. This acknowledgement has come as a direct result of the support received by the board of education, as well as the tireless commitment of the teachers and administrators to provide the students with high quality experiences.

District-wide, the focus has remained on three key areas:

1. Fiscal responsibility
2. Student learning
3. Parent/Community involvement.

These key areas were identified because they are areas that provide the teachers and administrators with the greatest opportunities to reach the goal of increasing academic achievement and positively impacting the life trajectory of the student population.

In the area of fiscal responsibility, for the fourth consecutive year, the district maintained a balanced budget.

This accomplishment is significant because in the state of Illinois, approximately 62 percent of school districts are deficit spending. Also, during the year of 2014, Fairmont received a financial ranking profile score of 3.80. This score places the district in the highest of four different ranking categories as issued by the Illinois State Board of Education. The district's ranking, according to the criteria established by the Illinois State Board of Education, is Financial Recognition.

In the area of improving student learning, the district's new theme is "Run Our Own Race." While acknowledging the local and national trends related to student performance, Fairmont embraces the notion that it is important to have a complete understanding of how the students are actually progressing within the system. District and state data supports the fact that Fairmont students are on an upward trajectory.

With regard to parent and community involvement, the district's initiative, Parents Count Pick 2, has been extremely successful. The purpose of this initiative has been to improve student learning by increasing parent participation. There has been a significant increase in parental involvement.

Although there are many channels by which school and district officials have sought to accomplish this goal, the most significant involvement has occurred during Parent Literacy Nights and as a result of the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), and School Assembly Programs

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for parents and students. The district has also maintained partnerships with the education department of Lewis University. Additionally, the district enhanced its partnership with Parkview Christian Church.

This has been accomplished through the continuation and expansion of the Church Has Left the Building Initiative launched by the Rev. Brian Hunt of Parkview Christian Church (Lockport Campus).

Fairmont school and district officials would also like to announce a newly established partnership with Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church of Lockport. In summary, it has been a highly productive year and yet the best is yet to come!