To the Parents, Families, and Staff of Frankfort CUSD #168:

The Annual School Report Cards have been issued for schools across the state by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). You can find those for our district at the web address: https://www.illinoisreportcard.com/District.aspx?districtId=21028168026. You may also see or hear news and social media stories over the next few days regarding these reports. Our goal in this District is not to let this be a one or two-day story that gets shoved to the side and forgotten, but instead it is to use the tools and measures that we and the State have to continue to meet the needs of our students and help them improve each day.

The newest version of these Report Cards tries to bring a lot of data and numbers of everything from test performance, educational environment, and adequate financial levels from the new state funding formula to deeper dives into “Subgroups” so that we make sure that we aren’t just teaching and reaching a few students but that we are reaching all students.

The other shift the State made this year was to identify schools into four levels: Exemplary, Commendable, Underperforming, and Lowest Performing. They crunched a lot of numbers and put all schools on a list from highest to lowest, and then put them into categories. They do this not just to see who does well, but also to have a systematic way to send money to schools that need a little extra help with a few or many students. In the past, Frankfort CUSD #168 has been at a level where it received these funds and help. We now have a chance to get that help again.

As you will see in the report card, the status for our students and our schools by the measure of the ISBE are:

- Denning Elementary School: Commendable
- Frankfort Intermediate School: Commendable
- Central Junior High School: Underperforming
- Frankfort Community High School: Commendable

Our most important audience members are the families of each of our students who come home each day. We strive to provide our students with a quality education, a safe and secure environment, and opportunities to expand talents and excel to become the adult citizens we are proud of in the future. As you attend school events, Parent-Teacher conferences, plays, ballgames, carnivals, and all of the other activities this district provides, we hope you recognize when we are working to meet those goals. The State Report Card is one more measure of information that will help us improve.

Over the past year, our District has made it a goal not to lift up just one school or grade, but to work on the curriculum for all of our students and schools. The designations from this particular snapshot gives us information to help us in that process. For CJHS, it will also give us funds to access assistance from the Illinois EMPOWER network which is a group of providers the State has reviewed to make sure
that we are not wasting money on "fly by night" educational "experts" that care nothing about our community. We will use the research-based tools that the Illinois EMPOWER network provides to tie all of our data together.

Most importantly, we will be asking for your input. You will see messages over the next few months to participate in various surveys and needs assessments to help us understand the impact of what we do and where we might be missing steps. While CJHS will be a key, we will be asking those questions up and down our district.

A community’s schools are only as strong as the community it serves and the community is only as strong as the schools that teach its young people. All of us – parents, family, teachers, staff, administrators, business owners, workers – have a stake in the success of this District. Most importantly, our students have the biggest stake. Let’s use the information from the Report Card and other sources that the District has to improve and grow. That is my goal as we go forward.

Please be on the lookout for more news from us in the months to come.

Sincerely,

Matt Donkin
Superintendent of Schools
Frankfort CUSD #168

The four possible school designations are:

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<tr>
<th>School Designations</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Exemplary</strong></td>
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<td>• Performance in the top 10% of all schools</td>
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<tr>
<td>• High schools with graduation rate higher than 67%</td>
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<tr>
<td>• No underperforming student groups at or below the “all students” group in the lowest-performing 5% of all schools</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Eligible to apply to serve as an IL-EMPOWER Learning Partner</td>
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