

The Illinois State Board of Education has named more than half of District 58's 13 schools to the Illinois Honor Roll for 2008, which celebrates the accomplishments of excellent public schools in the state.

Belle Aire, Highland, Hillcrest, Herrick, Henry Puffer, Indian Trail and Pierce Downer schools received Academic Excellence Awards, which recognize schools that have sustained very high academic performance over at least three years.

In the 388 elementary schools that received Academic Excellence Awards for 2008, at least 90 percent of students met or exceeded state standards in reading and mathematics for at least 3 consecutive years. In addition, all Academic Excellence schools have achieved Adequate Yearly Progress for the past two years.

"This truly is a testament to the excellence shown daily by all of the staff, students and parents in District 58," said Superintendent Paul Zaander.