For Immediate Release:

Contact:

(Name

Title

District or Organization

Phone Number

E-mail)

New and Improved School Report Card Design

detailed and accessible information available about (district) schools

(Date) This (November), (District) will send out a new, simpler, and more user-friendly School Report Card. The new School Report Card will look beyond test scores to give you the information you need to stay informed and engaged.

(Insert a quote from your district leader on the importance of the new school report card.)

The report card doesn't just have a new look. It is part of a broad effort in Illinois public schools to help students meet higher standards and be college and career ready. It shows student, school, and district progress - not just a one year snapshot of standardized test scores. It contains the sort of information that parents and educators talk about in school hallways and on the playground but has never before been shown in one document. The new report card supports the State Board’s goals for all schools to be safe and healthy learning environments and for every student to be ready for college and career.

The new Illinois report card features:

• At-a-glance information about school performance, climate, and learning conditions.

• User-friendly data on school awards, special programs, courses and extracurricular activities.

• Measures of student college and career readiness.

• Growth measures that will show how students and schools are improving over time.
The new report card makes information accessible. When shown an early version, 80 to 90 percent of focus group members agreed the new report card is easy to understand and 90 percent say that they are likely to use it. By making information easy to access, the new School Report Card supports a model of school change where everyone is a part of the process. The new School Report Card is designed to help discussion, interest, and involvement around school improvement.

The state is using the federal Race to the Top funds to pay for the new School Report Card re-design as a means to help support and increase parental engagement and build partnerships with community members and leaders.

The new School Report Card will be available October 31 at http://illinoisreportcard.com. (District name) will present the new report card at (local board meeting(s) here), make it available to local newspapers, and notify parents about the new report card in writing. (If this district has a website: “The school report cards for (District name) will be posted on (website) on (date).” (If this district does not have a website: “(District name) will send copies of the new school report card to parents on (date).”)

For more information about the school report card, please visit http://illinoisreportcard.com.