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**Charter Public Schools cited as “exemplary” and “commendable” in Illinois Report Card
2018-MRC**

CHICAGO (INCS)—More than 60 percent of charter public schools earned an “exemplary” and “commendable” performance rating in the 2018 release of the Illinois report card—an annual designation from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). Southland College Prep Charter High School and LEARN 6 in North Chicago—two member schools of the Illinois Network of Charter Schools (INCS)—are exemplary, meaning both schools perform in the top 10 percent of all Illinois schools.

“We are glad to see the State Board focus its analysis on student growth as a key benchmark of school performance,” said Andrew Broy, INCS president. “As educators, our job is to take students where we find them and help them advance. These rankings demonstrate that the charter movement is doing just that.”

According to INCS’ analysis, nearly 60 percent (84) charter public schools earned the commendable designation while 14.9 percent are “underperforming,” where one or more student groups need additional attention, and 17 percent among “lowest-performing” schools. Ten charter schools did not receive a summative designation.

Every school in the state receives a designation on the Illinois Report Card. The designation is based on the school’s overall data for all of the accountability indicators, as well as the data for individual student groups, according to ISBE.

In the Chicago Public School (CPS) district where most charter public schools are located, 12 schools (1.9 percent) are noted as exemplary and 326 schools (52.7 percent) are commendable schools. There are 186 (30 percent) CPS schools that ranked underperforming, and 95 (15.3 percent) lowest performing schools.

“Our analysis also revealed a troubling trend that highlights the need for added academic opportunity—relatively few schools with high African American student populations were ranked exemplary,” said Broy. “In fact, Southland College Prep Charter High School is the only school in all of Illinois with a population in excess of 90 percent African-American that was exemplary. That is not acceptable. We need more great schools like Southland.”

About INCS

The Illinois Network of Charter Schools is dedicated to the improvement of public education by establishing high-quality charter public schools that transform lives and communities. As the voice of Illinois charter schools, INCS advocates for legislation on behalf of the charter sector, provides support to strengthen charter schools, and influences education policy for the benefit of all public school students. Learn more at incschools.org.

For information contact:

Melissa Ramirez Cooper | Illinois Network of Charter Schools
mr Ramirezcooper@incschools.org | 312-690-2703