

USD #377 Atchison County Community Schools News Release



Effingham, KS 66023
(913) 833-2240,

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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USD 377's Elementary schools accredited under Kansas' Revised QPA school improvement system

TOPEKA—Kansas State Board of Education Chairman, Dr. Steve Abrams, announced that Lancaster Elementary School, Effingham Elementary School, and Cummings Elementary (JU4) School have earned accreditation under the state board's continuous improvement system.

The schools successfully completed the requirements of Quality Performance Accreditation. The state board voted to assign full accreditation status to these schools.

"Accreditation under the state's school improvement system is a notable accomplishment," Abrams said. "Accredited status under Quality Performance Accreditation (QPA) means that the school has the programs and staff in place to advance student learning, and that the school is experiencing performance results that reflect those efforts."

The schools must meet 11 Quality Criteria and 3 performance requirements such as having a school improvement plan, formal training of teachers on assessments and standards, student performance on assessments, and an attendance rate of 90% or higher.

"Kansas has traditionally set high standards for schools and students," Abrams said. "Lancaster, Cummings and Effingham Elementary Schools have demonstrated the ability to achieve to those standards."

Principal Terry Slattery agrees that the Atchison County Community schools are working hard to achieve high standards. "All three of our elementary schools achieved the Standard of Excellence in Math last year, and two achieved the Standard of Excellence in Science. We are proud of the efforts are students and staff are making."