

# SCHOOLSEARCH™

DEDICATED TO HELPING FAMILIES FIND THE BEST SCHOOLS FOR THEIR CHILDREN – SINCE 1991.

August 6, 2010

Scott Kuffel, Superintendent  
Geneseo CUSD 228  
209 S College Ave  
Geneseo, IL 61254

Dear Scott Kuffel,

**Congratulations to you and your fine school district for earning the SchoolSearch™ 2010 Bright Star™ Award for educational excellence!** Your school district is one of only 81 Illinois School Districts (out of 869 school districts) honored with the SchoolSearch™ 2010 Bright Star™ Award.


**SchoolSearch™ awards your school district that shines in spite of low funding.** (*SchoolSearch™ is not a proponent of low funding for school districts. SchoolSearch™ believes Bright Star™ recipients should be considered for additional funding since it is very likely their funds would be used wisely.*)

All school districts in Illinois are considered for the award & the award is based on ***objective factors*** – on which all districts are judged fairly. The award criteria are based on those districts whose students' academic performance ranks in the upper one third of Illinois school districts, but whose expenditure per pupil ranks in the lower one-fourth of Illinois school districts (2009 IL Report Card data source).

**SchoolSearch™** is an educational research & consulting firm that publishes rankings of school systems. SchoolSearch™ works with major companies to provide their relocating families school information. School quality is the top concern of most relocating families.

Enclosed is certification of your **SchoolSearch™ 2010 Bright Star™ Award of excellence**. Let us know if you are in need of additional certificates for building principals. You may view & print the award recipient list from our web site at [www.schoolsearchrankings.com](http://www.schoolsearchrankings.com). Congratulations & best wishes to you & your fine school district for striving to provide your students with an outstanding educational environment!

Sincerely,



Dee Shugart, Ph.D.  
President

Enclosures

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# Press Release

## **Announcing the 15th annual Illinois School District Year 2010 SchoolSearch™ Bright Star™ Award Recipients**

### *School Districts that Shine in Spite of Low Funding*

**The award is based on districts with highest student performance at lowest cost.**

SchoolSearch™ honors eighty-one (81) Illinois School Districts (out of 869 districts) with the Bright Star™ Award of excellence. The award criteria are based on districts whose students' academic performance ranks in the upper one third of Illinois school districts, but whose expenditure per pupil ranks in the lower one-fourth of Illinois school districts based on the following criteria (Information Source: 2009 IL Report Card Data – most recent information available at award time):

- **Elementary Criteria:**

1. The Average Percentage of the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade ISAT (Illinois Standards Achievement Test) meets or exceeds percentages of reading & math. The criterion for this factor is at or above 87.73%. The Illinois State District range for this overall average ISAT percentage is 54.48 (lowest) – 98.89 (highest) out of a possible range of 0-100. The Illinois State average for this percentage is 80.06.
2. The Average Operating Expenditure Per Pupil. The criterion for this factor is at or below \$7,939. The Illinois State range for operating expenditure per pupil is \$5,522 (lowest) – \$26,493 (highest) & the Illinois State average operating expenditure per pupil is \$10,417.

- **Secondary Criteria:**

1. The ACT Composite Score of All Students Tested. The criterion for this factor is at or above 20.9. The Illinois State District range for the ACT is 14.6 (lowest) – 27.4 (highest) out of a possible range of 1-36. The Illinois State average ACT score is 20.6 & the U.S. average ACT score is 21.1.
2. The Average Operating Expenditure Per Pupil. The criterion for this factor is at or below \$8,098. The Illinois State range for operating expenditure per pupil is \$5,522 (lowest) – \$26,493 (highest) & the Illinois State average operating expenditure per pupil is \$10,417.

### **Low cost is a high price to pay – (SchoolSearch™ does not promote low funding for schools).**

These school districts may have many common struggles that may not be resolved unless they have additional funding. Major areas of concern cited by Bright Star recipients are lack of funding for technology, overcrowded conditions, large class sizes & buildings in need of repair. Superintendents express gratitude for the support they receive from parents, teachers, school board & community. SchoolSearch™ believes Bright Star™ recipients should be acknowledged and considered for additional funding. It is likely these districts would make efficient use of additional funds based on past performance. Imagine the positive possibilities!

*SchoolSearch™ is an educational research & consulting firm that publishes rankings of school systems.*

*SchoolSearch™ provides comparative school district information for corporations, homebuilders,*

*school districts, libraries, real estate professionals & relocating families – since 1991.*