



# Illinois State Board of Education

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State Superintendent of Education

July 31, 2014

Mr. Scott Kuffel  
GENESECO CUSD 228  
Ladders to Learning PreSchool-Northside  
648 N Chicago St  
Geneseo, IL 61254-

Dear Mr. Scott Kuffel:

On behalf of the Illinois State Board of Education, the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development, the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, and the Illinois Department of Human Services, we are pleased to recognize the Circle of Quality that your Preschool for All (PFA) program has achieved in ExceleRate Illinois, the state's new quality rating and improvement system for early learning and development programs that serve children from birth to age 5. This letter is a follow-up to the letter that was sent to PFA programs in December 2013 announcing ExceleRate Illinois. ExceleRate unifies all of the state's early learning programs under a common set of standards across multiple settings to provide families with important information about quality early learning programs in their community.

ExceleRate Illinois is anchored by a set of standards that focus on early learning and development and places a high priority on instructional excellence, family services, staff qualifications, professional development, and program administration. Central to its design is the recognition of multiple forms of evidence to meet the universal standards. For Preschool for All programs, evidence is obtained through the monitoring visits conducted through National Louis University's contract with the Illinois State Board of Education. During these monitoring visits, assessors collect evidence using the Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale-Revised (ECERS-R) and the ISBE Compliance Checklist. Each Preschool for All program site is awarded an ExceleRate Circle of Quality based on its Compliance and ECERS-R scores.

Your PFA program, Ladders to Learning PreSchool-Northside, has achieved the Silver Circle of Quality. A certificate to recognize this award will be sent in a separate mailing from Illinois Network of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies (INCCRRA).

To learn more about ExceleRate Illinois, including the specific requirements for each Circle of Quality, visit <http://www.exceleRateillinoisproviders.com/>. A website that provides parents and families with information to assist them in making early care and education decisions can be found at <http://www.exceleRateillinois.com/>.

Together, we will make a difference for all children in Illinois. If you have any questions, please contact the Illinois State Board of Education Early Childhood Division at 217-524-4835.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cindy Zumwalt".

Cindy Zumwalt  
Early Childhood Division Administrator

cc: Mr. Alex Kashner