



Illinois Horizon Schools: Schools to Watch
2016-2017
Application
Initial Designation

Date:

Name of School:

School Address:

School Telephone No.

Name of School:	
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Dear Applicant:

Enclosed you will find the *Illinois Horizon Schools-Schools to Watch* application documents. Before beginning the application process, we suggest you thoroughly review the attached Application Procedures.

Prior to completing the application for initial designation, schools are required to complete the on-line "Schools to Watch Self Study and Rating Rubric". Data gathered through the rubric survey completion will facilitate and add meaning to the application process. For information on accessing the self-study rubric electronically, please contact: John Viano jviano13@gmail.com

There is no fee for the application process.

Please note that the deadline for receipt of this application is November 20, 2015. Applicants will be notified via e-mail upon receipt of their application packet. The schedule for selecting our *Illinois Horizons Schools-Schools to Watch* is as follows:

November 14	2016	Applications due
November/December	2016	Semi-finalist schools will be contacted to schedule a one- or two-day visit. Schools not selected for visits will also be notified.
December-January-February	2016-2017	Site visits conducted
March	2017	<i>Illinois Horizon School-Schools to Watch</i> are formally announced.
June 21-24	2017	National Schools to Watch Conference in Washington D.C.

If after reviewing the application procedures and materials, you determine that your school no longer has interest in the initiative at this time, we encourage you to continue your efforts towards becoming an *Illinois Horizon School: School to Watch*. Examine the materials as guidelines for self-evaluation and reflection.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions concerning the selection, criteria, application process, or the program.

Sincerely,

Gary Weilbacher
Co-Director
IHSTW

John Viano
Co-Director
IHSTW

Contact Information:

School Name:	
Street Address:	
City, Zip-code:	
Phone, Fax, Website:	
Contact Name, E-mail:	

Name of Principal:	
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Members of Application Writing Team (Names, Positions, E-mail):

School characteristics for current year (2016-2017):

1. In what year did your school become a member of AIMS? Note: Although any school can use the materials and/or make application, please remember that schools must be a member of AIMS in order to receive the distinction as an Illinois Horizon School to Watch.
2. What grades are included in your school?
3. What is your total enrollment?
4. What is the total number of students in your district?
5. Is your school on a traditional or a year-round calendar?
6. How long has your administrative staff been at your school?

Principal	
Assistant Principal (AP) 1	
AP #2	
AP #3	
AP #4	

7. How are your instructional minutes organized for each grade-level (periods per day/block schedule, etc.)? You may answer below or attach a single sheet.
8. What courses are included (core, elective, exploratory) for each grade-level? You may answer below or attach a single sheet.

9. Other than the ISAT, what kinds of assessments tools are used in your school to measure student achievement? You may answer below or attach a single sheet.

Demographic information for current year:

Answer the following questions for all students in each grade for the current year:

Total number in grade	5th	6th	7th	8th	Total number of students	% of Total enrollment
African American						
Asian/Asian American						
Caucasian						
Hispanic/Latino						
Native American						
Other						
Totals						100%

Percentage and number of students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch:

Percentage and number of students who speak English as a second language:

Demographic information for last school year:

What was the average absentee rate of all students (percent) in your school during the previous school year?

What was the average absentee rate in your school for all teachers (percent) during the previous school year?

What was the school's suspension rate for the previous school year?

Complete the following table to illustrate your school's suspension data.

School Year	In School Suspensions				Out of School Suspensions			
	1-10 Days		10 + Days		1-10 Days		10 + Days	
2015-2016	# of Different Students (Unduplicated Count)	# of Cases (Duplicated Count)	# of Different Students (Unduplicated Count)	# of Cases (Duplicated Count)	# of Different Students (Unduplicated Count)	# of Cases (Duplicated Count)	# of Different Students (Unduplicated Count)	# of Cases (Duplicated Count)
African American								
Asian								
Latino (a)/Hispanic								
Native American								
Caucasian								
Other								
Females								
Males								

Write a separate paragraph that will help us understand your school's suspension data. You may answer below or attach a single sheet.

Special Recognition:

Let us know about any research projects, grant awards, articles, projects, and special awards of which your school has been the subject or recipient. Please include the dates.

Collaboration Requirement for New Applicants:

One additional requirement is to provide evidence indicating some type of collaboration with a currently designated Horizon School to Watch. This collaboration can involve a variety of activities, some of which are listed here:

- Visiting a Horizon School to observe practices that you wish to improve upon in your own school
- Receiving some form of staff development from a designated school
- Reviewing/Sharing/Using curricular, administrative, pedagogical materials from a designated school in order to improve your own practices
- Having a designated school proof-read your Horizon application

In addition to a brief narrative description of these activities, please provide a short letter from the designated school(s) involved in this collaboration.

Narrative:

Based on your completed Self-Study and Rating Rubric, write a 1-2 page narrative for each OF THE FOUR STW CRITERIA (e.g. Academic Excellence). Be sure to identify each criteria at the top of the page and include page numbering and your school's name on each page.

- If the application process has influenced or supported your school's practice, please include that information in your narrative.
- Narratives should use a 12-point font and 1 inch margins and should not exceed a total of eight pages

Who else can tell us about your school?

Provide the names and telephone numbers of two teachers, two parents, and two community members who can tell us about your school.

Teachers		
Name	Position	Telephone Number
1.		
2.		

Parents		
Name	Grade-level of children	Telephone Number
1.		
2.		

Community Members		
Name	Name of Organization	Telephone Number
1.		
2.		

Signature and Permission:

I give permission to the Association of Illinois Middle-Grade Schools & National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform to publish the information and materials included in this application on their respective publications and websites in order to help other schools move toward high performance. I understand that selection committee members may conduct a site visit to my school during the time span of December 2016-March, 2017, and our school will host such a visit. My staff and I will cooperate in the data-gathering efforts to the fullest extent possible and will assist in obtaining the necessary releases for the publicity purposes. I recognize that being selected as an Illinois Horizon School will result in an increase of outside visitors and publicity. We are prepared to share our knowledge and experience with others in order to accelerate middle-grades reform.

Principal's Signature:	Date:
District Superintendent/Designee's Signature:	Date:

Longitudinal Summary of Student Achievement

School Name:	
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Use achievement data that is available at your school to provide evidence of growth in student achievement over time. In each box, please record the percentage of students meeting and exceeding state standards. In addition, please attach the reports provided by the State Report Card.

	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016
	Reading, Math, LA	Reading, Math, LA	Reading, Math, LA
All 6th Grade Students			
English-Language Learners			
Socio-economically Disadvantaged Students (student receiving free/reduced lunch)			
Special Education Students			
OTHER Students (specify)			

	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016
	Science	Science	Science
All 7th Grade Students			
English-Language Learners			
Socio-economically Disadvantaged Students (student receiving free/reduced lunch)			
Special Education Students			
OTHER Students (specify)			

B

Longitudinal Summary of Student Achievement

School Name:	
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Use achievement data that is available at your school to provide evidence of growth in student achievement over time. In each box, please record the percentage of students meeting and exceeding state standards. In addition, please attach the reports provided by the State Report Card.

	2013-2014			2014-2015			2015-2016		
	Reading	Math	Language	Reading	Math	Language	Reading	Math	Language
All 8th Grade Students									
English-Language Learners									
Socio-economically Disadvantaged Students (student receiving free/reduced lunch)									
Special Education Students									
OTHER Students (specify)									

Application Checklist:

- A completed School Self-Study and Rating Rubric
- A completed & signed Application Packet
- State Report Card reports for Forms A & B
- Narrative based on your completed rubric



**Illinois Horizon Schools: Schools to Watch
In collaboration with
The National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform
Application Cover Sheet**

Please type or print all information:

School Name:	
School Address:	
City, Zip:	
School System:	
School Phone:	School Fax:
School Web Address:	
Total Enrollment:	Grade Configuration (6-8, K-8, etc.)
Principal's name (please print):	
Principal's E-mail address:	
Signatures of Application Writing Team & Position in Your School:	

Report Deadline: November 214, 2016

Mail and send an electronic copy of this completed application to:

Association of Illinois Middle-Grade Schools
3712 N. Broadway, Suite 180
Chicago, Illinois 60613

Electronic copy to: jviano13@gmail.com

