

**UNION SCHOOL
DISTRICT #81**
1661 Cherry Hill Road
Joliet, Illinois 60433
Timothy Baldermann, Superintendent
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To: Residents of Union School District 81

From: Superintendent Timothy Baldermann

Dear Residents,

On behalf of the Union School District 81 Board of Education, I am pleased to give you an update on our district.

In 2012, our district was borrowing \$500,000 in Tax Anticipation Warrants to pay our bills. We were on the State's Financial Watch List (worst rating) and were academically performing better than only 8% of the schools in Illinois. Since that time, our Board of Education and Administration have worked hard to improve our financial well-being as well as our academic performance. We're pleased to report that the hard work has paid off!

For the past few years, Union School District 81 has received the top financial rating in the State (Recognition). We have used your tax money wisely and provided the necessary resources to ensure a safe and rigorous academic experience for the students. For the fourth year in a row, we are returning surplus funds to our residential tax payers. This is unheard of for school districts in Illinois. Furthermore, of the five (5) school districts in the area (including Union) that share a border, Union School District has the second lowest tax rate.

We have made tremendous progress over the past several years. Our teachers and staff have worked very hard to deliver great academic opportunities to our students. Most recent graduates of Union School have gone on to take honors classes in high school and are performing near the top of their classes. Although this success has been remarkable, we won't stop striving to do even better.

Thank you for your support! If you ever have any questions, please feel free to contact me at tbaldermann@union81.com, or visit our website at www.union81.com

Thank you!

Timothy A. Baldermann
Superintendent