

Jean F. Burkholder
Administrative Service Center
www.usd116.org

Contact Name: Mark Schultz
217-384-3650
mschultz@usd116.org

Date: August 19, 2008
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Urbana High School Makes Adequate Yearly Progress *High School Meets NCLB Standards*

The Illinois State Board of Education has released the 2008 Prairie State Achievement Exam (PSAE) scores for Urbana High School Students and the results have UHS staff and faculty smiling. Urbana High School scores have shown great improvement and the school has met the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) required by the federal No Child Left Behind Act. The PSAE is used by all high schools in the state of Illinois to measure AYP.

In 2008 UHS students recorded some of the highest scores on the PSAE since NCLB was instituted. UHS students recorded the highest-ever scores in 2008 in:

- Math (all students)
- Low income students in math
- African American students in math
- Special education students in math
- Special education students in reading

Students from **all** socio-economic and ethnic sub-groups increased their scores on the 2008 test in reading and math.

Urbana High School Principal Dr. Laura Taylor says,

"I am not surprised that UHS students are performing at the highest levels ever since NCLB was instituted. We have been systematically making purposeful changes to our curriculum, teaching, and environment to improve student learning. Our goal of having high expectations for all students while providing them with both academic and relational support to meet those expectations is clearly having an impact. We were confident that by dropping all remedial levels, providing all students with access to challenging courses, and improving discipline and attendance, we would improve student performance. True change takes time, and I am very pleased with the progress we have been making".

Urbana School District #116 Superintendent Dr. Preston Williams is also pleased to hear about UHS making AYP. "I applaud the efforts of Dr. Taylor, the administrative staff, teachers, and students. We knew that the changes implemented over the years would yield success. We also understand that this is a step in the process—we have to do even better next year... (but) hopefully this will be the beginning of a long string of successes for Urbana High School as it relates to the PSAE," Williams says.

Members of the media wishing to do a story about Urbana High School making AYP should contact Urbana High School Principal Dr. Laura Taylor at 384-3505.

###

Outstanding schools in an outstanding community!