

Dear Parent,

Beginning February 8, students and teachers across Illinois will have an opportunity to participate in the ninth annual statewide Illinois 5Essentials Survey. This survey is designed to generate a detailed picture of the inner workings of your child's school. The optional Parent Supplement survey will also be made available and will allow you to share your thoughts on the important elements of school effectiveness in a survey about your child's school.

On behalf of the Illinois State Board of Education, the Illinois 5Essentials Survey will be administered online by UChicago Impact at the University of Chicago. The survey gathers data related to five indicators that can predict important student outcomes, including improved attendance and larger test score gains. These five indicators that affect and predict school success are:

- Effective Leaders
- Collaborative Teachers
- Involved Families
- Supportive Environments
- Ambitious Instruction

Prior research in more than 400 schools has shown that schools that were strong on at least three of these "5Essential" indicators were 10 times more likely to improve student learning gains in math and reading than those that were weak on three or more Essentials.

All teachers and 4th through 12th grade students will be asked to respond to this survey between February 8, 2021 and April 2, 2021. 5Essentials Reports will be generated for schools if their teachers and/or students meet the response rate threshold of 50 percent. These reports will be sent to schools and districts in May 2021 and will also be included in the State School Report Card.

Blue Ridge has chosen to provide the optional Parent Supplement survey. If at least 20 percent of Blue Ridge parents complete this survey, a parent supplement report will also be generated. The parent data will not be reported on the State Report Card. Your participation in the parent portion of the survey will help us understand the conditions at your child's school and guide improvement. Your identity and survey responses will be kept completely confidential and will never be connected to you or your child. The Parent Survey Supplement opens up today, February 3, 2021 and remains open through April 2, 2021. To take the survey please visit <https://survey.5-essentials.org/Illinois/> and select the appropriate survey to begin.

For more information about the Illinois 5Essentials Survey, or to view previous years' Reports, please visit <https://www.5-essentials.org/illinois>. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact 5Essentials Client Services at 1-866-440-1874 or impact-surveys@uchicago.edu.

Sincerely,

Dr. Stanifer