

Seven West Allis - West Milwaukee Schools Honored in Madison for Academic Excellence

(October 3, 2007) Seven West Allis - West Milwaukee schools were honored as 2007 - 08 "New Wisconsin Promise Schools" in a ceremony held on Oct. 3 in the Capitol Rotunda. State Superintendent of Schools Elizabeth Burmaster hosted the event which also featured a performance by the West Milwaukee Middle School Orchestra.

The honored schools were Franklin, Jefferson, Lincoln, Longfellow, Pershing, Wilson and West Milwaukee. Only one other school district, Milwaukee, had more schools so recognized.

Jefferson, Lincoln, Longfellow, Pershing and West Milwaukee were also recognized last year.

Only 163 schools in the state received this honor for 2007 - 2008. Each of them will receive a plaque and \$1,500 for use in any school-related activity.

New Wisconsin Promise Schools of Recognition earned the honor for, according to DPI, "beating the odds." Research indicates that, generally speaking, schools with higher than average rates of students eligible for free and reduced hot lunch are not expected to academically excel.

Franklin, Jefferson, Lincoln, Longfellow, Pershing, Wilson and West Milwaukee defied conventional wisdom. Despite the fact that they are eligible to receive federal Title 1 aid because of their free and reduced lunch rates, they exceeded the state average on statewide reading and math assessments. In addition, these schools made adequate yearly progress as defined by the federal government's No Child Left Behind Act for the past two years and performed better than other schools with similar demographics on statewide math and reading assessments.

When the New Wisconsin Promise Schools of Recognition criteria is applied, minus the demographic component, four other West Allis - West Milwaukee schools experienced that same level of academic merit. Those schools are Nathan Hale High School, Frank Lloyd Wright Middle School, Mitchell and Madison Elementary Schools.

In recognition of this accomplishment, Supt. of Schools Kurt Wachholz deemed them "Schools of Recognition" and presented them with plaques.

Congratulations to all of our Schools of Promise and Recognition.