

Press Release...



FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE LA SHAWN K. FORD

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For More Information:

State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford

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George Rogers Clark Elementary School in Austin Wins State Academic Honors

CHICAGO – State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford, D-Chicago, recognizes George Rogers Clark Elementary School in the Austin community of Chicago as they are awarded two prestigious awards from the Illinois State Board of Education and are included on the 2013 Illinois Honor Roll Annual List. George Rogers Clark Elementary School, located at 1045 S. Monitor Avenue in the Island neighborhood in the South Austin community in Chicago, is one of only eight schools to receive both the Spotlight Schools Award and the Academic Improvement Award.

“I want to congratulate Principal Natasha Buckner-Pena, faculty, staff, LSC members, students, and parents, for their teamwork to defy the odds each day to achieve this recognition,” said Ford. “The families of the school and the people of Austin should be proud of G.R. Clark, and their success will serve as one of Illinois' model schools of success.”

“I am proud of the staff and students of George Rogers Clark Elementary School,” said Illinois State Superintendent of Education Dr. Christopher A. Koch. “They deserve to be congratulated, and we should celebrate their achievement. Despite higher expectations this year, Clark Elementary School was among nearly 200 Illinois schools that rose to the challenge.”

“I am very excited and I will push our team and students to aim for national recognition for their academic excellence,” said G.R. Clark Principal Buckner-Pena. “I hope to continue to build stronger community partnerships for the school.”

177 schools made the 2013 Illinois Honor Roll for their continued academic progress or excellence. The state's annual recognition program is based on the previous spring's state standardized tests and demographic information. G. R. Clark was recognized as one of the Spotlight Schools, one of 37 high-poverty, high-performing schools that are beating the odds by overcoming the achievement gap, and also won an Academic Improvement Award, awarded to 125 schools that are showing substantial improvement.

Representatives from the state and city are expected to join Rep. La Shawn K. Ford for an official ceremony to honor the school in June.

For more information, contact one of Ford's constituent service offices: 816 S. Oak Park Avenue in Oak Park at [708-445-3673](tel:708-445-3673), 4800 W. Chicago Avenue in Chicago at [773-378-5902](tel:773-378-5902) or in the Stratton Office Building in Springfield at [217-782-5962](tel:217-782-5962), or visit www.lashawnford.com.

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