

Minnesota Department of
Education

June 6, 2012

Scott Anderson
Schoolcraft Learning Community Chtr
Box 1685
Bemidji, MN 56610

Dear Director,

I'm writing today to offer my personal congratulations for Schoolcraft Learning Community Chtr's recent designation as a Reward School. This designation reflects the gains your school has made in proficiency, growth, achievement gap reduction, and graduation rates. It is also a reflection of you and your staff's tireless efforts to improve outcomes for students.

As a former teacher, principal and superintendent, I appreciate the selfless dedication that educators devote to ensuring success for the students they serve. It takes focus and commitment to put systems and strategies in place that yield the kind of results your school has shown. You and your entire team deserve sincere congratulations for this outstanding accomplishment.

Achievement and growth at a school was often overlooked under the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) law. Too often, schools like yours that are realizing great success were overlooked or worse, unfairly labeled as failures. Our new accountability system provides a more comprehensive look at how a school is doing and aims to recognize the remarkable work taking place in schools throughout Minnesota.

If we work together, every school in Minnesota can be great. In the coming months, the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) will contact your school to begin identifying the best practices that have contributed to your designation as a Reward School. Our aim is to share those best practices with schools across the state in order to replicate your success. By learning from schools like yours, we believe we can accelerate positive results, begin mentoring neighboring schools in need of support, and replicate your successes to help reduce achievement gaps among students.

Attached to this letter is an electronic version of the new MDE Reward School logo. I hope you will feel free to use this logo to celebrate your success on your school's website, letterhead or banner.

Again, please accept my best wishes on your remarkable accomplishment, and thank you for your work to ensure every Minnesota child reaches their highest potential.

Sincerely,



Dr. Brenda Cassellius
Commissioner of Education