

# PRESS RELEASE

*. . . for immediate release*

Mt. Zion School District was recently notified that it is one of six school districts in the state of Illinois to receive both the SchoolSearch Bright Star and Bright A+ Awards for educational excellence within the same school year.

Mt. Zion is one of only 62 Illinois School Districts (out of 872) honored with the 2007 Bright A+ Award. The award criteria are based on those districts whose students' academic performance ranks in the top 5% of Illinois school districts (source: 2006 IL Report Card Data):

- *Elementary/Unit School Districts with the overall average percentage of 92.60 or above on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade ISAT meets or exceeds percentages in reading and math.*
- *High School/Unit Districts with an ACT score of 22.4 or above.*

In addition, Mt. Zion School District is one of 80 Illinois School Districts (out of 872) honored with the 2007 Bright Star Award. The criteria for this award is based on those districts whose students' academic performance ranks in the upper one-third of Illinois school districts, but whose expenditure per pupil ranks in the lower one-fourth of Illinois school districts (source: 2006 IL Report Card data).

Mt. Zion School District Superintendent, Darbe Brinkoetter, states, "It is very rewarding to see the outstanding efforts of our staff and students recognized in this manner. We are very proud of our staff, students, and their families. The Mt. Zion Board of Education is to be commended for their emphasis on academic excellence and fiscal responsibility."

For additional information, please contact:

Darbe Brinkoetter  
Superintendent of Schools