

Our Final Offer Maintains the Quality of Education in Litchfield

The professional educators of the Litchfield Education Association are proud of our excellent school district.

We're proud to be a part of a supportive community of parents, teachers, community members, administrators and school board members – a community that has created a quality school district in which all students can learn, excel and be prepared for advancement through college, career technical school and/or the world of work.

Our accomplishments together are many and well known:

- Our school district has been recognized as a SchoolSearch Bright Star School District, one of only 81 in Illinois that scored in the top third of the Illinois State Achievement Test and Prairie State Achievement Test.
- JD Colt and Russell Elementary Schools were recognized as 2008 and 2009 Spotlight Schools by the Illinois State Board of Education. JD Colt and Russell Elementary, along with Litchfield Middle School, continue to meet the stringent Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) requirements each year.
- Our school district is proud to include eight National Board Certified Teachers.
- The Litchfield High School Scholastic Bowl Team was state runner-up in 2009.
- With its high academic standards, junior and senior students at Litchfield High School may take dual credit classes to earn up to 16 college credits before graduation.
- Litchfield High School students have the opportunity to participate in a full range of vocational programs, including the construction of a Building Trades home and CNA certification.
- Litchfield Middle School co-curricular activities include: girls' and boys' basketball, volleyball, wrestling, girls' and boys' track, cheerleading, football, Junior Verve, Eco Team, Scholastic Bowl, yearbook, and student council.
- Litchfield High School co-curricular activities include: baseball, girls' and boys' basketball, girls' and boys' soccer, cheerleading, girls' and boys' cross

country, football, girls' and boys' golf, softball, girls' and boys' track, volleyball, wrestling, band, dance team, Eco Team, F.C.A. F.F.A., F.C.C.L.A. National Honor Society, Rembrandt Society, Scholastic Bowl, Student Council, and Theater.

- As a school district in the lowest quarter of per pupil spending, Litchfield schools are an excellent educational value.
- The Litchfield School District continues to be recognized by the Illinois State Board of Education for outstanding fiscal management with our Financial Recognition designation.

As part of a school district that is recognized for this kind of excellence, our goal as an Association in these negotiations has been to maintain the kinds of conditions that have made the quality of the school district what it is – conditions that will attract and retain high quality professionals to teach in Litchfield schools.

The sole unresolved issue in these negotiations is salary for the current school year. We have proposed a modest increase in compensation (3 percent in the salary schedule) that is affordable to the schools and community, **without new taxes**. The school district's proposal to teacher, however, denies educators the experience and educational step due to us last August.

The school district ended last fiscal year with a surplus of 3.2 million in its operating funds and almost \$1.6 million in its educational fund. According to district financial documents, the surplus in the education fund had grown to \$2.6 million in October of 2012.

We believe our proposal as outlined to be fair, affordable and essential in building the kind of conditions that will maintain educational quality in the district's professional teaching staff.

December 12, 2012