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# Press Release

<b>To:</b> All Media	<b>From:</b> Dawn Torchia, Decatur Public Schools
<b>Fax:</b>	<b>Pages:</b> 1
<b>Phone:</b>	<b>Date:</b> March 4, 2005
<b>Re:</b> DPS Receives State Awards	<b>CC:</b>

## *Decatur Public Schools Receive State Awards for Achievement*

Decatur, IL – Five Decatur Public Schools receive state recognition. The Illinois State Board of Education announces Spotlight Schools and Academic Improvement Awards this week.

Decatur Spotlight Schools include Garfield Montessori Magnet School, Mary W. French Academy, Michael E. Baum Elementary School, and Oak Grove Accelerated School. The Spotlight Schools Award is given to schools that are high poverty – high performing schools.

Academic Improvement Awards are being given to William Harris Elementary School and Oak Grove Accelerated School. Schools must make significant gains in performance over three years to receive this award. Criteria include an upward trend in test results - a 7.5 percent gain in scores above the previous year or a 15 percent gain over two years, or release from the Academic Early Warning List.

Oak Grove Accelerated School is one of only 10 schools in the state to receive two awards.

For more information, call Dawn Torchia, Decatur Public Schools Community Engagement Specialist, 424-3425.

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