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Four more District 197 schools receive the Energy Star Award

(Mendota Heights, Minn.) --- As part of LIVEGREEN, the energy efficiency program that Independent School District 197 participates in, four more schools have earned the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's prestigious Energy Star Award. This award is the national symbol for superior energy efficiency and environmental protection. Garlough, Piolt Knob, Moreland, and Somerset elementary schools have all earned the Energy Star Award this fall, and will be celebrating this accomplishment during October's Energy Awareness Month.

With these recent additions, seven of the District's eight schools have now earned the Energy Star Award. The last to be evaluated is Henry Sibley High School, which is expected to earn approval later this fall. ISD 197 has also received the "Top Performer in 2009" award for its leadership in improving the average energy performance rating district-wide. In order to achieve this, the district had to demonstrate a 20% improvement rate in energy consumption.

The Energy Star Award signifies that a school has relatively superior energy performance levels. It identifies the school building as one of the most efficient buildings in the country, representing the top 25% of facilities nationwide. By making an effort to improve energy performance levels, the schools in ISD 197 have not only avoided \$1.1 million in utility costs since 2003, but they are also preventing the release of harmful greenhouse gases which protects the environment.

"Improving energy efficiency is the easiest and most cost-effective way to cut pollution and save money," says Lisa Johnson, Energy Manager for ISD 197. "I am proud to work and live in a school district that is forward-thinking and tenacious when it comes to implementing energy saving initiatives."

Environmental Protection Agency's national energy performance rating system provides a one through 100 scale that helps organizations assess how efficiently their buildings use energy relative to similar buildings nationwide. A building that scores a rating of 75 or higher is eligible for the Energy Star Award. Garlough has a ranking of 96, Morleand of 93, Somerset of 91, and Piolt Knob of 87. With such high numbers, each of these school is well deserving of their Energy Star recognition.

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