



# Sterling Public Schools

Where kids achieve!

Washington School ■ 815 W. LeFevre ■ Sterling, IL 61081  
■ 815.625.2372 ■ [www.sterlingpublicschools.org](http://www.sterlingpublicschools.org)  
■ Steven Etheridge, Principal

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Each year the Illinois State Board of Education requires schools to complete the 5Essentials Survey. This survey is based on the Five Essentials for School Success, an evidence-based framework developed by the University of Chicago. Research has shown that schools strong on three or more of the 5Essentials were 10 times more likely to improve student learning gains than schools weak on three or more of the 5Essentials. Those 5Essentials are:

- Effective Leaders
- Collaborative Teachers
- Involved Families
- Supportive Environment
- Ambitious Instruction

The survey gives teachers and parents an opportunity to have a voice in improving our school by identifying the strengths and weaknesses in our learning environment. The survey will be open from January 12<sup>th</sup> through March 13<sup>th</sup>, and takes approximately 20 minutes to complete. We need at least 20% of parents to participate in order for us to receive results. The teaching staff will be completing the survey on January 29, 2015. When the results are released in the summer, they will be posted on our school website and will be analyzed by the Washington School Improvement Team, who will use the data to create an action plan.

You can access the survey at the link below or on our school website.

<https://survey.5-essentials.org/illinois/>

If you have any questions, please feel free to call the school office or email me at [setheridge@sps5.org](mailto:setheridge@sps5.org). Thank you for your participation in improving our school!

Sincerely,

Steven Etheridge  
Principal  
Washington Elementary School