



Outstanding Rural School District - 2018

Richland R-I School District

Essex, Missouri

Richland R-I School District is a rural K-12 district located in Essex, Missouri in the Southeast portion of the state. The district has a K-12 student population of 293.

The list of accomplishments for Richland R-I are impressive to say the least. Richland R-I School District was the first school in Missouri to go one-to-one in Pre-K through 12th grade. The district is the only Missouri K-12 school district to have every building in the district earn a Missouri Gold Star and a National Blue Ribbon award. Richland R-I was also named the "top achieving school in Missouri" by a St. Louis University study. The district has scored a 100 on the APR and been named to the "Top 100 Schools in the United States" by World and News Report multiple times.

Richland has implemented 3-D technology, multiple makerspace stations and coding areas in the district as well as providing a robotics program. Trying to stay current with student needs and the world of tomorrow, Richland has implemented a drone curriculum as well as started an Egames team.

Senator Doug Libla had this to say about Richland R-I, "While touring the classrooms it was very apparent the great attitude of everybody who comes into this school each and every day. Great students, teachers and family members have led this school to their accomplishments. I am very proud of their aforementioned achievements and their progressive approach to remain a leader in educational excellence."

Chris Neale, Assistant Commissioner, shares the following, "Richland R-I is focused on serving its students. Despite being small and rural, the educational programming is relevant and progressive. Richland invests heavily in its educators encouraging staff members to visit schools that have greater achievement levels than Richland and to bring back information to share and implement to improve local achievement. Richland's academic achievement is outstanding. Whether you are considering achievement levels or growth scores, Richland R-I is among the top two or three schools every year."

The Missouri Association of Rural Education is proud to recognize Richland R-I as the 2018 "Outstanding Rural School District". Congratulations!

