

Missouri Quality Award

The Dunklin R-5 School District's quality improvement efforts were recognized Thursday night with a Tier 2 award from the Midwest Excellence Institute. Dunklin is using the Baldrige Excellence Framework to align and improve every segment of the district. This is the second time they filled out the rigorous application, welcomed outside examiners, and received the Tier 2 award. The next level is the coveted Tier 3 award.

Superintendent Stan Stratton is pleased with the results. He says, "I think it reaffirms that we are on the right track, that we are moving in the right direction, but to take that next step, we still have some work to do." After the examiners visited the school district and interviewed employees, they created a report describing strengths and areas that need improvement.

Stratton says, "I'm very appreciative of all the work the staff has done to get us this far in this amount of time. When you listen to the organizations that got the Tier 3 award, they were talking about doing this for 10 or 12 years before they got that top award." Dunklin decided to use the Baldrige Excellence Framework in 2014.

Also, winning a Tier 2 award was the Affton School District. The Tier 3 winners were Mercy Rehabilitation Hospital, Special School District of St. Louis County, and The University of Kansas Medical Center-Public Safety.



Pictured: Deputy Superintendent Clint Freeman, Director of Transportation Sue Sharp, Superintendent Stan Stratton, Board of Education members Susan Hartmann, Cheryl Aylesworth and Tammy Heidland.