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New Prairie High School Named a 2025 School of Excellence by ACT's American College Application Campaign

The northeast Indiana high school is one of 26 schools in the country recognized for its commitment to student success after high school graduation

(INDIANAPOLIS) – The [Indiana Commission for Higher Education](https://che.in.gov) (Commission) today announced New Prairie High School as Indiana's American College Application Campaign (ACAC) [School of Excellence Award](#) winner. Indiana joins 25 other states in celebrating exemplary schools dedicated to increasing postsecondary success, specifically for first-generation college students.

New Prairie High School earned the School of Excellence Award for building an increased awareness of the opportunities and benefits of going to college for all grade levels. In addition to daily trivia contests and a spirit week, the school launched the College Bound Cougars program, offering grade-specific lessons on college exploration, financial aid, admissions, career planning, and test preparation for all students in grades nine through 12. Every student completed multiple career interest inventories, as well as preparation sessions for the PSAT and SAT. During College Application Week, New Prairie's seniors submitted 376 college applications.

"New Prairie High School has shown a strong commitment to ensuring every student, including those who may be the first in their families to attend college, receives the support and confidence needed to make informed decisions about their future," said Dr. Katie Jenner, Indiana Secretary of Education. "Through the College Bound Cougars program, students begin planning for the college application process as early as their freshman year, helping them prepare for colleges and careers. Whether a student chooses to enroll in college, go straight into a career, or serve in our nation's military, understanding the range of possibilities for their future is essential to being prepared for their unique next step."

Each year, ACAC partners with coordinators in nearly every state and the District of Columbia to host college application events that encourage students to apply to college. As Indiana's coordinator, the Commission selects one school to receive ACAC's School of Excellence Award on behalf of the state.

"We are so excited and honored to receive this award for our state! Our student support services staff at New Prairie United School Corporation has spent a great deal of time preparing and executing an extensive and purposeful K-12 Career Exploration Plan, and this work culminates with our campaign to encourage and support students as they navigate the college application process," said Tara White, New Prairie High School's Director of College & Career Readiness. "We make sure that when the time arrives, all of our students have as much information and opportunity as they need to make the best decisions about their postsecondary plans."

[College Application Week](#) is part of Indiana's annual College GO! initiative. Taking place every August through November, College GO! provides Hoosier K-12 students with information and resources to support their exploration of postsecondary education options. This was Indiana's 12th year participating in the initiative, with over 130 Indiana high schools participating. Additionally, over 30 Indiana higher education institutions opted in to promote free applications or provide fee waivers for students during the week.

To learn more about Indiana's College GO! program, visit [Learn More Indiana's website](#).

To learn more about ACT's national ACAC campaign, visit <https://impactandlearning.act.org>.

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About the Indiana Commission for Higher Education

Created in 1971, the Indiana Commission for Higher Education (CHE, Commission) is the State's higher education coordinating agency, driven to improve economic and social mobility for fellow Hoosiers through postsecondary education and training, and is a part of Governor Mike Braun's Office of Education. The Commission also administers Indiana's state financial aid programs, including [21st Century Scholars](#), which celebrated 35 years in 2025.