



Wisconsin Rural Schools Alliance (WiRSA) 2017 Rural Administrator of the Year Award Winner

Luke Francois | [Mineral Point School District](#)



Luke Francois was honored by the Wisconsin Rural Schools Alliance (WiRSA), a non-profit organization that is dedicated to helping address challenges faced by rural school districts, at the annual Rural Schools Conference on October 30, 2017.

Luke Francois, the district administrator of the Mineral Point School District, like most rural school administrators, Dr. Francois

wears multiple hats which are too numerous to name. What sets him apart are the results he achieves, here are a few examples:

Starting in 2012 Dr. Francois championed a Stadium Project Committee that has raised approximately \$500,000 of private donations to date. Bleachers were installed this spring and they are close to finally playing games at the “new” school.

In 2015, the district received the distinction of being recognized by DPI for demonstrating high reading achievement growth for students with disabilities. 2015 was also the first of three years running the district has been recognized by DPI with a Bronze Health Award for successfully equipping students with the knowledge to make healthy decisions that will positively contribute to their academic success.

These improvements combined to bolster Mineral Point to the top of the charts with the 2016 DPI State Report Cards, earning a five star or Significantly Exceeding Expectations in the accountability ranking. In addition, out of 180 districts participating in the CESA 6 Effectiveness Project, Mineral Point ranked first for academic growth during the 2012-13 through 2015-16 time frame.

For decades, when people hear “Mineral Point Schools,” they often think of one thing--wrestling. Now, in his seventh year as Superintendent, Luke Francois has enriched the dialogue. Mineral Point is still known for wrestling, but new words and phrases have entered the conversation--innovative, leaders, destination district, and #PointerNation are just a few.

The Wisconsin Rural Schools Alliance was formed to help rural school districts address the unique issues that affect rural schools as they seek to achieve the highest quality education for every student. Members include a cross-section of administrators, educators, school board members, post-secondary representatives, rural community members, business leaders, and other concerned individuals who want a strong voice for rural education.