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# News Release

## **Premier Academy High School: Getting Youth Back on the Path to Success**

**Joliet IL, February 18, 2007:**

Regional Safe School Programs provide alternative education options for at-risk students to: promote a structured, yet nurturing environment; implement a comprehensive individual learning plan for each student; incorporate in-kind services as needed; and provide students with a successful transition back into their respective home-schools and community.

Premier Academy High School, located at 51 W. Jackson St. in Joliet, IL, is a regional safe school serving families and communities of Grundy, Kendall, and Will Counties. Students referred to Premier must meet one or more of the following criteria in order to become eligible for enrollment:

- Eligible for expulsion
- Suspended at least twice for a period of 4-10 days for gross misconduct as defined by the Safe Schools Program legislation
- Arrested by police and/or remanded to juvenile or criminal courts for acts related to school activities
- Eligible for disciplinary reassignment pursuant to violation of school district “zero tolerance” policies
- Involved in misconduct that can be described as serious,
- Previous remediation at least once by the local school district
- Youth returning from juvenile correction facilities

If a student has already been expelled, the youth must be readmitted to his or her home school and transferred administratively into the Premier program.

Here are some important highlights about Premier Academy Joliet:

- In 2006, the school doubled its enrollment to 180—up from 90 in September of 2005.
- Premier has increased its course offerings and improved students’ academic achievement.
- Premier students hosted an inaugural Poetry Slam in December 2006. Students composed their own poetry and performed selections to an audience of fellow students, staff, and parents. From all accounts, it was a huge success.

In 2007, Premier staff are looking forward to partnering with area schools to develop a program to help

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students transition back into a traditional educational environment. Staff also are also building on past successes by continued focus on the Premier School Improvement Plan.

For more information on Premier Academy, please visit the Education Service Network web site at: [www.educationservicenetwork.org](http://www.educationservicenetwork.org). For specific information on Premier Academy High School, please call Principal Charisse Beach at (815) 774-8923 or e-mail her at [cbeach@grundy.k12.il.us](mailto:cbeach@grundy.k12.il.us).