



Illinois State Board of Education

100 North First Street • Springfield, Illinois 62777-0001
www.isbe.net

Jesse H. Ruiz
Chairman

Christopher A. Koch, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Education

Facts about the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE):

A Board of 9 members serve as advocates for the over 2 million students, 3,807 schools and 868 districts in the state of Illinois. The Board provides leadership on the state level for education goals and policies. The Mission of the Illinois State Board is to provide leadership, assistance, resources and advocacy so that every student is prepared to succeed in careers and postsecondary education, and share accountability for doing so with districts and schools. Further, ISBE works to ensure that

- Every student will demonstrate academic achievement and be prepared for success after high school
- Every student will be supported by highly effective teachers and school leaders
- Every school will offer a safe and healthy learning environment for all students

The Agency, administered by State Superintendent, directed by the Board, disburses more than \$11 billion to local districts. ISBE administers state and federal education programs, nutrition and transportation programs, Certification of Education personnel, provides technical assistance to districts and ensure accountability and compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

Illinois spends about \$26 billion per year on education (2008-2009). That amounts to \$14.5 billion in local funds, 7.8 billion in state funds and 3.8 billion in federal funds. Federal funding for schools amounts to about 15% (State 30% local 55%). Major reductions have been seen at the State level, including a \$137 million dollar reduction in FY10 and another \$311 million dollar reduction in FY11. Transportation was cut by 42% from FY10 to FY11, reduced by \$146 million. Everyone is doing more with less, including ISBE, whose headcount was reduced by nearly 40% from 2000 to 2010, from 778 employees in 2000 to less than 485 this year. Of our 485 employees, nearly 200 are federally funded; these employees provide valuable services to students, schools, and districts. *Any cuts to federal educational programs would have a dire effect on the students in Illinois.*

Overall results show the number of schools and districts that made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) decreased under current performance targets. During 2010, the target for student achievement increased from 70 percent meeting and exceeding state standards to 77.5 percent. Results show that 1,999, or 51 percent, of all schools failed to make AYP in 2010, an increase from 40 percent in 2009. In addition, 309 districts made AYP in 2010 while 559, or 64 percent, failed to make AYP, an increase from 49 percent in 2009. *The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) needs to be reauthorized to reform the accountability system and instill a more common-sense approach to dealing with under-performing schools and districts.*

2010 Highlights:

Illinois State Board of Education adopts new learning standards: In June 2010, Board members approved new K-12 Common Core State Standards in English and math. These new benchmarks provide “fewer, clearer and higher” standards that will better prepare Illinois students for success in college and the work force in a competitive global economy.

Illinois leads efforts to create new student assessment system: Illinois is one of 11 states serving on the Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers’ governing board. These 26 states are pooling resources for an internationally benchmarked assessment system that will greatly increase the number of graduating students who are ready to succeed. The new assessments are targeted to be ready for states to administer by the 2014-15 school year.

State testing trends show improvement: The overall average score for all state tests increased to 76.4 in 2010, up from 75.5 the previous year. Students in grades 3-8, who take the Illinois Standards Achievement Test, boosted the overall ISAT score to 80.9 from 79.8. And students with disabilities who take the Illinois Alternative Assessment also showed a combined increase, 68.6 in 2010, up from 66.5 in 2009.

Illinois takes on education leadership roles at the national level: In November, State Superintendent of Education Christopher A. Koch was named president of the Council of Chief State School Officers, and Deputy Superintendent Susie Morrison was named to the CCSSO Deputies Leadership Commission, giving Illinois seats at the table during a crucial time of examining education policy across the country. In addition, ISBE Board Chairman Jesse H. Ruiz was picked to serve on a national panel to make policy recommendations on federal education legislation, and Board Vice Chair Dr. Christopher J. Ward and Board Secretary Dr. Vinni M. Hall were named to national task forces on key educational issues.

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Illinois' Class of 2010 ACT scores leads all universal ACT states: Of the eight states that test at least 90 percent of their students, Illinois was No. 1 with a composite ACT score of 20.7. In addition, while the national average composite score has seen a slight dip in the past five years, Illinois has seen a slight increase, from 20.5 in 2006 to 20.7 in 2010.

Record number of Illinois students take AP exams: The sixth annual AP Report to the Nation not only showed a record number of Illinois students taking AP exams among all categories (gender, ethnicity and economic status), but also showed the state in the upper half of the nation (18th) for the number of high school seniors who scored a 3 or higher on an AP exam.

Nearly 1,000 schools recognized on Illinois Honor Roll: ISBE recognized 975 high performing schools on the annual Illinois Honor Roll. The Spotlight Schools award went to 425 high-poverty, high-performing schools that are showing gains in overcoming the achievement gap. Academic Excellence awards went to 438 schools that have maintained high-performance over at least three years. And 147 schools were honored for showing substantial gains over three years, earning the Academic Improvement award.

2011 Priorities:

Budget Issues: The state's budget difficulties continued to be a problem. The backlog of bills in the Comptroller's office during FY 2010 was regularly more than \$1 billion, forcing some difficult decisions. As a result, some good programs suffered. We were forced to think differently about how we did business, looking to save time and money wherever possible. ISBE continues to voucher funds in a timely manner; however, the Comptroller's office simply does not have the funds. The State currently owes schools \$1.2 billion for FY 11.

Implementing the Common Core Standards: These standards are designed to prepare students to be college and career ready when they graduate from high school. Teachers will have flexibility to teach standards in depth and tailored to student needs. Adopting the new Illinois Learning Standards means developing new assessments. We've joined a consortium of 26 other states to form the Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) to develop new assessments for the 2014-2015 school year.

Redefining Principal Preparation: This will change the focus from building management to instruction and school improvement. Student learning will also focus on Pre-k through 12 instruction (prior was K-12). Principals must know needs of Pre-K and what good instruction looks like there. Experience in Bilingual and Special Ed will be required so that principals are able to support all teachers. Ultimately, this will instill more stringent criteria for Principal preparation programs so to ensure the best instructional leaders are in schools. *ISBE's proposed principal preparation administrative rules are currently before the State's Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (comprised of State legislator). JCAR will be next addressing these proposed rules at its April 12th meeting. ISBE would appreciate any support Congressional members may be able to provide in working with JCAR members to see that the principal preparation rules take effect (a list of JCAR members is attached).*

Developing an evaluation system for teachers and principals: This system will be reliable and valid and will cross over educators at all grade levels and all content areas. Legislation requires ISBE to develop a default evaluation system so that districts that cannot agree on a tool or criteria can use the state's. Principal evaluations are slated to begin in 2012, teachers transition into the system between 2012 thru 2016. In addition, the State will collect data to inform principal preparation programs about the effectiveness of their graduates over time.

Developing a Longitudinal Data System (LDS): Illinois won 2 federal grants totaling \$21 million to build the LDS. This will reduce federal and state reporting requirements for district. The LDS will allow us to bring data from a number of different sources into one system. It will allow us to better manage and organize data and will allow better data access to districts so that they may use data to inform instruction. The LDS will allow linking data from Preschool through graduation, into college and the workforce

Consolidation: The Governor has proposed a committee look at consolidating Illinois' 868 districts down to roughly 300; a move he believes will allow for the redirection of \$100,000,000 into classrooms from administration. While the Board recognizes the need to carefully consider district consolidation in certain contexts, the Board has not seen any specific consolidation plan and therefore cannot at this time endorse large scale consolidation.

Elimination of Regional Offices of Education (ROEs): The Governor has also proposed eliminating state funding in his budget proposal for the Regional Offices of Education, which would save approximately \$14 million. ROE's provide intermediate services for districts including, health/life safety inspections, bus driver training and professional development. If the ROE

funding is eliminated it is not known how these intermediate services would be delivered, if at all. The Illinois State Board of Education recommended an approximate \$1.6 million increase for the ROE's in its budget proposal.

