

Schools and Districts

A Profile of Illinois Public Schools in 2005-2006 Selections from School Report Card Files (Regular Public Schools Only)

SUMMARY

873 districts (public-regular)	87.8% graduation rate
3,890 schools	3.5% dropout rate
2,075,275 students	16.0% mobility rate
40.0% low-income enrollment	6.6% LEP enrollment

TRENDS

Number of school districts declined: The number of school districts declined from 903 in 1997 to 873 in 2006; there were 377 elementary districts, 100 high school districts and 396 unit districts, making a total of 873 public school districts.

Number of public schools increased: The number of public schools increased from 3,836 in 1997 to 3,890 in 2006. These figures include charter schools and regular public schools which issue school report cards.

Increase in average school size: The average school size increased by about 6 percent from 504 in 1997 to 533 in 2006.

Student enrollment continued to increase: Student enrollment in the regular Illinois public schools increased steadily from 1,931,871 in 1997 to 2,075,275 in 2006. In the last decade, student enrollment increased by 143,404 or 7.4 percent . (Enrollment reported here includes only students in regular public schools.)

Increase in low-income students: Low-income students increased from 35.7 percent of the enrollment in 1997 to 40.0 percent in 2006. Pupils are considered low-income if they are from families receiving public aid, are living in institutions for neglected or delinquent children, are being supported in foster homes with public funds or are eligible for free or reduced-price lunches.

Mobility rate declined: The mobility rate declined from 18.4 percent in 1997 to 16.0 percent in 2006. The mobility rate is the sum of the students transferred out and students transferred in, divided by the average daily enrollment, multiplied by 100. A student may be counted more than once, depending on the number of transfers the student makes in the year.

Percent minority increased: Students who are Black, Hispanic, Asian/Pacific Islander, Native American or Multiracial/ethnic, make up 44.5 percent of the enrollment in 2006, up from 36.6 percent in 1997. The increase in minority percentage is accounted for mainly by increases among Hispanic students.

LEP students increased in last decade: Limited-English-Proficient (LEP) students increased from 6.1 percent in 1997 to 6.6 percent in 2006. LEP students include those who are eligible for bilingual education.

Decline in dropout rate since 1997: The dropout rate declined from 6.4 percent in 1997 to 3.5 percent in 2006. Dropouts include students in grades 9-12 whose names have been removed from the district roster for any reason other than death, extended illness, graduation/completion of a program of studies, transfer to another school or expulsion.

Chronic truancy rate generally unchanged: The chronic truancy rate was 2.2 percent in 2006, compared to 2.3 percent reported for 1997. Chronic truants include students, subject to compulsory attendance, who have been absent without valid cause from such attendance for 10 percent or more of the previous 180 regular attendance days.

In the last decade, average class sizes generally declined at the elementary level and increased slightly at the high school level: Between 1997 and 2006, the average class sizes for:

Kindergarten declined from 22.5 to 20.9

Grade 1 declined from 23.1 to 21.5

Grade 3 declined from 23.5 to 22.1

Grade 6 declined from 24.7 to 23.4

Grade 8 declined from 23.0 to 22.7

High School increased slightly from 19.3 to 19.7 (includes Grades 9-12)

Minorities account for about 15 percent of the teaching force: While minorities account for 44.5 percent of the students enrolled, only about 15 percent of the classroom teachers are from minority groups.

Males account for less than one quarter of teachers: There is a downward trend in the percent of male teachers, declining from 25.1 percent of the teaching force in 1997 to 23.1 percent in 2006.

Percent of teachers with graduate degrees increased slightly: In 2006, teachers who had a master's degree or above accounted for 50.6 percent of the classroom teachers in Illinois public schools, up from 45.6 percent in 1997.

Elementary and secondary pupil-teacher ratios (PTR) increased in 2006: The elementary PTR increased from 18.9:1 in 2005 to 19.1:1 in 2006. The secondary PTR increased from 18.4:1 in 2005 to 18.9:1 in 2006. Pupil-teacher ratios in elementary schools are consistently higher than the pupil-teacher ratios in high schools.

Teaching experience (years) declined since 1997: The average teaching experience of Illinois public school teachers declined from 14.8 years in 1997 to 13.0 years in 2006. This declining trend may be a reflection of teachers from the baby-boomer generation retiring from the school system.

Average teacher salary increased by 33 percent since 1997: The average teacher salary increased from \$42,429 in 1997 to \$56,640 in 2006. When adjusted for inflation, the average teacher salary decreased by about 3 percent between 1997 and 2006.

Average administrator salary increased by 46 percent since 1997: The average administrator salary increased from \$70,183 in 1997 to \$100,431 in 2006. When adjusted for inflation, the average administrator salary increased by about 4 percent between 1997 and 2006.

Between 1996 and 2005, statewide operating expenditure per pupil (OEPP) increased by 47.8 percent : The statewide OEPP increased by 47.8 percent from \$6,158 in 1996 to \$9,099 in 2005. After adjusting for inflation, the OEPP increased by about 11 percent since 1996.

Illinois Public School Districts by Type

School Year	Elementary Districts	Secondary Districts ^a	Unit Districts	Total Districts ^b
2005-06	377	100	396	873
2004-05	379	101	399	879
2003-04	381	101	405	887
2002-03	383	103	407	893
2001-02	383	103	407	893
2000-01	383	103	408	894
1999-00	384	103	409	896
1998-99	385	104	408	897
1997-98	388	106	406	900
1996-97	392	107	405	904
1995-96	392	107	408	907
1994-95	395	110	410	915
1993-94	400	110	414	924
1992-93	406	111	415	932
1991-92	410	113	423	946
1990-91	415	114	424	953
1989-90	418	115	428	961
1988-89	422	117	433	972
1987-88	423	119	439	981
1986-87	428	122	443	993
1985-86	431	122	444	997
1984-85	433	124	448	1,005
1983-84	435	125	447	1,007
1982-83	435	125	448	1,008

^a Does not include two non-operating districts.

^b Does not include five state-operated school systems (the Illinois Department of Corrections school district, two state laboratory schools, the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy and the Illinois Department of Rehabilitation state schools).

**Number of Public School Districts by Type and Enrollment Comparison
1995-96 and 2005-06**

	Elementary Districts		Secondary Districts		Unit Districts		TOTAL*	
	1995-96	2005-06	1995-96	2005-06	1995-96	2005-06	1995-96	2005-06
25,000 or more	0	0	0	0	3	4	3	4
10,000 to 24,999	3	4	2	2	10	13	15	19
5,000 to 9,999	10	9	6	12	25	25	41	46
2,500 to 4,999	42	55	23	22	30	33	95	110
1,000 to 2,499	104	99	29	28	130	117	263	244
600 to 999	62	56	19	17	95	89	176	162
300 to 599	61	55	13	10	100	93	174	158
Less than 300	110	99	13	9	15	22	138	130
Total	392	377	105	100	408	396	905	873

* Does not include two (2) non-operating districts, Department of Corrections district, state-operated districts, special education districts and state charter districts.

Source: Fall Housing Enrollment Report

**Number of Public and Nonpublic Attendance Centers Comparison
1995-96 and 2005-06**

	Public		Nonpublic		
	1995-96	2005-06	1995-96	2005-06	
Elementary	2,598	2,609	Elementary	1,009	898
Junior High	588	613	Secondary	119	117
High School	639	665	Unit	146	138
Special Education and Others	273	393	Special Education	106	67
Total	4,098	4,280		1,380	1,220

Source: Fall Housing Enrollment Report