

2007 Condition of Education

Over the past five years Governor Blagojevich and the Illinois General Assembly have provided more than \$5.9 billion in new dollars to Illinois schools. This historic support has expanded access to high-quality preschool for at-risk three and four year olds, and raised the foundation funding level for each Illinois student more than 5.8 percent each year. In addition, these resources have supported pilot programs in class size reduction, technology immersion and teacher induction and mentoring along with programs focused on teacher recruitment and principal mentoring.

Learning Outcomes

The 2007 Report Card shows nearly 300 struggling schools placed on improvement status under No Child Left Behind are making significant progress. An analysis of the 2007 School Report Card shows that 184 schools and 36 districts have been removed from improvement status by making Adequate Yearly Progress for two consecutive years. In addition, the data also shows that 113 schools and 102 districts in improvement status will not advance to further sanctions because they have showed sufficient gains over the past two testing cycles.

The most recent statewide tests were given in March and April. Students in third – eighth grades took the Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) in reading and mathematics while students in fourth and seventh grades were tested in science and fifth and eighth grade students were tested in writing. Students in 11th grade take the Prairie State Achievement Exam (PSAE), which tests students in math, reading and science.

The statewide average percentage of students meeting or exceeding standards on ISAT increased from 77 percent in 2006 to 78.7 percent in 2007, while the average percentage of students meeting and exceeding standards on the PSAE fell from 54.3 percent last year to 52.6 percent this year.

The 2007 School Report Card offers a wealth of useful and important information for students, schools and districts, as well as parents and community members including overall student performance, as well as the shifting of student demographics.

Student Demographics

- Number of school districts declined – from 898 in 1998 to 871 in 2007.
- Student enrollment in Illinois public schools increased – from 1,951,998 in 1998 to 2,077,856 in 2007.
- Minority enrollment increased to 45.1 percent for 2007 compared to 37.5 percent in 1998. The increase is accounted for mainly by Hispanic students. Minority students are students who are Black, Hispanic, Asian/Pacific Islander, Native American or Multiracial/ethnic.
- Low-income students increased from 36.3 percent of the enrollment in 1998 to 40.9 percent in 2007.

Student Performance & Achievement

- Between 1999 and 2007, ISAT reading performance increased at grades 3, 5 and 8.
- ISAT mathematics performance increased at grades 3, 5 and 8 between 1999 and 2007.
- ACT Composite Score for public school students increased from 19.9 percent in 20.3 percent in 2007.

Information included in this year's School Report Card also indicates that the state's school dropout rate has decreased to 3.5% from 6.3% in 1998.