

# 2008 Condition of Education

Over the past five years (FY04-FY09) Governor Blagojevich and the Illinois General Assembly have provided more than \$8.4 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 5.14 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 2008 Report Card shows 136 struggling schools placed on improvement status under No Child Left Behind are making significant progress. An analysis of the 2008 School Report Card shows that 35 schools and 11 districts have been removed from improvement status by making Adequate Yearly Progress for two consecutive years. In addition, the data also shows that 101 schools and 23 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 78.7 percent in 2007 to 79.1 percent in 2008, while the average percentage of students meeting and exceeding standards on the PSAE stayed virtually unchanged from 52.6 percent last year to 52.5 percent this year.

In addition to overall student academic performance the 2008 School Report Card provides additional information for students, schools and districts, as well as parents and community members including the shifting of student demographics.

### Student Demographics

- Number of school districts declined – from 897 in 1999 to 868 in 2008.
- Student enrollment in Illinois public schools decreased for the first time in 18 years from 2,118,692 in 2007 to 2,113,435 in 2008.
- Minority enrollment increased to 46 percent for 2008 compared to 38 percent in 1999. The increase is accounted for mainly by Hispanic students who have increased from 13.9 percent in 1999 to 19.9 percent in 2008. Minority students are students who are Black, Hispanic, Asian/Pacific Islander, Native American or Multiracial/ethnic.
- Low-income students increased from 36.1 percent of the enrollment in 1999 to 41.1 percent in 2008.

### Student Performance & Achievement

- Since 2003, ISAT reading and math performance has increased at grades 3, 5 and 8.
- Since 2003, ISAT science performance has increased at grades 4 and 7.
- ACT Composite Score for public school students increased from 19.9 percent in 2002 to 20.5 percent in 2008.

Information included in this year's School Report Card also indicates that the state's school dropout rate has decreased to 4.1 percent this year from 5.9 percent in 1999.