2010 Condition of Education

In Fiscal Year 2010, Illinois’ Foundation Level of General State Aid surpassed $6,000 for the first time – reaching a level of $6,119. Despite funding woes, Illinois was able to increase the Foundation Level in both Fiscal Year 2009 and Fiscal Year 2010, largely because it received approximately $1 billion in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) State Fiscal Stabilization Funds (SFSF) in both of these fiscal years. Illinois did not receive this $1 billion from federal sources in Fiscal Year 2011, however, GSA remained a priority for the Board and Illinois policy makers and sufficient funding was provided to maintain the Foundation Level at $6,119 in Fiscal Year 2011. This figure was $785, or nearly 15 percent, greater than the $5,334 Foundation Level used five years before in Fiscal Year 2007.

Learning Outcomes

The 2010 Report Card shows that nine schools and one district have been removed from improvement status by meeting standards for No Child Left Behind, also known as Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), for two consecutive years. In addition, the data also shows that 55 schools and nine districts in improvement status will not advance to further sanctions because they made AYP this year.

The tests were given in March and April. Students in third through eighth grades took the Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) in reading and mathematics, while students in fourth and seventh grades were also tested in science, and third-, fifth-, sixth- and eighth-grade students were also tested in writing. Students in 11th grade take the Prairie State Achievement Exam (PSAE), which tests students in math, reading, science and writing. Only reading and mathematics results are used in calculating AYP.

Overall results show the number of schools and districts that made Adequate Yearly Progress decreased under NCLB performance targets. During 2010, the target for student achievement increased from 70 percent meeting and exceeding state standards to 77.5 percent, and the target high school graduation rate increased from 78 percent to 80 percent. Attendance rates for elementary and middle schools increased from 90 percent in 2008-09 to 91 percent in the 2009-10 school year and from 78 percent last year to 80 percent in 2009-10 for high schools.

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 composite score for all state tests increased from 75.5 in 2009 to 76.4 in 2010. The statewide ISAT composite score increased from 79.8 in 2009 to 80.9 in 2010 and the statewide PSAE score remained unchanged at 53.

In addition to overall student academic performance, the 2010 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

- The number of operating school districts declined from 892 in 2001 to 868 in 2010; there were 379 elementary districts, 100 high school districts, and 389 unit districts.
- Total enrollment in Illinois public schools decreased from 2,070,125 in 2009 to 2,064,312 in 2010. (Enrollment reported here includes only students in regular public schools.)
- Since 1999, the percentage of low-income students has increased from 36.1 percent to 45.4 percent in 2010. 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.
- Minority enrollment increased to 47.2 percent in 2010 from 38 percent in 1999. The increase is accounted for mainly by Hispanic students who have increased from 13.9 percent in 1999 to 21.1 percent in 2010.

Student Performance and Achievement

- The ACT Composite Score for Illinois public school students (report card schools) increased from 19.9 in 2002 to 20.5 in 2010.
- The graduation rate increased from 83.2 percent in 2001 to 87.8 percent in 2010.
- The dropout rate declined from 5.7 percent in 2001 to 3.8 percent in 2010. 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.
- Between 2008 and 2010, IAA mathematics performance declined at grade 3 but increased at grades 5, 8, and 11. IAA reading performance increased at grades 5 and 8. And IAA science performance increased at all grades tested.