

**TRUANTS' ALTERNATIVE AND OPTIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAM (TAOEP)
FY 04 STATISTICAL REPORT**

Number of Students Served by TAOEP (See Table 1)

In FY 04, TAOEP served more than twice the number of students served in FY 03 (51,143 in FY 04 versus 20,100 in FY 03). The reason for this remarkable increase is the number of students served by Chicago School District 299. Chicago District 299 served 30,545 students in FY 04 compared to only 778 students in FY 03.

Table 1. Number and Percent of Students Served by TAOEP by Location, Truancy Status and Type of Administrative Agency, FY 04

| Downstate | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------|--------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| Truancy Status | Community Colleges | | Local Education Agencies | | Regional Offices of Education | | Total | |
| | No. | Within Pct | No. | Within Pct | No. | Within Pct | No. | Pct of Total |
| Chronic Truant | 220 | 8.1 | 1,736 | 34.4 | 4,844 | 37.7 | 6,800 | 33.0 |
| Dropout | 1,572 | 58.1 | 471 | 9.3 | 659 | 5.1 | 2,702 | 13.1 |
| Potential Dropout | 254 | 9.4 | 850 | 16.8 | 1,444 | 11.2 | 2,548 | 12.4 |
| Truant | 660 | 24.4 | 1,995 | 39.5 | 5,893 | 45.9 | 8,548 | 41.5 |
| Sub-total | 2,706 | 13.1 | 5,052 | 24.5 | 12,840 | 62.3 | 20,598 | 100.0 |
| Chicago School District 299 | | | | | | | | |
| Truancy Status | Community Colleges | | Local Education Agencies | | Regional Offices of Education | | Total | |
| | No. | Within Pct | No. | Within Pct | No. | Within Pct | No. | Pct of Total |
| Truant | --- | --- | 30,545 | 100.0 | --- | --- | 30,545 | 100.0 |
| Illinois | | | | | | | | |
| Truancy Status | Community Colleges | | Local Education Agencies | | Regional Offices of Education | | Total | |
| | No. | Pct | No. | Pct | No. | Pct | No. | Total |
| Chronic Truant | 220 | 8.1 | 1,736 | 4.9 | 4,844 | 37.7 | 6,800 | 13.3 |
| Dropout | 1,572 | 58.1 | 471 | 1.3 | 659 | 5.1 | 2,702 | 5.3 |
| Potential Dropout | 254 | 9.4 | 850 | 2.4 | 1,444 | 11.2 | 2,548 | 5.0 |
| Truant | 660 | 24.4 | 32,540 | 91.4 | 5,893 | 45.9 | 39,093 | 76.4 |
| Total | 2,706 | 5.3 | 35,597 | 69.6 | 12,840 | 25.1 | 51,143 | 100.0 |

- ✚ Among downstate programs (outside of Chicago School District 299), regional offices of education served the most number of students (62%) compared to local education agencies (24%) or community colleges (13%). Moreover, the students served by community colleges were predominantly dropouts (58%), whereas those served by local education agencies or regional offices of education are truants (approximately 40% and 46%, respectively).
- ✚ All the students served by Chicago School District 299 are truants which raises the percent of truants served by TAOEP to 76% as oppose to 42% without Chicago District 299's numbers. Chronic truants constitute 33% and dropouts 13% of downstate enrollments. Chicago School District 299 did not enroll chronic truants or dropouts.

Truancy Status and Grade Levels of TAOEP Students (See Table 2).

- ✚ Over half (56%) of TAOEP students were in high school, approximately 4% were PK and Kindergarten and 38% were in elementary grades.
- ✚ Chicago School District 299 served more high school students (66%) than downstate programs (46%).
- ✚ Students start to dropout even before reaching their high school grades.
- ✚ 97% of ungraded students are dropouts. These are students who came back to school to pursue their GED or high school diploma. Specifically, 667 or 88% of these students are enrolled in GED programs.
- ✚ Chronic truancy is more pervasive among elementary grade students (64%) than any other grade. Meanwhile, dropouts are commonly high school or ungraded students. Similarly, over 50% of potential dropouts were in high school.

Table 2. Number of Students Served by TAOEP by Location, Grade Level and Truancy Status, FY 04

| DOWNSTATE | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------|----------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| Grade Level | Truancy Status | | | | | | | | Total | |
| | Chronic Truant | | Dropout | | Potential Dropout | | Truant | | | |
| | No. | Within Pct | No. | Within Pct | No. | Within Pct | No. | Within Pct | No. | Pct of Total |
| PK and K | 246 | 3.6 | | 0.0 | 71 | 2.8 | 326 | 3.8 | 643 | 3.1 |
| Elementary | 4,378 | 64.4 | 25 | 0.9 | 1,153 | 45.3 | 4,939 | 57.8 | 10,495 | 51.0 |
| High School | 2,170 | 31.9 | 1,916 | 70.9 | 1,324 | 52.0 | 3,266 | 38.2 | 8,676 | 42.1 |
| Ungraded | 6 | 0.1 | 761 | 28.2 | | 0.0 | 17 | 0.2 | 784 | 3.8 |
| Sub-Total | 6,800 | 33.0 | 2,702 | 13.1 | 2,548 | 12.4 | 8,548 | 41.5 | 20,598 | 100.0 |

| CHICAGO SCHOOL DISTRICT 299 | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------|------------|---------|------------|-------------------|------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| Grade Level | Truancy Status | | | | | | | | Total | |
| | Chronic Truant | | Dropout | | Potential Dropout | | Truant | | | |
| | No. | Within Pct | No. | Within Pct | No. | Within Pct | No. | Within Pct | No. | Pct of Total |
| PK and K | | | | | | | 1,346 | 4.4 | 1,346 | 4.4 |
| Elementary | | | | | | | 9,098 | 29.8 | 9,098 | 29.8 |
| High School | | | | | | | 20,101 | 65.8 | 20,101 | 65.8 |
| Ungraded | | | | | | | | 0.0 | | 0.0 |
| Sub-total | | 0.0 | | 0.0 | | 0.0 | 30,545 | 100.0 | 30,545 | 100.0 |

| ILLINOIS | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|-------------|--------------|------------|-------------------|------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| Grade Level | Truancy Status | | | | | | | | Total | |
| | Chronic Truant | | Dropout | | Potential Dropout | | Truant | | | |
| | No. | Within Pct | No. | Within Pct | No. | Within Pct | No. | Within Pct | No. | Pct of Total |
| PK and K | 246 | 3.6 | | 0.0 | 71 | 2.8 | 1,672 | 4.3 | 1,989 | 3.9 |
| Elementary | 4,378 | 64.4 | 25 | 0.9 | 1,153 | 45.3 | 14,037 | 35.9 | 19,593 | 38.3 |
| High School | 2,170 | 31.9 | 1,916 | 70.9 | 1,324 | 52.0 | 23,367 | 59.8 | 28,777 | 56.3 |
| Ungraded | 6 | 0.1 | 761 | 28.2 | | 0.0 | 17 | 0.0 | 784 | 1.5 |
| Total | 6,800 | 13.3 | 2,702 | 5.3 | 2,548 | 5.0 | 39,093 | 76.4 | 51,143 | 100.0 |

Services Offered by TAOEP Programs

There were 68 TAOEP projects funded by the state in FY 04. Twenty-one of these projects offered optional education program services only, 30 projects (including Chicago School District 299) offered supplementary services only (otherwise known as prevention/intervention services), and 17 projects offered both types of services. Optional education is a modified instruction program that incorporates state academic

standards and, as appropriate to the student’s needs, work-based learning and career development, and is established by school board policy to serve as a part-time or full-time option in lieu of regular school attendance. Students enrolled in these programs generally have credit deficiencies toward high school completion. On the other hand, supplementary services are services that provide students who are enrolled in the regular school program with supports, which includes but are not limited to, tutoring, mentoring, health services, home visits, counseling, retrieval, and referral activities, that are needed to increase their attendance rates or prevent them from dropping out of school.

Table 3 shows the number of students receiving a specific major type of service by students’ truancy status, type of administrative agency and location.

Table 3. Major Services Received by TAOEP Students, FY 04

| | | Supplementary Services | | Optional Education | | Total | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|------|--------------------|-------|--------|-------|
| | | Number | Pct. | Number | Pct. | Number | Pct. |
| Downstate | | | | | | | |
| LEA | Chronic Truant | 1,300 | 74.9 | 436 | 25.1 | 1,736 | 34.4 |
| | Dropout | 27 | 5.7 | 444 | 94.3 | 471 | 9.3 |
| | Potential Dropout | 308 | 36.2 | 542 | 63.8 | 850 | 16.8 |
| | Truant | 1,333 | 66.8 | 662 | 33.2 | 1,995 | 39.5 |
| | Sub-total | 2,968 | 58.7 | 2,084 | 41.3 | 5,052 | 100.0 |
| CCC | Chronic Truant | | | 220 | 100.0 | 220 | 8.1 |
| | Dropout | | | 1,572 | 100.0 | 1,572 | 58.1 |
| | Potential Dropout | | | 254 | 100.0 | 254 | 9.4 |
| | Truant | | | 660 | 100.0 | 660 | 24.4 |
| | Sub-total | | | 2,706 | 100.0 | 2,706 | 100.0 |
| ROE | Chronic Truant | 4,403 | 90.9 | 441 | 9.1 | 4,844 | 37.7 |
| | Dropout | 114 | 17.3 | 545 | 82.7 | 659 | 5.1 |
| | Potential Dropout | 1,098 | 76.0 | 346 | 24.0 | 1,444 | 11.2 |
| | Truant | 4,264 | 72.4 | 1,629 | 27.6 | 5,893 | 45.9 |
| | Sub-total | 9,879 | 76.9 | 2,961 | 23.1 | 12,840 | 100.0 |
| Chicago School Dist 299 | | | | | | | |
| LEA | Truant | 30,545 | | | | 30,545 | |
| | Sub-total | 30,545 | | | | 30,545 | |
| Illinois | | | | | | | |
| | Chronic Truant | 5,703 | 83.9 | 1,097 | 16.1 | 6,800 | 13.3 |
| | Dropout | 141 | 5.2 | 2,561 | 94.8 | 2,702 | 5.3 |
| | Potential Dropout | 1,406 | 55.2 | 1,142 | 44.8 | 2,548 | 5.0 |
| | Truant | 36,142 | 92.5 | 2,951 | 7.5 | 39,093 | 76.4 |
| | Total | 43,392 | 84.8 | 7,751 | 15.2 | 51,143 | 100.0 |

- ✚ Downstate programs offered both types of services. Specifically, for every two students enrolled in LEA-optional education programs, three received supplementary services; whereas for every one student enrolled in ROE-optional education program, four received supplementary services. All students enrolled in community colleges were enrolled in optional education program. On the other hand, all students served by Chicago School District 299 received supplementary services only.
- ✚ Only 15% of TAOEP students were in optional education programs and 85% received supplementary services.
- ✚ Dropouts are more likely enrolled in optional education programs. 84% and 94% of dropouts served by ROEs and LEAs respectively, were enrolled in optional education program. Overall, 95% of dropouts were enrolled in TAOEP optional education programs.

Academic Outcomes of TAOEP Students

The academic outcomes of TAOEP students look promising. 84% of downstate TAOEP students improved academic achievement, 85% enrolled in optional education programs earned at least one academic credit and 71% improved attendance (Table 4).

Table 4. Academic Outcomes of TAOEP Students, FY 04

| Achieved Selected Categorical Outcomes | Chicago Public School Dist 299 | | Downstate | | Total | |
|--|--------------------------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|--------|-------------|
| | Number | Cohort Pct. | Number | Cohort Pct. | Number | Cohort Pct. |
| Graduated from high school | 3,238 | 75.8 | 1,119 | 51.2 | 4,357 | 67.4 |
| Graduated from elementary | 901 | 71.8 | 944 | 41.8 | 1,845 | 52.5 |
| Advanced to next grade | 21,597 | 82.2 | 6,952 | 39.5 | 28,549 | 65.0 |

| Attendance Achievement | Chicago Public School Dist 299 | | Downstate | | Total | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|------|---------------|------|---------------|--------------|
| | Number | Pct. | Number | Pct. | Number | Pct. |
| No improvement in attendance | 16,499 | 54.3 | 5,444 | 29.2 | 21,943 | 44.8 |
| Improved attendance | 13,884 | 45.7 | 13,168 | 70.8 | 27,052 | 55.2 |
| Total | 30,383 | | 18,612 | | 48,995 | 100.0 |

| Academic Achievement | Chicago Public School Dist 299 | | Downstate | | Total | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|--------------|
| | Number | Pct. | Number | Pct. | Number | Pct. |
| No change in achievement | No Report | | 495 | 15.9 | 495 | 15.9 |
| Increased achievement | No Report | | 2,615 | 84.1 | 2,615 | 84.1 |
| Total | | | 3,110 | | 3,110 | 100.0 |

| Earned Academic Credits | Chicago Public School Dist 299 | | Downstate | | Total | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|--------------|
| | Number | Pct. | Number | Pct. | Number | Pct. |
| Did not earn credit(s) | Not Applicable | | 1,019 | 14.9 | 1,019 | 14.9 |
| Earned credit(s) | Not Applicable | | 5,802 | 85.1 | 5,802 | 85.1 |
| Total | | | 6,821 | | 6,821 | 100.0 |

While this is the case for validated numerical outcomes, it is not so with categorical outcomes. Table 4 also shows that with selected categorical outcomes, such as graduation and advancement to next grade, Chicago School District 299 appears to do better than downstate programs. For instance, 76% of Chicago District 299's 12th grade students graduated from high school as opposed to 51% of downstate programs. Moreover, 82% of Chicago District 299's kindergarten through 11th grade students advanced to the next grade as opposed to only 40% from downstate programs. While the performance of Chicago District 299's TAOEP students in these selected categorical outcomes are well above that of downstate TAOEP students, they fared low in attendance compared to downstate programs. Approximately 46% of Chicago District 299's TAOEP students improved attendance compared to 71% of downstate TAOEP students. These findings seem to indicate that for Chicago District 299's TAOEP students, the achievement of positive categorical outcomes is not related to the students' school attendance. Table 5 shows that of the 21,597 TAOEP students of Chicago District 299 that advanced to the next grade, over 50% did not increase

attendance. Moreover, of the 3,238 that graduated from high school, only half of these students improved attendance. In contrast, for downstate programs, students who improved attendance are more likely to achieve positive categorical outcomes. Of the 6,952 that advanced to the next grade, 77% improved attendance and of the 944 students that graduated from elementary grades, 76% improved attendance.

Table 5. Attendance of TAOEP Students on Selected Categorical Outcomes, FY 04

| Downstate | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------|----------------------------|------|-------|
| Selected Categorical Outcomes | No improvement in school attendance | | Improved school attendance | | Total |
| | Number | Pct. | Number | Pct. | |
| Advanced to next grade | 1,608 | 23.1 | 5,344 | 76.9 | 6,952 |
| Graduated from elementary grade | 230 | 24.4 | 714 | 75.6 | 944 |
| Received high school | 376 | 33.6 | 743 | 66.4 | 1,119 |

| Chicago School District 299 | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------|----------------------------|------|--------|
| Selected Categorical Outcomes | No improvement in school attendance | | Improved school attendance | | Total |
| | Number | Pct. | Number | Pct. | |
| Advanced to next grade | 11,269 | 52.2 | 10,328 | 47.8 | 21,597 |
| Graduated from elementary grade | 345 | 38.3 | 556 | 61.7 | 901 |
| Received high school | 1,606 | 49.6 | 1,632 | 50.4 | 3,238 |

Overall, in FY 04, 96% of TAOEP students achieved at least one positive outcome; with "advanced to the next grade" as the most common outcome reported for all students. For other student demographic information see Appendix A.

Appendix A
Other Student Demographic Information

Appendix A-Table 1. Grade Group by Participation Status, FY 04

| Grade Group | Participation Status | | | | Total | |
|--------------|----------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| | New Student | | Old Student | | | |
| | Number | Pct | Number | Pct | Number | Pct |
| PK and K | 1,948 | 4.4 | 41 | 0.6 | 1,989 | 3.9 |
| Elementary | 16,110 | 36.5 | 3,483 | 49.7 | 19,593 | 38.3 |
| High School | 25,547 | 57.9 | 3,230 | 46.1 | 28,777 | 56.3 |
| Ungraded | 528 | 1.2 | 256 | 3.7 | 784 | 1.5 |
| Total | 44,133 | 86.3 | 7,010 | 13.7 | 51,143 | 100.0 |

Appendix A-Table 2. Secondary Referral by Student Ethnicity, FY 04

| Secondary Referral* | Student Ethnicity | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|----------|----------|----------|--------|----------|--------|----------|
| | Black | | Hispanic | | White | | Total | |
| | No. | Row Pct. | No. | Row Pct. | No. | Row Pct. | No. | Row Pct. |
| Court/Law Mandated Participation | 69 | 10.4 | 67 | 10.1 | 529 | 79.5 | 665 | 1.3 |
| Credit Deficient | 8,220 | 57.4 | 2,983 | 20.8 | 3,113 | 21.7 | 14,316 | 28.3 |
| High Failure Rate | 881 | 23.1 | 400 | 10.5 | 2,525 | 66.3 | 3,806 | 7.5 |
| Low-Achievement | 1,729 | 28.0 | 632 | 10.3 | 3,803 | 61.7 | 6,164 | 12.2 |
| Low-Income | 22,750 | 66.4 | 6,680 | 19.5 | 4,827 | 14.1 | 34,257 | 67.7 |
| Teen Parent | 283 | 37.1 | 175 | 22.9 | 305 | 40.0 | 763 | 1.5 |
| With Drug and/or Alcohol Problems | 245 | 12.1 | 174 | 8.6 | 1,604 | 79.3 | 2,023 | 4.0 |
| With Multiple Discipline Referrals | 900 | 32.8 | 229 | 8.3 | 1,615 | 58.9 | 2,744 | 5.4 |
| With Physical/Emotional Health Problems | 135 | 16.1 | 90 | 10.7 | 613 | 73.2 | 838 | 1.7 |
| Unduplicated Total | 27,783 | 54.9 | 8,895 | 17.6 | 13,953 | 27.6 | 50,631 | 100.0 |

*Multiple Response

Appendix A-Table 3. Secondary Referral by Primary Referral, FY 04

| Secondary Referral* | Primary Referral | | | | | | | | Total | |
|---|------------------|------------|---------|------------|-------------------|------------|--------|------------|--------|--------------|
| | Chronic Truant | | Dropout | | Potential Dropout | | Truant | | | |
| | No. | Within Pct | No. | Within Pct | No. | Within Pct | No. | Within Pct | No. | Pct of Total |
| Court/Law Mandated Participation | 238 | 3.5 | 103 | 3.8 | 105 | 4.1 | 228 | 0.6 | 674 | 1.3 |
| Credit Deficient | 774 | 11.4 | 1,231 | 45.6 | 758 | 29.7 | 11,718 | 30.0 | 14,481 | 28.3 |
| High Failure Rate | 1,312 | 19.3 | 451 | 16.7 | 747 | 29.3 | 1,347 | 3.4 | 3,857 | 7.5 |
| Low-Achievement | 2,366 | 34.8 | 821 | 30.4 | 1,059 | 41.6 | 2,015 | 5.2 | 6,261 | 12.2 |
| Low-Income | 3,149 | 46.3 | 452 | 16.7 | 894 | 35.1 | 30,020 | 76.8 | 34,515 | 67.5 |
| Teen Parent | 103 | 1.5 | 271 | 10.0 | 138 | 5.4 | 257 | 0.7 | 769 | 1.5 |
| With Drug and/or Alcohol Problems | 699 | 10.3 | 108 | 4.0 | 342 | 13.4 | 898 | 2.3 | 2,047 | 4.0 |
| With Multiple Discipline Referrals | 1,154 | 17.0 | 169 | 6.3 | 438 | 17.2 | 1,033 | 2.6 | 2,794 | 5.5 |
| With Physical/Emotional Health Problems | 295 | 4.3 | 251 | 9.3 | 43 | 1.7 | 256 | 0.7 | 845 | 1.7 |
| Unduplicated Total | 6,800 | 100.0 | 2,702 | 100.0 | 2,548 | 100.0 | 39,093 | 100.0 | 51,143 | 100.0 |

*Multiple Response