## TRUANTS' ALTERNATIVE AND OPTIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAM (TAOEP)

**FY06 STATISTICAL REPORT** 

ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION Data Analysis and Progress Reporting Division

February 2007

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# Background

The Truants' Alternative and Optional Education Program was established pursuant to Section 3.66 of The School Code (105 ILCS 5/2-3.66), requiring the offering of "modified instructional programs or other services designed to prevent students from dropping out of school." Associated with this law is the prevention of truancy and chronic truancy (105 ILCS 5/2-3.41). The students who are eligible to receive services from this program are chronic truants, dropouts, truants, and potential dropouts with attendance problems (23 Illinois Administrative Code, Part 205). The intention of the law is two-fold:

- 1) to reduce incidences of students dropping out of school, and
- 2) to reduce truancy.

Pursuant to the law, grants are awarded through a competitive process to school districts, community colleges, and educational service regions (currently called the regional offices of education). The Request for Proposal was modified in FY05 to include public laboratory schools, charter schools, and vocational centers among eligible entities to receive funding. These education agencies submit grant proposals that are reviewed based on the following criteria: a) sufficient need for program services, b) existence of valid criteria and indicators for identifying students eligible for program services, c) program objectives, activities, or services linked to student educational needs, d) cost-effectiveness of the program, e) evaluation strategies that would yield sufficient data to gauge the success of the program, and f) the proposal demonstrates strategies, other than those routinely offered by the regular school program, that will effectively decrease the dropout and truancy rates. In addition, the proposals must include: a) comprehensive community-based program planning with goals and objectives developed from a needs assessment process, b) the development of an Individualized Optional Education Plan (IOEP) for each student receiving services with learning or achievement objectives identified from assessment results, and c) a list of services that will be provided to the students to meet the students' learning goals or achievement objectives.

# **FY06 TAOEP Funding and Grantees**

- In FY06, TAOEP received approximately \$17,578,077, which was distributed across 81 educational entities in the state. This includes \$157,920 for professional development, which ROE 26 (Hancock/McDonough ROE) received. The amount received by an educational entity ranged from \$21,774 to \$4.7 million.
- There were more Regional Offices of Education (ROEs) that received TAOEP grants relative to other educational entities. Seven community colleges and one vocational center received TAOEP funds in FY06 (Table 1).

	FY	05	FY	06
Type of Educational Agency	No.	Pct	No.	Pct
Community College	8	10.1	7	8.7
Regional Office of Education	38	48.1	38	46.9
Local Education Agency	32	40.5	35	43.2
Vocational Center	1	1.3	1	1.2
Total Received TAOEP Grants	79	100.0	81	100.0

#### Table 1. Number of Educational Entities that Received TAOEP Funds, FY05 and FY06

Caveat: While there were 81 educational entities that were awarded TAOEP grants, one educational entity, ROE 49, did not submit its TAOEP 2006 End-of-Year Student Report. Therefore, the following tables and charts represent data from 80 educational entities only.

# Students Served by TAOEP in FY06, as Reported by Grantees

## Truancy Status, Educational Entity, and Geographical Location

- TAOEP served 67,818 students in FY06, a decrease of 2,788 (approximately 4%) students from FY05 (See Table 2). There are several reasons for this decrease but mainly because of a decrease in the number of students served by Chicago Public School District 299 (CPS). Despite this decrease, however, CPS still accounts for over 60% of all students served by TAOEP.
- The majority of students served by TAOEP are truants (79%).
- The number of students served by the 80 educational entities ranged from 22 to 43,156 students.
- Community colleges served the most number of retrieved dropouts, while other educational entities served more truants.
- Only Chicago Public Schools and vocational centers experienced decreases in TAOEP enrollments. Specifically, vocational centers experienced a significant drop in the number of retrieved dropouts served (from 174 in FY05 to 5 students in FY06).

Chicago Public SD 299 (CPS)	Comm	nunity Coll	lege Diff	Local Ec	ducation A	gency Diff	0	onal Office Education FY 06	e of Diff	Voca <b>FY 05</b>	itional Ce FY 06	nter Diff	To <sup>.</sup> <b>FY 05</b>	tal <b>FY 06</b>	Diff in 2006 from 2005	Percent Change in 2006 from 2005
Truant	1100		2	47,567	43,156	-4,411		1100	2		1100		47,567	43,156		-9.3
Sub-total				47,567	43,156	-4,411							47,567	43,156	,	-9.3
Outside of Chicago Public Schools	Comm	nunity Coll	lege	Local Ec	ducation A	gency	0	onal Office Education	e of	Voca	itional Ce	nter	To	tal	Diff in 2006	Percent Change in 2006 from
	FY 05	FY 06	Diff	FY 05	FY 06	Diff	FY 05	FY 06	Diff	FY 05	FY 06	Diff	FY 05	FY 06	from 2005	2005
Potential Dropout	156	131	-25	1,343	1,819	476	1,693	1,793	100	90	77	-13	3,282	3,820	538	16.4
Truant	445	359	-86	2,381	2,200	-181	7,309	7,883	574	126	199	73	10,261	10,641	380	3.7
Chronic Truant	134	127	-7	1,810	1,886	76	5,358	5,799	441	107	10	-97	7,409	7,822	413	5.6
Retrieved Dropout	962	1,331	369	419	503	84	532	540	8	174	5	-169	2,087	2,379	292	14.0
Sub-total	1,697	1,948	251	5,953	6,408	455	14,892	16,015	1,123	497	291	-206	23,039	24,662	1,623	7.0
Illinois	Comm	nunity Coll	lege	Local E	ducation A	gency	0	onal Office Education	e of	Voca	itional Ce	nter	To	tal	Diff in 2006	Percent Change in 2006 from
	FY 05	FY 06	Diff	FY 05	FY 06	Diff	FY 05	FY 06	Diff	FY 05	FY 06	Diff	FY 05	FY 06	from 2005	2005
Potential Dropout	156	131	-25	1,343	1,819	476	1,693	1,793	100	90	77	-13	3,282	3,820	538	16.4
Truant	445	359	-86	49,948	45,356	-4,592	7,309	7,883	574	126	199	73	57,828	53,797	-4,031	-7.0
Chronic Truant	134	127	-7	1,810	1,886	76	5,358	5,799	441	107	10	-97	7,409	7,822	413	5.6
Retrieved Dropout	962	1,331	369	419	503	84	532	540	8	174	5	-169	2,087	2,379	292	14.0
Total	1,697	1,948	251	53,520	49,564	-3,956	14,892	16,015	1,123	497	291	-206	70,606	67,818	-2,788	-3.9

Table 2.	Number and Percent of Students Served by	TAOEP by	/ Location,	Truancy	Status,	and
	Type of Administrative Ad	aency, FY0	5 and FY0	6		

	Change in Number of Students Served in FY								
SUMMARY		06	from FY	05					
Type of Truancy Status	CC	LEA	ROE	VC	Illinois				
Potential Dropout	-	+	+	-	+				
Truant	-	-	+	+	-				
Chronic Truant	-	+	+	-	+				
Retrieved Dropout	+	+	+	-	+				

#### Grade Level, Truancy Status, and Ethnicity

	Potential	Potential Dropout		Truant		Chronic Truant		Dropout	Total		
Grade	No.	Col Pct	No.	Col Pct	No.	Col Pct	No.	Col Pct	No.	Col Pct	
Pre-K	1	0.0	791	1.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	792	1.2	
Kindergarten	50	1.3	3,415	6.3	143	1.8	0	0.0	3,608	5.3	
Elementary	1,353	35.4	22,045	41.0	4,672	59.7	12	0.5	28,082	41.4	
High School	2,415	63.2	27,533	51.2	3,006	38.4	2,029	85.3	34,983	51.6	
Ungraded	1	0.0	13	0.0	1	0.0	338	14.2	353	0.5	
Illinois	3,820	5.6	53,797	79.3	7,822	11.5	2,379	3.5	67,818	100.0	

Table 5. Grade Levels and Thanky Status of TAOLF Students, 1 100	Table 3.	Grade Levels and Truanc	y Status of TAOEP Students, FY06
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- TAOEP served 792 (1.2%) Pre-Kindergarten students, 790 of whom were served by CPS and reported as truants. While PK students are not part of the "compulsory-age" school attendance required by law, they are not precluded from receiving TAOEP services. Conversely, TAOEP served 353 (0.5%) ungraded (beyond high school) students (*Table 3*).
- More than half (51.6%) of TAOEP students are in high school.
- Grade-level and truancy status of TAOEP students showed that:
  - The majority (85.3%) of retrieved dropouts are in high school
  - The majority (59.7%) of chronic truants are in elementary grades
  - The majority of truants and potential dropouts are in high school (51.2% and 63.2%, respectively)
- Data elsewhere showed that 98% of ungraded students are retrieved dropouts and 75% of these students are in GED programs.

## Student Ethnicity by Geographical Location

Student Ethnicity	Chicago Public Schools 299 (CPS)				Outsi	de of Ch Scho	icago Pub ools	lic	Illinois			
Student Ethnicity	2005		2006		2005		2006		200	5	200	6
								Col				
	No.	Col Pct	No.	Col Pct	No.	Col Pct	No.	Pct	No.	Col Pct	No.	Col Pct
Native American/Alaskan	32	0.1	41	0.1	43	0.2	49	0.2	75	0.1	90	0.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	286	0.6	252	0.6	97	0.4	128	0.5	383	0.5	380	0.6
Black	34,397	72.3	31,188	72.3	6,279	27.3	6,791	27.5	40,676	57.6	37,979	56.0
Hispanic	11,031	23.2	10,240	23.7	2,418	10.5	2,873	11.6	13,449	19.0	13,113	19.3
White	1,821	3.8	1,435	3.3	13,883	60.3	14,378	58.3	15,704	22.2	15,813	23.3
Multi-racial	0	0.0	0	0.0	319	1.4	443	1.8	319	0.5	443	0.7
Illinois	47,567	67.4	43,156	63.6	23,039	32.6	24,662	36.4	70,606	100.0	67,818	100.0

## Table 4. Ethnicity of TAOEP Students Enrolled by Location, FY05 and FY06

- Levels of enrollments in TAOEP for each ethnic group appear to remain constant for both FY05 and FY06.
- TAOEP served a significant number of black students. Black student enrollment is more than twice that of white student enrollment.
- Combined enrollment of Native American and Asian students is still less than 1% of the total TAOEP enrollment.
- About 19% of TAOEP students are Hispanic and about 22 percent to 23 percent are white.
- Specifically, 96% of TAOEP students in CPS belong to a minority group; 72% of whom are black, and about 24% are Hispanic. In contrast, the majority of students enrolled in TAOEP programs outside of CPS are white (approximately 60% in FY05 and 58% in FY06). <u>Overall, 87% of students that TAOEP served</u> are from minority groups.

#### Student Ethnicity and Student Truancy Status

Meaningful analyses of TAOEP students' ethnicity, given their truancy status (Table 5), are only limited to TAOEP programs outside of CPS since the latter only served truants.

		Potential Dropout				Chronic Truant		ved out	Tota	
	No	Row	No	Row	No	Row	Ne	Row	No	Row
Grade	No.	Pct	No.	Pct	No.	Pct	No.	Pct	No.	Pct
Native American/Alaskan	4	8.2	15	30.6	23	46.9	7	14.3	49	0.2
Asian/Pacific Islander	25	19.5	40	31.3	46	35.9	17	13.3	128	0.5
Black	964	14.2	2,845	41.9	2,317	34.1	665	9.8	6,791	27.5
Hispanic	411	14.3	862	30.0	1,239	43.1	361	12.6	2,873	11.6
White	2,321	16.1	6,739	46.9	4,044	28.1	1,274	8.9	14,378	58.3
Multi-Racial	95	21.4	140	31.6	153	34.5	55	12.4	443	1.8
Illinois	3,820	15.5	10,641	43.1	7,822	31.7	2,379	9.6	24,662	100.0

## Table 5. Enrollments in TAOEP Outside of CPS by Student Ethnicity and Truancy Status, FY06

Ethnic distribution of students served by non-CPS grantees revealed that:

- The majority (58.3%) of students are white.
- The majority of white and black students are truants (46.9% and 41.9%, respectively), while the majority of Native American/Alaskan, Asian/Pacific Islander. Hispanic (43.1%), and multiracial students are chronic truants (46.9%, 35.9%, 43.1%, and 34.5%, respectively).

## Other Student Demographic Information

- Levels of student enrollments by gender are the same regardless of location (CPS or outside of CPS). Female enrollment is approximately 48% and male enrollment is 52%.
- Students who received services from TAOEP for the first time in FY06 are twice as many as students who received services from TAOEP for multiple years (67.4% vs. 32.6%).

# **TAOEP Programs and Services**

Educational agencies that were awarded TAOEP funds offer optional and/or prevention/intervention services.

<u>Optional education</u> 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- 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, <u>supplementary services</u>, or prevention/intervention services, are services that provide students who are enrolled in the regular school program with educational supports, which includes, but is 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 6 shows the number of students, their truancy status, location, and type of primary services received.

- Seven times as many students received supplementary services only, compared with students enrolled in optional education programs. 12.6% of TAOEP students were enrolled in optional education programs and 87.4% received supplementary services only.
- All students served by CPS received supplementary services only.
- The majority of potential dropouts (54.5%), truants (94.0%), and chronic truants (82.6%) received supplementary services only.
- About 94% of retrieved dropouts enrolled in optional education programs.
- TAOEP is still strongly a prevention/intervention program.

CPS	Supplementary Services		Optional E	ducation	Tot	al
Truancy Status	Number	Row Pct	Number	Row Pct	Number	Col Pct
Truant	43,156	100.0	Number	T(OW F Ct	43,156	100.0
Sub-total	43,156	100.0			43,156	100.0
Gub-total	-3,130	100.0				100.0
Non-CPS	Suppler Serv	,	Optional E	Education	Tot	al
Truancy Status	Number	Row Pct	Number	Row Pct	Number	Col Pct
Potential Dropout	2,081	54.5	1,739	45.5	3,820	15.5
Truant	7,392	69.5	3,249	30.5	10,641	43.1
Chronic Truant	6,493	83.0	1,329	17.0	7,822	31.7
Retrieved Dropout	153	6.4	2,226	93.6	2,379	9.6
Sub-total	16,119	65.4	8,543	34.6	24,662	100.0
	-					
Illinois	Suppler Serv		Optional E	Education	Tot	al
Truancy Status	Number	Row Pct	Number	Row Pct	Number	Col Pct
Potential Dropout	2,081	54.5	1,739	45.5	3,820	5.6
Truant	50,548	94.0	3,249	6.0	53,797	79.3
Chronic Truant	6,493	83.0	1,329	17.0	7,822	11.5
Retrieved Dropout	153	6.4	2,226	93.6	2,379	3.5
Total	59,275	87.4	8,543	12.6	67,818	100.0

## Table 6. Primary Services Received by TAOEP Students, FY06

• Data elsewhere showed that all community colleges participating in TAOEP offer optional education program services.

# Academic Outcomes of TAOEP Students

Since CPS served more than 60% of the students in TAOEP, it is meaningful to compare the performance of CPS students with that of students outside CPS. The academic outcomes of TAOEP students are shown in tables 7 through 11.

## School/Program Attendance

1,912

1,912

8.0

7,161

2.9 24,358 36.4 40,727

Non-CPS

Illinois

	enrolled in GED programs), TAOEP FY06											
Location	Did no No improv attendance schoo reported attenda		ove	Impro schc attenda	ol	Total Enrollment (excluding students enrolled in GED programs)	Total with attendance reported	Pct improved attendance to total with attendance reported				
	No.	Row Pct	No.	Row Pct	No.	Row Pct						
CPS	0	0.0	17,197	39.8	25,959	60.2	43,156	43,156	60.2			

#### School/Program Attendance (All students except those enrolled in GED programs), TAOEP FY06

• CPS reported attendance data for ALL students served, while non-CPS programs did not report attendance for 8% of its students.

61.9

60.8

23,841

66,997

21,929

65,085

67.3

62.6

- About 61% of students served by TAOEP (except those enrolled in GED programs) improved attendance.
- Within a location, slightly more non-CPS students improved attendance, compared with CPS students (61.9% vs. 60.2%).

## Gain in Attendance (the difference between pre- and post-attendance rates)

30.0 14,768

For TAOEP purposes, pre-attendance refers to the attendance of students prior to receiving TAOEP services and post-attendance refers to attendance of students while or after receiving TAOEP services. Gain in attendance is measured by subtracting student pre-attendance rate from the student post-attendance rate. Only students with reported attendance rates are included in the analysis shown in Table 8.

		Mean Pre- Attendance	Mean Post- Attendance	
Location	Truancy Status	Rate	Rate	Difference
CPS	Truant	82.93	83.33	0.40
Non-CPS	Potential Dropout	74.17	74.70	0.53
	Truant	79.53	85.24	5.71
	Chronic Truant	72.29	80.39	8.10
	Retrieved Dropout	68.40	76.12	7.72
Illinois	Potential Dropout	74.17	74.70	0.53
	Truant	82.27	83.70	1.43
	Chronic Truant	72.29	80.39	8.10
	Retrieved Dropout	68.40	76.12	7.72
	Grand Mean	80.49	82.61	

Table 8. Mean Pre- and Post-Attendance Rates by Student Truancy Status

TAOEP students gained attendance in each truancy status category. Gain in attendance is higher for chronic truants (8.10%) and retrieved dropouts (7.72%). Overall, the mean attendance rate of students prior to receiving TAOEP services was 80.49%, and their mean attendance rate increased to 82.61% after receiving or while continuing to receive services from TAOEP.

## Academic Credits Earned

By law, each student receiving TAOEP services is supposed to have an IOEP, which identifies both academic and vocational goals during the time that the student is receiving services from TAOEP.

Specifically, for high school students served, depending on the student's credit deficiences, grantees include in the student's IOEP, the number of credits a student needs to earn for the semester or for the year so that they will be on schedule to graduate from high school. At the end of the semester or year, grantees also report on the student's IOEP, the number of credits the student actually earned during the semester or the year. Table 9 shows the number of students who earned high school credits relative to their IOEPs.

Location	No high s credits rep		Did not high so credits r to plan (	chool elative	Earned school cr	•	9-12 Enrollment	Total with credits reported	Pct earned credits to total with credits reported
		Row		Row		Row			
	No.	Pct	No.	Pct	No.	Pct			
CPS)	84	0.4	1,220	5.2	22,133	94.4	23,437	23,353	94.8
Outside CPS	2,720	24.8	1,143	10.4	7,119	64.8	10,982	8,262	86.2
Illinois	2,804	8.1	2,363	6.9	29,252	85.0	34,419	31,615	92.5

## Table 9. High School (9-12 students)\* Credits Earned, TAOEP FY06

\*These students do not include those pursuing a GED only.

- Remarkably, 85% of TAOEP high school students (excluding those enrolled in GED programs only) earned credit(s), the highest outcome achieved in the TAOEP. Not accounting for students with unreported credits, the percentage increased to 92.5%.
- 94.4% of CPS TAOEP high school students earned credit(s), compared with 64.8% of non-CPS TAOEP high school students.
- Non-CPS TAOEP grantees did not report credits for almost 25% of their high school students, which may have brought the percentage of students earning academic credits significantly lower than CPS.

## Graduation from High School

The number of 12<sup>th</sup> grade students who graduated from high school relative to earning high school credits is shown in Table 10.

	12th	Grade	Student	s Grad	duated fr	om Hig	gh Scho	ool		
CPS	No high school credits reported		high so credits re	Did not earn high school credits relative to plan (IOEP)		high	To Grade		Number of 12th grade students	Pct of graduates to total 12th grade students
	No.	Row Pct	No.	Row Pct	No.	Row Pct	No.	Col Pct		
12th grade	14	0.4	5	0.1	3,363	99.4	3,382	66.0	4,636	73.0
Non-CPS	No high school credits reported		Did not earn high school credits relative to plan (IOEP)		Earned high school credits		Total Graduated		Number of 12th grade students	Pct of graduates to total 12th grade students
	No.	Row Pct	No.	Row Pct	No.	Row Pct	No.	Col Pct		
12th grade	132	7.6	3	0.2	1,605	92.2	1,740	34.0	3,132	55.6
ILLINOIS	ILLINOIS No high school credits reported to plan (IOEP) Row Row No. Pct No. Pct		Earned school c		To Gradi No.		Number of 12th grade students	Pct of graduates to total 12th grade students		
12th grade	146	2.9	8	0.2	4,968	97.0	5,122	100.0	7,768	65.9

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Table 10	12 <sup>m</sup> Grad	Graduation to	hiah School	Credits Earned,	TAOEP 2006

- Of the 5,122 12<sup>th</sup> grade students who received a high school diploma, 97% earned high school credits. This does not mean, however, that the other 3% who received a high school diploma did not earn any high school credit at all during the semester or year of study, but rather that they did not earn any credit(s) relative to the academic subjects identified in their IOEPs or that grantees failed to report credits earned by these students.
- Within a location, CPS has more 12<sup>th</sup> grade students graduating from high school than non-CPS 12<sup>th</sup> grade students (73.0% vs. 55.6%).
- Clearly, earning academic credits is a significant determinant to high school graduation.

Overall, close to 66% of 12<sup>th</sup> grade students in TAOEP received a high school diploma.

#### Advanced to the Next Grade and Elementary School Graduation

# Advanced to the Next Grade and Graduated from Elementary School Relative to School Attendance, TAOEP FY06

Chicago SD 299 (CPS)	No atten repor		Did r impro scho attenda	ove ool	Improved s attenda		Number attaining outcome	Number of students in the cohort	Pct attaining outcome to cohort number
	No.	Pct	No.	Pct	No.	Pct			
Advanced to the next grade (K-8)	0	0.0	4,689	30.4	10,714	69.6	15,403	18,924	81.4
Graduated in elementary (8th grade)	0	0.0	593	32.6	1,228	67.4	1,821	2,214	82.2
Non-CPS	No atten repor		Did not improve school attendance		Improved school attendance		Number attaining outcome	Number of students in the cohort	Pct attaining outcome to cohort number
	No.	Row Pct	No.	Row Pct		Row Pct			
Advanced to the next grade (K-8)	56	0.6	1,963	22.7	6,638	76.7	8,657	12,769	67.8
Graduated in elementary (8th grade)	8	0.7	276	22.8	926	76.5	1,210	2,547	47.5
ILLINOIS	No atten repor		Did not improve school attendance Row No. Pct		Improved school attendance Row No. Pct		Number attaining outcome	Number of students in the cohort	Pct attaining outcome to cohort number
Advanced to the next grade (K-8)	56	0.2	6,652	27.6	17,352	72.1	24,060	31,693	75.9
Graduated in elementary (8th grade)	8	0.3	869	28.7	2,154	71.1	3,031	4,761	63.7

- Close to 76% of TAOEP K-8 students advanced to the next grade.
- Close to 64% of TAOEP 8<sup>th</sup> grade students graduated from elementary school.
- More K-8 students from CPS advanced to the next grade than K-8 students served by non-CPS programs (81.4% vs.67.8%).

- Significantly more 8<sup>th</sup> grade-TAOEP students from CPS graduated from elementary school, compared with its peers served by non-CPS programs (82.2% vs. 47.5%)
- Some students were advanced to the next grade or graduated from elementary school without necessarily improving school attendance; the rates are higher in CPS than in non-CPS TAOEP programs. Specifically, 30% of CPS K-8 students who did not improve attendance advanced to the next grade, compared with 28% in non-CPS programs. Moreover, about 33% of CPS 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who did not improve attendance were graduated from elementary school, compared with 29% of non-CPS programs.

## **Referrals for TAOEP Services to Outcomes**

- Of those referred for multiple disciplinary infractions (3,515), 588 (17%) reduced disciplinary referrals.
- Of those referred for low achievement (1,157), close to 100% improved achievement.
- Of those high school students referred for credit deficiency (12,995), 11,007 (85%) earned credits.

## Other Outcomes

- 80% of retrieved dropouts earned credits.
- 10% of students enrolled in optional education programs were returned to the regular school.
- 0.8% of TAOEP students enrolled in regular education programs dropped out of school.
- 1.1% voluntarily discontinued TAOEP.
- 9% of K-8 TAOEP students enrolled in regular education programs were retained in school.
- 1.4% were removed from TAOEP.
- 0.2% (126) were mandated by the court to perform community service.
- 0.1% (76) were referred to residential treatment programs.

## Validation: Student Truancy Status and Attendance Data

The state defines a chronic truant or habitual truant as a child subject to compulsory school attendance and who is absent without valid cause from such attendance for 10% or more of the previous 180 regular school attendance days (105 ILCS 5/26-2a). Another way of interpreting this definition is that for a child to be classified as a non-chronic truant, the child must attend school more than 90% of the time.

All analyses previously presented in this report are based on data submitted by TAOEP grantees, which indicate that TAOEP served a majority of truants. But such is not the case when truancy statuses of the students are configured based on empirical data submitted.

Table 12 shows the distribution of students who are under <u>compulsory school</u> <u>attendance</u> by truancy status and their pre-attendance rates (school attendance prior to receiving TAOEP services), as reported by TAOEP grantees.

		1			
			> 90%		
		< = 90%	(non-		
		(chronic	chronic		Pct of
Location	Truancy Status	truant)	truant)	Total	total
CPS	Truant	30,165	9,749	39,914	100.0
CF 5	Sub-total	30,165	9,749	39,914	100.0
Non-					
CPS	Potential Dropout	2,048	954	3,002	14.1
	Truant	7,768	2,363	10,131	47.6
	Chronic Truant	7,013	446	7,459	35.0
	Retrieved Dropout	560	136	696	3.3
	Sub-total	17,389	3,899	21,288	100.0
Illinois	Potential Dropout	2,048	954	3,002	4.9
	Truant	37,933	12,112	50,045	81.8
	Chronic Truant	7,013	446	7,459	12.2
	Retrieved Dropout	560	136	696	1.1
	Total	47,554	13,648	61,202	100.0

Table 12.	Student Truancy Status Submitted by TAOEP Grantees of
	Students Under Compulsory School Attendance, with the
	Students' Pre-Attendance Rates

Table 12 clearly indicates that there are students who, though reported as potential dropouts or truants, have attendance rates lower than 90% based on attendance data (empirical) submitted by TAOEP grantees. Conversely, there are students reported as chronic truants or dropouts whose attendance rates are higher than 90%. Cells that are highlighted show the number of students misclassified on their truancy status given their pre-attendance rates. Moreover, the information provided by grantees indicated that all students served by CPS were truants, and the majority of students served by non-CPS grantees were truants as well, giving an overall percentage of 81.8% truants served by TAOEP.

When the student truancy statuses of students were reconfigured based on their preattendance data, a dramatic change in numbers for each truant status category occurred (see Table 13).

Using the empirical attendance data, CPS would have served about 76% chronic truants and only 24% truants, rather than serving 100% truants. Similarly, non-CPS TAOEP grantees would have served 79% chronic truants, as opposed to 35% reported. Overall, using empirical data, TAOEP actually served approximately 77% chronic truants–contrary to 12% reported by grantees.

		< = 90%	> 90% (non-		
		(chronic	chronic		Pct of
Location	Truancy Status	truant)	truant)	Total	total
CPS	Truant		9,749	9,749	24.4
	Chronic Truant	30,165		30,165	75.6
	Sub-total	30,165	9,749	39,914	100.0
Non-CPS	Potential Dropout		954	954	4.5
	Truant		2,945	2,945	13.8
	Chronic Truant	16,829		16,829	79.1
	Retrieved Dropout	560		560	2.6
	Sub-total	17,389	3,899	21,288	100.0
Illinois	Potential Dropout	0	954	954	1.6
	Truant	0	12,694	12,694	20.7
	Chronic Truant	46,994	0	46,994	76.8
	Retrieved Dropout	560	0	560	0.9
	Total	47,554	13,648	61,202	100.0

Table 13. Student Truancy Status Reconfigured Based on Empirical Data
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A table showing the number of students by each project based on student truancy status reported by grantees, as well as reconfiguration of the student's truancy status based on pre-attendance data, is shown in Appendix A. This table includes all students regardless of age, which is different from the numbers presented in Tables 12 and 13, where only students under compulsory school attendance are included.

#### Indications of Data Reporting and TAOEP Data Findings to Program Improvement or Program Policy

## Data Reporting

Accurate reporting of data has significant implications to program planning and funding. There is reason to believe that given the discrepancies on the truancy statuses reported in the context of the students' school attendance, that not only are the numbers of chronic truants misreported in TAOEP, but misreporting may have also occurred at the school/school district levels when they report the numbers of truants, chronic truants, and high school dropouts to ISBE. There is growing emphasis on knowing and on using the numbers of chronic truants and/or high school dropouts in the state for policy decision-making or in developing research-driven funding mechanisms. The recent HR 905 (which created the TAOEP Task Force) is a testament to this, where it proposes to include the number of chronic truants and high school dropouts in a formula for funding TAOEP programs. If the recommendations of the Task Force are approved, it may serve TAOEP grantees' fiscal interest well to ensure that reports made by schools or school districts on these students are accurate.

While there may be a reason to believe that reported numbers by some schools of truants, chronic truants, and high school dropouts may not be accurate, it is still worthwhile to see how these numbers in general move through time across the state. Charts 1 through 3 in Appendix B show significant decline in high school dropout and chronic truancy numbers between 2005 and 2006. What is rather interesting is that the number of chronic truants for CPS, while making a significant increase from 2004 to 2005, took a big dip between 2005 and 2006 for reasons unknown. The charts also reveal a trend where high school dropouts increase as chronic truants decrease. The numbers for truants, chronic truants, and high school dropouts are shown in Appendix C.

#### Student Outcomes in TAOEP

TAOEP appears to be doing well with its high school students; 85% (the highest TAOEP academic outcome) earned academic credits.

While the percentage of students improving attendance is below 80%, an increase occurred between 2005 and 2006 (58% in 2005 and 61% in 2006). The attendance rates of students also increased after having been served by TAOEP. Prior to receiving services from or enrolling in TAOEP, the mean attendance rate of students was 80%. After receiving services from TAOEP, the mean attendance rate increased to 83%.

The post-attendance rate is an indication of student performance derived from receiving TAOEP services, and in this case, it is higher than the average attendance of students prior to receiving TAOEP services. These statistics reveal effective practices of TAOEP programs. Something works, and whatever these practices may be, it is important to continue them.

If you have questions regarding this report, please contact Dr. Lilibeth Q. Gumia at 217/782-3950 or e-mail her at Igumia@isbe.net.

Appendix A-Comparison of Student Truancy Statuses Reported by Districts vs. Reconfiguration Based on Pre-Attendance Data, 2006

	TRUANCY STATUS											
		Repo	rted by P	rojects			R	econfigur	ed based	on pre-atte	ndance da	ata
TAOEP Grantee	Potential Dropout	Truant	Chronic Truant	Retrieved Dropout	Total Served		Potential Dropout	Truant	Chronic Truant	Retrieved Dropout	Total w/ atten- dance data	No atten- dance data*
ADAMS/PIKE	1	305	16		323		1	189	131	1	322	1
ALTON COMM UNIT SCHOOL DIST 11	113	402			844		15	118	670	27	830	14
ALXNDR/JOHN/MASC/PULSKI/UNION ROE	49	188	152	21	410		26	81	280	3	390	20
AURORA EAST UNIT SCHOOL DIST 131	21	12	14	3	50		6	7	33	0	46	4
BELLEVILLE TWP HS DIST 201	252	0	1	69	322		NO PF	RE-ATTEN	DANCE D	ATA REPOF	RTED	322
BELLWOOD SD 88	41	0	0	0	41		27	0	10	0	37	4
Black Hawk College DIST 503	13	1	1	315	330		2	56	5	92	155	175
BLOOM TWP HIGH SCH DIST 206	353	1	0	0	354		0	0	353	0	353	1
BOND/EFFINGHAM/FAYETTE ROE	0	266	2	7	275		0	71	195	5	271	4
BOONE/WINNEBAGO ROE	27	238	34	60	359		0	3	270	0	273	86
BROWN/CASS/MORGAN/SCOTT ROE	70	8	50	21	149		19	10	89	17	135	14
BUREAU/HENRY/STARK	94	624	90	0	808		8	160	640	0	808	0
CAIRO UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 1	3	67	33	0	103		2	50	51	0	103	0
CALHOUN/GREENE/JERSY/MACOUPIN ROE	26	196	71	171	464		7	148	166	115	436	28
CARBONDALE COMM H S DISTRICT 165	6	25	49	130	210		NO PF	RE-ATTEN	DANCE D	ATA REPOF	RTED	210
CARROLL/JO DAVIESS/STEPHENSON ROE	143	184	7	0	334		47	7	280	0	334	0
CHAMPAIGN COMM UNIT SCH DIST 4	33	273	162	2	470		0	16	452	2	470	0
CHAMPAIGN/FORD ROE	19	34	23	1	77		3	6	67	1	77	0
CHRISTIAN/MONTGOMERY ROE	70	151	61	4	286		5	7	270	4	286	0
CITY OF CHICAGO SCHOOL DIST 299	0	43,156	0	-	43,156		0	10,352	32,804	0	43,156	0
CLAY/CRAWFORD/JASPER/LRENCE/RICHL	20	417	58	14	509		2	126	365	1	494	15
CLINTON/MARION/WASHINGTON ROE	14	11	2	4	31		6	0	21	2	29	2
CLK/CLS/CMBN/DGLAS/EDGR/MLTR/SHLB	0	233	30	0	263		0	8	253	0	261	2
COMM COLLEGES OF CHICAGO DIST 508	5	1	6	539	551		0	68	11	300	379	172
DANVILLE C C SCHOOL DIST 118	140	110	104	1	355		39	26	280	1	346	9
DE KALB ROE	0		50		253		0	14	237	0	-	2
DE WITT/LIVINGSTON/MCLEAN ROE	55		7		99		2	11	84	0		2
DECATUR SD 61	0				67		0	33	28	0		6
DU PAGE ROE	165	288	-	0	657		37	67	553	0		0
EAST ALTON-WOOD RIVER C H S D 14	18	-		-	41		4	12	25	-		0
EAST RICHLAND C U SCH DIST 1	0	-		v	114		0	46	68	0		0
EAST ST LOUIS SCHOOL DIST 189	0	-			128		0	6	122	0		0
EDWARDSVILLE SD 7	5	0	48	5	58		0	4	44	3	51	7

\*Some students with no attendance data reported may had been enrolled in GED programs

		7.66		<u>(Continu</u> T		С `	Y STAT	US				T
		Repo	rted by P	rojects				Reconfig	ured base	ed on attend	dance data	a
TAOEP Grantee	Potential Dropout	Truant	Chronic Truant	Retrieved Dropout	Total Served		Potential Dropout	Truant	Chronic Truant	Retrieved Dropout	Total w/ atten- dance data	No atten- dance data*
EDWD/GLTN/HDIN/POP/SLNE/WBH/WN/WH	18	11	189	6	224		8	8	199	4	219	5
FULTON/SCHUYLER ROE	0	0	162	0	162	2	0	1	161	0	162	0
GALESBURG C U SCHOOL DIST 205	144	24	1	0	169		102	7	59	0	168	1
GRANITE CITY C U SCHOOL DIST 9	3	42	86	14	145	;	0	6	126	11	143	2
GRUNDY/KENDALL ROE	0	0	926	0	926	;	0	42	883	0	925	1
HAMILTON/JEFFERSON ROE	0	195	78	3	276	;	0	67	207	2	276	0
HANCOCK/MC DONOUGH ROE	243	36	38	90	407	·	92	4	164	1	261	146
HARLEM UNIT DIST 122	92	1	0	1	94		58	1	34	1	94	0
HARVEY SCHOOL DISTRICT 152	37	72	16	0	125	;	10	51	53	0	114	11
Illinois Central College	31	298	80	93	502	2	21	214	177	80	492	10
INDIAN VALLEY AREA VOC CENTER	77	199	10	5	291		21	57	209	4	291	0
IROQUOIS/KANKAKEE ROE	37	59	593	14	703	5	4	51	627	12	694	9
J S MORTON H S DISTRICT 201	52	11	10	1	74		0	0	67	1	68	6
JACKSON/PERRY ROE	1	491	205	0	697	,	0	67	630	0	697	0
JERSEY C U SCH DIST 100	31	164	18	1	214		2	36	172	1	211	3
John Logan College DIST 530	16	30	10	44	100	)	NO PF	RE-ATTEN	DANCE D	ATA REPOR	RTED	100
KANE ROE	0	139	719	85	943	5	0	69	789	0	858	85
Kishwaukee College Dist 523	30	29	30	176	265	5	23	27	36	3	89	176
KNOX ROE	31	51	12	31	125	5	2	11	81	31	125	0
LA SALLE ROE	163	78	47	0	288	5	4	1	283	0	288	0
LAKE LAND COLLEGE	36	0	0	130	166	;	0	3	15	13	31	135
LAKE ROE	15	187	398	0	600		0	12	587	0	599	1
LASALLE-PERU TOWNSHIP HSD 120	29	16	41	9	95		14	16	58	6	94	1
LEE/OGLE ROE	311	97	60	0	468	8	148	17	303	0	468	0
LEWIS AND CLARK	0	0	0	34	34			ALL STU	DENTS IN	GED PROG	GRAM	34
LINCOLN COMM H S DIST 404	5	84	50	0	139		3	40	96	0	139	0
LOGAN/MASON/MENARD ROE	0	397	17	0	414		0	2	412	0	414	0
MACON/PIATT ROE	67	28	76	4	175		20	23	129	3	175	0
MADISON ROE	0	183	49	0	232	2	0	41	185	0	226	6
MONROE/RANDOLPH ROE	14	65	122	0	201		0	11	189	0	200	1
MT VERNON TWP H S DIST 201	13	100	93	0	206	5	6	127	73	0	206	0
PEORIA ROE	0	22	278	0	300		0	54	246	0	300	-
PEORIA SCHOOL DISTRICT 150	32	32	41	50	155		7	19	25	15	66	89
QUINCY SCHOOL DISTRICT 172	20	96	59	9	184	-	11	88	74	2	175	9

Appendix A (continued)

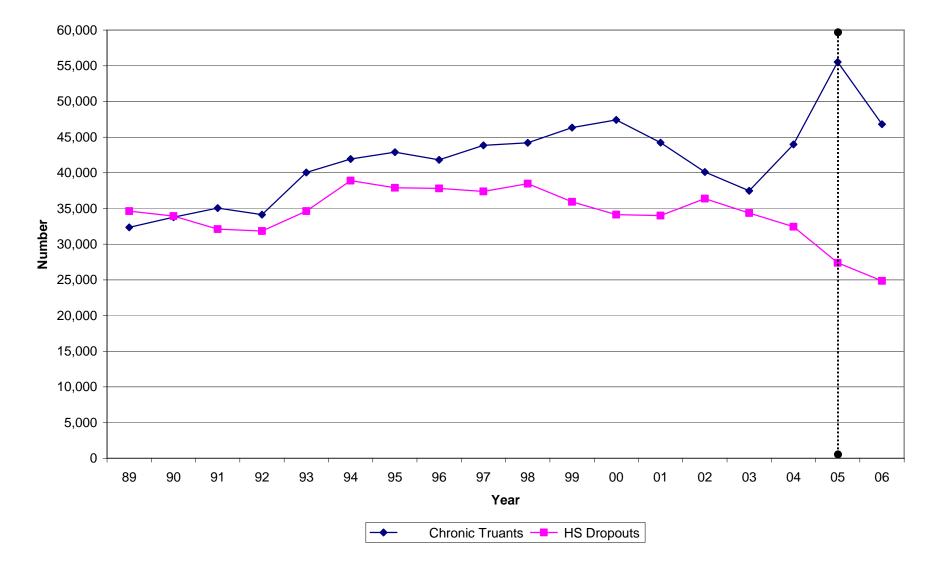
\*Some students with no attendance data reported may had been enrolled in GED programs

				T		C `	Υ STAT	US				Ī
		Repo	rted by P	rojects				Reconfig	ured base	ed on attend	dance data	a
TAOEP Grantee	Potential Dropout	Truant		Retrieved Dropout	Total Served		Potential Dropout				Total w/ atten- dance data	No atten- dance data*
ROCKFORD SCHOOL DIST 205	0	10	295	1	306		0	5	300	1	306	0
ROUND LAKE AREA SCHS - DIST 116	0	240	84	1	325		0	176	148	1	325	0
SANGAMON ROE	0	5	765	0	770		0	31	737	0	768	2
SCHOOL DISTRICT U-46	108	59	35	16	218		NO PR	E-ATTEN	DANCE D	ATA REPOR	218	
SPRINGFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT 186	0	56	32	4	92		0	19	69	4	92	0
ST CLAIR ROE	0	2,072	4	0	2,076		0	204	1,872	0	2,076	0
SUBURBAN COOK	0	91	23	0	114		0	28	86	0	114	0
THORNTON FRACTIONAL T H S D 215	0	13	9	0	22		0	10	11	0	21	1
THORNTON TWP H S DIST 205	5	109	18	1	133		0	0	35	0	35	98
URBANA SCHOOL DIST 116	294	33	51	98	476		157	20	158	14	349	127
WAUKEGAN C U SCHOOL DIST 60	0	54	184	55	293		0	0	238	55	293	0
WHITESIDE ROE	0	183	77	2	262		0	52	208	2	262	0
WOODSTOCK C U SCHOOL DIST 200	109	5	27	0	141		25	6	110	0	141	0
GRAND TOTAL	3,820	53,797	7,822	2,379	67,818		996	13,426	50,178	841	65,441	2,377

Appendix A (continued)

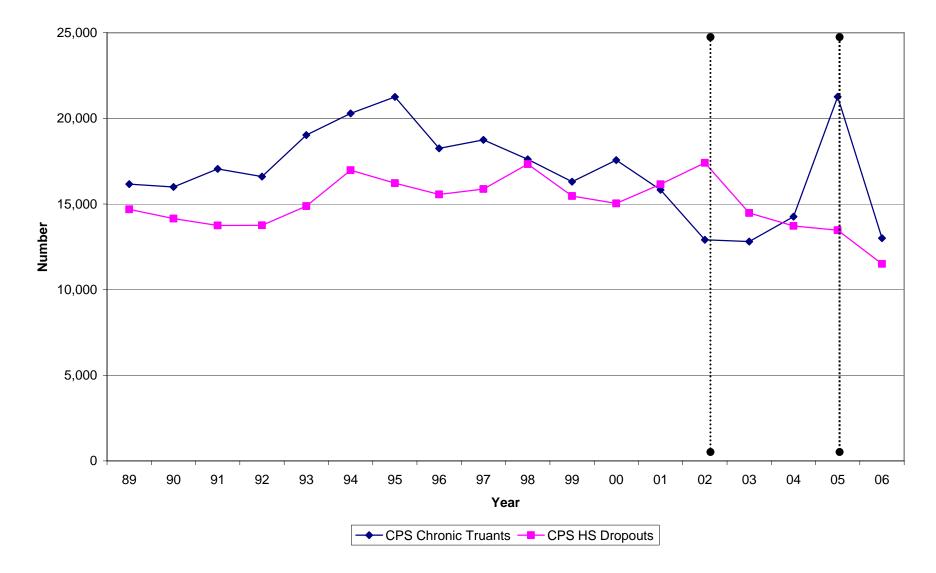
\*Some students with no attendance data reported may had been enrolled in GED programs

#### Appendix B



# Chart 1. Chronic Truants and High School Dropouts in Illinois Public Schools 1989 through 2006

#### Appendix B - Continued



# Chart 2. Chronic Truants and HS Dropouts in Chicago Public Schools 1989 through 2006

#### Appendix B – Continued

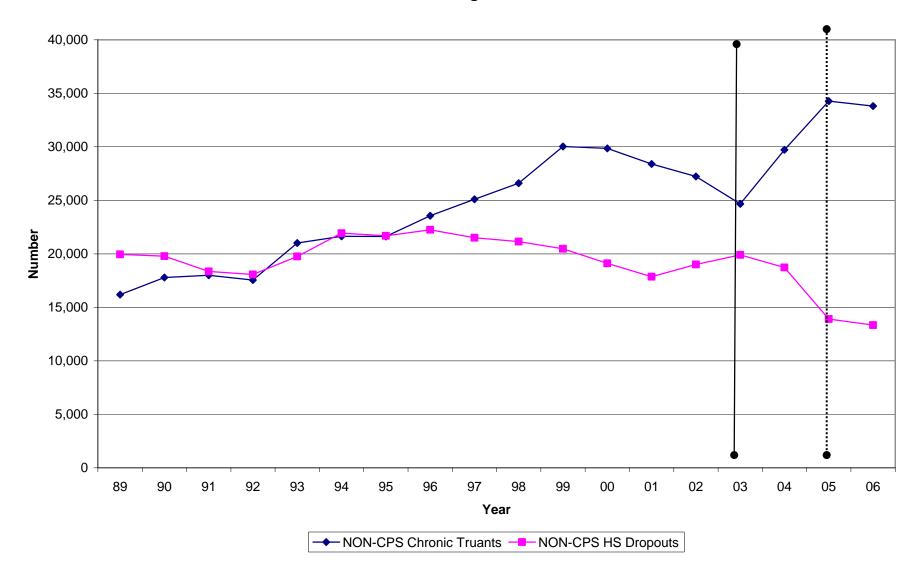


Chart 3. Chronic Truants and HS Dropouts in Schools Outside of CPS 1989 through 2006

#### Appendix C

Number of Chronic Truants, Truants, and High School Dropouts in Illinois Public Schools, 1989 through 2006 (Note: The number of truants for CPS in 1999 was extrapolated to account for their female truants.)

	(	Chronic Truar	nts		Truants		 High School Dropouts			
FY	State	CPS	Outside CPS	State	CPS	Outside CPS	State	CPS	Outside CPS	
89	32,345	16,163	16,182	118,651	29,341	89,310	34,634	14,691	19,943	
90	33,772	15,992	17,780	122,761	28,661	94,100	33,936	14,152	19,784	
91	35,045	17,051	17,994	130,945	30,646	100,299	32,096	13,745	18,351	
92	34,145	16,605	17,540	131,842	30,429	101,413	31,829	13,756	18,073	
93	40,034	19,029	21,005	140,831	33,777	107,054	34,639	14,880	19,759	
94	41,926	20,291	21,635	147,963	31,958	116,005	38,906	16,970	21,936	
95	42,878	21,253	21,625	163,236	35,506	127,730	37,899	16,215	21,684	
96	41,811	18,250	23,561	171,153	37,104	134,049	37,804	15,555	22,249	
97	43,847	18,746	25,101	189,602	39,834	149,768	37,375	15,873	21,502	
98	44,203	17,604	26,599	202,401	37,633	164,768	38,469	17,328	21,141	
99	46,332	16,301	30,031	217,252	32,921	184,331	35,934	15,464	20,470	
00	47,411	17,561	29,850	234,490	34,532	199,958	34,146	15,038	19,108	
01	44,227	15,832	28,395	241,398	37,832	203,566	34,008	16,151	17,857	
02	40,116	12,907	27,235	237,878	31,442	206,457	36,373	17,404	19,002	
03	37,461	12,806	24,655	232,696	31,789	200,907	34,370	14,474	19,896	
04	43,972	14,258	29,714	285,512	42,983	242,529	32,445	13,722	18,723	
05	55,534	21,262	34,272	287,818	37,240	250,578	27,380	13,468	13,912	
06	46,803	13,001	33,802	307,835	37,617	270,218	24,844	11,505	13,339	