



Illinois State Board of Education

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FAQ

2017 Illinois Report Card

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Q: What is the Illinois Report Card?

A: The Illinois Report Card is an annual report released by the Illinois State Board of Education that shows how the state, and each school and district, are progressing on a wide range of educational goals. The Report Card was redesigned in 2013 to be more user-friendly and to provide data on a wider range of indicators than previous versions. The Report Card now offers a more complete picture of student and school performance in order to inform and empower families and communities as they support their local schools.

Q: Where do I find the Illinois Report Card?

A: The 2017 Illinois Report Card is available at <https://www.isbe.net/ilreportcarddata> under "Classic Report Card." The state and each school and district will have an individual official PDF Report Card.

The interactive www.illinoisreportcard.com website will be updated on Nov. 3.

The interactive Report Card website offers simple, intuitive displays; scatter plots, allowing performance comparisons between schools and districts; detailed data views; and descriptions for each school and district. The Report Card continues to offer information on student demographics and performance. Users can search by school or district name. The interactive Report Card also has an At-a-Glance Report for each school that offers a two-page snapshot that can be downloaded, printed, and distributed to families and community members. The comprehensive raw Report Card data is available at <ftp://ftp.isbe.net/schoolreportcard/> with accompanying instructions on how to download and view the data.

Q: What Report Card information is new in 2017?

A: New data points include Illinois-administered SAT assessment data; teacher evaluation data; and special education supplemental information, including demographic information and education environment.

Revised data points include the following:

- The Illinois Report Card now reports **charter school campuses** that are part of one parent organization as individual schools. The previous way of reporting only displayed aggregate information for the parent organization, as a legacy result of the way "replicating charters" first expanded in Chicago under the old charter school law. The move to reporting each campus as an individual school was a

collaborative effort. ISBE first engaged Chicago Public Schools and the charter school community. All parties agreed that the change would positively increase accountability and transparency and would align with Chicago Public Schools' own reporting practices.

- In the past, different Report Card data elements pertained to either students' home school or serving school. This year, the Illinois Report Card enhances consistency by basing all of the following elements on students' **serving school**: pupil-teacher ratio, student attendance rate, mobility rate, chronic truancy rate, class size, average daily enrollment, total enrollment, assessment results, graduation rate, and dropout rate. Overall, 97 percent of students have the same home and serving school. The schools most affected likely would be schools serving a greater number of special education students coming from different home schools.
- The **student mobility** measure now reports mobility by student instead of by incident, counting each individual student once. ISBE reran past years' data only on the 15-year trend document now on the FTP site and tomorrow on the ISBE website.
- The **teacher attendance** measure no longer includes as absences leaves taken pursuant to the federal Family Medical Leave Act of 1993 (also known as FMLA), long-term disability, or parental leaves. Last year, the Illinois Report Card displayed the 2014 teacher attendance data collected by the U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights, which did include these leaves as absences. We have archived this 2014 data on the IllinoisReportCard.com. In the 2016-17 school year, for the first time, Illinois collected its own teacher attendance data according to the definition in state statute, which does not count FMLA, disability, or parental leaves as absences. You can find the complete definition in the Report Card Definition document.

Q: What are the benefits of the Illinois Report Card?

A: The Report Card offers a consistent display of important school data on an annual basis. It highlights each school's and district's strengths – including special programs, college and career readiness, student performance, and educational environment – while at the same time identifying potential areas for improvement. Clear, detailed, and accessible information helps inform local discussion and school improvement plans. The Report Card also offers the opportunity to examine all schools in one easy-to-navigate tool and to share valuable resources.

Q: What is the origin of the data for the Report Card?

A: The majority of the data reported on the Report Card is collected by ISBE from school districts through real-time data systems such as the state's Student Information System and Employment Information System. Some data, such as information on extracurricular activities, are entered directly by principals so that it can be kept up to date throughout the year.

Q: Why does some data appear to be missing?

A: Individual student data are confidential by law; therefore, individual student data are not made available on school and district Report Cards. Contact your child's teacher for information about your child's scores and academic progress. Additionally, schools or districts with student groups of fewer than 10 are also not reported in order to prevent potential student identification pursuant to the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

Q: How can Report Card data be used?

A: The Report Card helps families learn more about their local schools with information on performance, educational environment, and special programs. The intent of the Report Card is not to rank or rate schools or districts, but rather to provide a transparent, easy-to-understand picture of public school measures at the school, district, and state level. We hope that the Report Card continues to be a starting point for conversations about how we can collectively improve public education in Illinois for the benefit of all our children.

Q: Where and why is the ACT still reported?

A: ACT is no longer a component of the state assessment. College and career readiness will be redefined next year due to ESSA. As a result, the college and career readiness measure for the 2016-17 Report Card has not been changed for consistency. Beginning with the 2016-17 school year, grade 11 students took the SAT as the high school accountability assessment. However, the College Course Work Readiness data point on the Illinois Report Card reports on the graduating class of the reporting year. The 2017 data represents the most recent ACT score earned by a 2017 graduate. State-, district-, and school-level aggregate ACT scores can be found under Retired Tests.

Q: How does the Illinois standards setting for the SAT affect the Report Card?

A: Illinois is required by federal law to establish performance levels aligned to the Illinois Learning Standards. The State Board on Oct. 18, 2017, approved four performance levels – Exceeds Standards, Meet Standards, Approaching Standards, and Partially Meets Standards – that indicate different levels of mastery of the Illinois Learning Standards. Illinois displays these performance levels *in aggregate only* on the Illinois Report Card to help educators and communities understand how well a school or district is serving its students. The percentage of students in the Meets Standards or Exceeds Standards categories comprises one part of Illinois' multi-measure, balanced accountability system for high school, as proposed in our [ESSA State Plan](#). Read more about performance levels and the educator-led process to determine the cut scores for each level on the [Assessment SAT webpage](#) under *News and Updates*.

Q: What is the status of the Illinois Science Assessment (ISA) scores?

A: ISBE is working with our scoring partner, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, to complete the scoring of both the 2016 and 2017 Illinois Science Assessment administrations. ISA scores are not included on the 2017 Illinois Report Card. ISBE will release the scores to school districts, which have the discretion to release the scores within their districts, and then will add the scores to the Illinois Report Card as soon as possible.

Q: How many school districts are there in Illinois?

A: Illinois has 852 school districts and serves other educational entities. Per Illinois statute, a school district is a geographical territory governed by a school board, which has the powers conferred to it by the General Assembly. The Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice (IDJJ) is a school district. The other entities we serve include special education cooperatives, state authorized charter schools, Illinois Math and Science Academy (IMSA), and lab schools. The number of school districts is a number that does change; the definition is something that does not change (unless altered in state statute). The 15-year trend data reflects this clarification.

Q: Why did we change the calculation from home school to serving school?

A: There are several reasons the Illinois State Board of Education opted to move from calculating assessments, enrollment, graduation rate, and dropout rate on a serving school basis as opposed to home school as had been done in years past.

1. Consistency. While the aforementioned measures were calculated on a home school basis the following measures were being calculated on a serving school basis: pupil-teacher ratio, chronic truancy, mobility, average class size, and average daily enrollment.
2. Accuracy in accountability. For measuring the performance of school's educational programs it is more accurate to base calculations off serving school than home school as the serving school is the school educating the student.
3. ESSA, Federal Guidance, and State Law. Federal guidance is clear that for purposes of accountability and report cards¹ SEAs should report enrollment on a serving school basis as well as in their Report Cards for ESSA. In addition, Illinois School Code requires the State Report Card include "any information required by federal law"².
4. Transition Year. As we transition to ESSA, it's valuable to use the 2017-18 School Year as a transition year. ISBE will have substantive conversations with stakeholders to solicit feedback about how we are displaying and reporting this information.

Q: What is the difference between data reported at the home school and serving school?

A: Most districts will notice little if any difference in the calculation using the serving school. Nearly 97% of students enrollments when comparing home school versus serving school are identical. Additionally, smaller districts whose students with disabilities are served in other districts may notice a decrease in their population of students with disabilities as compared to prior years. Conversely, districts that enroll a large number of students with disabilities from other districts will see their number of students with disabilities rise. School wide metrics such as graduation, mobility, attendance, and assessment scores will be affected.

In addition, because students will be reported by serving school, students with disabilities served in special education cooperatives or private facilities will not be reflected at the school level. This is due to there not being a requirement for those entities to report student outcomes through the Illinois School Report Card. However, those students who attend

¹ <https://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/essa/essastatereportcard.pdf>

² 105 ILCS 5/10-17a (2)

cooperative or private facilities WILL BE reported in district-level report cards in their district of RESIDENCE. This will affect both the number of students with IEPs reported at the district level AND the student performance metrics reported at the district level.

Q: Why doesn't the sum of my school-level enrollment of students match with my district's enrollment?

A: Those students with IEPs educated in special education cooperatives or private facilities and students who are enrolled in vocational programs for the majority of their school day, will not be reflected at school-level because there is not a requirement for them to report student outcomes through the Illinois School Report Card. Those students WILL BE reported at the district-level report cards in their district of RESIDENCE.

Q: Will all public school students with disabilities be included for accountability regardless of where they receive services?

A: Yes. The reporting site should not impact IEP team decisions regarding placement and services for any student with a disability to receive a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment. The most appropriate environment for a student's placement is determined by the IEP team. District administrators, teachers, parents, and, depending upon the age, the child are charged with making decisions that are in the best interests of each individual student to receive a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment.

Q: Will Illinois continue to administer the PARCC?

A: Yes. Illinois has participated in the PARCC consortium since 2014. The PARCC consortium recently launched a more flexible assessment paradigm that allows member states to license PARCC's high-quality test items in order to build custom, state-specific assessments. Illinois will continue to use the highest quality test items, to collaborate with the other states in the PARCC consortium, and to maintain comparability between past and future administrations.

ISBE also will continue to improve test administration, exercising greater control over test length, administration vendor, and the use of content developed by Illinois practitioners. Illinois educators and administrators will continue to play a significant role in the development, design, and direction of the assessment. There will be no changes to the spring 2018 platform or overall format and only slight modifications to reduce overall testing time.

Q: Does the 2017 Illinois Report Card contain changes related to ESSA?

A: No, the 2017 Illinois Report Card does not incorporate any changes directly related to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Conversations are ongoing with stakeholders around the Illinois Report Card and the Illinois ESSA Plan.

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