



# How to Support a Complete Count In Your Community

Billions of dollars are at stake for Illinois in the 2020 Census. Educators are trusted voices in communities and play a critical role in ensuring every Illinoisan is counted. Federal funding determined by the 2020 Census will support Head Start programs, nutrition services, Medicaid, and other services for children and families. Missing one child means missing out on federal funding for that child for the next 10 years.

## Here's what you can do to raise awareness about the 2020 Census:

### Now:

- Talk about the census at school board meetings, parent-teacher conferences, and other community events.
- Create a video and infographic about the importance of completing the census and the impact of federal funding in your school community.
- Promote the 2020 Census on social media, on your website, and in your newsletter. Make sure materials are translated into languages commonly spoken by households in your community.
- Incorporate census stats and facts into classroom lessons using the Statistics in Schools resources at [census.gov/schools](https://census.gov/schools).
- Share the job postings at [www.2020census.gov/jobs](https://www.2020census.gov/jobs) to help meet the demand for census takers.
- Encourage students, educators, and parents to join or establish a local Complete Count Committee, like the sophomore students at Oregon High School in CUSD 220 did: [ocusd.net/schools/oregon-high-school/1239-open-program-census-2020](https://ocusd.net/schools/oregon-high-school/1239-open-program-census-2020).
- Partner with local villages, libraries, park districts, early learning centers, and others to help reach hard-to-count populations.
- Train parent mentors and teacher leaders to act as census advocates.
- Pass a school board resolution supporting a complete count.
- Use the fact sheets and toolkits at [ilcountmein2020.org/resources](https://ilcountmein2020.org/resources) to support your efforts.

### National Census Day April 1 and After:

- Host a Census Night after April 1, during which families can access the school's internet and devices to complete the census online with support from school staff. The 2020 Census is the first time that people can complete the census online. Households can avoid a knock at the door by completing the census during the self-response period.
- Add stickers to the sides of school buses and hang posters in the hallways and front offices encouraging residents to complete the census online.
- Host a census pep rally and spirit week to celebrate national Census Day on April 1.
- Dedicate a lunch period or portion of professional learning time for teachers and staff to complete the census themselves.
- Target the hard-to-count areas in your community with flyers; find these areas at [census.illinoisdata.com](https://census.illinoisdata.com).