



Illinois State Board of Education

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Darren Reisberg
Chair of the Board

Dr. Carmen I. Ayala
State Superintendent of Education

DATE: July 17, 2019

MEMORANDUM

Sending on behalf of ISBE's Report Card Team:

District Administrators and Staff:

ISBE recently identified a discrepancy between how we traditionally calculated the dropout rate for the Report Card and the federal definition of dropout rate. Historically, ISBE has calculated dropout rate by dividing the number of dropouts by the school's fall enrollment where the number of dropouts were self-reported by districts. The U.S. Department of Education recommends not only including self-reported dropouts, but **ALSO** students that were enrolled in the previous school year and were not enrolled the following fall. For a more specific description of the calculation please see the 2019 Report Card Metrics document located here: <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Report-Card-Metrics.aspx>; see page 112.

To better align our metric calculations, ISBE will be using the federal definition of dropout rate for the 2019 Report Card. This will cause dropout rates for every district in the state to increase or remain the same compared to the old calculation. Illinois' statewide dropout rate for School Year 2017-18 was 2.1 percent and under the new calculation it would have been 3.3 percent. You can view your districts current SY 2019 dropout rate based on the new calculation in the Data Review and Verification Tool (DRVT) located at www.illinoisreportcard.com. (You will need log in credentials for MyIRC to access the tool). More information about the DRVT is located at <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/IL-Report-Card.aspx> under "Presentations and Webinars" - See the *June 11, 2019: An Introduction to the DRVT* webinar.

Because the Report Card is an official record of school measures, prior years' dropout rates will not be recalculated and republished. However, ISBE will provide a supplemental dropout report to provide an appropriate year-to-year comparison as we get closer to the Report Card release date.

Dropout rate is not included in the formula for Summative Designations, and therefore, will not impact your schools' accountability or any associated funding.

If you have any questions about this change or the definition of dropout rate, please call the Division of Data Strategies & Analytics at (312) 814-9192 or email reportcard@isbe.net.