



Illinois State Board of Education

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FAQ

2016 Illinois Report Card

October 2016, ISBE Office of Communications

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 performing 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: At 12:01 a.m. Oct. 31, the 2016 Illinois Report Card will be available at illinoisreportcard.com. The online Report Card provides an interactive tool for exploring state, district, and school performance data. The website offers simple, intuitive displays; scatter plots, allowing PARCC 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 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/>. ISBE recommends using SAS or SQL software to analyze the raw data.

Q: What Report Card information is new in 2016?

A: New data points include teacher attendance, an essential element in continuity for students; numbers of high school students who earn college credit through Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), and dual credit courses; and 6- and 7-year graduation cohorts. Including the college credit metric represents Illinois' goal of increasing enrollment and outcomes in AP, IB, and dual credit courses, especially among students currently underrepresented in those courses. Including the 6- and 7-year graduation cohorts metrics represents Illinois' commitment to graduate students with Individualized Education Programs. Students are entitled to a free and appropriate public education until their 22nd birthday, as defined by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Also, the Report Card now features a mobile-friendly format, easier access to PARCC data, and "How to" videos to help guide users step by step through the Report Card. Additionally, the new navigation for Academic Progress now separates current state test data from prior tests, but still retains the long-term information under *Retired Tests*.

Improved tools for reviewing assessment data allow users to find scores by grade, student groups, and subject area.

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 ability 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 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.

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