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| **Illinois State Board of Education**100 North First Street **•** Springfield, Illinois 62777-0001www.isbe.net**James T. Meeks** **Tony Smith, Ph.D.***Chairman**State Superintendent of Education*  |
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FACT SHEET

**2015 Illinois Report Card**

*October 2015, ISBE Division of Public Information*

The 2015 Illinois Report Card provides several new informative metrics and features in order to provide a more complete picture of student and school progress, especially in regard to meeting college and career readiness benchmarks. These updates further enhance the Report Card, which was redesigned in 2013 to provide multiple measures of student and school performance in a consumer-friendly format. The Report Card fosters better informed discussions about the unique qualities of public schools and school improvement efforts. It also reflects our state’s transition to higher learning standards and performance expectations.

The 2015 Report Card will be available on Oct. 30 at [www.illinoisreportcard.com](http://www.illinoisreportcard.com). It provides at-a-glance information about student growth and achievement, school climate and conditions, college and career readiness, and school courses and programs. A summary of information available for public use is below:

**New Metrics and Features in 2015**

**Percentage of Eighth Graders Passing Algebra I:** This metric reports the percentage of the students who have passed Algebra I by eighth grade. Courses taken during any summer session are NOT included in this calculation. A student enrolled at any Illinois public school on or before Sept 30, 2014, and on or after May 1, 2015, is assigned to the last district enrolled for the school year. This metric, as required by [Public Act 097-0671](http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=097-0671), provides a more detailed look at students’ math comprehension before they enter high school.

**Enhanced Educator Data**: This feature reflects data gathered from ISBE’s [Employment Information System (EIS](http://www.isbe.net/eis/default.htm)). Several educator characteristics will be viewable on the Report Card in new displays, including teacher demographics, teacher retention, pupil-teacher ratio, teacher education, teacher salary, principal turnover, pupil-administrator ratio, administrator salary, and pupil-certified staff ratio. This is the first year the Report Card will offer completed educator data from the 2013 and 2014 school years. This metric was implemented in response to Section 10-17 a (2) (E) of the School Code ([105 ILCS 5/10-17a](http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/fulltext.asp?DocName=010500050K10-17a)).

**Health and Wellness Metric (*Coming Soon*)**: This metric, which will be updated on the Report Card site later this year, will report the average number of days that each student attends physical education class per week. The metric is in response to the [Enhance Physical Education Task Force](http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=097-1102), which recommends enhancing physical education to increase student wellness, and Section 10-17a (2) (B) of the School Code ([105 ILCS 5/10-17a](http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/fulltext.asp?DocName=010500050K10-17a)).

**Returning Metrics and Improved Features**

**Average Class Size:** This feature is now available with corresponding charts and district- and statewide comparisons.

**Graduation Rates by Sub-group Graphs:** These graphs are available so schools and districts can improve understanding of graduation rates for specific student groups. They also display the percentage of students who graduated within four or five years.

**Enhanced Search Algorithm:** Users can perform comprehensive, high-level searches with ease and efficiency.

**Redesigned Screens:** Various screens in the site have been redesigned to better display student growth trend data.

**Spanish Capabilities:** Spanish language translation capabilities have been enhanced.

**New Tab Structure:** A new tab structure has been implemented to aid in intuitive navigation.

**Postsecondary Enrollment**: This feature includes 12-month and 16-month enrollment statistics of former Illinois high school students in two-year and four-year colleges.

**Freshmen on Track**: This metric reports the percentage of students who finish freshman year on track, which means that they have earned at least five full-year course credits (10 semester credits) and have earned no more than one semester F in a core course (English, math, science, or social science.) A student who is on track at the end of his or her freshman year is almost four times as likely to graduate from high school as a student who is not on track.

**Enrollment**: This shows the number of students enrolled in the school.

**Students with Disabilities**: This shows the percentage of students who receive special education services.

**Student Mobility**: This features the percentage of students who transfer in or out of the school between the first school day of October and the last school day of the year, not including graduates.

**Dropout Rate**: This is the percentage of students who are removed from the local enrollment roster before the end of a school term.

**Racial/Ethnic Diversity**: This metric is the percentage of students belonging to a particular racial/ethnic group.

**Low-income Students**: This metric tracks students in families receiving public aid, living in substitute care, or eligible to receive free or reduced-price lunches.

**English Learners**: This metric shows students whose primary language is not English.

**Principal Turnover**: This measures the number of principals who have worked at a school in the past six school years.

**Teacher Retention**: This reports the percentage of teachers returning to a school over the last three school years.



**District Teacher Salary**: This shows average salary for teachers.

**Pupil/Teacher Ratios**: This shows average number of pupils per teacher.

**Illinois 5Essentials**: Illinois 5Essentials results are now posted on [www.illinoisreportcard.com](http://www.illinoisreportcard.com/) and on each school’s At-a-Glance Reports. The 5Essentials is a statewide survey of individual schools’ learning conditions and environment, completed by all sixth- through 12th-grade students and all prekindergarten through 12th-grade teachers. These results are benchmarked to 2013 statewide 5Essentials data to allow for year-to-year comparison. The survey is based on 20 years of research by University of Chicago Consortium on Chicago School Research.

Figure 1: The 5Essentials

The 5Essentials measures performance on five school environment components found to be essential supports to student learning.

• Collaborative Teachers: Do teachers collaborate to promote professional growth?

• Involved Families: Does the entire staff build strong external relationships?

• Ambitious Instruction: Are classes challenging and engaging?

• Supportive Environment: Is the school safe, demanding, and supportive?

• Effective Leaders: Do principals and teachers implement a shared vision for success?

**At-a-Glance Highlights**: Information on school personnel, resources, and school facilities will now appear on the school’s [At-a-Glance Highlights](http://www.isbe.net/assessment/pdfs/report_card/2013/comm/dist-scorecard-sample.pdf).

**ACCESS**: The ACCESS tests English language proficiency for English Learner students.

**District Finances**: The Illinois Report Card now displays district-level financial information, including revenues and expenditures, reported in both dollars and percentages, and per-student spending. One-year financial data is available, as is five- and 10-year trend data.

**Compare Schools**: Users are able to compare various key performance metrics of up to four schools. This comparison includes highlights of the courses and programs offered at each school, as well as student achievement growth, class size, test achievement, district finances, student mobility, and student demographics.

**Achievement Gap**: The Compare Schools feature allows examination of achievement gaps by grade and subject. Achievement gaps include Black/White, Hispanic/White, Black/Hispanic, Low Income/Non Low Income, Male/Female, Individualized Education Program (IEP)/Non IEP, and Limited English Proficiency (LEP)/Non LEP.

**Advanced Comparison**: Building on the capabilities of the Achievement Gap function, this feature allows comparison within a large set of student groups. Available comparison groups include income levels, race/ethnicity, LEP status, IEP status, and gender.

**Transition to Reporting PARCC Results**

When the 2015 Report Card is released on Oct. 30, it will not include data involving student academic growth and achievement. This data will be based on student-, school-, and district-level results from the first administration of the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) test. Illinois expects to receive these scores later this fall. Once the results are available, the Report Card will be updated with district- and school-level data later this school year. Educators, parents, and community members will be able to see how many students performed at each of the PARCC test’s five performance levels in English language arts and math by grade level in elementary school and by course level in high school. PARCC results will be represented on the Report Card separately from the data from previous statewide assessments, the Illinois Standards Achievement Test and the Prairie State Achievement Exam. The 2015 PARCC scores will provide a new baseline for measuring student progress moving forward.