Illinois State Board of Education

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Regional Safe Schools Program (RSSP)

SY 2013-2014 DATA SUMMARY

OCTOBER 2015

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Foreword

The Regional Safe Schools Program (RSSP) provides an alternative education option for students who are disruptive to the learning environment. The program offers several academic and age appropriate services such as work-based learning, behavior modification training, life skills training, counseling, mentoring, and community service in order to meet the individual needs of students. For more information regarding the Regional Safe Schools Program, please contact Maithili Panat in the Data Analysis Division at (217) 782-3950.

Background

The Regional Safe School Program (RSSP) serves expulsion-eligible students, suspension-eligible students, and those who have been expelled or have multiple suspensions in grades 6-12. The statewide program began serving Illinois students in FY97 as established by 105 ILCS 5/13A of the Illinois School Code providing a system of alternative education programs for disruptive students.

Because of the actions of a small number of disruptive students, local school districts face increasing problems in maintaining a safe environment for all students. Expelling or suspending disruptive students puts them on the street, which may increase safety and advance the learning environment inside the school premises, but does not serve the educational needs of the expelled or suspended students or the community's need for public safety.

The purpose of RSSP is twofold: 1) to increase safety and promote the learning environment in schools and 2) to meet the particular educational needs of disruptive students more appropriately and individually in alternative educational environments.

In its first partial (8-month) year (FY97), the RSSP went from planning stages to the development of program sites across the state of Illinois and served 1,325 students. In FY14, over 3,000 students were served by RSSP. Currently, there are approximately 70 RSSP program sites in Illinois in urban, suburban, and rural areas of the state.

The RSSP has 39 grants representing 38 Regional Offices of Education (ROEs) and the Chicago Public Schools. Grantees may run the RSSP programs or contract with local school districts or with third parties to run the programs. Individual programs may serve students in grades 6-12 or any combination of grades 6-12 based upon local needs and decision-making by the ROEs and local school districts.

The RSSP has a set of guidelines, based upon best practices for alternative programs. Each student has an Alternative Education Plan (AEP) and positive outcomes may include: reduction in disruptive behavior, regular attendance, coursework completion, advancement in grade level, return to home school, grammar or high school graduation, and completing a program leading to taking and passing the GED where appropriate.

Source: ISBE, Overview of the Regional Safe Schools Program

Methodology

All student data in this report are taken from the ISBE Student Information System (SIS). RSSP student information is reported by schools and collected annually on a page in SIS that is specific to the program. In order to include student outcomes, the data used in this report are end of year data for SY14.

All students in grades 6-12 enrolled in RSSP are included in this data summary. It is important to note that the student enrollments in this data summary include multiple enrollments for SY14. For example, if "Student A" was enrolled in RSSP at a school district for a few days/weeks and then moved to a different district and was re-enrolled, this student would be counted twice. Since "Student A" was enrolled and utilized RSSP services at both districts at some point in time during SY14, both enrollments will be counted.

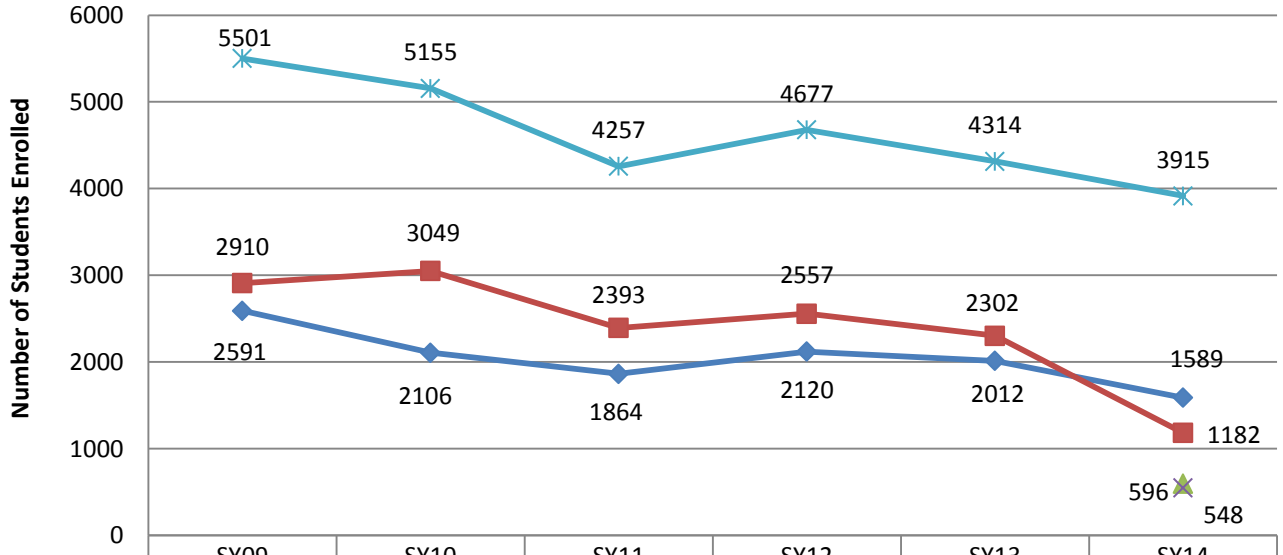
The state budget allocation data used in this report are taken from the Illinois State Board of Education's budget information section. These numbers represent the total dollar amounts that were allocated for RSSP in the state budget for the corresponding fiscal years shown.

Appendix A of this data summary breaks down RSSP enrollment by Regional Office of Education (ROE). The data used for this report were pulled from SIS when ROE consolidation had already taken place. Because the ROE's had not yet been consolidated in 2014, the current data were merged in order to accurately represent the pre-consolidation enrollment totals by ROE for SY14.

Every chart and table in this report includes notes as well as key data findings. In this data summary, RSSP's new eligibility categories are being fully reported for the first time. Starting in SY13, an amendment to the Illinois School Code required two additional eligibility categories to be reported. These new categories were collected in the ISBE Student Information System (SIS) starting in SY14. Definitions of these new categories can be found in Appendix B of this data summary.

I. Annual RSSP Student Enrollments and State Allocations

Chart 1. Number of Students Enrolled in RSSP by Student Eligibility Status: SY09 to SY14



	SY09	SY10	SY11	SY12	SY13	SY14
Suspension Eligible	2591	2106	1864	2120	2012	1589
Expulsion Eligible	2910	3049	2393	2557	2302	1182
PA 97-0495 Suspended & Administratively Transferred	Not Collected	Not Collected	Not Collected	Not Collected	Not Collected	596
PA 97-0495 Expelled & Administratively Transferred	Not Collected	Not Collected	Not Collected	Not Collected	Not Collected	548
RSSP Enrollment Total	5501	5155	4257	4677	4314	3915

Source: ISBE Student Information System (SIS).

*Enrollment totals include duplicate RSSP enrollments for SY14.

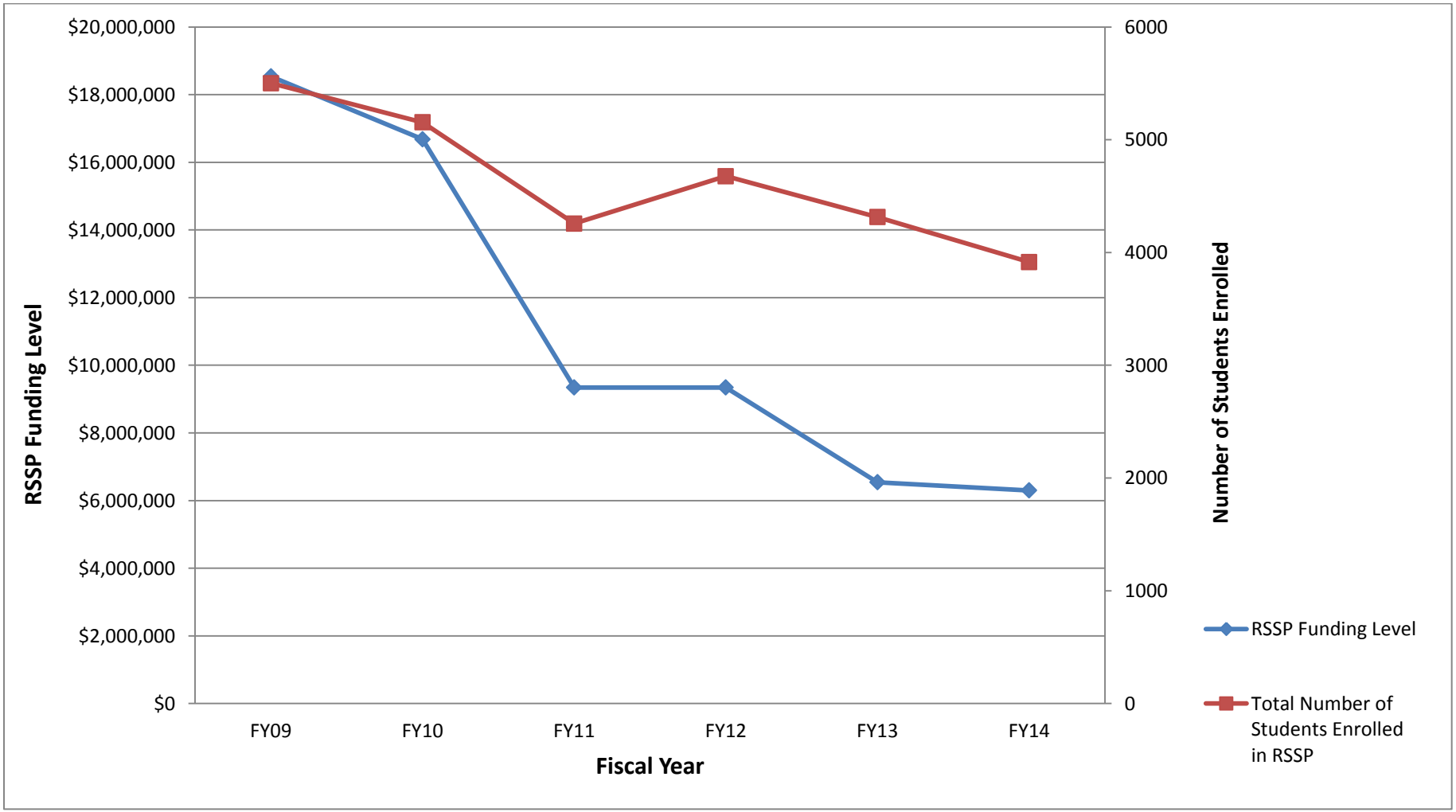
**Starting in SY13, an amendment to the Illinois School Code required two additional eligibility categories to be reported. These new categories were collected in the Student Information System (SIS) starting in SY14.

***For descriptions of student eligibility status, please see Appendix B.

Findings:

- From SY09 to SY14, there has been a decrease (-28.8%) in total RSSP enrollment.
- In SY14, Suspension-eligible student enrollment exceeded expulsion-eligible student enrollment for the first time since SY09.

Chart 2. Funding Levels of RSSP by Student Enrollment: FY09 to FY14



Source: ISBE Agency Budget Information.

Findings:

- FY11 funding decreased significantly (-44.0%), while enrollment dropped by 17.4%.
- From FY09 to FY14 total enrollment decreased by 1,586 while total funding decreased by $12,235,500.

Table 1. RSSP State Budget Allocations: FY09 to FY14

Fiscal Year	RSSP State Allocations	Annual Rate of Allocation Increase/Decrease	Number of Students Enrolled	Annual Rate of Increase/Decrease in Student Enrollments	Estimated Cost Per Student
FY09	$18,535,500	-	5501	-	$3,369
FY10	$16,682,000	-10.0%	5155	-6.3%	$3,236
FY11	$9,341,900	-44.0%	4257	-17.4%	$2,194
FY12	$9,341,900	0.0%	4677	9.9%	$1,997
FY13	$6,539,300	-30.0%	4314	-7.8%	$1,516
FY14	$6,300,000	-3.7%	3915	-9.2%	$1,609

Source: ISBE Agency Budget Information.
*Estimated Cost per student is based on RSSP state budget allocations only.

Findings:

- Since FY11 when a major allocation decrease occurred for RSSP (-44.0%), the program has continued to see a decrease in funding.
- Since FY09, enrollment has decreased by 28.8%, while state allocations for the program have decreased by 66.0%.
- From FY09 to FY14, estimated cost per student has decreased from $3,369 per student to $1,609 per student.

II. RSSP Student Demographics

Table 2. RSSP Students by Grade Level and Student Eligibility Status: SY14

Grade Level	Expulsion-Eligible		Expelled & Administratively Transferred		Suspension-Eligible		Suspended & Administratively Transferred		Totals	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
6	27	20.5%	17	12.9%	53	40.2%	35	26.5%	132	3.4%
7	94	26.6%	64	18.1%	136	38.4%	60	16.9%	354	9.0%
8	176	27.8%	92	14.5%	250	39.4%	116	18.3%	634	16.2%
9	263	33.0%	123	15.4%	288	36.1%	123	15.4%	797	20.4%
10	255	33.2%	109	14.2%	291	37.9%	113	14.7%	768	19.6%
11	231	30.5%	99	13.1%	329	43.4%	99	13.1%	758	19.4%
12	136	28.8%	44	9.3%	242	51.3%	50	10.6%	472	12.1%
Grade 6-12 Totals	1182	30.2%	548	14.0%	1589	40.6%	596	15.2%	3915	100.0%

Source: ISBE Student Information System (SIS).

Findings:

- In SY14, the highest percentage of enrollments transferred to RSSP by eligibility status was suspension-eligible (40.6%).
- The three highest percentages of RSSP enrollments by grade level were in Grade 9 (20.4%), Grade 10 (19.6%) and Grade 11 (19.4%).

Table 3. RSSP Students by Race/Ethnicity and Student Eligibility Status: SY14

Student Race/Ethnicity	Expulsion-Eligible		Expelled & Administratively Transferred		Suspension-Eligible		Suspended & Administratively Transferred		Totals	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
American Indian or Alaska Native	3	20.0%	3	20.0%	8	53.3%	1	6.7%	15	0.4%
Asian	8	40.0%	6	30.0%	5	25.0%	1	5.0%	20	0.5%
Black or African American	359	28.9%	250	20.1%	355	28.6%	279	22.4%	1243	31.7%
Hispanic or Latino	263	35.6%	80	10.8%	310	41.9%	86	11.6%	739	18.9%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0.0%	1	33.3%	2	66.7%	0	0.0%	3	0.1%
Two or More Races	41	26.3%	24	15.4%	74	47.4%	17	10.9%	156	4.0%
White	508	29.2%	184	10.6%	835	48.0%	212	12.2%	1739	44.4%
Student Race/Ethnicity Totals	1182	30.2%	548	14.0%	1589	40.6%	596	15.2%	3915	100%

Source: ISBE Student Information System (SIS).

Findings:

- In SY14, a large majority (76.1%) of enrollments by ethnicity in RSSP were either White (44.4%) or Black/African American (31.7%).
- Nearly twice the percentage of Black/African American students (20.1%) were expelled & administratively transferred compared to White students (10.6%).

III. Reasons Students Were Transferred to RSSP

Table 4. Primary Reason for Student Transfer to RSSP by Student Eligibility Status: SY14

Primary Reason	Expulsion-Eligible		Expelled & Administratively Transferred		Suspension-Eligible		Suspended & Administratively Transferred		Totals	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Alcohol	21	40.4%	7	13.5%	3	5.8%	21	40.4%	52	1.3%
Disorderly Conduct	99	26.8%	14	3.8%	194	52.4%	63	17.0%	370	9.5%
Drugs	341	53.1%	175	27.3%	78	12.1%	48	7.5%	642	16.4%
Fighting	205	30.2%	158	23.3%	166	24.4%	150	22.1%	679	17.3%
Harassment-Nonsexual	22	33.8%	5	7.7%	13	20.0%	25	38.5%	65	1.7%
Insubordination	80	17.7%	58	12.9%	256	56.8%	57	12.6%	451	11.5%
Other Offenses	76	15.9%	21	4.4%	305	63.7%	77	16.1%	479	12.2%
Robbery or Theft	26	38.2%	13	19.1%	19	27.9%	10	14.7%	68	1.7%
Threats	54	35.1%	23	14.9%	41	26.6%	36	23.4%	154	3.9%
Vandalism	12	42.9%	5	17.9%	11	39.3%	0	0.0%	28	0.7%
Violation of School Rules	102	14.8%	20	2.9%	483	70.0%	85	12.3%	690	17.6%
Weapons Possession	144	60.8%	49	20.7%	20	8.4%	24	10.1%	237	6.1%
Primary Reason Totals	1182	30.2%	548	14.0%	1589	40.6%	596	15.2%	3915	100%

Source: ISBE Student Information System (SIS).
*For descriptions of primary reasons for referral, please see Appendix B.

Findings:

- In SY14, the three highest percentages of primary reasons for transfer to RSSP were due to: violation of school rules (17.6%), involvement in fighting (17.3%) or because of the possession/sale/use of drugs (16.4%).

Table 5. Primary Reason for Student Transfer to RSSP by Grade Level: SY14

Primary Reason	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12	Totals	Percentage of Primary Reason by Grade Level Totals
Alcohol	2	1	13	12	4	11	9	52	1.3%
Disorderly Conduct	13	29	78	77	57	77	39	370	9.5%
Drugs	4	39	102	120	155	126	96	642	16.4%
Fighting	27	74	100	170	145	126	37	679	17.3%
Harassment-Nonsexual	3	9	19	6	14	8	6	65	1.7%
Insubordination	21	66	77	90	92	65	40	451	11.5%
Other Offenses	11	20	65	96	83	118	86	479	12.2%
Robbery or Theft	0	4	5	15	16	17	11	68	1.7%
Threats	10	14	38	39	20	23	10	154	3.9%
Vandalism	2	2	6	3	10	3	2	28	0.7%
Violation of School Rules	17	71	83	118	132	150	119	690	17.6%
Weapons Possession	22	25	48	51	40	34	17	237	6.1%
Primary Reason by Grade Level Totals	132	354	634	797	768	758	472	3915	100.0%

Source: ISBE Student Information System (SIS).
*For descriptions of primary reasons for referral, please see Appendix B.

Findings:

- In SY14, the highest RSSP enrollments were in Grade 9 (797 students), 36.4% of these ninth graders were transferred due to fighting in school (21.3%) or drugs (15.1%).

IV. RSSP Services Received

Table 6. Services Received by RSSP Students by Type of Service and Student Eligibility Status: SY14

Type of Service	Expulsion-Eligible	Expelled & Administratively Transferred	Suspension-Eligible	Suspended & Administratively Transferred	Totals	Percentage of Duplicated Totals of Services Received
Tutoring	465	289	735	423	1912	11.9%
GED Completed	2	4	2	2	10	0.1%
Curriculum Related Employment	42	19	37	17	115	0.7%
Behavior Modification	944	473	1250	535	3202	19.9%
Community Service	630	163	681	176	1650	10.3%
Individual or Group Counseling	963	329	1273	495	3060	19.0%
Life Skills Training	859	398	1049	490	2796	17.4%
Mentoring	488	187	727	410	1812	11.3%
Parenting Classes for Parents	28	8	24	6	66	0.4%
GED Instruction	29	6	33	19	87	0.5%
Referral to Social Services	363	147	301	127	938	5.8%
School to Work	127	18	231	49	425	2.6%
Duplicated Totals of Services Received	4940	2041	6343	2749	16073	100.0%

Source: ISBE Student Information System (SIS).

*Students enrolled in RSSP can receive more than one type of service.

** For descriptions of services received, please see Appendix B.

Findings:

- The services listed are provided to students enrolled in RSSP programs in order to meet their educational needs more appropriately in alternative education environments.
- In SY14, a plurality (39.5%) of these services were used by suspension-eligible students.
- The services that were most frequently used by all students enrolled were behavior modification (19.9%) and individual or group counseling (19.0%).

V. RSSP Student Outcomes

Table 7. Outcomes Attained by RSSP Students by Student Eligibility Status: SY14

Outcomes Attained	Expulsion-Eligible	Expelled & Administratively Transferred	Suspension-Eligible	Suspended & Administratively Transferred	Totals	Percentage of Outcome Totals
Certificate of Completion	1	0	0	0	1	0.0%
Change in Serving School or Full Time Equivalent (FTE)	107	41	80	63	291	7.4%
Death	1	0	1	1	3	0.1%
Dropped Out	54	24	117	26	221	5.6%
Expulsion	34	52	15	8	109	2.8%
Graduated with regular, advanced, International Baccalaureate, or other type of diploma	96	24	186	35	341	8.7%
Moved Out of the United States	0	0	2	0	2	0.1%
Moved, not known to be continuing	13	11	18	15	57	1.5%
Promotion to next grade level	581	252	783	292	1908	48.7%
Retained in same grade	75	36	96	30	237	6.1%
Transfer to another public school district IN Illinois	82	58	119	24	283	7.2%
Transfer to another public school district OUT of Illinois	15	1	23	5	44	1.1%
Transfer to another public school within the district	90	45	80	82	297	7.6%
Transfer to GED program	11	3	34	5	53	1.4%
Transfer to Home Schooled	18	1	34	7	60	1.5%
Transfer to Private School	4	0	1	3	8	0.2%
Total Outcomes	1182	548	1589	596	3915	100.0%

Source: ISBE Student Information System (SIS).

Findings:

- RSSP's highest total outcome for SY14 was promotion to the next grade level (48.7%).
- Of the total number of outcomes for promotion to the next grade level (1,908), 43.7% were either expulsion-eligble or expelled, and 56.3% were either suspension-eligible or suspended.

Table 8. Outcomes Attained by RSSP Students by Grade Level: SY14

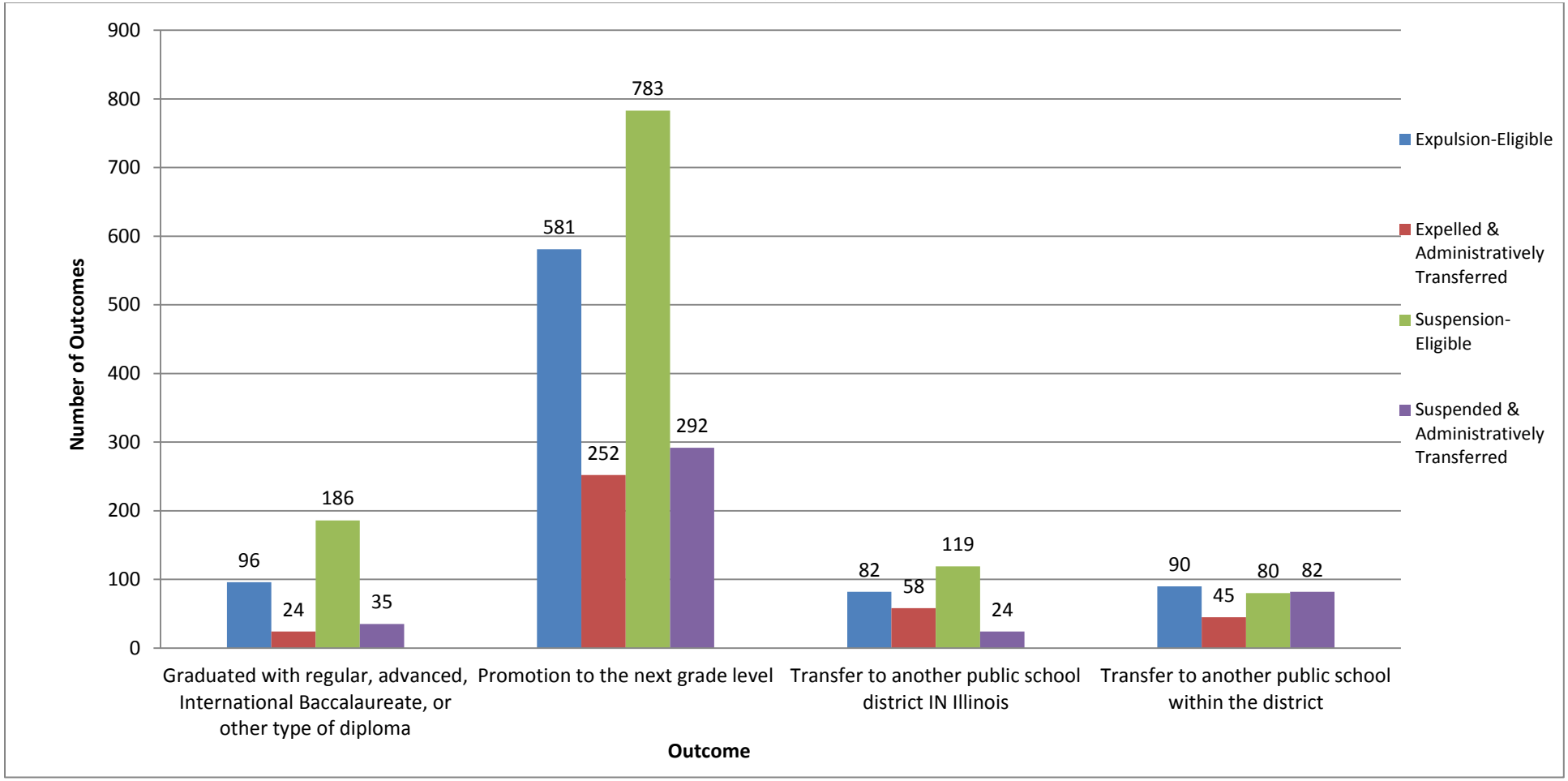
Outcomes Attained	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12	Totals	Percentage of Outcome Totals by Grade Level
Certificate of Completion	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0.0%
Change in Serving School or Full Time Equivalent (FTE)	10	21	50	77	52	58	23	291	7.4%
Death	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	3	0.1%
Dropped Out	0	3	11	35	58	67	47	221	5.6%
Expulsion	3	11	14	22	26	24	9	109	2.8%
Graduated with regular, advanced, International Baccalaureate, or other type of diploma	0	0	0	0	0	54	287	341	8.7%
Moved Out of the United States	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0.1%
Moved, not known to be continuing	3	2	16	14	7	13	2	57	1.5%
Promotion to next grade level	87	249	399	395	424	354	0	1908	48.7%
Retained in same grade	0	7	13	96	44	32	45	237	6.1%
Transfer to another public school district IN Illinois	10	23	60	69	57	53	11	283	7.2%
Transfer to another public school district OUT of Illinois	0	3	10	8	9	11	3	44	1.1%
Transfer to another public school within the district	17	29	43	58	64	52	34	297	7.6%
Transfer to GED program	0	0	2	11	12	22	6	53	1.4%
Transfer to Home Schooled	1	5	13	9	13	16	3	60	1.5%
Transfer to Private School	0	1	3	3	1	0	0	8	0.2%
Total Outcomes by Grade Level	132	354	634	797	768	758	472	3915	100.0%

Source: ISBE Student Information System (SIS).

Findings:

- Promotions to the next grade level and graduation rates are key indicators of RSSP effectiveness for high school students.
- In SY14, 50.4% of outcomes for grades 9-11 were promotion to the next grade level.
- In SY14, 60.8% of outcomes for grade 12 indicated graduation.

Chart 3. Positive Outcomes Attained by RSSP Students by Eligibility Status SY14



Source: ISBE Illinois Student Information System (SIS).

*For descriptions of student eligibility status, please see Appendix B.

Findings:

- This graph shows positive outcomes achieved by students enrolled in RSSP programs for SY14. Students enrolled in RSSP have individualized Alternative Education Plans (AEP) designed to promote safety and produce positive outcomes.
- In SY14, 48.7% of total outcomes indicated promotion to the next grade level.
- Transferring to public school districts within Illinois or within the same district can be seen as positive outcomes because students stayed in school and did not drop out.

APPENDIX A

Number of Students Enrolled by Regional Office of Education (ROE): SY14

ROE #	RSSP Project (ROE/ISC/CPS)	Total Enrollment	Percent of Total RSSP Projects
01	Adams/Pike	151	3.9%
02	Alexander/Johnson/Massac/Pulaski/Union	22	0.6%
03	Bond/Effingham/Fayette	31	0.8%
04	Boone/Winnebago	270	6.9%
05	North Cook ISC 1	150	3.8%
06	West Cook ISC 2	185	4.7%
07	South Cook ISC 4	165	4.2%
08	Carroll/Jo Daviess/Stephenson	59	1.5%
09	Champaign/Ford	195	5.0%
10	Christian/Montgomery	69	1.8%
11	Clark/Coles/Cumberland/Douglas/Edgar/Moultrie/Shelby	131	3.3%
12	Clay/Crawford/Jasper/Lawrence/Richland	37	0.9%
13	Clinton/Marion/Washington	66	1.7%
15	City of Chicago SD 299	201	5.1%
16	DeKalb	34	0.9%
17	De Witt/Livingston/McLean	175	4.5%
19	DuPage	89	2.3%
20	Edwards/Gallatin/Hardin/Pope/Saline/Wabash/Wayne/White	42	1.1%
21	Franklin/Williamson	34	0.9%
22	Fulton/Schuyler	24	0.6%
24	Grundy/Kendall	237	6.1%
26	Hancock/McDonough	11	0.3%
27	Henderson/Mercer/Warren	3	0.1%
28	Bureau/Henry/Stark	22	0.6%
30	Jackson/Perry	34	0.9%
31	Kane	128	3.3%
32	Iroquois/Kankakee	91	2.3%
33	Knox	35	0.9%
34	Lake	176	4.5%
35	LaSalle	97	2.5%
38	Logan/Mason/Menard	22	0.6%
39	Macon/Piatt	63	1.6%
40	Calhoun/Greene/Jersey/Macoupin	82	2.1%
41	Madison	93	2.4%
43	Marshall/Putnam/Woodford	38	1.0%
44	McHenry	35	0.9%
45	Monroe/Randolph	25	0.6%
46	Brown/Cass/Morgan/Scott	10	0.3%
47	Lee/Ogle	50	1.3%
48	Peoria	113	2.9%
49	Rock Island	45	1.1%
50	St. Clair	90	2.3%
51	Sangamon	40	1.0%
53	Tazewell	23	0.6%
54	Vermilion	24	0.6%
55	Whiteside	22	0.6%
56	Will	176	4.5%
Total Enrollment		**3915**	**100.0%**

Source: ISBE Student Information System (SIS).
*The ROE's listed are specific to SY14.

APPENDIX B- DESCRIPTIONS

Reason for Referral
Alcohol- liquor law violations, possession, use, sale
Disorderly conduct- disruptive behavior
Drugs- excluding alcohol and tobacco (illegal drug possession, sale, use/under the influence)
Fighting- mutual altercation, battery, and/or physical altercation
Harassment- nonsexual (physical, verbal, or psychological)
Insubordination- disobedience to school staff or school personnel
Robbery- taking of things by force or theft
Threats- including school threats
Vandalism- damage to school or personal property
Violation of school rules- disobeying school policy
Weapons possession- firearms and other weapons

Source: ISBE Student Information System (SIS), Data Elements.

Eligibility Status
Expulsion-Eligible - A student who was expulsion-eligible and administratively transferred to RSSP in lieu of expulsion
Suspension-Eligible - A student who was suspension-eligible and administratively transferred to RSSP in lieu of suspension
PA 97-0495-Expelled & Administratively Transferred - A student who was expelled and administratively transferred to RSSP, in accordance with PA 97-0495 and Sections 10-22.6 and 34-19 of the School Code
PA 97-0495-Suspended & Administratively Transferred - A student who was suspended in excess of twenty(20) days and administratively transferred to RSSP, in accordance with PA 97-0495 and Sections 10-22.6 and 34-19 of the School Code

Source: ISBE Student Information System (SIS), Data Elements.

APPENDIX B, Continued

Services Received
GED Instruction- Enrolled in an instructional program leading to a GED certificate
Tutoring- Additional instructional services, usually provided on a one-to-one basis, to supplement regular instruction
GED Test Successfully Completed- Student successfully completed a GED test
Curriculum Related Employment- Student is employed or working in a position that is related to the curriculum
Alternate Education Plan (AEP) - Each student must have an AEP prepared at the earliest time following the transfer to RSSP. Requirements of the plan may be found in Illinois School Code 105 ILCS 5/13A-4
Behavior Modification Training- Any behavior management/conflict resolution training systems that help students improve their behavior, manage stress, control anger, and make better choices
Community Service Participation- This includes RSSP-sponsored or court-mandated participation in individual or group community service projects. These projects may be service learning projects or other volunteerism projects in which student learning is enhanced, the needs of the community are addressed, and the student provides service to the community
Individual/Group Counseling- RSSP programs may provide individual and/or group counseling that may relate to social, emotional, or health problems. Please note that clicking on this rubric indicates that the student received individual counseling, or group counseling, or both
Life Skills Training- This training may include decision-making (critical thinking, problem solving, and communication), social skills, cultural awareness, financial management, etc.
Mentoring- Coaching and/or guiding students with their career/educational goals. A mentor can be a peer, an older student, staff members, or a community member who may be employed in the career field in which the student is interested
Parenting Classes for Parents (of RSSP students) - The RSSP may provide parenting classes for parents of RSSP students as part of parental involvement in the RSSP program or as needed in individual circumstances on a case-by-case basis. Such classes may be provided directly by the RSSP or by referral to another agency
Referral to Social Services - The RSSP program may refer the student for services provided by government agencies, public or private social service agencies, or community-based organizations
School to Work- Career development training, skills training, and/or activities offered by the school to prepare students for jobs or employment

Source: ISBE Student Information System (SIS), Data Elements.