



Illinois State Board of Education

100 North First Street • Springfield, Illinois 62777-0001
www.isbe.net

Gery J. Chico
Chairman

Christopher A. Koch, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Education

FACT SHEET NEW SCHOOL REPORT CARD

August 2014, ISBE Division of Public Information

On Oct. 31, 2013, ISBE unveiled a new, improved Report Card that changes how we report student and school results to offer a more complete picture of student learning and school climate in a consumer-friendly format. The redesign offers much more than a new look.

The State, District and School Report Cards now provide multiple measures of student and school performance for better informed discussions about the unique qualities of public schools and school improvement efforts. They also reflect our state's transition toward higher performance expectations at an earlier age and greater rigor in the classroom to make sure Illinois K-12 students are on track for success in college and careers.

ISBE developed a new website, <http://illinoisreportcard.com>, which was redesigned from the ground up to target parents, community members and the general public with a streamlined, visually fresh and easy-to-navigate format. The Report Card is available in two new formats:



This new online School Report Card goes beyond test scores to present a complete view of your schools.

Illinois ranks No. 1 for accessible accountability reports

The Education Commission of the States has identified Illinois as having the best report card out of all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The ranking is a result of a three-part analysis done by experts and parents, in which Illinois was the only state ranked No. 1 by both parents and researchers. You can access the full report [here](#).

- An online Report Card with an interactive tool for exploring school performance data. The tool includes simple, intuitive displays as well as detailed data views and descriptions for each school and district. The online Report Card continues to offer information on student demographics and performance. Users can search by school or district name.
- An At-a-Glance Report Card, found on each school's online Report Card, offers a two-page snapshot that can be downloaded, printed and distributed to local families and community members.

The new Report

Card provides at-a-glance information about school performance, school conditions and learning environment. New metrics include “Student Academic Growth” by elementary school and district according to a new growth model using value tables

that shows how much academic progress students have demonstrated from one year to the next in reading and math. Based on feedback from education experts, ISBE believes the growth model approach will improve our understanding of student learning and provide a more nuanced accountability system than simply the percentage of students meeting or exceeding standards on one state test.

This year’s Report Card will provide the 2014 results for the 5Essentials, which is a statewide learning conditions and school climate survey. The survey was administered for the second year in spring 2014. The School Report Cards will report scores on the five essentials of the survey: Effective Leaders, Collaborative Teachers, Involved Families, Supportive Environment and Ambitious Instruction. The Report Cards will also provide a link to a detailed report containing results on the 5Essential Measures, which are statistical measures created from multiple survey items and the responses to individual survey questions. For schools that did not administer the survey in 2014, a report on raw data from 2013 will be available.

Learn more online

- Visit illinoisreportcard.com, your source for information about Illinois public schools.
- Watch a [video overview](#).
- ISBE’s Hot Topics page provides updates on new learning standards and assessments, with fact sheets, FAQs and more. Click [here](#).

The origins of the data for the new Report Card

Districts provide ISBE with most of the data that is reported on the School Report Card through the state’s Student Information System (SIS) and its new Employment Information System (EIS.) Some data, such as information on extracurricular activities, is entered directly by principals on illinoisreportcard.com so that it can be kept up to date throughout the year. A few data elements, such as the percent of high school graduates enrolling in college, come from the new Illinois Longitudinal Data System.

This year’s Report Card also includes **new metrics and capabilities**, including the ability to compare schools, the number of freshmen on track for college readiness, college enrollment, teacher retention, principal turnover, and learning environment scores based on the 5Essentials Survey. The Report Card website will also be available for the first time in Spanish and additional detail on various metrics (e.g., district finances) will be added.

The value table was used on an advisory basis in 2013-14 to calculate student growth at the district- and school-level in grades 3 through 8 based on two years of performance on the Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT). The value table will be used on an advisory basis again in 2014-15. The table has four performance categories and considers student growth to be movement from a lower proficiency level to a higher proficiency level. ISBE collaborated with educators across the state to set growth scores for the value table, which awards more points to students who maintain or increase achievement at the meets or exceeds levels and gives lower scores to worsening or slower-paced progress.

The new Report Card also features academic courses, career development courses and programs, special programs of study, athletics, school awards, physical education, health and wellness and other programs and activities that make each school unique. With more accessible and user-friendly information than ever before about each school's programs, performance and activities, the redesigned Report Card encourages a model of school improvement where all members have an opportunity to contribute to better outcomes. It also aims to foster more discussions and interest in school improvement.

As ISBE makes the transition from its current assessment system to one that is fully aligned with the new Illinois Learning Standards, the measures of performance displayed on the Report Card will be further improved. New measurements – such as the percentage of students entering college after high school, the percentage of students enrolling in remedial coursework during their first year in college and the percentage of students entering kindergarten ready to learn – will also be added as new data becomes available.

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