



# 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

## FAQs

# NEW SCHOOL REPORT CARD

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### 1. Q: What is the School Report Card?

**A:** The Illinois State Board of Education annually releases a School Report Card that shows how each school, district and the state is performing on a wide range of educational goals. The Report Card was revised last year to be more user-friendly and to provide data on a wider range of indicators than our previous version.

### 2. Q: Where do I find the State, District or School Report Card?

**A:** Go to: [illinoisreportcard.com](http://illinoisreportcard.com)

The School Report Card has three main components: a one-page (front and back) printout that provides the most important information clearly and accessibly; which delivers in-depth information with explanations of each indicator online; and detailed longitudinal data sets for approved educational research.



**IllinoisReportCard.com is your source for information about public schools across Illinois.**

### 3. Q: Why did the Illinois State Board of Education revise the School Report Card?

**A:** State and local education officials have long realized the importance of generating a more complete picture of student and school performance in order to inform and empower families and communities as they support their local schools. This overarching goal of increasing community engagement with improved information drove legislation in 2012 that laid the framework for the new Report Card design.

### 4. Q: What School Report Card information is new in 2014?

**A:** In 2014, the School Report Card expands on previous reporting advancements (including student academic growth and information on academic, athletic, extracurricular and after-school programs and courses) to now include information and capabilities including:

- Ability to compare schools
- Number of freshmen on track for college readiness
- College enrollment
- Teacher retention
- Principal turnover
- Learning environment scores based on the 5Essentials Survey

**5. Q: How does the redesigned School Report Card benefit my school?**

**A:** The redesigned School Report Card helps highlight each school's strengths (such as special programs, college and career readiness, extracurriculars, or growth rate) while at the same time identifying potential areas for improvement. Clear, detailed and accessible information on academic performance, school climate and learning conditions will help inform local discussion and school improvement plans.

**6. Q: How does the redesigned School Report Card benefit my child?**

**A:** The new School Report Card helps families learn more about their local schools with information on performance, growth, special programs and extracurricular activities. After reviewing results on the School Report Card, parents will be better equipped to talk to teachers and administrators about their child's performance in school and ongoing efforts to improve student and schoolwide academic performance.

**7. Q: What is the origin of the data for the new School Report Card?**

**A:** Most of the data reported on the School Report Card is collected by ISBE from school districts through data systems such as the state's Student Information System and its new Employment Information System. Some data, such as information on extracurricular activities, is entered directly by principals on [illinoisreportcard.com](http://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.

**8. Q: Why can't I find my child's test scores?**

**A:** Individual test scores are confidential by law, which protects your child's privacy. Contact your child's teacher for information about your child's scores and academic progress. Schools typically release state test results in the fall, sometime between the first day of school and late October.

**9. Q: Will the School Report change in the future?**

**A:** This is the first stage of an improved Report Card. The design may not change significantly but the State Board is dedicated to improving and reporting long-term data, paving the way for School Report Cards that offer student and school performance data from preschool to college.

**10. Q: Where can I send questions or comments about the School Report Card?**

**A:** Please send any questions or comments about the website design, content or data to [reportcard@isbe.net](mailto:reportcard@isbe.net). Questions regarding technical problems with the [www.illinoisreportcard.com](http://www.illinoisreportcard.com) website can be sent to [iirc@niu.edu](mailto:iirc@niu.edu).