



Illinois State Board of Education

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FAQ: New Illinois School Report Card

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Division of Public Information, Illinois State Board of Education

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. It has been revised this year to be more user-friendly and to provide data on a wider range of indicators. The School Report Card has three main components: a one-page (front and back) print-out that provides the most important information clearly and accessibly, illinoisreportcard.com that delivers in-depth information with explanations of each indicator online, and detailed longitudinal data sets for approved educational research.

2. Q: Why is the Illinois State Board of Education revising 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.

3. Q: What new information can be found on the School Report Card?

A: Like the older version, the new School Report Card will display information on student characteristics and performance. It will also provide information not available from the old report card, including:

- Information about student academic growth and school performance trends.
- Information on athletic, extracurricular and after-school programs.
- Available Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate and Dual Enrollment courses.
- Data about students on track for college, career and the next step of their education.
- Summary data from the new Illinois 5Essentials Survey.
- ... and many more indicators of school, student and staff performance.

4. Q: How will redesigning the School Report Card benefit my school?

A: The redesigned School Report Card will help 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 school academic performance, climate and learning conditions will help inform local discussion and school improvement plans.

5. Q: How will redesigning the School Report Card benefit my child?

A: The School Report Card will help families learn more about their local schools with information on performance, growth, special programs and extra-curricular activities. After reviewing school 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.

6. Q: When will the new School Report Card be published?

A: The School Report Card will be available on Oct. 31 at illinoisreportcard.com. Districts can choose to release their information prior to the state's release on Oct. 31. One month after Oct. 31, districts with websites must publish their report card online and mail a notice to parents notifying them that the new report card is posted. Districts that do not have a website will instead mail parents a printout of the report card.

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 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: How is the new School Report Card funded?

A: Funding is provided through federal Race to the Top grant dollars.

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 pre-school to college.