
ILLINOIS EDUCATION





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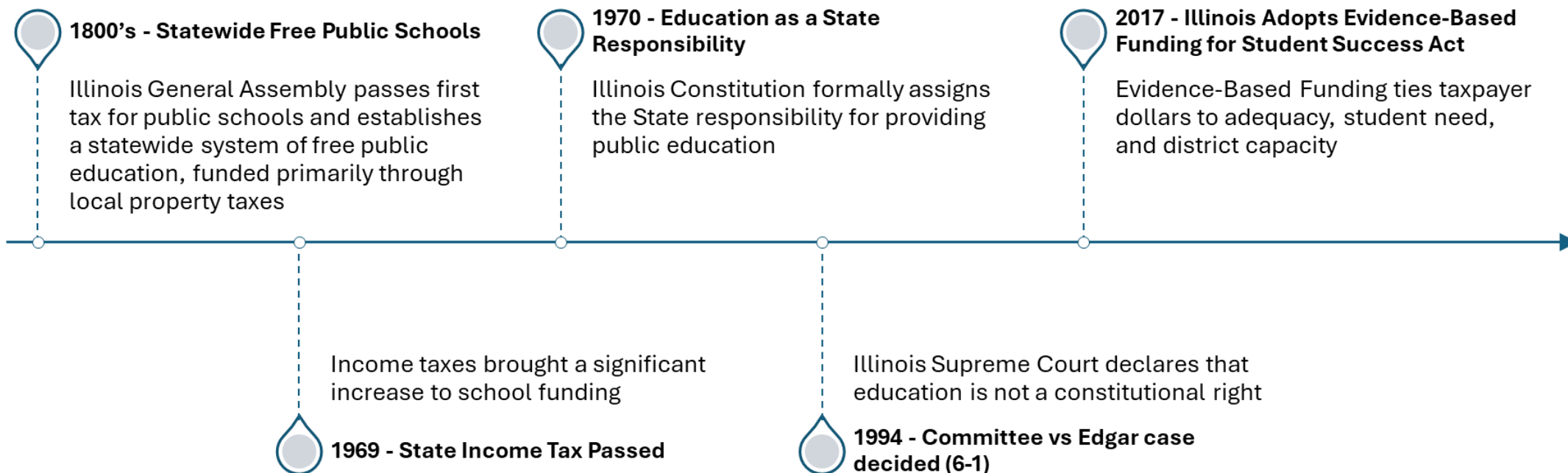
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Illinois Education History

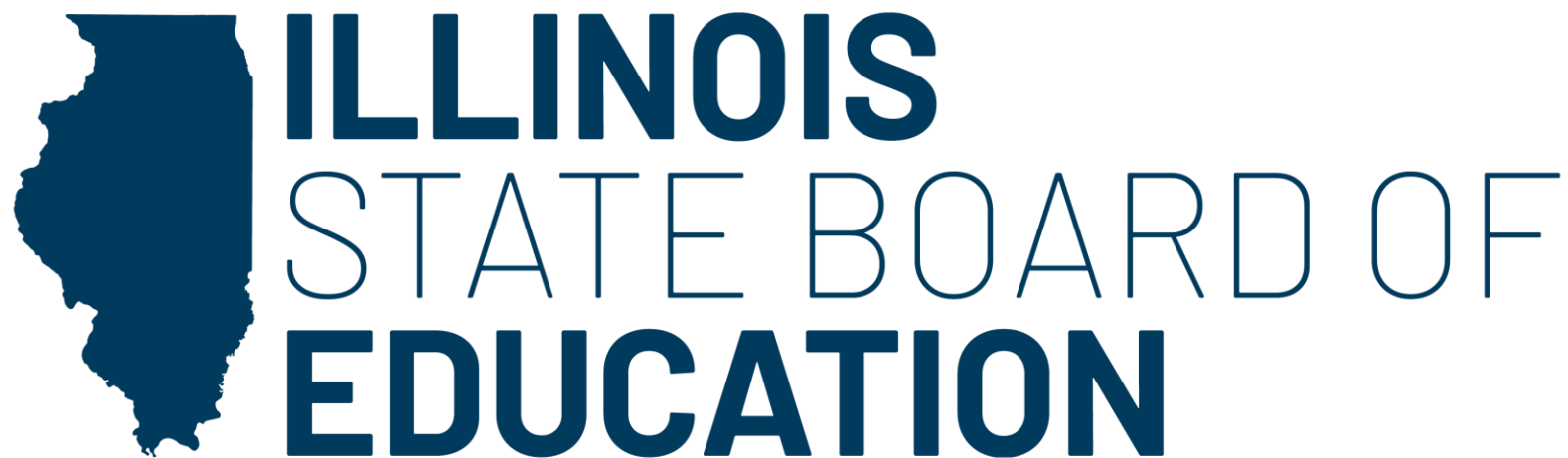
The State of Illinois has gradually assumed greater responsibility for public education, from the first statewide tax in the 1800s to the 1970 constitutional mandate. The 2017 Evidence-Based Funding Act marked the most significant shift in how the State directs resources toward student need and district capacity.





Education Authority in Illinois

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) is the statewide governing body responsible for setting policy, oversight, and strategic direction for public K-12 education in Illinois. Its authority comes from both the Illinois Constitution and the Illinois School Code.



"Provide each and every child with safe and healthy learning conditions, great educators, and equitable opportunities by practicing data-informed stewardship of resources and policy development, all done in partnership with educators, families, and stakeholders."

- ISBE Mission Statement



Illinois Department of Early Childhood

The Illinois Department of Early Childhood (IDEC) was created to consolidate early childhood programs that were previously spread across multiple state agencies into one centralized department.



Key Goals:

- Improve coordination across programs
- Reduce administrative duplication
 - Simplify access for families
- Increase accountability through one agency

Expected Benefits:

- More efficient government operations
 - Easier navigation of services for families
- Better alignment of early childhood resources and funding



State vs Federal Graduation Requirements

Illinois <i>Illinois School Code and Illinois State Board of Education</i>
4 years language arts
3 years mathematics (1 of which must be Algebra I and may include 1 year of computer science)
2 years science, 2 years social studies (at least 1 year must be US history or combination of US history and government)
1 year music, art, foreign language, or vocational
Minimum school year consist of 185 days, and 176 days of actual attendance
ISBE provides leadership advocacy, and oversight

Federal <i>U.S. Department of Education, ESSA, and NAEP</i>
Assessments on mathematics and reading or language arts administered in each of grades 3rd-8th and at least once in grades 9th-12th
NAEP selects a small sample that accurately represents students in the nation



U.S. Department of Education Federal Mandates

Federal law establishes minimum standards and equity requirements while states retain primary authority over curriculum and instructions

No Child Left Behind Act (2002)	Common Core Standards (2010)	Every Students Succeeds Act (2015)
- Reauthorized the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) - Required annual standardized testing and Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) - Mandated subgroup reporting to expose achievement gaps - Relied heavily on test-based sanctions - Increased administrative and instructional demands on states	- Focused on Mathematics and English Language Arts - Defined academic expectations across grade levels - Adoption and implementation determined by individual states	- Maintained annual assessments and subgroup reporting - Allowed states to design their own accountability systems - Clarified the federal role as oversight and support rather than prescription - Shifted responsibility for improvement strategies to states and districts



Education Overview

New Jersey



- Frequent interim assessments identify learning gaps and guide instructional adjustments
- Data-driven professional learning aligns teacher collaboration and coaching

2024 NAEP SCORES

Reading	Math
Gr 4	
222 vs 214 US	240 vs 237 US
Gr 8	
266 vs 257 US	282 vs 272 US

Minnesota



- North Star accountability system tracks reading and math proficiency
- Reports English learner progress as well as four-year graduation rates

2024 NAEP SCORES

Reading	Math
Gr 4	
214 vs 214 US	241 vs 237 US
Gr 8	
260 vs 257 US	282 vs 272 US

Massachusetts



- MCAS accountability system reports four-year graduation rates

2024 NAEP SCORES

Reading	Math
Gr 4	
225 vs 214 US	246 vs 237 US
Gr 8	
268 vs 257 US	283 vs 272 US

High Performing States



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From lowest literacy achievement rates to a national leader in reading proficiency, Mississippi has implemented the following without large funding increases:

Strong Legislative Foundation (2013)	Early Identification & Alignment	Instructional Capacity & Teacher Support	Targeted Intervention & Accountability	Statewide Coordination
Literacy-Based Promotion Act (LBPA) and Early Learning Collaboratives Act (ELCA) Established a statewide K–3 framework for literacy reform	Universal reading screener within the first 30 days of kindergarten Early-childhood programs aligned with K–3 literacy goals	Literacy coaches placed in low-performing districts to model instruction and provide feedback Teacher preparation and professional development aligned to the science of reading (LETRS)	Third-grade reading requirement tied to grade-level proficiency Supportive retention policy with remediation, reassessment, and continued coaching	Implementation coordinated across state leaders, districts, preparation programs, and community organizations



Performance Data

Comparing Midwest States

State	Number of Students Enrolled	Pupil/Teacher Ratio	Number of School Districts	Number of Full Time Equivalent teachers
Illinois	1,846,264	13.53	1031	136,492.2
Indiana	1,032,723	15.33	444	67,373.75
Iowa	508,112	14.09	336	36,068.04
Kansas	483,505	13.01	337	37,166.56
Michigan	1,426,491	16.58	365	86,021.53
Minnesota	869,967	14.7	574	59,181.41
Missouri	891,248	12.77	565	69,785.52
Nebraska	329,162	13.69	279	24,052.26
North Dakota	119,033	12.35	221	9,639.10
South Dakota	141,467	13.71	165	10,315.30
Wisconsin	814,202	13.66	468	59,623.02
Ohio	1,675,300	16.64	1057	100,659.10



Performance Data

Regional State Education Scores

State	Grade 4 Math Avg	Grade 4 Reading Avg	Grade 8 Math Avg	Grade 8 Reading Avg
Illinois	236	214	277	262
Indiana	240	220	278	262
Iowa	237	215	275	261
Kansas	237	213	274	255
Michigan	235	209	270	255
Minnesota	241	214	282	260
Missouri	235	212	270	255
Nebraska	238	212	280	256
North Dakota	241	216	280	257
Ohio	239	216	279	260
South Dakota	240	214	281	260
Wisconsin	239	215	283	260
National Average	236	214	272	257



How Chicago Compares

Chicago Public School 2025 Proficiency	Illinois 2025 Proficiency
ELA - Overall: 42% proficient - High School: 39.8% proficient - Grades 3–8: 42.4% proficient	ELA - Overall: 52.4% proficient - High School: 51.3% proficient - Grades 3–8: 52.6% proficient
Math - Overall: 27% proficient - High School: 25.2% proficient - Grades 3–8: 27.3% proficient	Math - Overall: 38.4% proficient - High School: 39% proficient - Grades 3–8: 38.2% proficient

Most Chicago students test below grade level standards

The percent of 3rd-8th grade students meeting proficiency standards in ELA and math on the Illinois Assessment of Readiness and 11th grade students on the ACT in 2025 in Chicago Public Schools.

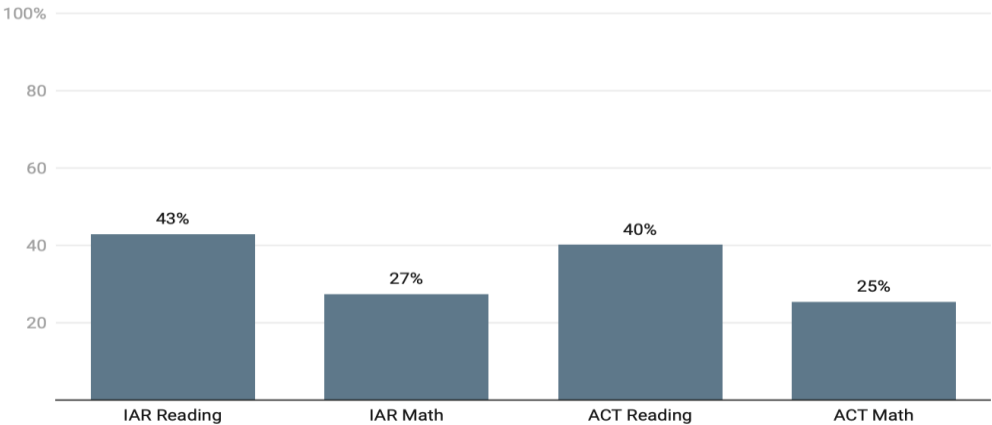
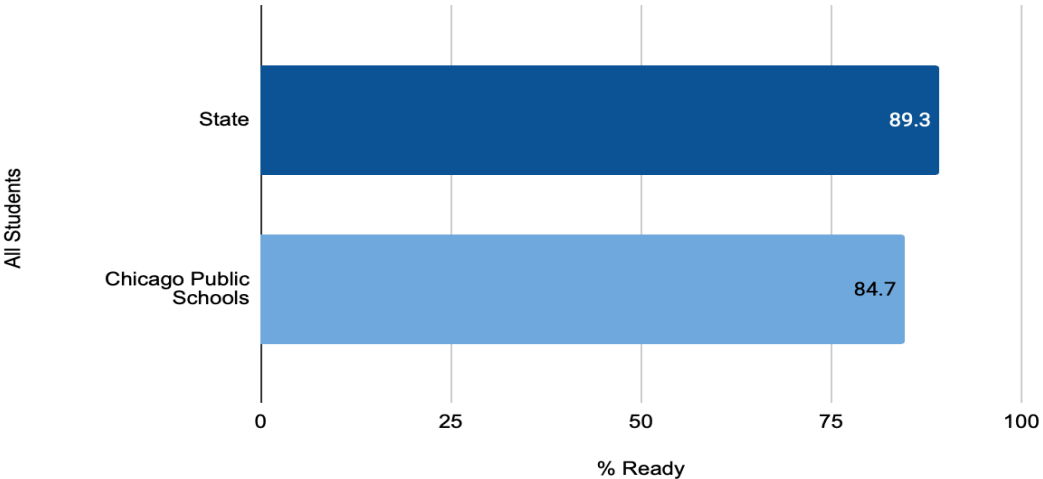


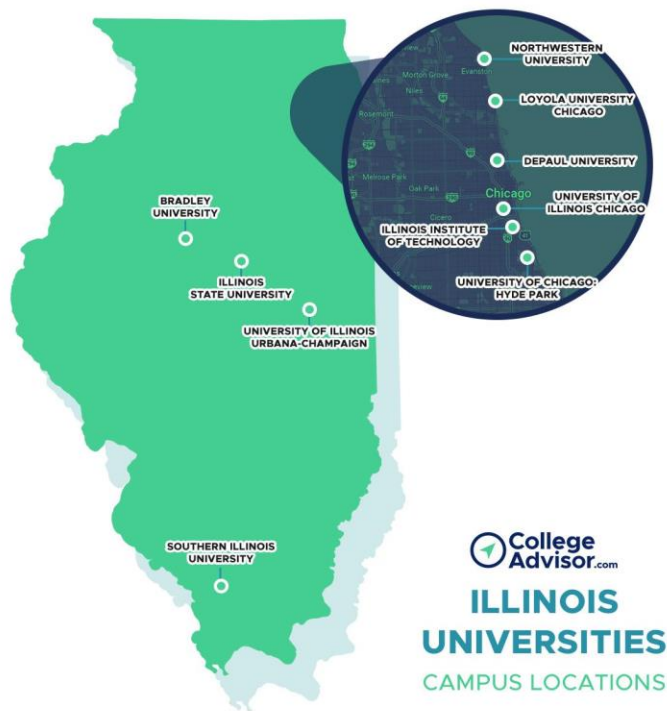
Chart: @illinoispolicy • Source: Illinois State Board of Education • [Get the data](#) • Created with [Datawrapper](#)

9th Grade on Track





Performance Data



International Student Enrollement in Higher Education

International Student Enrollment in Illinois

- Illinois hosts **100,000+ international students** statewide.
- University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign enrolls **13,000+ international students** (~22% of enrollment).
- International students are concentrated in major research universities and graduate programs.

- **65,082 international students in March of 2026**
- **13,000+ International Students at UIUC**

- **22% of UIUC Enrollment**
- **55% are Graduate Students**



UIUC International Student Data

Metric	Value
Total Enrollment (Fall 2025)	60,848 students
Undergraduate Enrollment	38,572 students
Graduate Enrollment	20,877 students
International Students	13,350 students
International Share of Enrollment	~22% (about 1 in 5 students)
International Undergraduate Students	~5,533 students
International Graduate Students	~7,817 students
International Graduate Share	~58% of international students
Countries Represented	100+ countries
Primary Fields of Study	Engineering, Computer Science, Data Science, and other STEM fields
Tuition Impact	International students typically pay 2–3× higher tuition than Illinois residents
National Ranking	Among the highest international enrollments of U.S. public universities



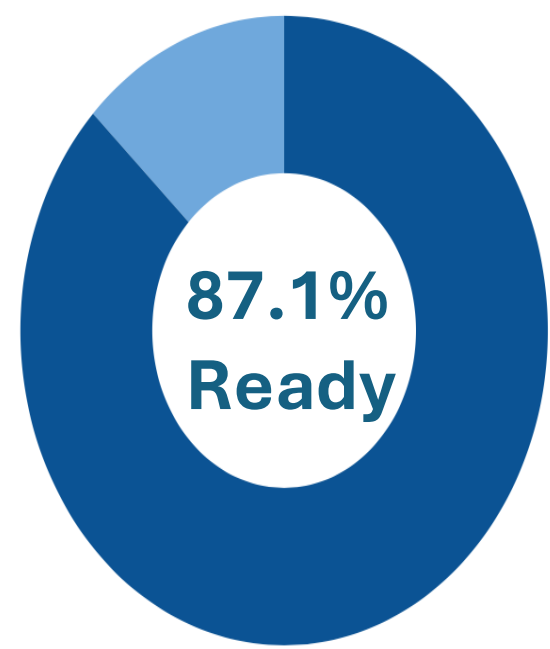
Performance Data

Early Learning Readiness

Since 2017-2018 school year, Illinois teachers have used the KIDS assessment to observe students during natural activities like play and group work. This approach maps development across three key domains as children enter school. These early milestones help educators understand each student's unique strengths and needs from day one.

Entering Kindergarten Readiness

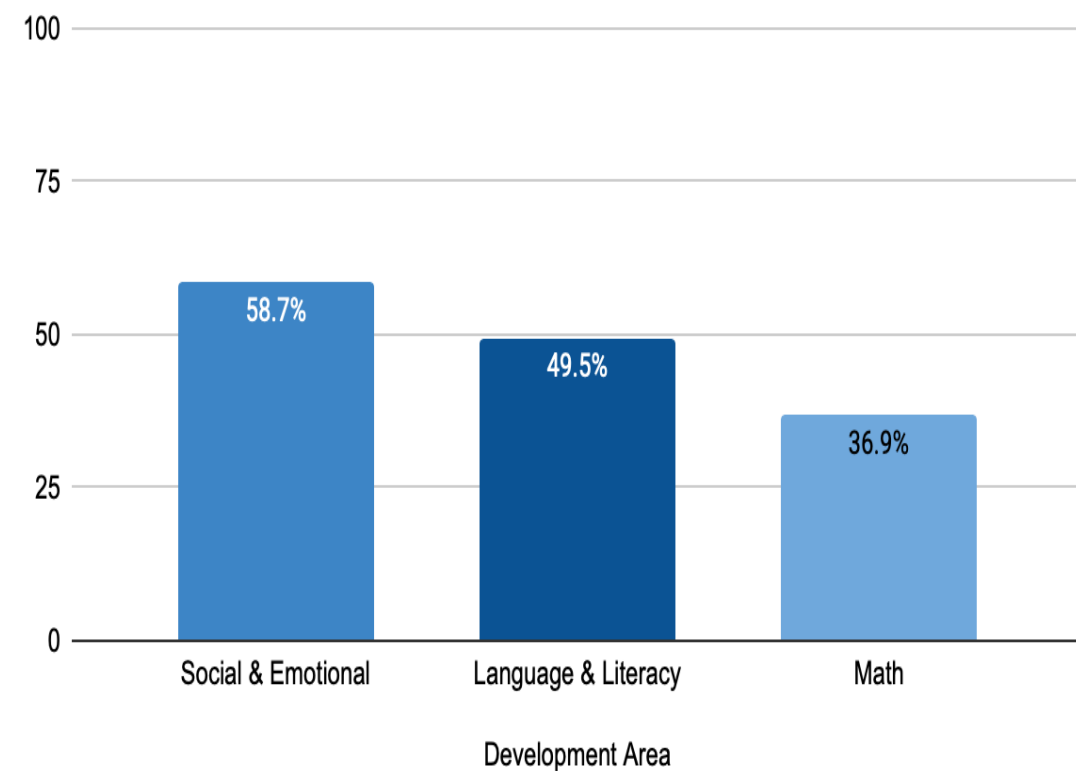
Illinois State Board of Education - 2025



- Ready - 87.1%
- Not Ready - 12.9%

Readiness by Development Area

Illinois State Board of Education - 2025





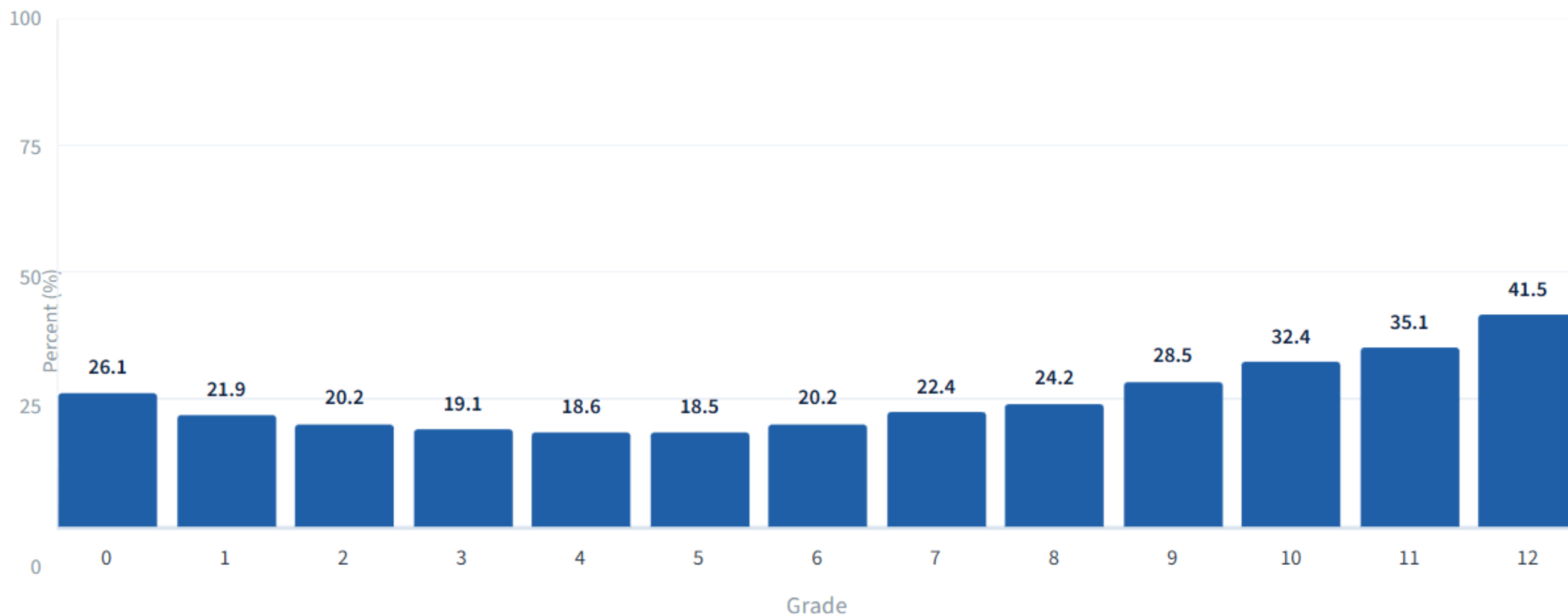
Chronic Absenteeism in Illinois

Illinois law defines "chronic absentee" as a student who misses 10% of school days within an academic year with or without a valid excuse. Chronic absenteeism can lead to lower reading/graduation rates and higher dropout risks.

Chronic Absenteeism by Grade

Note: 0 = Kindergarten

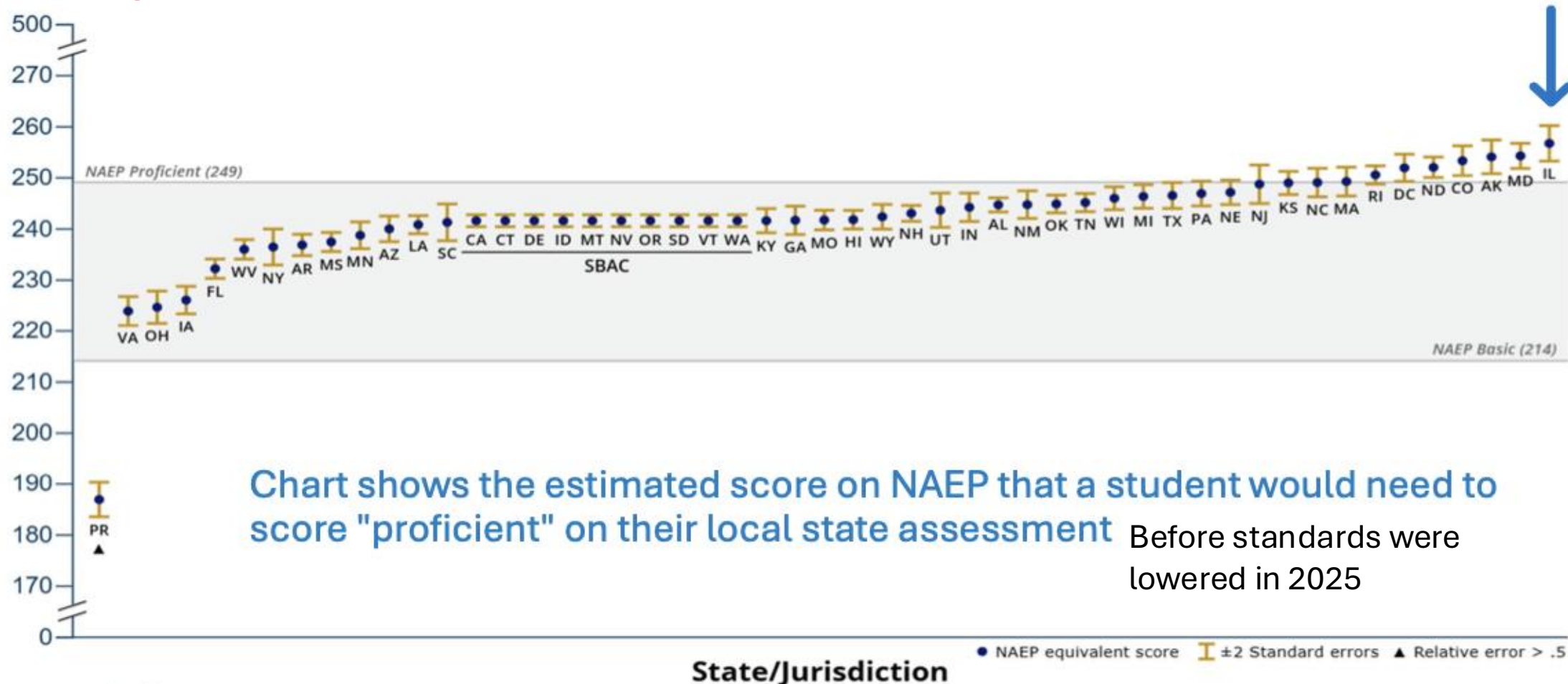
% of Students Who Miss 10% or More of School Days





National Assessment of Education Proficiency

Illinois had the most restrictive benchmarks for ELA and Math proficiency. Performance levels did not match classroom realities. Illinois lowered its proficiency standards in 2025, this made the "percentage of students proficient in reading and math" higher without improving their actual performance.





Proficiency in Illinois

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

National Assessment of Educational Progress

- National Scale (0-500)
- Different scoring system

NAEP average scores are mean scale scores, not proficiency level.

Illinois Grade 8 Averages

- Reading: ~262
- Math: ~277

Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR)

- Scaled Scores (~ 650-850)
- Cut scores set by ISBE
- 4 Levels
Below | Approaching | Proficient | Above

2025 Results

- ELA: ~ 52% Proficient or Above
- Math: ~38% Proficient or Above

These are state-set performance thresholds aligned to grade-level standards.

Understanding the Results

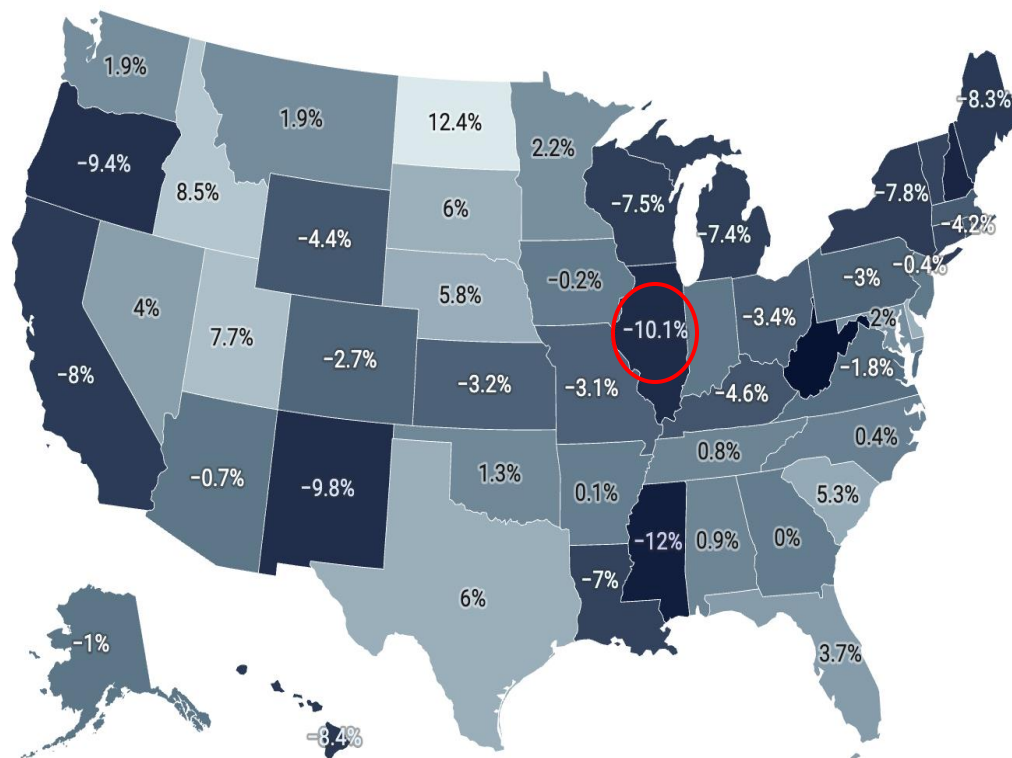
Proficiency = performance at one-point in time
Growth = year-over-year progress

NAEP and IAR scores are not directly comparable.

About **33%** students are proficient in **reading** and **32%** in **math** on NAEP, compared with **52% in ELA** and **~38% in math** on IAR.



Performance Data



National average: -2% (rounded)

Source: NCES • Created with Datawrapper

Illinois Public School Enrollment

4th Largest Decline in the Nation

10% Enrollment Decline

- Illinois public school enrollment fell **10%** between 2014 and 2024.
- National enrollment declined just **2%** during the same period.

4th-Worst in the U.S.

- Illinois ranked **4th nationwide** for percentage decline in public school enrollment.
- Only **West Virginia, Mississippi, and New Hampshire** experienced larger enrollment losses.

Nearly 127,000 Students Lost Since 2019

- Enrollment dropped from approximately **1.98 million students in 2019** to about **1.85 million students** in recent years.

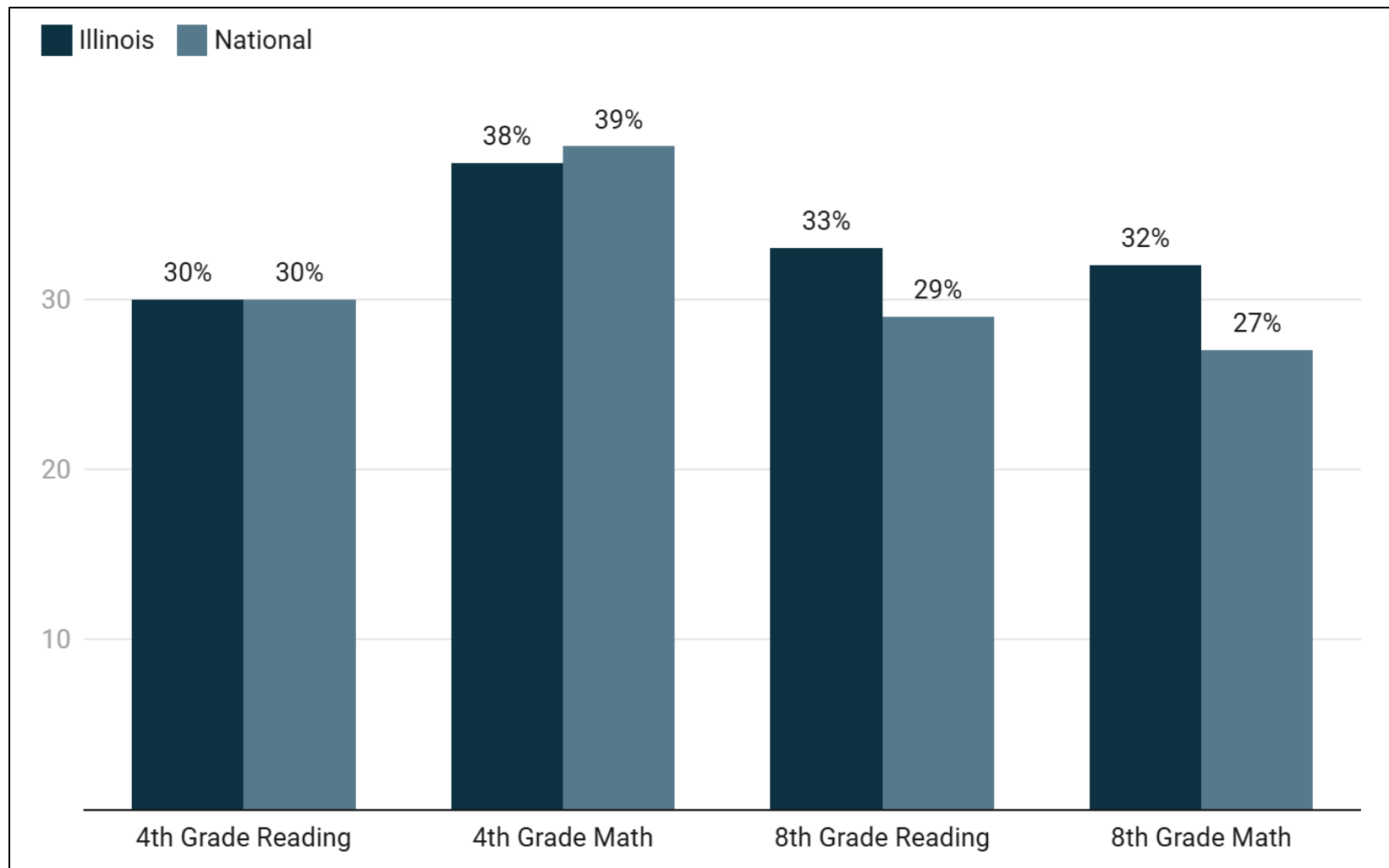
Long-Term Trend

- Illinois enrollment has declined in **13 of the past 15 years**.
- Student enrollment continues to trend downward despite increased education spending.



Illinois vs National Average

Even after lowering proficiency standards in Illinois and slightly outperforming the national average, most Illinois students do not meet NAEP proficiency standards



The percent of fourth and eighth grade students meeting or exceeding proficient standards in reading and math on the National Assessment of Educational Progress in 2024



Proficiency and Demographics

ELA, Math and Science

Illinois State Board of Education: 2025

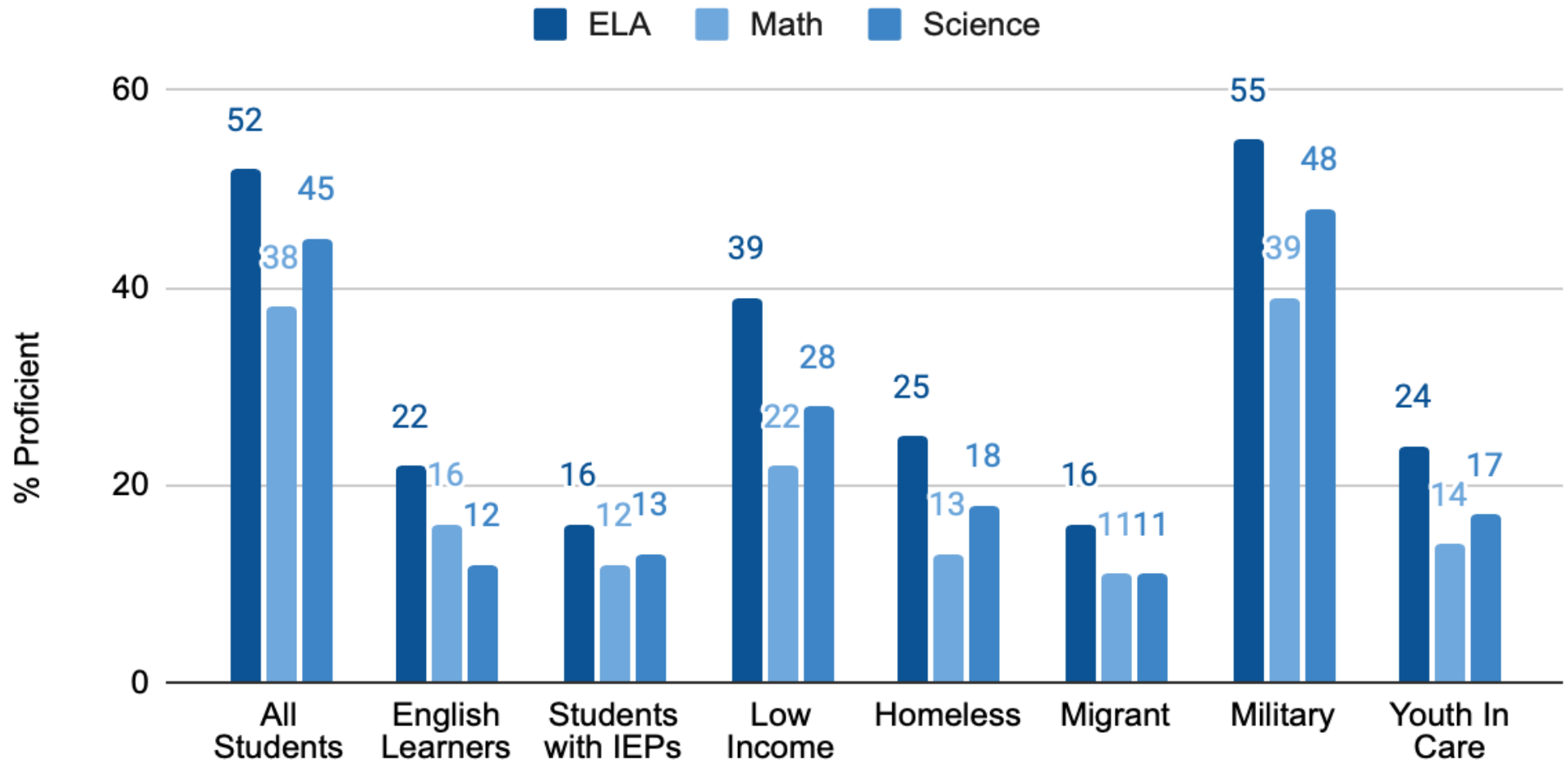




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Funding Data

Total School Spending

(FY 2021 Data)

Property Taxes and other local taxes
paid 52% (\$21.2B) of the \$40B School
Spend

State	Total Local \$	Total State \$	Total Federal \$	Total All Sources	Total Local \$/Total All Sources
Illinois	\$21,299,050,000.00	\$16,117,573,000.00	\$3,197,010,000.00	\$40,613,633,000.00	52%
Pennsylvania	\$18,884,468,000.00	\$13,056,288,000.00	\$3,263,192,000.00	\$35,203,948,000.00	54%
Florida	\$16,993,413,000.00	\$14,072,267,000.00	\$4,763,710,000.00	\$35,829,390,000.00	47%
New York	\$45,053,845,000.00	\$29,093,368,000.00	\$3,567,409,000.00	\$77,714,622,000.00	58%
Texas	\$37,119,774,000.00	\$27,559,808,000.00	\$9,349,671,000.00	\$74,029,253,000.00	50%
New Jersey	\$17,606,591,000.00	\$16,224,441,000.00	\$1,899,244,000.00	\$35,730,276,000.00	49%
Connecticut	\$7,230,414,000.00	\$4,484,299,000.00	\$671,481,000.00	\$12,386,194,000.00	58%
Nebraska	\$2,901,592,000.00	\$1,596,679,000.00	\$497,506,000.00	\$4,995,777,000.00	58%
Vermont	\$37,980,000.00	\$1,739,914,000.00	\$206,938,000.00	\$1,984,832,000.00	2%
New Hampshire	\$2,199,293,000.00	\$1,093,913,000.00	\$252,513,000.00	\$3,545,719,000.00	62%
Ohio	\$14,174,122,000.00	\$10,983,197,000.00	\$2,681,945,000.00	\$27,839,264,000.00	51%
Wisconsin	\$5,871,847,000.00	\$5,747,313,000.00	\$6,708,045,000.00	\$18,327,205,000.00	32%
Michigan	\$7,230,861,000.00	\$13,498,567,000.00	\$2,943,912,000.00	\$23,673,340,000.00	31%



Extremely heavy K-12 reliance on property taxes

State	Total Student Population	Total Operational Spending Per Student	# of Organizational Units
New York	2,606,748	\$26,097	1,054
Vermont	82,401	\$24,050	184
New Jersey	1,373,960	\$22,784	701
Connecticut	509,058	\$22,216	206
New Hampshire	169,027	\$19,396	310
Illinois	1,886,137	\$18,527	1,032
Pennsylvania	1,704,396	\$17,822	787
Ohio	1,645,412	\$14,389	1,037
Nebraska	324,697	\$13,723	279
Michigan	1,434,137	\$13,351	891
Wisconsin	830,066	\$13,687	463
Texas	5,372,806	\$11,049	1,229
Florida	2,791,707	\$10,823	77

State	Property tax rate
Illinois	1.83
New Jersey	1.77
Connecticut	1.48
Nebraska	1.43
Vermont	1.42
New Hampshire	1.41
Texas	1.36
Ohio	1.31
New York	1.26
Wisconsin	1.25

Why "Organizational Units" is the term that is being used instead of "School Districts"..

According to the National Center for Education Statistics... School districts includes alternative education programs, special education cooperatives, and other special programs that are not considered as traditional elementary, high school, or unit school districts.



How Your Taxes Pay for Schools

Federal Tax

- 11.9 % of total K-12 revenue for FY 2024
- Funded through federal income tax revenue



State Tax

- 24.5 % of total K-12 revenue for FY 2024
- Funded primarily through state income, sales taxes, and corporate taxes



Local Tax

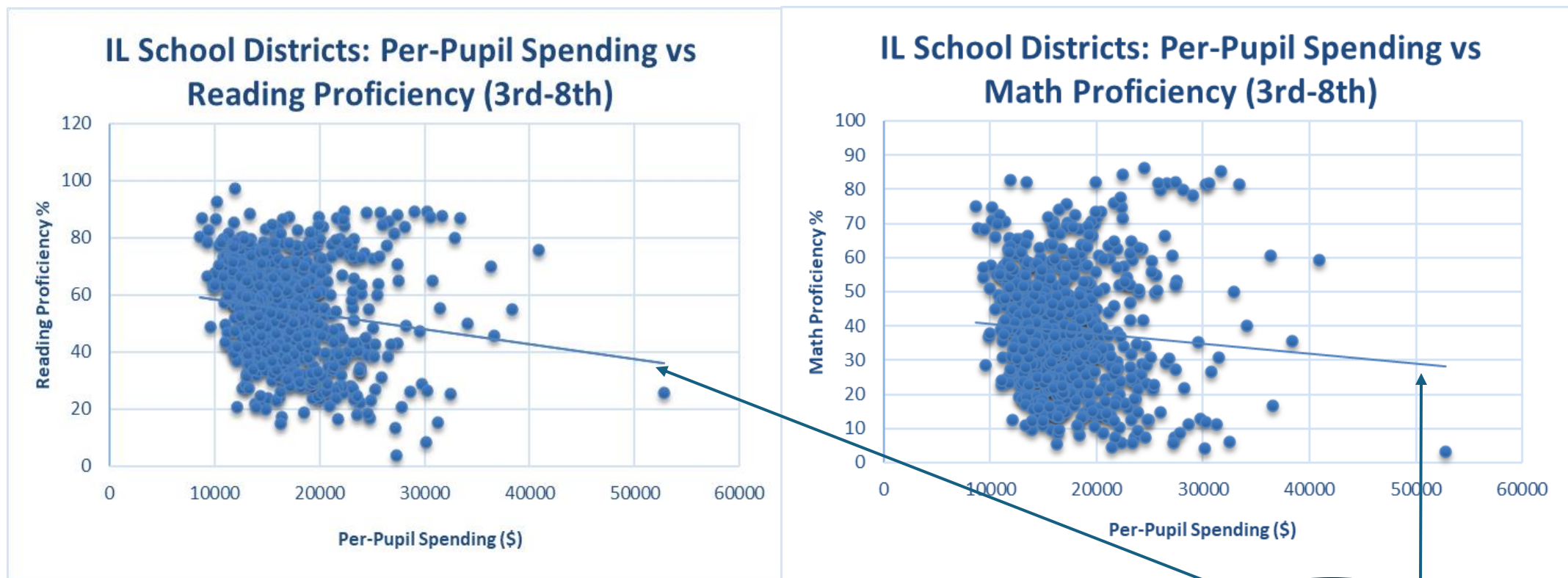
- 63.7% of total K-12 revenue for the FY 2024
- Funded primarily through local property taxes



Funding Data

\$ Per Student and Performance

Across Illinois elementary-serving districts, higher per-pupil spending does not predict higher math or reading proficiency. Achievement outcomes vary widely at all funding levels, indicating that factors other than total spending drive performance differences.



All Illinois elementary and unit districts. High school only districts removed.

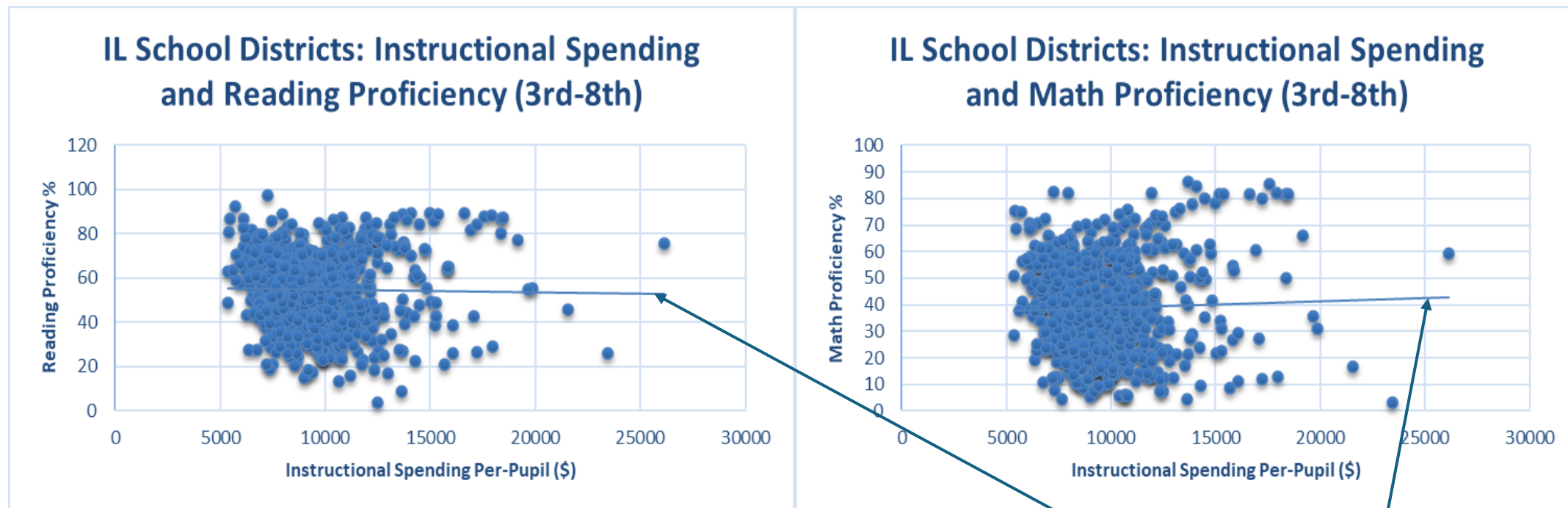
**Trend
Line**



Instructional Spending and Performance

(Operational Costs Removed)

Higher spending does not automatically translate into better outcomes. Much of the disconnect is explained by non-instructional costs. Once those are removed, instructional spending is by itself, still not a strong predictor of achievement.



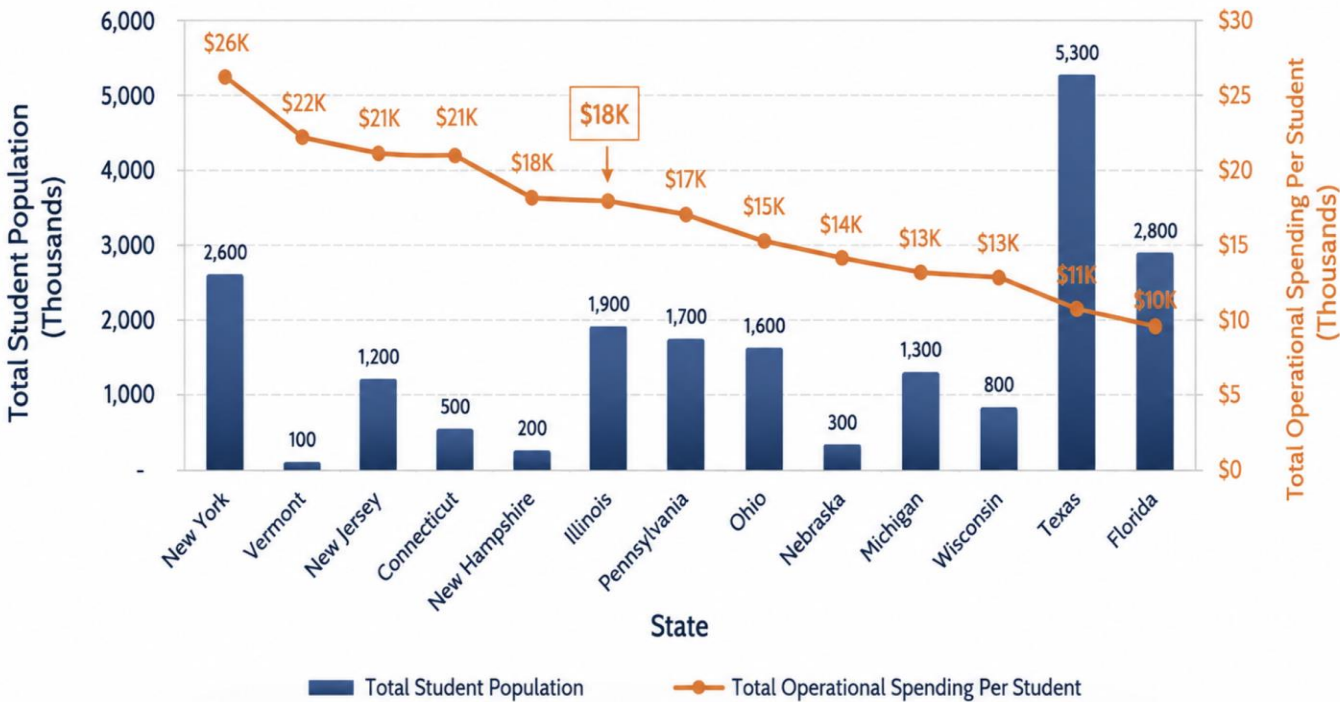
All Illinois elementary and unit districts. High school only districts removed.

**Trend
Line**



Spending Per Child and Student Population

Student Population vs Operational Spending Per Student



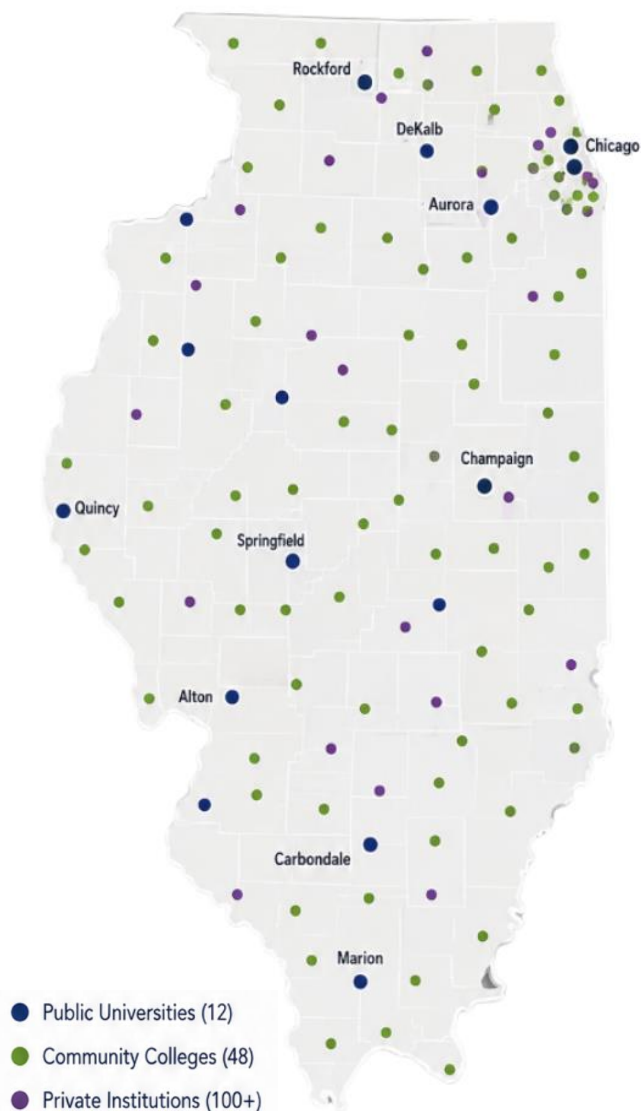
Illinois spends more per student than most large states; Illinois is shown at roughly \$18,000 per student, which is:

- **Higher than Pennsylvania (~\$17K)**
- **Higher than Ohio (~\$15K)**
- **Higher than Michigan (~\$14K)**
- **Higher than Wisconsin (~\$13K)**
- **Much higher than Texas (~\$11K)**
- **Much higher than Florida (~\$10K)**

Category	States
High Spending / Large Population	Illinois, New York, Pennsylvania
High Spending / Small Population	Vermont, Connecticut, New Hampshire
Lower Spending / Large Population	Texas, Florida
Lower Spending / Smaller Population	Nebraska, Wisconsin, Michigan



Funding Data



Higher Education Overview

Illinois includes 12 public universities, 48 community colleges, and 100+ private institutions

- Public universities enroll nearly 190,000 students statewide
- Illinois public university enrollment reached a 10-year high in 2025
- Community colleges enrolled 274,737 students in Fall 2025
- Illinois community colleges operate across 39 districts
- Private colleges/universities serve a significant share of students, especially in urban areas
- Total statewide postsecondary enrollment is approximately 735,000–740,000 students
- Illinois offers multiple pathways including bachelor's degrees, associate degrees, certificates, and workforce training



Funding Data

Illinois Public University Enrollment (2025)

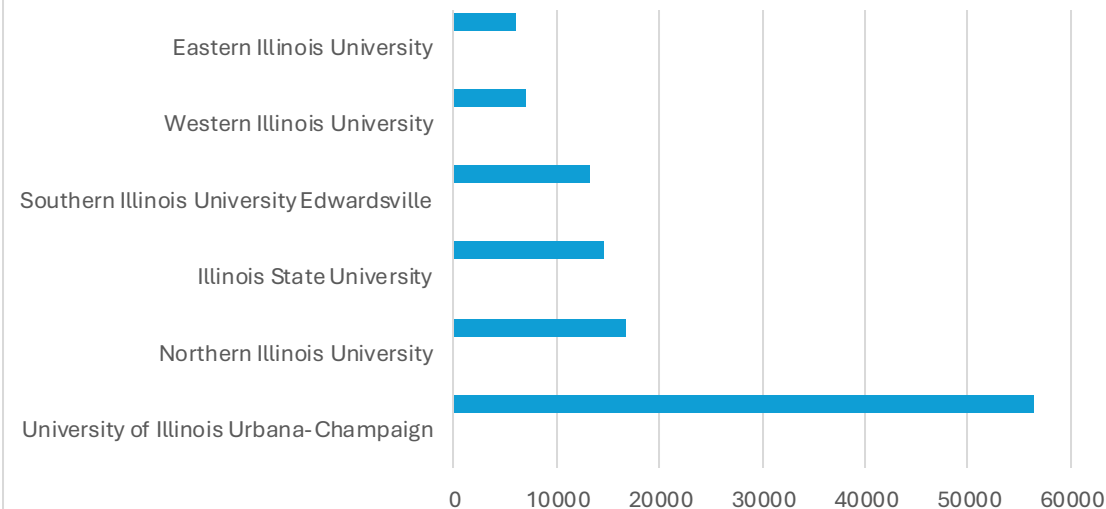
Total Enrollment

286,744

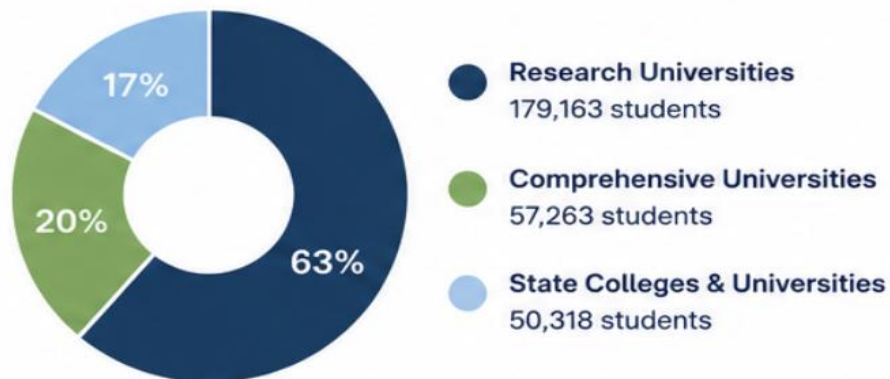
across Illinois Public Universities



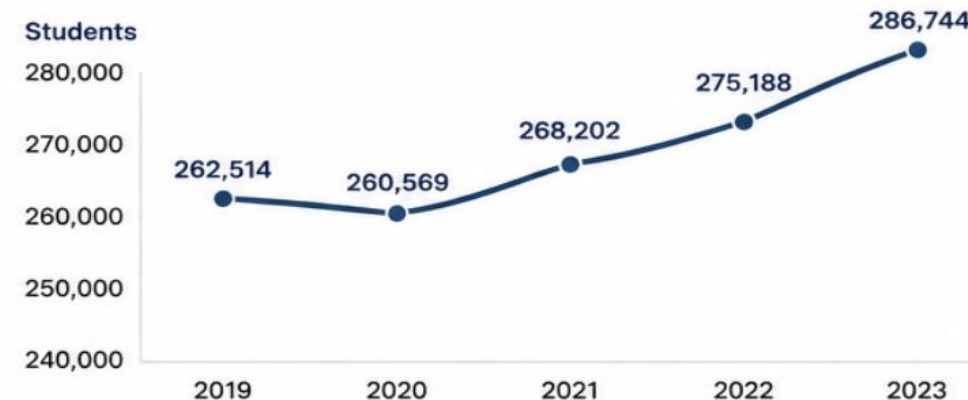
Total Enrollment by Institution



Enrollment by Institution Type



5-Year Enrollment Trend (All Public Universities)





Funding Data

Community College Enrollment

Illinois has 48 public community colleges in 39 districts



274,737

Students enrolled in Illinois Community Colleges in Fall 2025



4 STRAIGHT YRS

Enrollment has increased for 4 straight years statewide.



1.3%

Fall 2025 enrollment is 1.3% above pre pandemic levels.



411,000+

Students enrolled in credit coursework during FY2025



69.3%

Of students attend part-time, showing flexibility for working students



66.2%

Of students are under age 25



9.5%

CTE/Trade program enrollment increased by 9.5%



2.3%

Transfer program enrollment rose 2.3%



35.7%

Of students take online courses



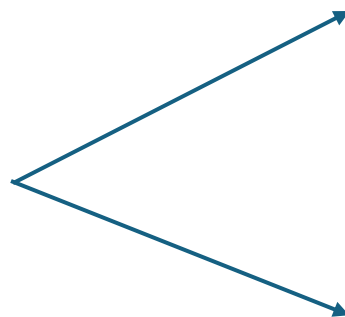
9.3%

Dual-credit enrollment increased by 9.3%



Funding Data

In 2025, Illinois distributed \$700.5 million in state-funded student financial aid, excluding loans. This aid supported students at public and private institutions, with no funding going to out-of-state schools.



Of the total, 60.5% was awarded to students at public colleges and universities.

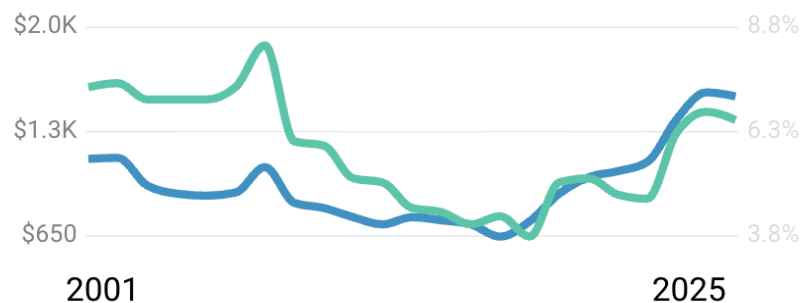
39.5% went to students at private institutions.

State Financial Aid

State Financial Aid for Students Attending Public Universities

Illinois

State Aid per FTE % of Appropriations



Note: Data for these metrics is not available prior to 2001.



2027 Fiscal Spending for Higher Education

FY27 Focus Areas

- Keep college affordable
- Strengthen workforce pathways
- Address teacher shortages
- Support student success

FY 2027 INVESTMENTS		
	Maintain MAP (Monetary Award Program)	\$721.6M
	Maintain AIM HIGH	\$50.0M
	1% increase in operating funding for public universities	\$13.0M
	1% increase in funding for community colleges, adult education, and career and technical education	\$3.0M
	Increase in Student Success Grants	\$0.5M
	Continued funding to support community college investments in dual-credit and non-credit workforce grant programs	CONTINUED FUNDING
	Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in Illinois (DFI) Program	\$2.0M
	Teachers of Illinois Scholarship Program	\$8.0M
	Support Common App simplified admissions	\$3.0M
	Support Prepare for Illinois' Future Program (free test preparation materials for various professional programs)	\$7.0M
	Continue Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity scholarships	\$5.0M
	Golden Apple Scholars	\$10.75M
	Golden Apple Accelerators	\$5.0M



Funding Data

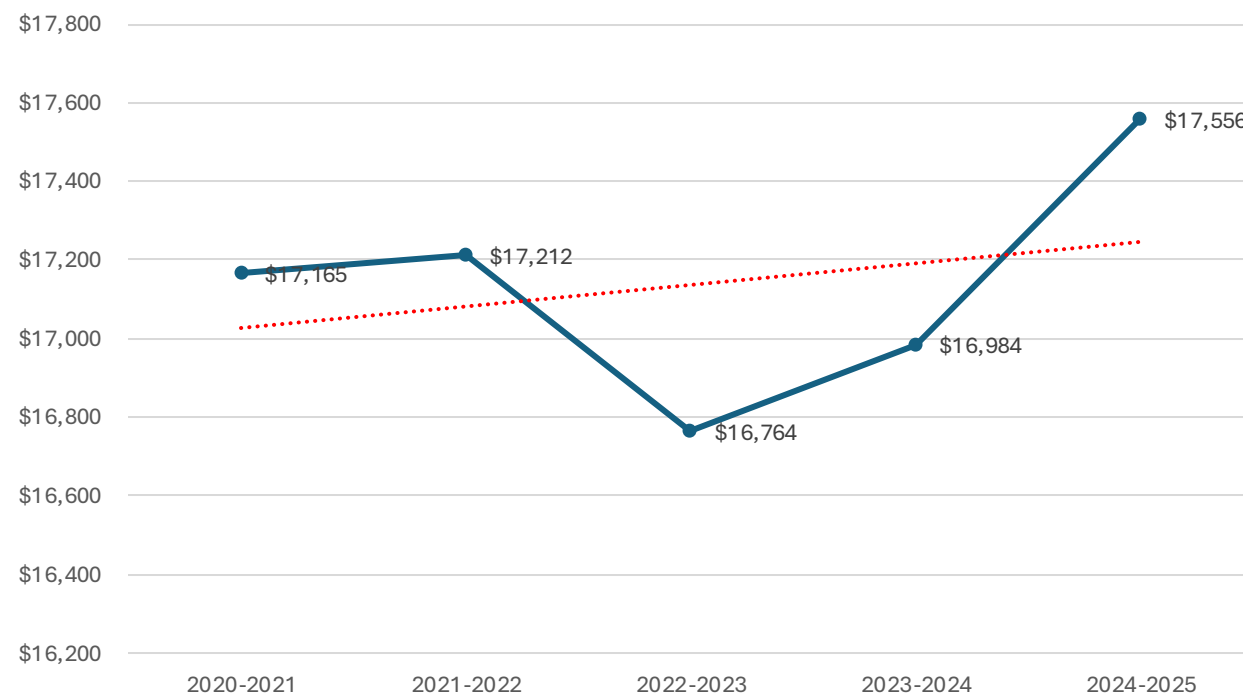
Trade School Overview

Illinois is home to 78 vocational trade schools classified as less-than-two-year institutions, providing students with career-focused education and hands-on training in a variety of skilled professions.

This data shows that:

- Average tuition and fees for Illinois trade schools have remained relatively stable over the past five years
- The average tuition is computed based on the largest program's tuition at each trade school.
- There's an upward trend overall
- After a temporary drop in 2022–2023, costs rebounded to a high of about **\$17,556** in 2024–2025.

Average Tuition & Fees of Illinois Trade Schools





Funding Data

Illinois Trade Education Trends (2025-2026)

Workforce Demand

- Illinois continues to face labor shortages in HVAC, welding, electrical work, transportation, and manufacturing.
- Employers increasingly value certifications and hands-on experience over traditional four-year degrees.
- Trade careers are viewed as stable pathways to middle-class wages.

Growing workforce demand is driving expansion in apprenticeships and technical education.

Apprenticeships & Training Growth

- Illinois has approximately 16,000 registered apprentices statewide.
- Apprenticeships now extend beyond construction into healthcare, IT, logistics, and manufacturing.
- Community colleges are expanding technical and advanced manufacturing programs.

Expanding Access

- The state is investing in pre-apprenticeship programs.
- Programs are designed to support women, veterans, and low-income students.
- Workforce pipelines are being strengthened through early career training initiatives.



Graduation and Employment Rate Statistics and Information

Many vocational programs show **strong job placement rates** despite varying completion rates.

Midwest Technical Instutue Graduation and Employment Rate

Springfield IL	Graduation Rate	Employment Rate
Basic Nursing Assistant	99%	84%
Dental Assisting	73%	78%
HVAC/R Technician	83%	71%
Welding	86%	80%
Welding & Pipefitting	69%	74%
Massage Therapy	86%	65%
Medical Assisting	53%	74%
Medical Coding Specialist	68%	77%
Phlebotomy	100%	75%
CDL – 2 month	89%	61%
CDL – 1 month	100%	75%

→ Key Insights

Graduation Rates Vary

- Most programs range between 50%–75% completion
- Rates depend on program type, schedule flexibility, and student population

Employment Outcomes Remain Strong

- Many programs report 70%–85% employment placement
- Students often enter the workforce before finishing credentials

Workforce Demand Drives Enrollment

- Skilled trades continue to face labor shortages
- Short-term certifications offer faster entry into stable careers



Funding Data

Trade Specific Breakdown

HVAC

70%-80% Completion rate

Strong demand in residential and commercial construction

Welding

80%+ Completion rate

Strong manufacturing and infrastructure demand

Healthcare

50%-65% Completion rate

High placement rates in hospitals and clinics

CDL/Trucking

70%-90% Completion rate

Supported by Illinois' logistics industry

Cosmetology

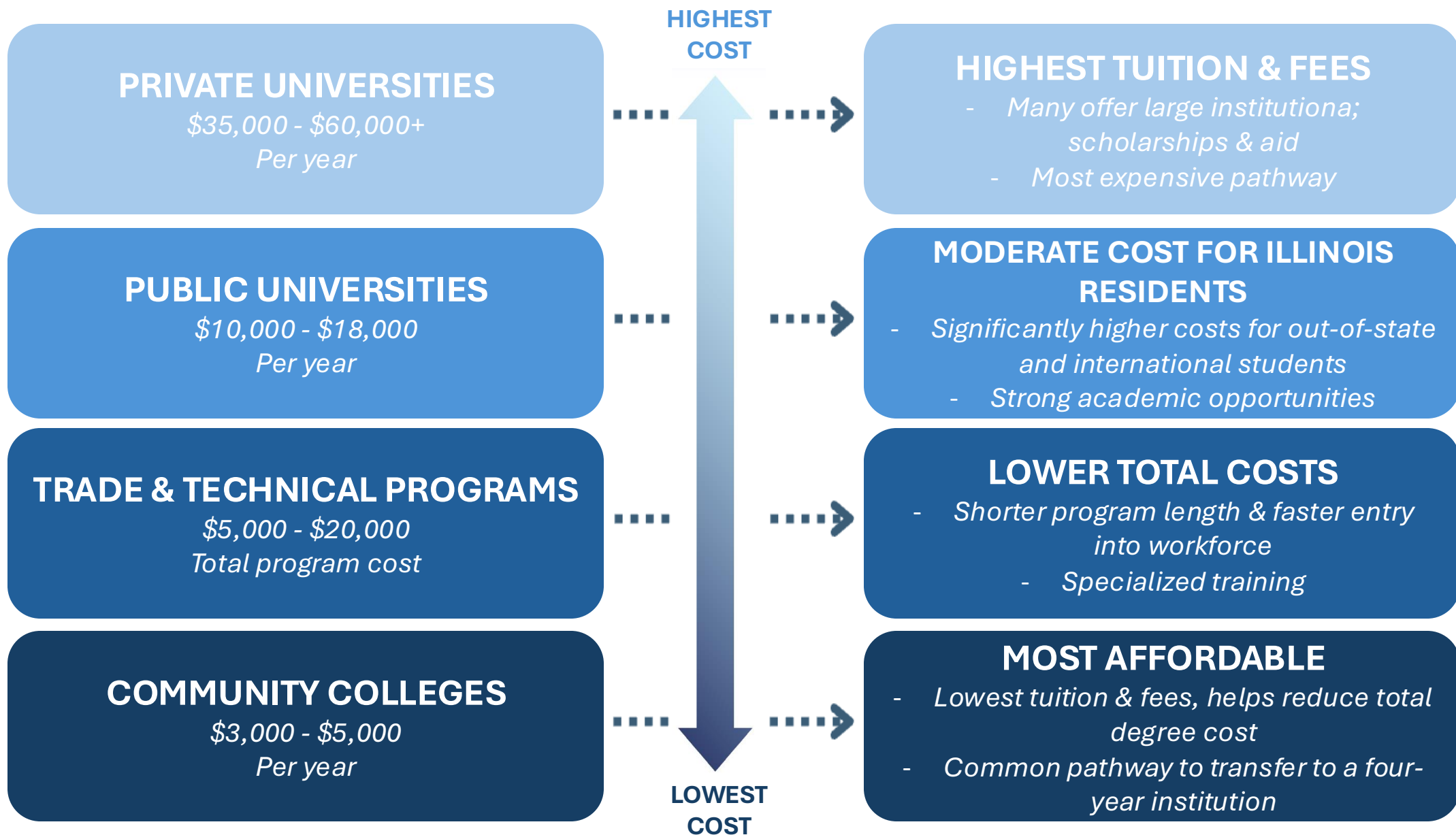
40%-70% Completion rate

Opportunities in salons and self-employment



Funding Data

Pathway Cost Comparisson





Funding Data

Federal Funding Programs

Title I

Provides funding to school districts serving higher concentrations of students from low-income households to improve academic outcomes.

Title II

Supports teacher and principal preparation, professional development, and educator effectiveness.

Title III

Supports language instruction and academic achievement for English learners and immigrant students.

Title IV

Supports student academic enrichment, including school safety, well-rounded education, and educational technology.

Individuals With Disabilities Act

Supports special education and related services for students with disabilities to help states meet federally required standards.

Career and Technical Education

Supports career and technical education programs aligned with workforce and postsecondary readiness.



Funding Data

Evidence Based Funding (EBF)

Purpose of Evidence Based Funding is to direct more resources to under-resourced districts by determining how much funding each district needs to adequately educate students and help all schools reach adequate funding levels.

The state contribution to Evidence-Based Funding is composed of:



Tier Funding will vary depending on a district's final Percent of Adequacy.

Key Components of the Formula

Base Funding Minimum

- Guarantees each district keeps at least its prior year state funding level.

Adequacy Target

- Estimates total funding needed for district to adequately educate its students.

Local Capacity Target

- Calculates how much revenue a district is expected to raise from local resources

Adequacy Percentage

- Shows how close a district is to its funding target by comparing available resources to need.



Funding Data

What the Tiers Mean

- ✓ Tier 1 – Furthest from adequacy → receives most new funding
- ✓ Tier 2 – Below adequacy → receives significant funding
- ✓ Tier 3 – Near adequacy → limited new funding
- ✓ Tier 4 – At or above adequacy → least new funding

Key Principles

- ✓ Lower adequacy % - more state assistance
- ✓ High adequacy % - less state assistance
- ✓ As funding increases over time, districts move closer to adequacy.

Evidence Based Funding (EBF) - Tier

Number of Organizational Units by EBF Tier Assignment

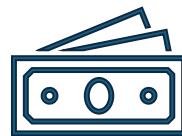
	FY 19	FY 20	FY 22	FY 23	FY 24	FY 25	FY 26
Tier 1	314	372	355	384	340	369	286
Tier 2	341	343	330	275	248	219	313
Tier 3	58	55	62	72	99	93	96
Tier 4	140	151	175	196	242	247	239
Total	853	921	922	927	929	928	934

Tier	Target Ratio	State Assistance
Tier 1	< 75.6% (FY 26)	Furthest away from adequacy, more state assistance
Tier 2	≥ 75.6% and < 90%	
Tier 3	≥90% <100%	
Tier 4	≥100%	Greater than adequacy, least amount of state assistance.



Funding Data

958 schools received funds
totaling **\$143,605,198**



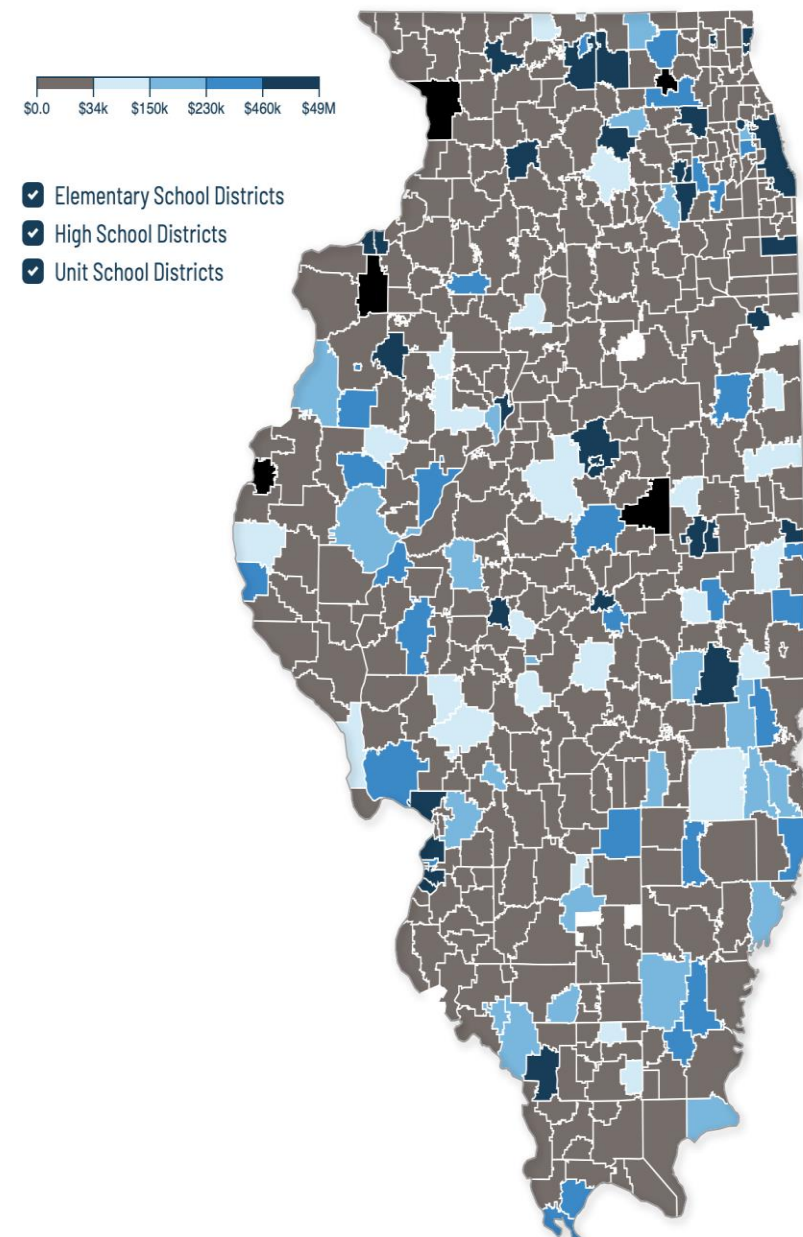
Every Student Succeeds Act Section 1003A

- Administrative costs limited to 3%
- Majority of funds used for direct student services
- Priority to schools identified for comprehensive and targeted support.

Examples of Direct Student Services

- Academic tutoring
- Credit recovery programs
- Transportation

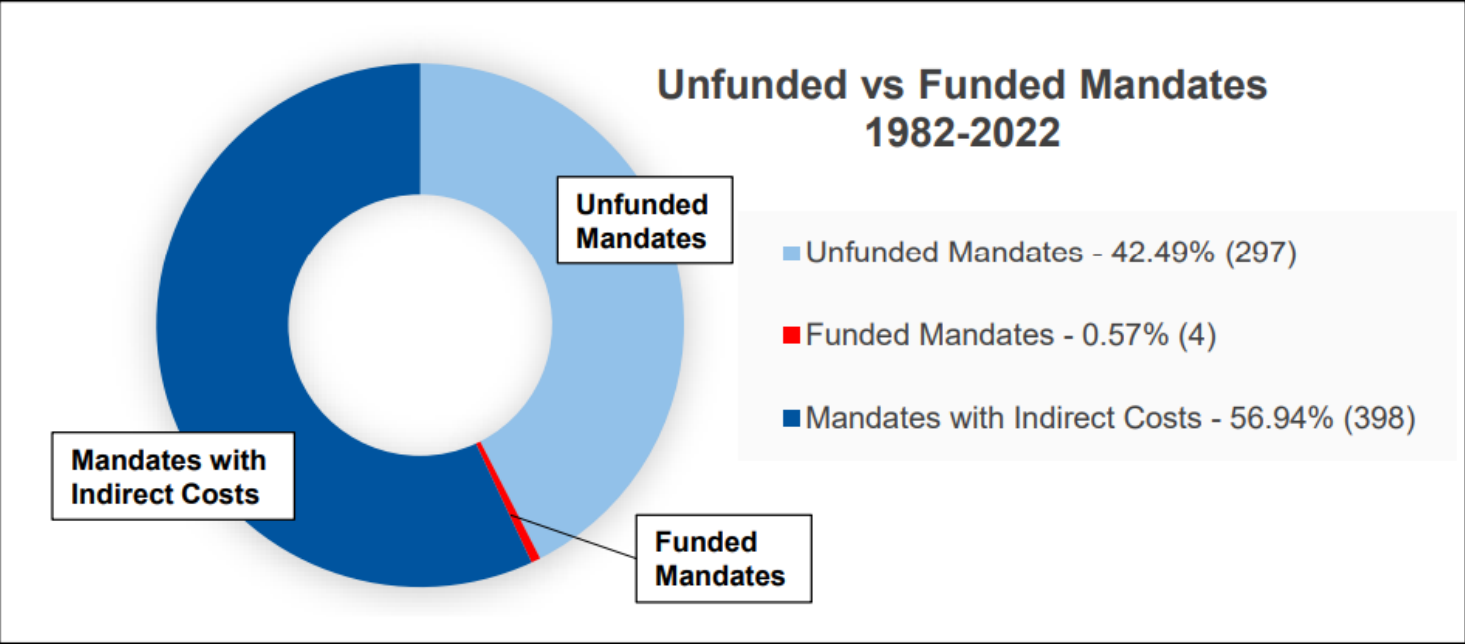
School Improvement Funds





Unfunded vs Funded Mandates

Unfunded	Funded	Indirect Costs
State of Illinois imposes additional costs. Appropriation does not fully cover costs. Local education agencies must make up the shortfall.	Have an appropriation allocated to fully fund the initiative.	State of Illinois imposes additional duties carried out by existing staff, create additional costs that are offset by savings, or create an additional cost that is recovered from external financial aid.





Funding Data



\$24+ BILLION

Contributed to K-12 education since 1985



\$796 MILLION

(FY2025) transferred to education funds



SUPPORTS

The common school fund (primary K-12 funding stream)



~7%

Lottery = ~7% of total IL education funding

Lottery Funds

LOTTERY FUNDING STRUCTURE



FIRST DESTINATION
Common School Fund

Provides funding for elementary and secondary education – EBF, teacher retirement, salaries of regional superintendents and assistants.



P.A. 96-0034 capped the funds.



SECOND DESTINATION
Ten Special Cause Funds

A set of ten special cause funds:

- Carolyn Adams Ticket For The Cure
- Scratch-off for Illinois veterans
- Scratch-out Multiple Sclerosis scratch-off game
- Quality of Life scratch-off game
- Go For The Gold scratch-off game
- Scratch-off for State police memorials
- Scratch-off for homelessness prevention programs
- Scratch-off for Alzheimer's care, support, education, and awareness
- Scratch-off for United Negro College Fund Illinois
- Illinois DREAM scratch-off

WHERE LOTTERY FUNDS GO



Distributed statewide to support:

- ✓ Teachers and staff
- ✓ Classroom resources
- ✓ General school operations

Lottery funding is a **SUPPLEMENT**, not a primary source.



Increases in lottery revenue may offset other state funding, not always increase total education spending.



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Educators in IL

- Teacher Retirement
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- Educator data
- The State of Education
- Overview



Legislation

- Senate Bills and Relevant details

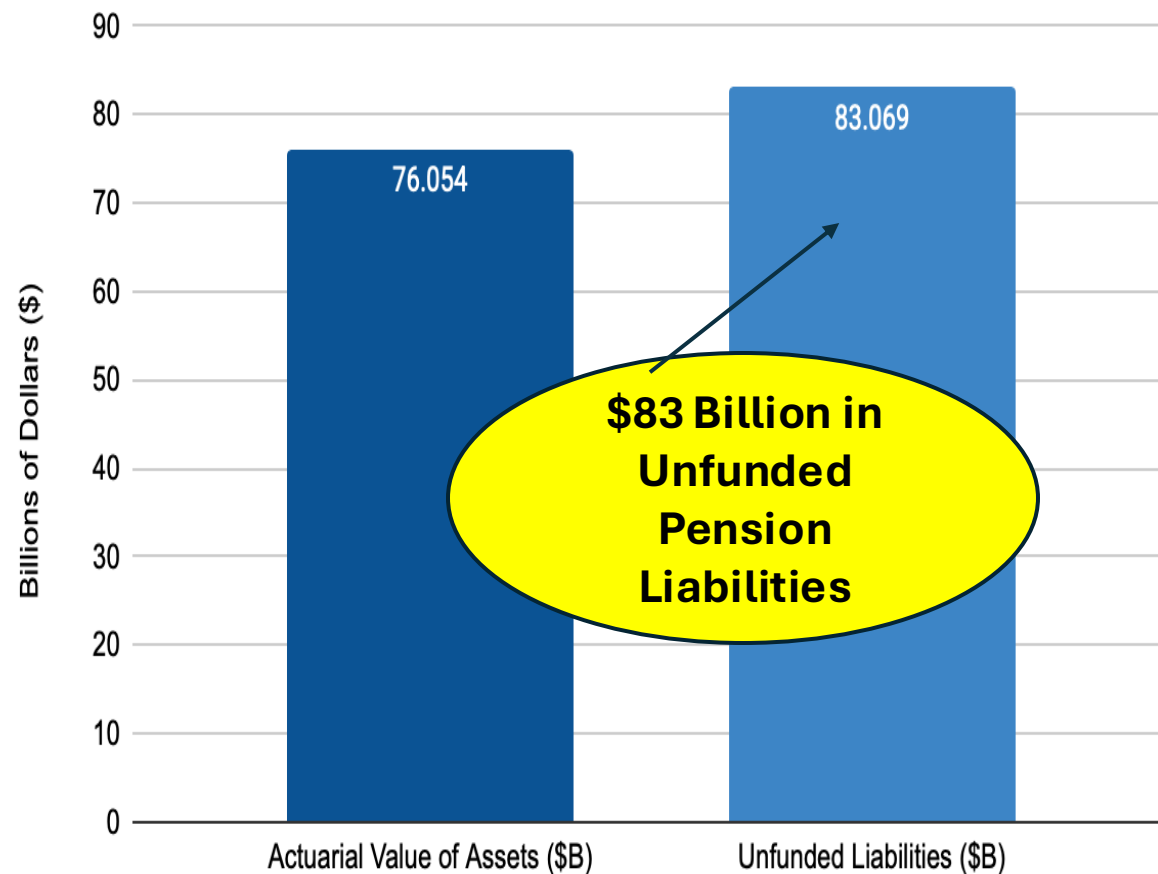


Educators in IL

- TRS members are
 - Certified under the provisions of the School Code of Illinois
 - Employed in an Illinois public common or charter school that is located outside the city of Chicago
 - Employed in a position requiring certification by the Illinois State Board of Education
- TRS funding status
 - Actuarial Assets: \$76.054 billion
 - Unfunded Liabilities: \$83.069 billion
 - Funded Ratio: 47.8%

Teacher Pension System

TRS Funding Status





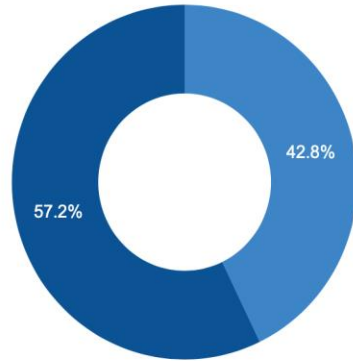
Educators in IL

Educator Shortages as of 2025

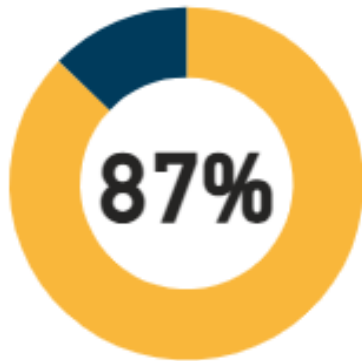
In Illinois, many educator positions are filled with alternative methods such as hiring a retiree, substitute, modifying responsibilities, outsourcing, and virtual options.

Teacher Education

Illinois State Board of Education: 2025



- Bachelor's Degree
- Master's Degree or Higher



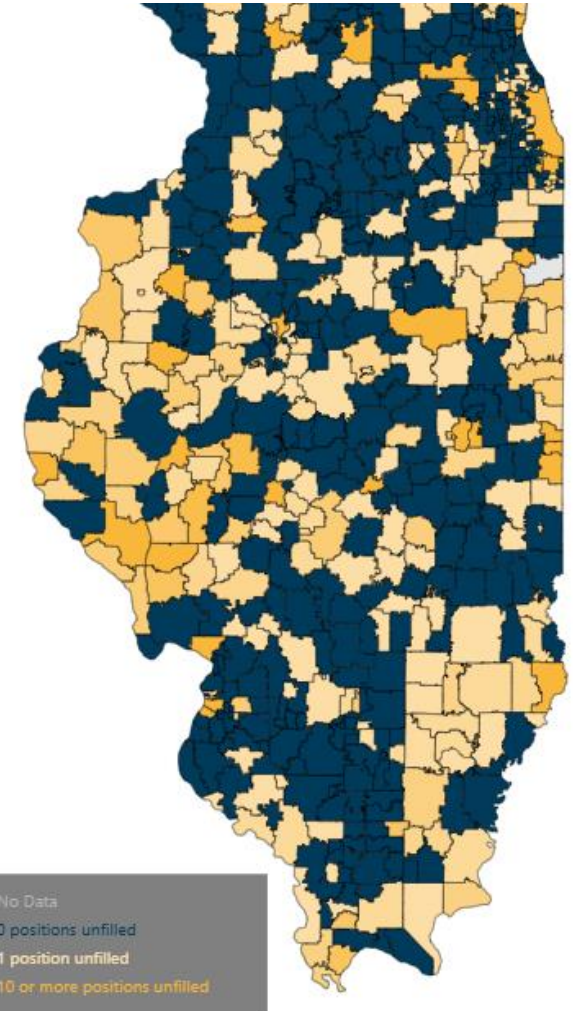
Educator Shortage Problems

87% of 742 responding education leaders* reported problems with teacher** shortages.

67% of 742 responding education leaders* reported that less than 50% of teacher** applicants held proper credentials.

Causes of Educator Shortages

129 of 644 education leaders suggested supporting alternate certifications that could to increase the candidate pool.





Educators in IL

The State of Education

Taxpayer Spending



- High property tax rates
- Increasing operational costs

Education Proficiency



- Lower proficiency standards
- Lower assessment scores

Illinois is in a pattern of higher spending for lower performance. Schools face high operation costs due to rising utilities and teacher's wages. Students face quality education issues and teachers see shortages around the state.



• Illinois student performance varies across assessments, with NAEP scores generally near the national average.



• State assessment proficiency is based on Illinois cut scores, not percent correct.



• Recent benchmark changes affect how proficiency is reported, which should be considered when comparing results across years.



• Education spending has increased over time, while student outcomes continue to vary across the state.



• Multiple measures help evaluate outcomes, including state tests, national assessments, attendance, and readiness indicators.



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Bill Title	Description
HB1787	Requires school districts to provide substitute teachers and personnel with evacuation and lockdown drill training, including in-person training when available. Districts must display classroom exit maps and include emergency procedure information in employee materials.
HB3011	Requires community college board of trustees members to take a specified oath before assuming office, filed with the board secretary. Trustees may not perform duties until the oath is properly filed.
HB3377	Require school districts to annually report to the State Board of Education on funding received, reserved, and spent for homeless students, the number served, and activities funded. The State Board must publish this information online. A House Amendment removes the supplemental auxiliary funding reporting requirements.
SB0096	Beginning with the 2025-2026 school year, requires a school board to allow a student who resides in the school district but attends a nonpublic school to participate in extracurricular athletic activities sponsored by the district without being required to enroll or complete coursework at a public school within the district if certain conditions are met.
SB0098	In provisions concerning a school board's suspension or expulsion of pupils, provides that a student who is determined to have committed sexual violence, sexual assault, or sexual activity with an individual without the individual's consent at a school, a school-sponsored activity or event, or any activity or event that bears a reasonable relationship to school shall be expelled for a period of not less than one year.
SB0261	Reenacts the Invest in Kids Act and makes the Act permanent. Amends the Illinois Income Tax Act to make conforming changes. Effective immediately.



Bill Title	Description
SB0168	Creates the criminal offense of abuse by an educator or authority figure, prohibiting sexual conduct or penetration with students aged 18–22 where a position of trust or supervision exists. Consent is not a defense, and conviction may result in suspension, revocation, or denial of an educator's license.
SB0939	Requires expulsion of students who initiate sexual assault at school or school-related activities for no less than one year; sexual conduct violations carry a minimum six-month expulsion. Age or disability is not a required consideration in expulsion determinations.
SB1195	Establishes trauma-informed response training requirements (Anna's Law) for law enforcement, requiring training programs and in-service training every three years to include instruction on trauma-informed responses, particularly for sexual assault and abuse cases. The Illinois Law Enforcement Training Standards Board oversees and approves such training.
SB1227	Requires school boards to post on their website a list of instructional curriculum and procedures used to document, review, and approve it.
SB1605	Allows agricultural courses to meet the career and technical education requirement and permits districts to apply for grants covering up to 50% of an agriculture teacher's salary.
SB1693	Requires election (rather than appointment) of City Colleges of Chicago board of trustees beginning with the 2027 consolidated election, with 20 trustee districts subdivided by the General Assembly plus one at-large trustee. Effective immediately.
SB2340	Requires the State Board of Education to publish annual reports on student transfer activity, including requests, approvals, denials, and enrollment changes. Superintendents must report transfer data quarterly, and the State Board must annually audit 20 districts for transfer decision compliance.



Bill Title	Description
SB1864	Requires public college and university instructor evaluations to include an assessment of bias or unfair treatment toward individuals or groups based on race, gender, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, or political ideology.
SB1865	Establishes the Campus Free Speech Act, requiring public universities and community colleges to adopt free expression policies, include free speech education in freshman orientation, and creates a state Committee on Free Expression to issue annual reports.
SB1867	Requires the State Board of Education to approve multiple distinct assessments for teacher licensure and allows teacher preparation programs to use any evidence-based effectiveness assessment aligned with state teaching standards.
SB1915	Requires school districts to notify parents in writing when a student in grades 1–3 is identified with a significant reading deficiency or dyslexia characteristics, including details on difficulties, instructional supports, and home strategies. The State is not required to reimburse districts for implementation.
SB2113	Requires the governing board of each public institution of higher education to adopt a policy that prohibits employees of the public institution of higher education from offering incentives to students to vote.
SB2128	Provides that an institution of higher learning that participates in the Monetary Award Program may not release the personally identifiable information of any of its students for voter registration activities unless the student gives consent in writing.
SB3651	Allows paraprofessionals with a valid endorsement and at least 5 years of in-state experience to obtain a Substitute Teaching License without a bachelor's degree or enrollment in an educator preparation program.



Bill Title	Description
SB2773	Updates paraprofessional educator licensure eligibility requirements, allowing licensure with a high school diploma and competency test, an associate degree or 60 college credit hours, or completion of a short-term approval period with demonstrated job performance and district approval.
SB2821	Requires school districts to post information on instructional materials and activities on their websites, updated twice yearly, including a process for parents to opt out of materials conflicting with religious beliefs. Districts are not required to publish full digital copies. Effective July 1, 2026.
SB2991	Clarifies that nonconsensual sexual activity or assault includes situations where the victim did not agree, was unconscious, asleep, intoxicated, drugged, or has a disability preventing understanding or consent. Requires expulsion procedures to comply with Title IX and existing disciplinary processes. Effective immediately.
SB3070	Replaces the foreign language graduation requirement with a choice between two years of foreign language or career and technical education coursework, beginning with the 2028–2029 freshman class. Senate amendments remove related university admissions provisions.
SB3301	Allows school districts to be exempt from the 2-year foreign language graduation requirement beginning in 2028–2029 if they lack sufficient staffing, with State Superintendent approval. Individual students may also be exempt by completing a non-college-focused postsecondary plan. Effective July 1, 2026.
SB3492	Authorizes the State Board of Education to issue statewide workforce development curriculum guidance focused on emerging technologies such as AI and quantum computing, encouraging districts to adopt career-preparation programs. The State Board must review similar programs in other states, with public input allowed in developing recommendations.



Bill Title	Description
SB3701	Requires full state funding of all mandated categorical education programs, school meal programs, and the evidence-based funding formula beginning in FY2027, with no proration. The State Board must annually report funding needed to meet full adequacy targets.
SB3776	Creates the Educational Choice for Children Act, requiring the State Board of Education to identify qualifying scholarship-granting organizations and publish an approved list, enabling Illinois to participate in the federal education tax credit scholarship program for K-12 expenses beginning after December 31, 2026.
SB3850	Requires the Governor to annually submit a list of eligible scholarship-granting organizations to the U.S. Treasury to opt Illinois into the federal school choice tax credit program, with copies provided to the General Assembly, State Board of Education, and Department of Revenue. Effective immediately.
SB4053	Appropriates \$20,000,000 to the University of Illinois for the purpose of increasing the extension service trust fund allocation for the University of Illinois Extension program. Effective July 1, 2026.
SB4186	Appropriates \$16,500,000 from the Build Illinois Bond Fund to the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity for a grant to Iroquois County Community Unit School District #9 for costs associated with facility additions and upgrades.
SR0383	Urges Governor JB Pritzker to opt Illinois into the provisions of the Educational Choice for Children Act.
SJR0016	Encourages young people to consider a career in small to mid-sized manufacturing (SMEs/MSMEs).
SB1917	Creates the Illinois DETERRENT Act, requiring colleges and universities to publicly disclose significant gifts and contracts from foreign sources, prohibiting contracts with foreign entities of concern, and requiring large private universities to report related investments. The Illinois Board of Higher Education must maintain a searchable public database, with fines for noncompliance



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THANK YOU!

