

Home Find Schools About the Tests What Students Should Know **AYP/Accountability**

Find a School/District

Search by
 School District
 City County

OR Select from a List

- [Schools](#)
- [Districts](#)
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Student Performance Measures



Welcome to the Interactive Illinois Report Card web site - the premier web site for test results and other school improvement information for Illinois schools!

User Resources	
10/31/2008	State Report Card (IIRC)
9/1/2008	Illinois School Improvement e-Plans
	IIRC Training Manual

Recent Updates	
10/31/2008	2008 School Report Card Live
9/1/2008	Illinois State Report Card has been uploaded
9/1/2008	Achievement Gaps have been added to the School/District Report Card
9/1/2008	New Improved Illinois Report Card Site
9/12/2007	Track Trends Over Time
9/8/2007	Compare Schools is Back!

Related Links	
	Illinois State Board of Education
	No Child Left Behind
	2007 PDF Report Cards 

Users Guide

Harvey Smith, Ph.D.

Director, Interactive Illinois Report Card

hsmith@niu.edu

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Welcome to the IIRC Users Guide. This manual will show you how to access and navigate the many features of the Interactive Illinois Report Card (IIRC) website. The information and exercises presented here are designed to make you comfortable using the wealth of data about public schools and school districts that you will find on the site. Some of the information on our site can also be found in the annual Illinois School Report Cards produced in PDF format by the Illinois State Board of Education and posted on the ISBE website. The IIRC, however, adds a number of useful features not found elsewhere, including colorful, interactive graphics; longitudinal trends from 1999 to the present; advanced search and school comparison capabilities; instructional materials; e-Plans; and individual student data in a secure, password-protected location.

Our Philosophy

Easy access to accurate, current, and useful information concerning schools, student learning and test performance is now more essential than ever for educators. In the current climate of accountability, data-driven decision making is an important part of any curricular planning, targeted instruction, or school improvement. This poses challenges for everyone concerned with the future of our schools – educators, students, parents, and communities alike. If this site contributes to helping to improve Illinois education where it really happens – in schools and classrooms all across the state - then we've accomplished our main goal!

Our Sponsors

IIRC is located at Northern Illinois University and is funded by the Illinois State Board of Education. The IIRC project team would like to thank the staff of the Illinois State Board of Education for support in the development of this site. NIU Outreach has provided indispensable technical support and assistance. We are grateful also to the NIU Colleges of Education and of Liberal Arts and Sciences for their assistance. Finally, we especially thank the thousands of Illinois educators who have provided feedback in focus groups, training sessions, and by email. The IIRC development team welcomes suggestions about the site at iirc@niu.edu.

Harvey Smith, Ph.D.

Director, Interactive Illinois Report Card

LEVEL I: Starting Out: Tools for Teaching & Learning

Basic information and links concerning the Illinois state assessments administered to schools in grades 3 to 8 and grade 11 are organized by topics for browsing. These topics are accessed by dark blue tabs on the top navigation bar on the home page.

Level I screens also link to useful instructional materials including the Assessment Frameworks and the Illinois Learning Standards, along with lesson plans, classroom assessments, and sample test questions. Teachers and school administrators can use these resources to plan curricular strategies that improve student learning, and prepare students to perform well on state tests. Parents and the public can consult these rich resources to see what their children are expected to know and help them in their studies.

LEVEL II: Tools for School and District Improvement

Once you have selected a school or district, you can navigate to easy-to-understand graphs showing test results, student performance, school-to-school comparisons, school/district information, Adequate Yearly Progress reports, and more.

From the “Learning Tools” link on school and district screens, you can also access the array of tools for teaching and learning described just above. These resources allow teachers, parents, and students to gain a clear picture of the Illinois assessments.

LEVEL III: Tools for Tracking Individual Student Performance

At the level of greatest detail, IIRC’s Student Data Services posts individual student test results. With this service, teachers and administrators can monitor student learning and test performance, thanks to easy-to-use options to sort, compare, and develop customized reports. Student privacy is protected through use of passwords and state-of-the-art security.

The home page displays five header tabs in the dark blue navigation bar across the top of the page. These header tabs remain in place when you navigate throughout the site, no matter which level you are in, so the information they provide is always available.

Tabs:**Home****Find Schools****About the Tests****What Students Should Know****AYP/Accountability****Resources**

Each of these tabs opens a secondary navigation bar below. Clicking on the sub-tabs will open an information screen. This use of tabs and sub-tabs for navigation is consistent throughout the site.

Example:

Place your cursor on “About the Tests,” click on a Sub-tab such as ISAT, and that will open the display of background information on the ISAT tests, plus links to off-site resources.

User Tip: To close the current screen once you are finished, use the “back” arrow. This will return you to the original tab setting. Or just move your cursor to another tab.

Level I - Tab 1: Home

Clicking on this tab will always return you to the IIRC home page. From the home page, you can –

- Navigate throughout the site
- Search for a school or district, or browse other categories
- Link to sites with related report card information.

User Tip: The red “IIRC” logo on the banner of any screen is linked to the home page, so clicking on the “IIRC” from anywhere in the site will always bring you back to the home page.

Level I – Tab 2: Find Schools

This tab is the doorway into Level II, where you can select a school or district and see test results and other report card data, as well as teaching tools and AYP reports.

Subtab 1: Search

Subtab 2: Compare Schools

Subtab 3: Compare Districts

Search: IIRC gives you several ways to locate a school or district.

1. Click on “Find Schools” to see the options.
2. In the Search form at left, click on one of the buttons, selecting either the School Name, District, City, or County. Type a corresponding name into the box, and click “Go” or press “Enter.”
3. Alternatively, you can select one of the ready-made search lists.

Clicking on any list produces an alphabetized menu. Click on the letter for the first name in the word you are searching. Scroll down to find what you want. To help make this search quick and easy, an alphabetical list of districts appears for city, county, ROE, and other categories. For instance, an alphabetical list of legislators helps you locate schools in each legislative district. A comprehensive report card for the state as a whole is also available.

4. As you scroll down the list of schools supplied by a search, note the information offered.

Status: on the left margin of the screen, a green pencil means “Made AYP” and a red pencil means “Did not make AYP;” state status is noted in the red AWS for Academic Watch and orange AEWS for Academic Early Warning; awards are designated by the blue schoolhouse for Spotlight Schools, a green schoolhouse for Academic Improvement Awards, and purple schoolhouse for Academic Excellence Awards.

To the right: grades served, school district, city, and county are displayed.

5. When you select a school or district, a profile page opens to provide general information.
6. The profile summarizes test results, student demographics, and other useful facts. It includes a link to the ISBE *School Profile for Parents* and contact information for school and district leaders. Notice that you can use the buttons above the profile’s performance graph to review results of the various state tests.

User Tip

To copy and paste these and other IIRC graphs, right click on the graph you wish to copy. Select “copy,” then minimize the IIRC screen. Open your Word, Power Point or other document, right click again and select “Paste.” Alternatively, many IIRC graphs include a toolbar that you can use for copying, pasting, printing, and emailing.

Exercise – Finding a School or District:

1. Select the Find Schools button. Type in the name of the particular school or district, or if you want to see the sample student data site, type in "Sample."
2. After you type the name, click the "Go" button, or press "Enter."
3. Your search will list the name of the school you entered. If there is more than one school by that name, you will see a list of all schools in Illinois that share the name. Look at the information provided to help you locate the school you were seeking.
4. Click on the school or district name and the school introduction page will open. Look at the information provided on this page.
5. If your search did not yield the school or district sought, search in one of the ready-made lists.

Level I – Tab 2: Find Schools

Sub-tab 2: Compare Schools and Sub-tab 3: Compare Districts

IIRC offers two ways of making comparisons. First, using these subtabs in Find Schools, you can select any group of up to 15 schools or districts and design your own comparisons. Second, using the “Compare Schools” or “Compare Districts” hyperlink in every school or district information banner, you can compare that particular school or district to others.

To try the first method, open search, go to Find Schools and click on Compare Schools. The screen shown below will appear.

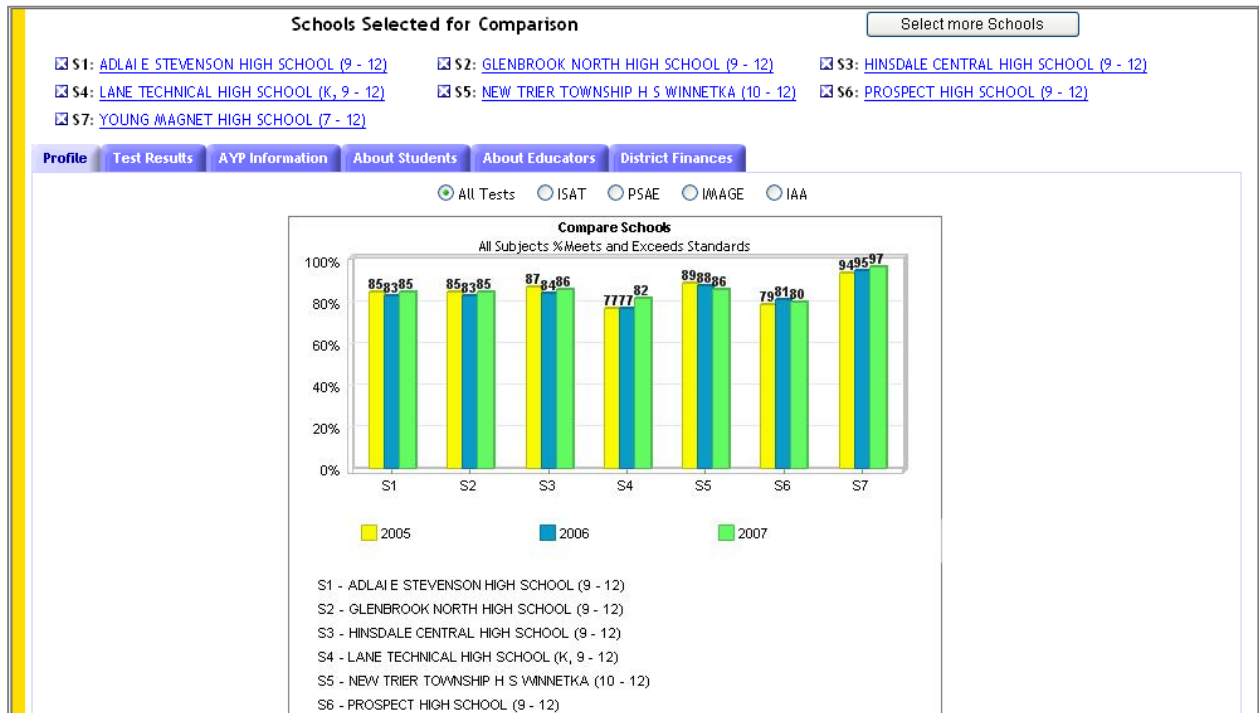
On the left side of this screen, you can select filters that will provide a basis for comparisons. Clicking on some filters, like Test Performance, will offer you additional choices. Selected Filters will appear above the list, and the number of schools listed on the right will automatically be reduced. As you work with the filters and review the list of schools, you can easily add filters or eliminate them by clicking on the “x” in the appropriate box in the Selected Filters list.

Once you finalize the filters, then check the boxes beside the names of up to 15 schools and click on Compare at the top or bottom of the column.

LEVEL I: Starting Out: Tools for Teaching & Learning

Tab 2: Find Schools

The first screen will compare test results for your selected schools. Using the familiar tabs below the names of schools you selected, you can also compare AYP information and data on students, teachers, and district finances. At this point, you can go back to select more schools or different schools, or to change your filters.



Compare Districts works in the same way if you start from the Find Schools tab.

About the Tests gives comprehensive, current information about each of the state assessments. Click on the questions in the right corner of each state test screen to learn more about that assessment. For example, “What are the ISAT performance levels?” gives definitions of the assessment performance levels --exceeds, meets, below, and warning. “Can I see examples of the ISAT tests?” links to PDF files with actual sample test items.

Sub-tabs

1. **ISAT**
2. **PSAE**
3. **IMAGE**
4. **Illinois Alternative Assessment (IAA)**
5. **Sample Tests**

Links to sample test booklets with assessment questions based on this year’s tests for grades 3-8, and grade 11. These booklets give parents, teachers, and students examples of the kinds of questions to be found on the actual state tests such as ISAT and PSAE.

6. **Test Dates** – Click on this tab for the latest information on test dates.

What Students Should Know supplies instructional support materials such as Assessment Frameworks, Illinois Learning Standards, Performance Descriptors, lesson plans, and classroom assessments. These materials, which were developed by ISBE working with Illinois teachers, can help educators, administrators and parents better understand instructional goals and assessment of Illinois students. They are also useful for preparing lesson plans and mapping curriculum to the Assessment Frameworks. The same materials are available by clicking on “Learning Tools” on the Test Results bar within a school or district.

Note: These resources are regularly updated to show changes in the assessments.

Sub-tabs

1. **Assessment Frameworks** – Gives specific details on how much of each assessment is devoted to which standards and content categories
2. **Learning Standards (ILS)** – The Illinois Learning Standards, including goals and benchmarks for five subject areas at all levels
3. **Descriptors & Assessments** – More extensive descriptions of what students should know and be able to do
4. **Content Strands** – Groups of standards tested within each subject area, aligned to the Assessment Frameworks.
5. **Performance Definitions** – Explanation of how good is good enough in answers to extended-response items
6. **In the Classroom** – Links to classroom assessments, lesson plans created by teachers, rubrics that students can use to judge their own work, and examples of student work at all performance levels -- all linked to Illinois Learning Standards.

The “Adequate Yearly Progress” (AYP) report computed for Illinois schools is a key measure of compliance with the federal No Child Left Behind legislation. Check this screen for information on these important measures of performance.

Sub-tabs

1. **Calculating AYP** – What is it and how is it calculated?
2. **School Status** – School and district status designations and what they mean
3. **Student Subgroups** – Ten groups that must each make AYP in both reading and math
4. **Accountability** – Sanctions schools and districts can face under NCLB
5. **Understanding NCLB** – Aids to understanding the impact of this law

Welcome to Level II. These screens offer a rich database of information on schools and districts in Illinois – not just for one year, but for the entire span of years from 1999 to the present.

Schools and Districts: The Profile Page and the School Information Banner

The profile page displays data of general interest. This is the place in the IIRC where you can find contact information for principals and superintendents, see the school's location on a map of Illinois, or review a school's demographics. Notice the option buttons above the test results bar graph. By clicking on each button, you can quickly see results from the different tests administered at this school or district.

The school information banner at the top of the screen stays on the top of all screens for each school or district. Use the arrow in the upper right corner to hide the banner and thus expand display of the screen below. When you go to a printer-friendly format by clicking on the printer icon, the banner only lists the school name, to save space on printing tables.

From the school information banner, you can click into tools to compare schools or districts and also into "e-plans" used by Illinois educators to develop state-required plans for school improvement.

Compare Schools or Compare Districts

Using the "Compare Schools" or "Compare Districts" hyperlink in every school or district information banner, you can compare that particular school or district to others. This method of comparison varies from the open search accessible from the Find Schools tab.

On the left side of the comparison screen, red numbers indicate the record of the chosen school or district on each filter. Like the open search, clicking on a filter will add it to the Selected Filters list and reduce the number of schools on the right accordingly. Some filters, like Test Performance, offer you additional choices. As you work with the filters and review the list of schools, you can easily add filters or eliminate them by clicking on the "x" in the appropriate box in the Selected Filters list.

Once you finalize the filters, then check the boxes beside the names of up to 15 schools and click on Compare at the top or bottom of the column.

The first screen you see will compare test results for your selected schools. Using the tabs below the names of schools you selected, you can also compare AYP information and data on students, teachers, and district finances. At this point, you can go back to select more schools or different schools, or to change your filters. Compare Districts works in the same way.

e-Plans for Schools and Districts

Working with the Illinois State Board of Education, IIRC has developed three types of interactive e-Plans: the School Improvement Plan, District Improvement Plan, and Technology Integration Plan. The e-Plans can be accessed with the e-Plan password sent to all superintendents. The interactive e-Plans will save improvement teams time and effort as they prepare and submit these required reports. The e-Plans are available in multiple formats – online in a web-based environment and off-line as MS Word or .PDF documents.

- Improvement teams can work together online using the e-Plan's interactive format, which includes questions that prompt users to fill out each section, and which also provides tables with data from ISBE/IIRC automatically filled in.
- School teams can save their plans in fixed-image .PDF format, or they can download an e-Plan as a Word document and manually cut and paste additional information and tables into the document.

In addition to the e-Plan templates, you can read, download, or print user's guides and rubrics provided by ISBE. All three documents are available in both Word and .PDF formats.

The e-Plans are also accessible by clicking on the link in the information banner across the top of each page for a school or district.

On school and district screens, a new second row of lighter blue tabs appears below the school or district banner. These tabs provide basic navigation for the school report card information. As before, each of these tabs has an associated set of Sub-tabs that link to the graphs and tables for each instructional building or district.

Tabs

1. **School Profile**
2. **Test Results**
3. **Trends**
4. **AYP Information**
5. **Learning Tools**
6. **About Students**
7. **About Educators**
8. **District Finances**
9. **Special Education Report (District screens only)**
10. **Schools in District (District screens only)**

The Test Results tab opens graphics that capture student performance over time on the assessments delivered at that school. The Sub-tabs will connect you to results for the four tests, as well as other tools to help you understand and use report card data.

Sub-tabs

1. ISAT
2. PSAE
3. ACT
4. Work Keys
5. IMAGE
6. IAA
7. Scatter plots
8. Achievement Gap
9. Student Data

Working with Test Results

1. **Grades, Subjects, and Groups Tested** Test results screens always start with the lowest grades tested, usually grade 3, all subjects, and all student groups. Scroll down to see test results for the other subjects and the higher grades. Use the menu boxes above the graphs to select subject, grade, and group for review. Then click on GO to reformulate the graphs. Notice that writing and social science results appear for 1999-2004, but not thereafter. ISBE stopped administering those tests in 2005 and reintroduced writing starting in 2007.
2. **Years Displayed** A menu box to the left of the graphs indicates what years are displayed and allows you to select the years you wish to see.
3. **Color Codes** The bar graphs are color-coded to show the percent of students in each subject by performance level; that is, blue = exceeds standards, green = meets standards, yellow = below standards, and red = academic warning.
4. **Reading the Graphs** The “horizon” line in the middle of the graph at 0% divides meets standards and below standards, and the percentage scale on the left gives you the percents above and below that line.
5. **Number Tested** The bottom row of numbers shows the number of students tested for that subject and year. This gives you a sense of the relative numbers who are doing well or who need assistance.
6. **Printer-Friendly** Click on the printer-friendly icon on the upper right to print off the graphs for your school. A page break comes between graphs so nothing is lost. Be sure to use the instructions about formatting the printer screen to accommodate the width of graphs when necessary.
7. **Number of Cases** To assure confidentiality of test results, IIRC, following ISBE guidelines, does not report performance levels for groups of fewer than 10 students. Any year or subject reporting fewer than 10 students tested will have no data in the bar graphs. Groups with 10 or more students will be displayed in the graphs.

Important: For 2002 and before, the minimum for reporting was 5 students per assessment per grade. In those years, any groups with number of tested fewer than 5 will be blank in the graphs. Any groups with 5 or more students in 2002 or earlier will be displayed in the graphs. Since AYP accountability begins with 2003, this change does not impact school performance for NCLB, but it may create occasional anomalies in numbers of students displayed in bar graphs before 2003.

Also important: the minimum number of 10 or more students required by ISBE for reporting assessment results in the state’s school or district Report Cards is different from the minimum number required to count for AYP purposes. Effective with the 2005 assessment, the minimum number that must be tested to qualify for calculating AYP is 45 students tested in total in reading and mathematics in the school (not per grade). The minimum number for district AYP is also 45.

Exercise – Studying Test Results

Basic: Review the test results for a selected school. In what grades and subjects are the most students above standards and in what grade and subject are they below standards?

Advanced: How do the standards-based results compare to national percentiles in each grade and subject?

How do I access data on student subgroups?

The default test results screens show results for the total population of tested students. To review performance by subgroups, go to the selection boxes immediately above the graph, click on the down arrow in the Student Groups box, and select “AYP Subgroups.” Click “Go” and the IIRC screen displays the performance of the AYP student subgroups mandated by the NCLB accountability requirements:

- **All students**
- **Asian**
- **Low Income**
- **White**
- **Native American**
- **Individualized Educational Program (Special Education)**
- **Black**
- **Multi-racial**
- **Hispanic**
- **Limited English Proficient**

The tests results graphs report AYP subgroup results beginning in 2004. Results in prior years are displayed in the graphs for the individual subgroups, which are also accessible from the Student Groups selection box. As with the All Students graphs, tables at the base of the graphs report the percent in each category and the number of students in each subgroup.

IIRC also provides graphics showing performance by other student classifications - gender, ethnicity, income, and migrant status. These graphs go back at least four years, to 2003-2005, allowing longer-term comparisons of student subgroup performance.

Exercise**Analyzing Sub-group Performance**

Select Grade 8 Math and Gender. Are boys performing better than girls?

Select Grade 8 Reading and Income. Are low income students performing as well as non-low income?

The tabs to the right of the ISAT tab show results for the PSAE, IMAGE, and IAA assessments. For detailed information describing each of these assessments, refer back to “About the Tests” on the top level navigation bar.

ISAT Test Results: What are content strands?

Content strands represent a logical sorting of test items in a given subject into groups of knowledge and skills related to specific learning standards. They are available only for the ISAT. The screen shows the percent of test items answered correctly for the content within each subject area. Below the graphs, you will find definitions of the content strands and references to the Illinois Learning Standards associated with each. The data reported in this section are for all students.

How are content strands results useful?

The content strands help you discern how students perform relative to others in the district or state on specific curricular areas of each assessment. This helps you define and target areas of instruction that may need attention.

The student data screens on Level III report numeric scores for individual students in specific content areas. This allows you to “drill down” to the individual students in your grade and building to see how each student and groups of students are doing on the strands within each learning area.

Exercise – Reviewing Performance on Content Strands

- Click on the Content Strands sub-tab on the Test Results bar.
- Select Grade 5 Reading.
- On which strands did your students show the strongest performance?
- Which was the weakest strand?

PSAE Results include performance on three components – the ACT, Work Keys tests, and items generated by the Illinois State Board of Education. Combining these three components, the PSAE addresses many of the Illinois Learning Standards. IIRC provides data on the PSAE as a whole, the ACT, and Work Keys.

What ACT information is available on IIRC?

Composite ACT scores Reading, Mathematics, Science, and English are displayed for tests administered in 2006-2008. In addition to the overall scores by subject area, users can generate IIRC graphs that show performance by student groups such as AYP subgroups and gender.

What do the Work Keys reports tell us?

Two *Work Keys* tests, Applied Mathematics and Reading for Information, are part of the Prairie State Achievement Exam. Supplied by ACT, these components measure readiness for the workplace in mathematics and reading. The scores are added into each student's PSAE results and also displayed separately in the IIRC graphs. In addition to covering Illinois Learning Standards not otherwise covered by the PSAE, the Work Keys scores offer students an additional credential to present to employers. To access these results, click on the words "Work Keys" in the menu box above the graph. Return to PSAE scores by clicking "Back to Test Scores."

What are Scatter Plots?

These screens use one dot for each school to array the performance of students in a school compared to other schools in the district and across the state. On the district screens, the scatter plots compare performance of this district to all other districts across the state. The default screen plots show the performance of all schools in all subjects (represented by percent meets and exceeds) in relation to percentage of low-income students.

Using the selection boxes above the chart, you can select all subjects, or reading, or mathematics. Then, using this choice of subjects, you can compare school characteristics on one of fifteen variables, including racial and ethnic characteristics, mobility, school finance issues, and others.

Scatter Plots can also be used to identify schools for comparison. You can discover individual schools by holding your cursor over a dot. The name of the school will appear. If you wish, click on that dot to go to the school site. You can also use scatter plots to develop school comparisons. Try this exercise.

Exercise – Using Scatter Plots to Develop School Comparisons

- Identify a sector for study. Let's say you want to compare schools in the upper right quadrant with 70-100% low income where 80-100% of students are meeting or exceeding standards in reading and math.
- Click on Compare Schools.
- For School Test Performance, select "80% and above" for both reading and math and "70% and above" for low income. Leave all other boxes blank. Click on Submit.
- A list of the schools in this sector will appear. Check the boxes beside each of the school names and then click Submit at the top of the column. Now, you can compare these schools on a variety of report card variables.

What can be learned from the “Achievement Gap” graphs?

The achievement gap displays complement the test results graphs by showing the difference between performances of selected sub-groups. You can immediately see how achievement gaps have widened or narrowed over time.

Each line in the achievement gap graphs includes the annual difference in numbers of students meeting or exceeding standards between two groups. For instance, the numbers might show that white students scored 31 points higher than black students in 2005, 42 points higher in 2006, and 34 points higher in 2007. In this example, the achievement gap is slightly wider than it was in 2005. You can change the grades, subjects, and groups displayed by using the menu boxes above the graph.

What is “Student Data”?

Test results for each individual student, organized by school and district, are available at a password-protected IIRC site. Access to the confidential information on this site is controlled by building principals and further protected by state-of-the-art security. Assistance in using IIRC’s Student Data Services may be found in Level III of this guide.

Tab 3: Trends

Trends graphs show annual results from 1999 to the present, so you can see longitudinal trends.

What kinds of trends are displayed? Can they be customized?

IIRC now provides tools for analyzing trends in three ways.

Sub-tabs**1. By Cohorts****2. By Subject****3. By School, District, and State**

The IIRC's cohort trend feature allows you to track the performance of one group of students as they move through the grades. Click on the Cohorts tab, and you will see the options. Notice that the cohorts available for your school are hyperlinked. Click on the hyperlink to see trends over time for the cohort selected. These screens display performance by the same group of students in reading and mathematics when they were 3rd graders in 2003 and again in 2005 when they were 5th graders. New data such as 4th grade reading and mathematics appears starting with the 2006 assessments.

Tracking trends by subject gives you an overview of what happens in a specific subject like mathematics as students move through your school. The subject screen shows performance at a single grade level in consecutive years. A different group of students is tested each year in each grade, but patterns emerge over time. Selection boxes in the upper left-hand corner allow you to select subject, grade, and any of 15 groups.

The screens on this tab document a school or district's performance in meeting the "Adequate Yearly Progress" (AYP) criteria of No Child Left Behind.

Sub-tabs

1. **AYP Report** – Shows how school/district is doing on each AYP criterion
2. **AYP Ladder** – Shows % M+E in reading and math on AYP annual scale
3. **AYP Steps** – Shows student sub-group performance on AYP annual scale
4. **AMAO Report** – Shows district-level results for schools with large English-language-learner populations

But First...How is Adequate Yearly Progress calculated?

Let's review the criteria for 2008 for a school to be counted as making AYP. AYP is measured for reading and math, as follows:

1. At least 95% of the students in the grade and subject area must be tested ("participation rate").
2. At least 62.5% of all students tested must meet or exceed learning standards for that assessment.
3. Each student subgroup tested must also meet the minimum performance goal of at least 62.5% meets and exceeds. For subgroups under 62.5%, the criterion may be met by Safe Harbor.
4. The AYP accountability student sub-groups are race/ethnicity (white, black, Hispanic, Native American, Asian, multi-racial), Limited English Proficient (LEP), Special Education (IEP), Low Income.
5. As noted previously, the minimum number of students to count for AYP is 45 per reading or mathematics assessment per building. If the respective group is fewer than 45, results for that group do not count for AYP purposes.
6. Besides test performance of students in reading and writing, there are secondary measures required for compliance with NCLB. For elementary schools, the secondary measure is attendance, which must be 90% this year. For high schools, the secondary measure is graduation rate, which must be 75% this year.
7. AYP measures are applied to districts as well as schools. The number tested and percent meeting and exceeding is calculated by SUBJECT for all students tested in the building or district, and not by GRADE. Thus, in a K-5 school, AYP performance levels for reading are based on all students tested in reading in grades 3, 4, and 5 taken as one group. AYP performance levels for mathematics are calculated based on all students tested in mathematics in grades 3, 4, and 5 taken as one group. For the subgroups, the same formula applies. It is important to note that all schools must meet AYP meets and exceeds targets for all students, regardless of size for the subgroups, even if fewer than 45.
8. In some districts, schools will escape accountability for subgroups by having fewer than 45 students in groups, but the district will still be accountable because there will be more than 45 in the subgroup when schools are combined at the district level.

AYP Report provides the full array of information on the status of the school or district with respect to the NCLB performance requirements, including the issue of “safe harbor” (see explanatory text on this page at the IIRC website). You can review AYP reports from 2003 to the present.

AYP Ladder shows how students as a whole are performing this year in relationship to the annual steps of increasing performance levels required in future years by NCLB, in both reading and mathematics. This gives schools a gauge for required progress through 2014.

AYP Steps allows you to see the percent meets and exceeds for each student subgroup that will be required to make AYP by 2014.

AMAO Report displays the progress made by students learning English. These reports are calculated only at the district level for schools with large populations of English language learners.

The Learning Tools tab allows access to instructional materials without leaving the school you are reviewing. You can move easily between the learning standards, performance descriptors, classroom assessments, and assessment frameworks. You can also quickly locate specific grades or levels, subject areas, or topics in any of these lengthy documents. Five subject areas have been retained, not just those being tested currently.

Sub-tabs

1. Assessment Frameworks

2. Learning Standards

3. Performance Descriptors and Classroom Assessments

The state's **Assessment Frameworks** give specific descriptions of topics and subject matter covered in the state assessments. The frameworks provide particular detail about the skills and content areas included in testing at each grade level - including even the percentage of the test devoted to each set of topics. The screens also include examples of learning skills and knowledge that the assessment will likely cover. In IIRC, all assessment frameworks have been retained, even those not covered by the state assessment, because of their usefulness to educators as they continue to teach to all the standards.

Click on **Learning Standards**. Using the selection box in the upper left-hand corner, you can navigate to the grade level and subject area of your choice in the Illinois Learning Standards. In line with ISBE practice in recent years, the IIRC organizes the Learning Standards by grade levels. The drop-down menus will allow you to move easily through the standards.

Now click on Performance Descriptors. The Performance Descriptors complement the Illinois Learning Standards by providing more detail about what students should know and be able to do in each grade at each level. Scroll down through each stage and you will find Classroom Assessments to measure students' progress in mastering each standard. Again, the selection box allows easy navigation of this document.

In the Classroom You can reach more instructional support tools in the "What Students Should Know" tab on the top navigation bar. Click on "What Students Should Know" and then on the sub-tab "In the Classroom" to access student-friendly rubrics, sample test items, and more. Please note that clicking on "What Students Should Know" will take you out of the school screens. You can return to a school or district by using the back arrow or "Find Schools."

Learning Tools Exercise – What Do Our Students Need to Know About Science?

- Look at your test results for Grade 7 Science, including the Content Strands.
- Locate the Performance Descriptors for Grade 7 Science.
- To see how state expectations are reflected in test questions, find the Sample Test Items for Grade 7 Science.
- Return to your school by using the back arrow.

This set of tabs provides basic information on the student, teacher, and financial profile of each school and district. Again, IIRC has compiled this information so you have annual trends from 1999 to the present. School administrators, financial officers, school boards, and community members will find the educator and finance data particularly helpful in understanding the condition of their districts over the long-term.

Tab 6: About Students**Sub-tabs:**

1. **Race/ethnicity**
2. **Educational Environment**
3. **Enrollments**
4. **Class Size**

Tab 7: About Educators (District-level results only)**Sub-tabs:**

1. **Teacher Demographics**
2. **Teacher Characteristics**
3. **Administrator Information**

Tab 8: District Finances (District-level results only)**Sub-tabs:**

1. **Expenditure Rates**
2. **Expenditure Amounts**
3. **Expenditure Percentages**
4. **Revenue Amounts**
5. **Revenue Percentages**

Tab 9: Schools in District (District Screens Only)

This tab allows you to navigate easily from district information to any school in the district.

Welcome!

When you arrive at Level III, you reach the heart of the educational mission for IIRC– the actual students in classrooms in your district. Working with a number of districts and with staff of the Illinois State Board of Education, IIRC created password-protected screens that display individual student results. For teachers, principals, assessment directors, and curriculum and instruction professionals, these screens put significant analysis and information tools in your hands for working with your students.

First, several cautions are necessary:

Confidentiality – IIRC takes confidentiality very seriously. All student data on IIRC is password-protected and archived on secured file servers at Northern Illinois University that are monitored 24 hours a day against hackers and viruses. All IIRC student data screens are 128-bit encrypted (the industry standard) with Verisign certification, the industry standard.

Complexity – We have consulted with local educators on how to program the student data screens to be user-friendly. Keep in mind, however, that working with individual-level data can be more complicated than bringing up test performance screens for your school. If you have questions or suggestions for improving IIRC's student data services, forward them to iirc@niu.edu.

Disclaimer – IIRC uses the same data found on disks or electronic files that districts receive every year from the state assessment contractor. All student-level information available on those data disks is presented on the IIRC site in an easy to use format. Some older results may not reflect corrections or updates made in Report Cards after production of the data disks. IIRC staff will work with you to make corrections if needed.

What about other assessments? The IIRC now displays individual student data for the state tests – ISAT, PSAE, and ACCESS - for 2007 AND 2008. As a service to districts that subscribe and send data disks, IIRC can also display student data for previous years and for off-the-shelf assessments such as ITBS, ACT, PLAN, and EXPLORE, Stanford, Terra Nova, and MAP. IIRC can post data for both current and prior years.

For information about subscription services, district officials should contact iirc@niu.edu and request a brochure and order form, or call Valerie Lorusso at 815-753-0978.

How do I Access the Student Data Screens?

1. Go to “Find Schools” on the home page or on the top navigation bar.
2. Select a school or district and click on the “Test Results” tab.
3. When the next navigation bar opens listing ISAT and other assessments, click on “Student Data” on the far right end of the Test Results sub-tabs.
4. At this point, the security screen will prompt you for the username and password that IIRC staff has provided to your district. If you do not have access to this password, you will not be able to access the student data. Contact your district administrator.
5. A demonstration module is available that shows you all the functionality of the student data screens but with individual identifications removed. To access the demonstration module, contact Valerie Lorusso at 815-753-0978 for a username and password. The demonstration module can be used for public presentations, board or teacher demonstrations, training sessions, or any setting where showing individual records would be inappropriate.
6. IIRC Student Data Services is a separate website that you can access directly from the public IIRC website. Once you are on the site, you will see a tiny closed lock in the lower right corner of your screen – a reminder of secured status. The IIRC Student Data Services banner at the top of the page reminds you where you are.
7. The IIRC public website with all report card data remains in the background at the point where you left it. Note that once you are in a session with confidential student data, if you leave the secure student data website to return to the public areas of the IIRC, you will have to re-enter the password to get back into the secured student data.

For added security, when you are finished with your session using student data, click on the Log-out tab at the right end of the navigation bar. As an extra safety measure, we strongly advise you to completely exit from the IIRC and close the browser. This will assure confidentiality is protected from subsequent users of the PC.

After you login to the student data services site, screens that display the student data will be accessible.

What are the options for viewing student data?

The “Student Data Services” screens carry a different banner (which will remind you where you are) and a new set of tabs along the top of the screen. The screens are designed so you can move easily from one test to another, viewing student performance. The same screens are available for each of the tests. All operate in the same way. But first, take a look at the introductory information to be found on the “Profile” tab at the left.

Profile Tab - Data Archive and Demographic Profile

The **Data Archive** lists assessments that have been posted for your district by IIRC and are accessible on this website. Clicking on the number of students in any year will bring up the alphabetical roster of results for those students.

The **Demographic Profile** of the school details the demographic and special status characteristics of all students and student test-takers in your school or district. The second column shows the total number of students tested in all subjects at the school. The third column shows the number tested in reading and math, the subjects currently counted for determination of Adequate Yearly Progress.

The third or “AYP” column also shows student subgroup counts for the 45-student AYP minimum group sizes. The counts may differ because - in a K-6 school, for example - the counts in this table in the “all subjects” column will include all test-takers in grades 3 through 6, whereas the “AYP” portion of the table is just the total students in the reading and mathematics assessments.

Student Roster

From this screen, you can select any **Assessment** tab on the navigation bar. If you have logged in using the district password, you can move between schools using the "Schools in District" tab.

Assessment Tabs

Sub-tab 1: Roster

Sub-tab 2: Disaggregations

Click on an assessment such as the ISAT. The Student Roster will open, giving you an alphabetic list of all students and their test results in your building or district organized by year, grade, and subject of the assessment.

There is an array of tools to assist you in analyzing your students' performance.

Exercise – Exploring Features of the Student Roster

- Click on this link to see the roster of actual students
- When the roster screen opens, you can sort students by any of the variables in the boxes at the top; click "Go" to sort
- Select the Excel icon to download the entire student roster, including handy column headings, to your desktop PC
- Place your cursor on any cell on the table and a "mouse-over" showing the variable name appears; a legend of variable names is available at the top of the screen to the right of the Excel icon.
- Click on any blue-linked "Lname" (short for Last Name) to see the Individual Student Report for that student.

Across the top of the screen are option boxes that allow you to choose the year, grade, and subject of assessment you wish to review. Click on "Go" and the roster will reappear with the requested data.

Now, take a look at the column headings to see what information is provided. Notice that students' percent of items correct appears under each of the ISAT content strands. Hold your mouse over a column and a pop-up box will appear to describe the contents of the column. You can see "Algebra" (%) defining "ALG" in a pop-up on the screen. These "mouse-overs" are available throughout the roster, no matter how far you may scroll down the list.

At the base of each column heading box, you will see a small triangle like the tip of an arrow. The arrows allow you to select the variables by which you wish to analyze the roster - from Student Names to Normed Results. For information on how to use this feature, see the next page.

Notice that data showing national comparisons appears beginning with the 2006 screens. National Percentiles, National Curve Equivalent, Stanines, and Lexiles offer additional perspectives on student performance.

Color Code Descriptors, new in 2008, appear within the roster. Keyed to the color scheme for performance levels (with blue indicating Exceeds, for instance), these colors suggest levels of achievement likely to each student. Click on the Color Code Descriptors link for more information.

To organize the roster for study, select variables by using the arrows at the base of each column heading box. Click on the arrow at the bottom of a column heading. When the screen refreshes, you will see that the roster has been reordered with students sorted according to your selection. The selected column is highlighted, and the arrow in that column now points down, giving visual markers of the sorting.

You can repeat this process with additional variables by using the directional arrows. The order in which you select the variables will determine how the roster is organized.

By sorting and comparing student rosters on the test variables, you can identify weaknesses and strengths of your students in the particular test areas targeted by the Illinois ISAT and PSAE, as well as by local and national assessments.

To revise the rankings in the Student Roster, you may click on the “Clear Sort” link above the column headings, or click on ISAT or other assessment at the top of the page.

Exercise – Using Variables to Understand Individual Performance

- From your Student Roster, select Grade 5 Reading in 2005 and click Go.
- Using the column arrows, select the Performance Level column and then the Score column.
- Look at the students just above and below the line between Meets Standards and Below Standards.
- Are there patterns of strengths and weakness?
- Can you see students who could be grouped for targeted instruction on specific standards?

Selecting specific groups of students for analysis allows another type of sorting. For instance, you might want to look at a group that has received special attention of some kind such as a new reading program, or a teacher might wish to track the progress of the students in his or her class.

To select a group of students, you can place checks in the small boxes in the column at the far left next to students' names. Select the names of any group of students and then click “Compare” at the top of the column.

The roster will now reorganize itself to show only the group you have selected. Just above the roster, you will see that average scores for this group have joined the average scores for the school, district, and state. If you click on Excel to download the data, only the selected group will appear on the spreadsheet.

Tip: If you get lost, you can always click on Clear Sort or on the assessment of your choice and start over.

The test results for elementary students are available for the full array of ISAT scores with standard sets from earlier tests and content strands starting in 2006.

The test results for high school include the full array of PSAE tests, including the ACT and Work Keys components. No standard sets or content strands are available for the PSAE.

Note that disaggregated results were not available for the IMAGE assessment since students taking it are already a distinct population.

Test results for COGAT, ITBS, Plan, Explore and other standardized assessments include all the data supplied for those instruments.

Exercise – Creating Special Rosters

- From Student Roster, click on the arrows to select the following variables: CIS (Comprehension of Informational Resources), SS (Scale Score), and Performance Level.
- Are there students who need to be grouped for targeted instruction in dealing with informational resources?
- Click in the box beside these students' names and click "Compare" at the top of the column.
- You will see a roster for these students only and can analyze them further on the IIRC or download the special roster to Excel.

Reviewing an Individual Student's Performance Over Time

Notice that the last names of your students listed on the student roster appear as blue hotlinks. If you click on a last name, a student report opens that summarizes all test results for that individual, along with identification information at the top of the page.

As students continue through the grades in your district, these reports will compile longitudinal assessment data for each student. The reports can be used for assessing long-term educational progress and can be used in parent-teacher conferences. To see the individual reports for each subject area, you may click on the boxes beside each title or use the "Expand All" button.

Five types of reports are available by using the Student Report Sub-tabs:

- **Sub-tab 1: Progress Report**
- **Sub-tab 2: Scale Scores**
- **Sub-tab 3: Content Strands**
- **Sub-tab 4: Trends**
- **Sub-tab 5: Compare to Others in Grade**

The **Progress Report** displays the student's results on all assessments, including all subtests, extended response items, and nationally normed results. These are displayed in either a summary or expanded list (click on the boxes next to the subject headings for a complete list). Over time, as IIRC loads student data year-to-year, these reports will provide a useful annual update of reports for each student, grade-by-grade.

The **Scale Scores** report shows how the individual student's scores compare to district and state averages and national norms. Select the subject area and type of score by clicking on the selection buttons above the graph.

The **Content Strands** tab allows you to go directly to a comparison of strengths and weaknesses on each of the content strands in every subject area with scores of students at the school, district, and state levels. Select the year and subject area by using the options above the graph. Notice that the content strands first appear in 2006 data. For prior years, IIRC displays data on the "standards sets" that preceded the content strands.

The **Trends** report summarizes a student's progress over time in each of the subject areas by scale scores, national normed results, and content strands. Again, you may use the selection buttons and subject area box above the graph to explore different areas of a student's performance.

The **Compare to Others in Grade** report shows how an individual student's performance compares to others in that grade. Hold your cursor over any diamond and a student's name and scale score will appear. The diamonds are displayed within bands representing the performance levels. You can also click on any diamond to go to an individual report for that student. Use the back arrow to return to this screen when you are ready. The options boxes and buttons above the graph give access to more comparative information.

The **Disaggregation** feature enables you to easily perform statistical operations that are usually possible only for people trained in advanced statistical software such as SPSS. IIRC worked with local educators to determine what they wanted to know and then programmed the Disaggregation tools to provide simple, standardized reports that a novice can create.

To access the Disaggregation tools, click on an assessment in the navigation bar at the top of the screen. Then, click on the “Disaggregation” tab.

To keep it simple the first time you use this feature, first select a year, grade, and subject area in the selection boxes near the top of the screen.

Now, select from the variables listed at the left by using the directional arrows. Clicking on an arrow opens a list of options related to each variable; i.e, for race or ethnicity you can select any group or “All.” For this exercise, select All. Click on “Submit” at the bottom of the options boxes list. Now, the table fills with the average scores on all the test items for each ethnic group. You can do this for any school or subject in the district and for any single variable or combination of variables in the options boxes.

To go from this example in step 3 to more advanced disaggregations, you can select variables in more than one of the options boxes, and click “Submit.” This action will fill the data table with the disaggregated scores for all the categories you have selected. This way, you can “slice and dice” the results to target student groups or sub-groups for particular attention, while also identifying the particular assessment areas where they most need help.

Caution: Depending on the characteristics of students in your school or district, selecting too many cross-classifications can lead to only a few cases in each cell. This is not necessarily a disadvantage, since you can use this feature to identify small groups of students who need assistance in specific areas. To learn how to identify the students in those disaggregated groups, see below. To simplify or revise your disaggregation, click on “Clear Selection” below the list of variables.

Linking Disaggregations with Student Roster

On a loaded disaggregations screen, notice that for any cross-classification results, the number column (“No. of Students”) is highlighted. If you click on the highlighted number of any group you have selected (perhaps Hispanic girls or low income boys and girls, for example), a new roster screen will open. The screen lists the individual students in the group identified on the disaggregation screen. In this way, you can compile lists of identified students for targeted instruction or for more focused assistance by their teachers.

Once you have identified individual students from disaggregated screens, you can analyze their performance using the same tools as for the full roster. To return to the Disaggregations screen as you left it, use the back arrow. Return to the full student roster by simply clicking on the Roster tab.

If you want to do training or demonstrate the IIRC student data screens while protecting individual student records, you can use IIRC's anonymous student demonstration screens for "Sample School." The demonstration screens have all the features of the password-protected data, so they are a good way to familiarize others with what these screens offer. The demo screens include results of performance on state assessments for a random group of truly anonymous students in all grades tested.

Here's how to access the student data demo screens on IIRC:

1. Go to the school search option on the left of home page or the "Find Schools" tab on the navigation bar.
2. Select "School" in the search options buttons, then type the school name "sample" in the text box; click on "Go."
3. On the school selection list, only one selection will appear: "Sample School" – click on it.
4. On the school introduction page for "Sample School," click on the "Test Results" tab on the left side of the second navigation bar.
5. When the next light blue navigation bar opens, go to the tab on the right side of the navigation bar, and click on "Student Data."
6. This will open the secured-password login page.
7. For username and password, contact Valerie Lorusso at 815-753-0978.
8. Once you have logged in, you will have access to the anonymous student examples.

LOGOUT REMINDER

To protect the confidentiality of student records –

Please logout when you have completed your session with individual student data.

As an extra measure of protection for your students, close your browser after logout.

We'd be grateful for your suggestions -

Educators are our very best source of ideas for how to improve the IIRC. The IIRC staff would appreciate your suggestions on ways to use each of the options in the student data screens. Please tell us your ideas now or send them to iirc@niu.edu. Thank you for your help!

Authors of this guide

Marilyn Bellert

Harvey Smith