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# Guide to 2021 Illinois Report Card: What's new and where to find results

By Karen Ann Cullotta

The arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020 scuttled the state's standardized assessments, but the annual Illinois Report Card returned this fall, with detailed school district results released by the Illinois State Board of Education this week.

The latest report includes data from the Illinois Assessment of Readiness, or IAR, which is the state's federally mandated measurement of students' mastery of the Illinois Learning Standards in English language arts and math in Grades three through eight, and "their readiness for what's next," according to ISBE.

The IAR exam has five performance levels, including: Level 1 - Did Not Yet Meet Expectation; Level 2 - Partially Met Expectations; Level 3 - Approached Expectations; Level 4 - Met Expectations; and Level 5 - Exceeded Expectations.

## Statewide percentages of students who meet or exceed expectations on the 2021 Illinois Assessment of Readiness

The testing window last spring was extended because of the pandemic, running from March 15 through May 28, and some districts opted to conduct testing this fall.

Level	Reading		Math	
	Below Expectations (Levels 1-3)	Meets or Exceeds Expectations (Levels 4-5)	Below Expectations (Levels 1-3)	Meets or Exceeds Expectations (Levels 4-5)
Grade 3	71.8%	28.2%	69%	31%
Grade 4	71.9%	28.1%	76.5%	23.6%
Grade 5	70.6%	29.4%	76%	24%
Grade 6	69.7%	30.3%	78.3%	21.7%
Grade 7	66.6%	33.3%	73.7%	26.3%
Grade 8	65.5%	34.6%	73.6%	26.3%

The Illinois Report Card also includes data from the the SAT, an Illinois accountability assessment given to high school juniors with four performance levels, which are distinct from the College Board’s own performance levels, including: Level 1 - Partially Meets Standards; Level 2 - Approaching Standards; Level 3 - Meets Standards; and Level 4 - Exceeds Standards.

## Illinois SAT assessment 2021 statewide averages

The SAT, the Illinois accountability assessment given to high school juniors last spring, has four performance levels, which are distinct from the College Board’s own performance levels.

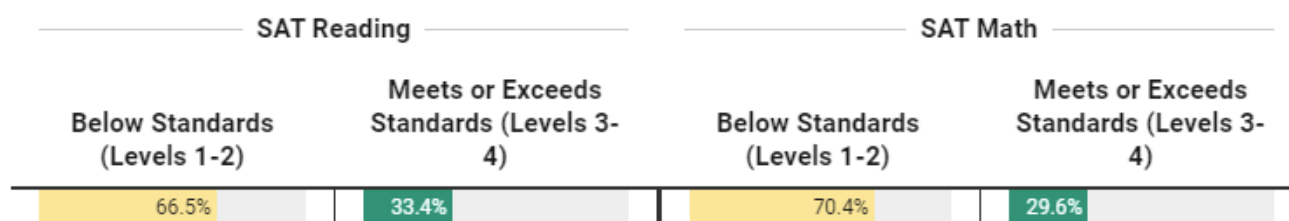


Table: Kori Rumore • Source: Illinois State Board of Education • Created with [Datawrapper](#)

This year’s report card includes data from student assessments delivered last spring at about 90% of Illinois schools, and taken by roughly 70% of students, according to ISBE. Because the state did not offer a remote testing option, many districts saw a decline in the number of students taking the test.

The state-level data is preliminary as it does not yet reflect all districts, and last month, school districts were given access to the school and district aggregate data for a correction period.

Breaking with tradition, the state released the data in two batches this fall, with the district-specific data embargoed until Dec. 2. Due to the pandemic, the testing window last spring was extended, and ran from March 15 through May 28, and some districts chose to conduct testing this fall.

The Illinois Report Card typically also assigns one of four summative designations to each schools — Exemplary School, Commendable School, Targeted School and Comprehensive School — but the designations were waived for the 2020-21 school year, according to ISBE.

See results from schools in six Chicago-area counties and more coverage from the city and suburbs below:

**Search for elementary and middle school results:** A look at how more than 1,500 elementary and middle schools in the Chicago area fared on the Illinois Assessment of Readiness. (U-46 school listed in this link)

**Search for your high school's results on the SAT state assessment:** A look at how high school juniors at nearly 300 schools in the Chicago area fared on the Illinois Report Card, which is based on SAT scores. (U-46 school listed in this link)

**Illinois releases district-level data for school report cards showing declines across all demographics:** Illinois released district-level results Dec. 2 from the most recent school report card showing declines across demographics, with some Chicago high schools having none of its students meeting expectations in reading or math.

**Growing number of Illinois high school students signing up for AP, dual credit and career courses during pandemic:** Despite showing steep declines in student test scores, the Illinois Report Card also reveals a growing number of high school students completing Advanced Placement, dual credit and career prep courses.

**Illinois schools look to bridge widening achievement gap for low-income students during the pandemic:** Illinois students from economically disadvantaged families — who represent nearly 50% of the state's roughly 2 million students — appear to have borne the brunt of the disruptions to education during the pandemic. (U-46 mentioned in this link – story also available [Nov. 13-15 Press Clippings](#))

**Illinois school report card for 2021 reflects declining test scores, climbing student absences:** Statewide aggregate data from the Illinois Report card released Oct. 29 shows steep declines in academic achievement and 1 in 5 students statewide reported as chronically absent during the 2020-21 school year.