

Education System

The **Illinois State Board of Education** sets educational policies and guidelines for public and private schools, preschool through grade 12, and vocational education for the benefit of more than 2 million children in Illinois. Other responsibilities include providing educational leadership to local school districts; ensuring that schools meet minimum standards for educational programs, personnel and business management practices; disbursing billions of dollars in state and federal funds annually; and administering a policy of equal educational opportunities for all.

The **Board of Higher Education** is a coordinating and planning agency for all sectors of Illinois higher education. As part of its planning activity, the board is responsible for implementing the *Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success*, the state’s higher education blueprint for the next decade. Other responsibilities include consolidated budget recommendations for all of higher education; program review and approval for public colleges and universities; operating and degree-granting approval for independent and out-of-state institutions; administration of state and federal grant programs; and development and maintenance of an information system for colleges and universities.

The state’s public universities and community colleges are administered by 10 boards: the *Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois* that oversees three campuses at Chicago, Springfield and Urbana-Champaign; the *Southern Illinois University Board of Trustees* that oversees campuses at Carbondale and Edwardsville; the *Boards of Trustees of Chicago State University, Eastern Illinois University, Governors State University, Illinois State University, Northeastern Illinois University, Northern Illinois University and Western Illinois University*; and the *Illinois Community College Board*, which plans and coordinates the programs and activities of the 48 public community colleges.

Illinois Education Enrollment — 2009-2010

Elementary and secondary education (public schools)	2,105,779
Elementary (Pre-K–8)	1,468,969
Secondary (9–12)	636,810
Number of certified staff (public schools)	149,793
Elementary teachers	59,023
Secondary teachers	35,560
Special education teachers.....	21,532
Number of public school districts	868
Non-public school enrollment	243,680
Elementary	185,598
Secondary	58,082
Percent of students in non-public schools	10.4%
Postsecondary education (fall 2009 enrollments)	914,763
Public universities.....	204,781
Community colleges.....	383,960
Private institutions.....	326,022