

Educational 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 more than \$7.5 billion in state and federal funds each year; 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. 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 Statistics

Postsecondary education (fall 2005 enrollments).....	799,174
Public universities	202,325
Community colleges	352,824
Private institutions	244,025
Elementary and secondary education (2005-2006).....	2,111,706
Elementary (Pre-K-8)	1,480,502
Secondary (9-12)	631,198
Number of certified staff.....	158,475
Elementary teachers	72,056
Secondary teachers.....	33,249
Special education teachers	21,205
Number of public school districts	873
Number of students (non-public schools).....	257,194
Elementary	200,022
Secondary	57,172
Percent of students in non-public schools	10.9%