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## Illinois

School Management	C	
Finance	C	
Staffing: Hiring & Evaluation	C	
Staffing: Removing Ineffective Teachers	B	
Data	C	
Pipeline to Postsecondary	C	
Technology	B	
State Reform Environment	?	
Gold Stars		

**School Management.** Illinois does an average job managing its schools in a way that encourages thoughtful innovation. While 88% of teachers report that routine duties and paperwork interfere with their teaching, the state does sanction low-performing schools. In addition, 31% of teachers like how their school is being run, which is close to the national average of 32%.

**Finance.** Overall, Illinois earns a mediocre grade in this category. While the state gets a very low mark for the simplicity of its state funding mechanism, it receives an average score for the online accessibility of its financial data. Illinois does not have a performance pay program for teachers.

**Staffing: Hiring & Evaluation.** Illinois receives an average mark for its teacher hiring and evaluation system. Seven percent of teachers enter the profession through an alternative certification program, compared with the national average of 13%. But Illinois requires incoming teachers to pass basic skills and subject-knowledge tests.

**Staffing: Removing Ineffective Teachers.** Illinois receives a solid score on the ability to remove poor-performing teachers from the classroom. Sixty-seven percent of principals say that teacher unions or associations are a barrier to the removal of ineffective teachers, which is 6 percentage points above the national average of 61%. However, only 9% of principals report that finding a suitable replacement is a barrier to removing poor-performing teachers.

**Data.** Illinois gets a middling mark for its state data system. Although the state has the ability to match individual students' test records from year to year, it does not have a teacher-identifier system with the ability to match students to teachers.

**Pipeline to Postsecondary.** Illinois receives a mediocre mark for its efforts to improve college and career readiness. Fifty-nine percent of its schools report offering dual-enrollment programs, which allow students to earn high school and college credits simultaneously. That is 6 percentage points below the national average of 65%. However, 75% of Illinois schools report offering work-based internships.

**Technology.** Illinois receives a higher-than-average grade in this category. Although the state needs to significantly improve how it evaluates its return on investments in technology, it has established a virtual school and requires technology testing for teachers.

**State Reform Environment.** There are few reliable state-by-state data on local education advocacy and research efforts—a reflection of the lack of overall commitment to this issue. As a result, we are unable to issue a meaningful grade. However, Advance Illinois is a member of the forward-thinking Policy Innovators in Education Network, and Illinois supports common academic standards.

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