



The Illinois Business RoundTable

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND IMPACTS IN ILLINOIS

January 2007

ASSESSMENTS

- Illinois has been recently cited for 3 or more fundamental components of our standards and assessment system missing or not meeting federal requirements. At this writing, districts still have not received their school status from the tests taken March 2006. Results are now anticipated to be released in March 2007.
- In the year prior to passage of NCLB, the Illinois General Assembly refused to support annual testing legislation, even though the IBRT had done a study showing how disjointed, costly, and meaningless the then-current local district testing regimes were.
- Prior to NCLB, it was a battle to even get the state to participate in NAEP, the national benchmark assessment.
- In the year after passage of NCLB, the Illinois General Assembly attempted to eliminate testing in all topics not required by NCLB.
- Illinois received roughly \$12 million from the US in the first year (and a total of \$78.1 million since 2002) to implement the additional testing requirements---and then significantly reduced how much the state spent on assessments.
- In Spring 2006, Illinois SIGNIFICANTLY LOWERED 8th grade math cut scores to allow an estimated 20% more students to “meet” our standards. As a result, most middle schools will have the AYP clock restarted on math.

TEACHER QUALITY

- US DOE reports that Illinois failed to document courses taught by unqualified teachers, failed to identify schools with high numbers of unqualified teachers, and failed to specify how professional development funds were used to help teachers meet the highly qualified standards.
- An Illinois Education Research Council study in June 2006 documented that the lowest quality teachers were too often placed in the most difficult schools in Chicago.
- Since the enactment of NCLB in 2001, Illinois has received over \$700 million for Teacher Quality state grants

NCLB FUNDING:

- Since 2001, federal education funding in Illinois INCREASED 56.7%, from \$562 million to \$865 million.