



To: District Superintendents
Principals
Community College and University Presidents

From: Dr. Christopher Koch, Illinois State Superintendent *Chris A. Koch*
Geoffrey S. Obrzut, President/CEO, Illinois Community College Board *Geoffrey S. Obrzut*
Dr. Harry Berman, Interim Executive Director, Illinois Board of Higher Education *Harry Berman*

Subject: Illinois High School to College Success Report

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) and the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE), in conjunction with the American College Testing Services (ACT), have developed a series of reports which provide information on high school graduates who enrolled as first-time, full-time in one of Illinois' public colleges or universities in fall 2008-2010. This report series can be used as an instrument in building and strengthening collaborative efforts between secondary and postsecondary educators, parents and community residents, and policymakers to increase student achievement. The series includes three separate reports:

- Individual High School Reports. These reports provide school-level information on how graduates from individual high schools performed during their freshman year at Illinois postsecondary institutions.
- State Aggregate High School Report. This report aggregates the data from the Individual High School Reports into a single state report.
- Individual Postsecondary Reports. These new reports for Illinois colleges and universities provide information on freshman students and the high schools from which they graduated.

The charts and tables in the Illinois High School to College Success Reports describe performance indicators for Prairie State Achievement Examination (PSAE)-tested high school graduates who attended a public two-year or four-year postsecondary institution in Illinois during

the 2008–2010 school years.

The report series provides a snapshot of data and information to support conversations about the following:

- A statewide comparison of college grade point averages (GPAs) for the fall 2008-2010 semesters
- The alignment of freshman student performance to the ACT College Readiness Benchmark Scores
- The relationship between rigorous mathematics and science preparation in high school and student success during the first year of college
- ACT composite scores and statewide enrollment by college
- The percentage of high school graduates who completed college-preparatory (core) coursework and the relationship to their first-year experience in college
- The relationship between ACT scores, participation in developmental coursework, and college GPAs for fall 2008-2010
- College persistence and retention rates

Appropriate reports have been sent to Illinois public high schools, community colleges and universities. In addition, all reports will be available to the public via the Illinois Interactive Report Card for public high schools (<http://iirc.niu.edu>), the ICCB website for community college reports (<http://iccbdsrv.iccb.org/hscollegesuccess/home.cfm>) and the IBHE website for public university reports (www.ibhe.state.il.us/HSCSR/default.htm).

We are pleased to provide our educational institutions with this feedback and hope the reports are helpful to you as well. This report series serves as one more tool in our toolbox to review and evaluate student coursework leading to college and career readiness. We encourage you to share this information with all potential users of your report.

As the second year of reports are disseminated, some of you may be contacted for an **evaluation** of the Illinois High School to College Success Report. We are asking for your input to gain valuable insight on the use and functionality of the report. We have contracted with the Illinois Education Research Council (IERC) and the Applied Research Consultants (ARC) to conduct an online survey and focus groups to obtain your suggestions for changes in the report and to learn about your collaborative efforts in using the report. The online survey will be conducted this Fall, with focus groups occurring late Fall and early next Spring. Participation is voluntary. We hope that you take this opportunity to tell us about how you use the report and about problems or opportunities you have experienced with this report. **Your feedback is crucial to ongoing improvement of the reports!** We thank you in advance for your input.