

Illinois Teacher Data Warehouse

In response to Title II of the 1998 Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, schools and colleges of education in Illinois sought funding for a data system that would permit newly trained teachers from their institutions to be tracked into their first teaching jobs in Illinois public schools. Planning for the system began in late 1999 and a state (HECA) grant was used to cover the costs of developing the new data system. The Illinois Teacher Data Warehouse has grown in scope and acceptance. The warehouse is managed currently by the Office of Planning and Budgeting at the University of Illinois, and plans are developing to obtain permanent funding for the warehouse from the state. Information about the warehouse is available through a Web site at the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE): <https://www-s.payday.uoapa.uillinois.edu>. The Illinois Teacher Data Warehouse has operated on a budget of less than \$50,000 per year.

Since its inception, the warehouse has grown to receive data from all public institutions of higher education in Illinois and from many of the private institutions in the state. It has collected data from the state certification database and from the state teacher employment database (Teacher Service Record database), both of which are maintained by the ISBE. One significant use of the data has been a salary analysis of new teachers by the grade level taught and by the location of the school where they teach. A second significant use has been to track program completers into their first teaching jobs in order to calculate the percentage of completers who actually teach in Illinois public schools. Perhaps most interesting has been an internal analysis of teacher turnover rates during the first 6 years of teaching, a study that has determined the extent to which teachers leave and then return to teaching in that period.

The Illinois Teacher Data Warehouse receives data from institutions of higher education once a year. The data include information about the enrollment and completion status of each student, the student's degree intent and major field of study, and a code to indicate if the program of study is traditional or alternative (either teaching or educational administration). Standard demographic data include date of birth, gender, and race/ethnicity. Records do not contain data on personal and family background, prior professional experience, academic performance, PRAXIS or similar test scores, or other measures of performance in the program of study. The warehouse is primarily designed to serve the needs of institutions of higher education that wish to know how many and which students seek certification and employment in the state. Users of unit record data must be staff at institutions that actually enrolled the student at one time or staff at the ISBE or the Illinois Board of Higher Education. By design, the data warehouse has a very limited scope and purpose.

The utility of the Illinois Teacher Data Warehouse has additional limitations. First, institutional participation is strictly voluntary. As a result, only 32 of the state's 57 institutions have provided data to the warehouse, and only 46 have signed the security agreement needed to participate in the exchange of data. Only 20 of 45 private institutions have contributed data. A second limitation of the data warehouse is that it does not contain standardized data from alumni surveys, even though it provides names,

addresses, and other contact information for the institutional administrators of alumni surveys. A third limitation of the warehouse is that it does not link its data with those of the state's unemployment insurance system and thus cannot track its program completers who take nonpublic school teaching jobs in the state. Finally, because the warehouse does not contain information on courses taken by teachers following program completion, it fails to document the extent of professional development offered by colleges and universities in the state. Despite these limitations, the Illinois Teacher Data Warehouse provides valuable follow-up data to teacher preparation programs that would otherwise be unavailable.