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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** The Honorable JB Pritzker, Governor  
The Honorable Jim Durkin, House Minority Leader  
The Honorable Don Harmon, Senate President  
The Honorable Dan McConchie, Senate Minority Leader  
The Honorable Emanuel "Chris" Welch, Speaker of the House

**FROM:** Dr. Carmen I. Ayala   
State Superintendent of Education

**DATE:** March 30, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Equity and Racial Justice Act Progress Report

The Equity and Racial Justice Act Progress Report pursuant to 20 ILCS 65, Section 20-15.

This report is transmitted on behalf of the State Superintendent of Education. For additional copies of this report or for more specific information, please contact Amanda Elliott, Executive Director, Legislative Affairs at (217) 782-6510 or [aelliott@isbe.net](mailto:aelliott@isbe.net).

**cc:** Secretary of the Senate  
Clerk of the House  
Legislative Research Unit  
State Government Report Center



March 30, 2022

To the Honorable Members of the Illinois General Assembly:

In compliance with the requirements set forth in the Data Governance and Organization to Support Equity and Racial Justice Act (20 ILCS 65 et. al), the Illinois State Board of Education ISBE hereby submits a progress report detailing the programs and data that have been catalogued for which the demographic categories described in Section 20-15 of the Act have been standardized and, to the extent possible, the data sets and programs that are planned for the coming year.

The Act requires ISBE to “report statistical data on racial, ethnic, age, sex, disability status, sexual orientation, gender identity, and primary or preferred language demographics of program participants for each major program” it administers.

While “major program” is not defined in the statute, ISBE has adopted the following definition provided by the Governor’s Office of Management and Budget (GOMB) : A major program is a program with an enacted appropriation of greater than \$1 million in fiscal year; direct services provided to individuals and/or a reasonable expectation that demographic information can be aggregated via proxy data without substantial cost or disruption to program delivery.

Using these definitions, ISBE has identified the following program student populations for reporting:

- Evidence-Based Funding - Average Student Enrollment (ASE) - Student Enrollment Totals  
(for each of the years contributing to the ASE) - District Level only
- English Learners - Serving Student Enrollment Totals - District and State Levels
- Individualized Education Program - Serving Student Enrollment Totals - District and State Levels
- Career and Technical Education - Home Student Course Enrollment Totals –

District and State Levels

- Charter Schools - Serving Student Enrollment Totals - District and State Levels
- Advanced Placement - Home Student Course Enrollment Totals - District and State Levels
- All Available State Assessment Data - Home Student Participation and Proficiency Averages –

District and State Levels

- All Student Enrollment Data - Serving Student Enrollment Totals - District and State Levels
- Low Income (eligible for free or reduced-price lunch) - Serving Student Enrollment Totals –

District and State Levels

In February and March, ISBE began to assess currently catalogued demographic data for each of the aforementioned programs.

The agency made an initial assessment and determined that the following demographic categories have been defined and standardized across all “major programs” identified in this report:

- Racial/ethnicity
- Age
- Disability status
- Gender (includes gender identity)
- Primary or preferred language

In the coming year, the agency will utilize the Office of Equity’s guidance to further refine and standardize definitions for the remaining demographic categories:

- Sex
- Sexual orientation

Once the remaining categories are defined, ISBE will work with the Illinois Department of Innovation and Technology (DoIT) and GOMB to streamline its data collection and gather the relevant data from major program participants, who are primarily youth under the age of 18.

The agency has formed a working group of LGBTQ+ advocates, educators, families, and students from across the state to ensure the remaining demographic categories are collected with all students’ safety and privacy in mind. ISBE will conclude this stakeholder engagement by October 2022 in order to provide the field with revised guidance or to propose legislation before school registration begins for the 2023-24 school year.

As the state works to implement the Act, the Illinois State Board of Education’s data stewards; information and technology staff; and diversity, equity, and inclusion leaders will work with DoIT and GOMB to provide valuable data and analysis that will be meaningful and inform program design and policymaking endeavors.

Very Sincerely and Respectfully,



Dr. Carmen I. Ayala  
State Superintendent of Education