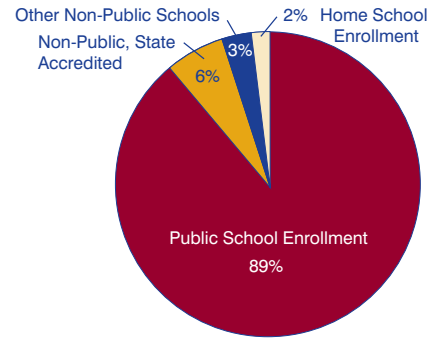# Hoosier Students and the Public Schools

More than 1.1 million Hoosier children are preparing to return to school this month, along with nearly 60,500 teachers and 3,300 administrators. The following is a bird's eye view of Indiana's public school corporations.

Enrollment

A little over 1 million Hoosier children attended public school during the 2005–06 school year (see **Figure 1**). Among school corporations, Indianapolis Public Schools had the highest enrollment (38,142), while Dewey Township

Other Non-Public Schools
Non-Public, State Accredited
3%
6%
2% Home School Enrollment

Public School Enrollment
89%

Source: IBRC, using Indiana Department of Education data

FIGURE 2: ENROLLMENT BY SCHOOL DISTRICT, 2005–06

Lagrange, Steuben, St. Joseph, Elkhart, La Porte, Porter, Noble, De Kalb, Lake, Starke, Marshall, Kosciusko, Whitley, Allen, Newton, Jasper, Pulaski, Fulton, Huntington, Wells, Adams, White, Cass, Wabash, Benton, Miami, Carroll, Howard, Grant, Black-ford, Jay, Warren, Tippecanoe, Clinton, Tipton, Madison, Delaware, Randolph, Fountain, Boone, Hamilton, Henry, Montgomery, Wayne, Vermillion, Parke, Hendricks, Marion, Hancock, Putnam, Fayette, Union, Rush, Vigo, Clay, Johnson, Shelby, Franklin, Owen, Morgan, Decatur, Dearborn, Sullivan, Greene, Bartholomew, Brown, Ripley, Ohio, Monroe, Jennings, Knox, Lawrence, Jackson, Jefferson, Switzerland, Daviess, Martin, Scott, Orange, Washington, Clark, Pike, Floyd, Gibson, Dubois, Crawford, Harrison, Vander-burgh, Warrick, Spencer, Perry, Posey

20,001 to 38,142
10,001 to 20,000
2,501 to 10,000
0 to 2,500
Data not available

Source: IBRC, using Indiana Department of Education data

Schools in La Porte County had a mere 154 pupils (see **Figure 2**).

Within the past 10 years, public school enrollment has increased by 5 percent in Indiana. Meanwhile—though accounting for only 2 percent of children statewide—the number of children home-schooled has skyrocketed 332 percent to total almost 23,500 children. Since 2001, however, the annual rate of growth in home schooling has begun to slow down, dropping to a 5 percent increase in 2004–05 from the previous year (compared to a 1 percent over-the-year increase in public school enrollment).

The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) projects that within the next 10 years, public school enrollment will increase from current levels by about 4 percent—that's more than 43,500 new children. (Projections for those home-schooled, as well as those enrolled in private schools, were unavailable.)
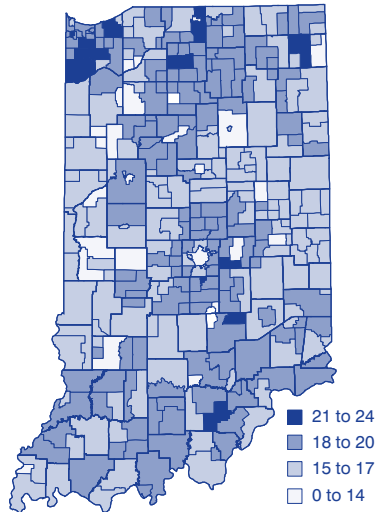
Teachers

The student-teacher ratio during the 2004–05 school year ranged from eight students per teacher in Dewey Township Schools to 24 students per teacher in Lake County's Tri-Creek School Corporation (see **Figure 3**). Statewide, the average teacher salary equaled $46,591 (see **Figure 4**). In Morgan County, Eminence Community
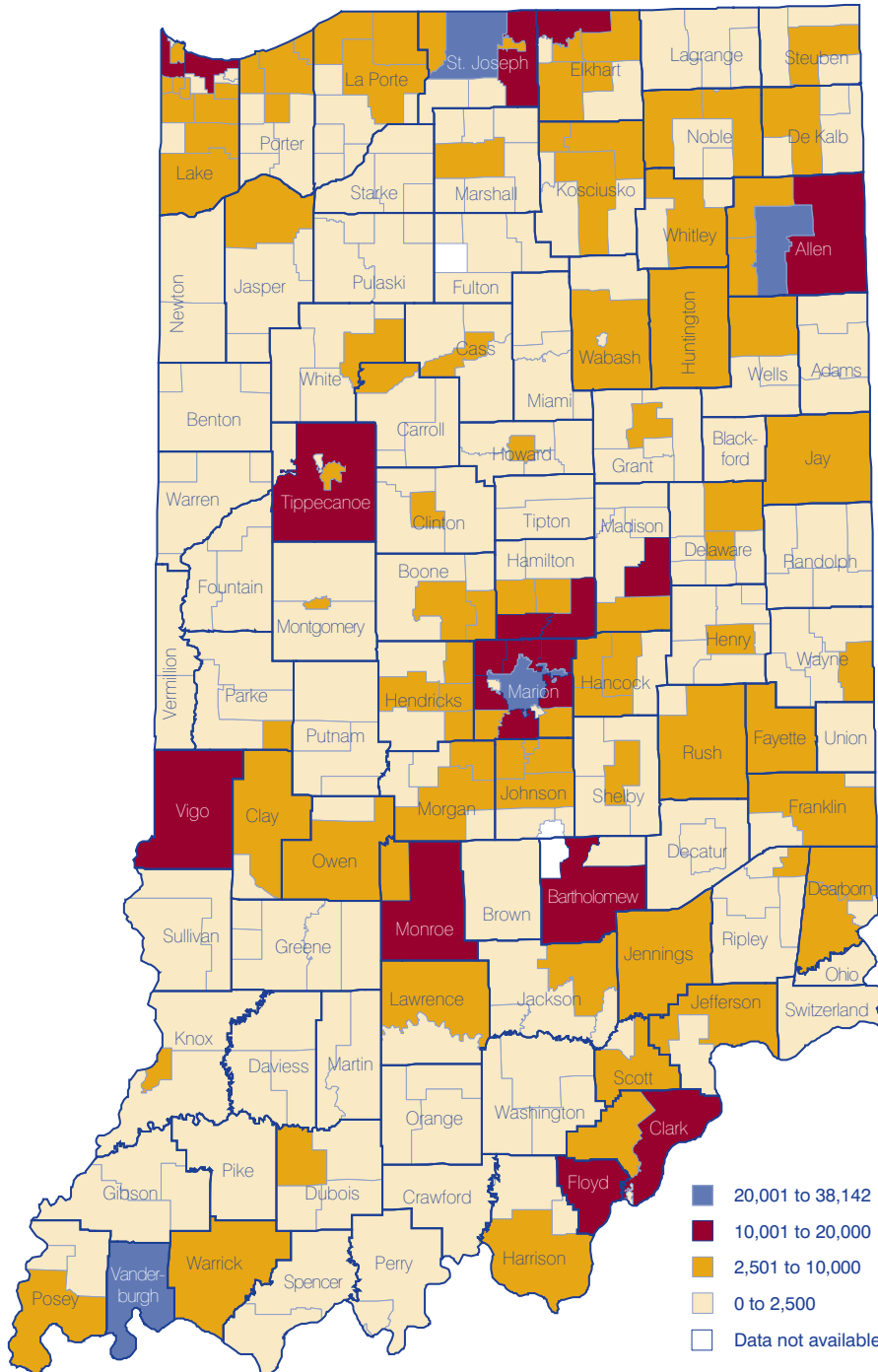
21 to 24
18 to 20
15 to 17
0 to 14

Source: IBRC, using Indiana Department of Education data

FIGURE 4: Average Teacher Salary, 04-05

$50,001 to $57,473

$45,001 to $50,000

$40,001 to $45,000

$0 to $40,000
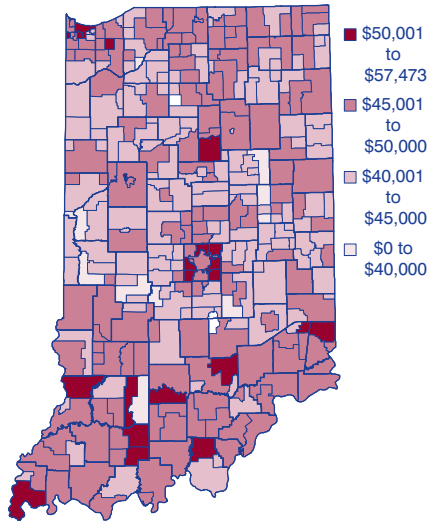
Source: IBRC, using Indiana Department of Education data

FIGURE 5: Average Teacher Age, 04-05

47.0 to 51.2
44.0 to 46.9
41.1 to 43.9
36.0 to 41.0
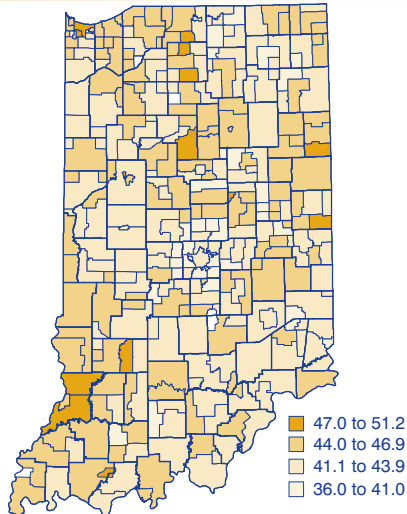
Source: IBRC, using Indiana Department of Education data

School teachers had the lowest average salary in the state at $32,579 (incidentally, they also had the youngest average teacher age of 36 years—see **Figure 5**). West Lafayette Community School Corporation, on the other hand, had an average teacher salary of $57,473 (and an average teacher age of 47). Gary Community Schools had the oldest average teacher age statewide at 51 years (and an average teacher salary of $51,405).

A $6 Billion Endeavor

During the 2004–05 school year, school corporations spent $6.06 billion, according to IDOE's annual report, for all general fund purposes. However, that $6 billion averaged out to just $6,160 per student.

Total per pupil expenses, on the other hand, include capitol outlays not paid out of the general fund and are averaged across three years to help smooth out spikes resulting from

No Child Left Behind

With the 2001 passage of the No Child Left Behind Act, schools must show annual yearly progress (AYP) in their total student population, as well as in student subgroups (which involve race, economic background, special education and English proficiency). To achieve AYP, school districts must meet the criteria in ALL applicable student groups; thus, larger and more diverse districts find it harder to make AYP.

In 2005, 213 out of 293 school districts (73 percent) made AYP. The "bar" was raised from prior years: 65.7 percent of students had to pass the English portion and 64.3 percent had to pass the math portion of the ISTEP in order to make AYP. Alternatively, a district could make AYP if it reduced the number of students not meeting these targets by 10 percent.

For more information and detailed school AYP breakdowns, visit Indiana's No Child Left Behind website at www.doe. state.in.us/ esea/.

School Districts

Did not achieve AYP
Achieved AYP
Data not available
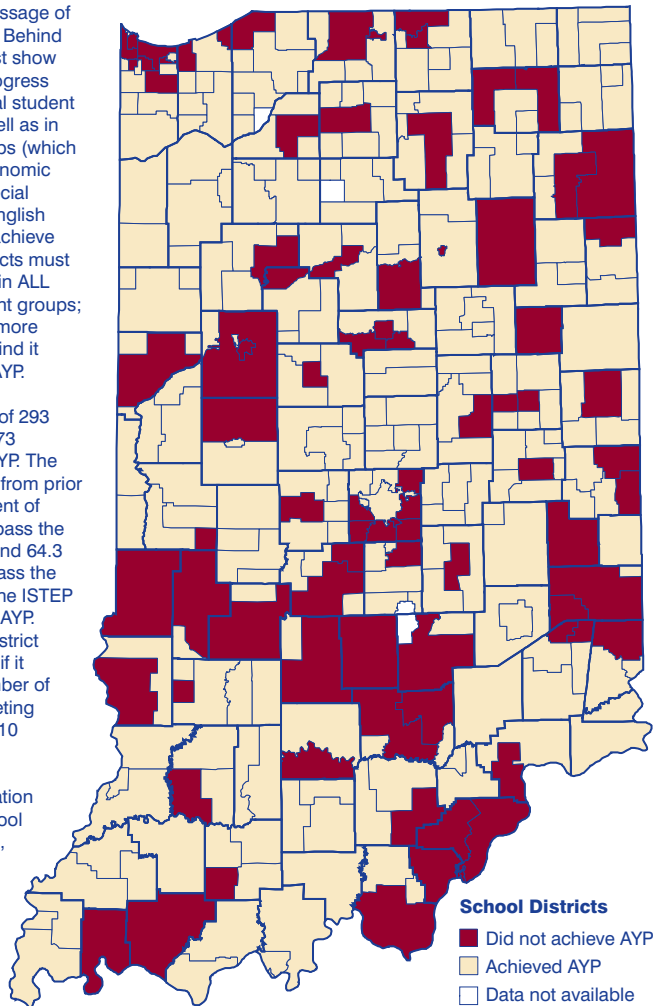
Source: IBRC, using Indiana Department of Education data

TABLE 1: Standardized Test Scores by Grade, 2005–06

Grade	Pupils Tested		Percent Pass		
	Public	Nonpublic	Both English and Math	English	Math
3	76,341	6,132	66%	76%	74%
4	77,869	6,119	67%	75%	76%
5	77,651	6,048	68%	75%	77%
6	78,314	5,628	67%	72%	79%
7	80,863	5,202	64%	70%	77%
8	80,514	5,396	63%	70%	73%
9	82,597	4,327	61%	68%	71%
10	78,782	5,218	58%	69%	65%

Source: IBRC, using Indiana Department of Education data

building projects and the like. From 2002 to 2004, the Indiana average was $9,115 per pupil.

Achievement

Quantifying student achievement is fraught with difficulty, and standardized tests—for better or worse—are often the proxy used. **Table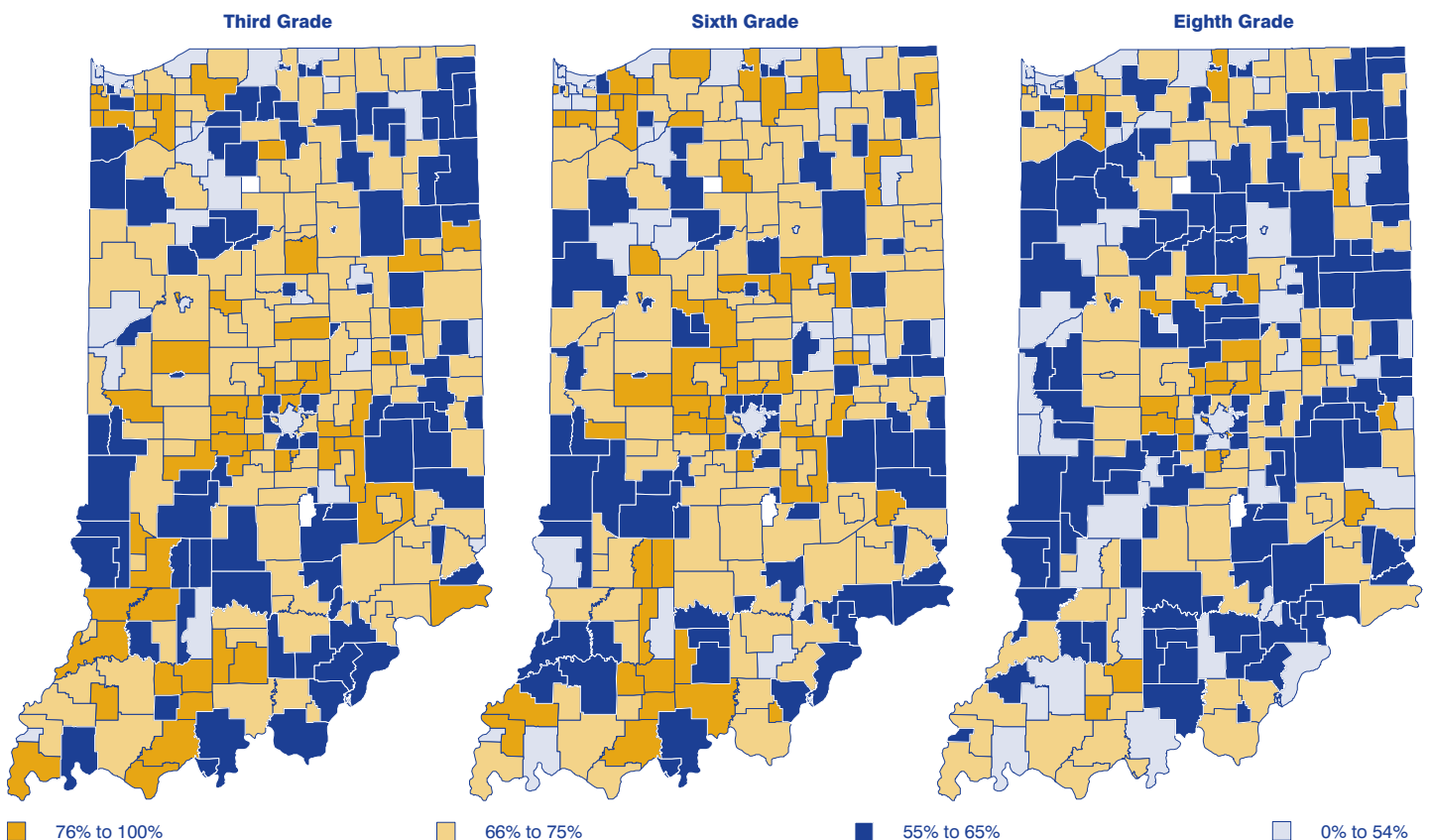 1** shows the statewide scores for 2005–06. Whereas 68 percent of fifth graders passed both English and math, that dropped to just 58 percent of high school sophomores. The number passing the math portion showed a similar pattern—peaking in the sixth grade at 79 percent and falling to 65 percent of sophomores. English scores peaked at 76 percent of third graders, falling to a low of 69 percent of 10th graders. **Figure 6** shows the

Find more school district or statewide education data at www.doe.state.in.us/asap/. STATS Indiana provides county-level aggregations of education data based on the IDOE reports. It also provides regional school district boundary maps at www.stats.indiana.edu/maptools/school_districts.htm.

percentage of students in each school corporation passing both English and math.

—Rachel Justis, Managing Editor, Indiana Business Research Center, Kelley School of Business, Indiana University

FIGURE 6: Percent of Students Passing Both English and Math ISTEP Requirements by School District, 2004–05

Third Grade Sixth Grade Eighth Grade

76% to 100% 66% to 75% 55% to 65% 0% to 54%

Source: IBRC, using Indiana Department of Education data