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Facts about Illinois Dropouts

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Parents and taxpayers can find dropout rates for school districts and high schools at the Illinois State Board of Education's Web site, <http://www.isbe.state.il.us/>. Click on "Report Cards" and search by school or district name.

THOUSANDS OF DROPOUTS: In 2006-2007, the state's high school dropout rate was 3.5%. More than 25,000 students dropped out that year. A task force studying the issue estimated 14% of high-school age students, more than 100,000, were out of school in 2006.

OUT OF WORK: Only 35% of Illinois teenage dropouts were able to find jobs in 2005. In contrast, 57% of teenage high school grads were employed.

EARNINGS: Mean annual earnings for Illinois men who dropped out was \$21,400 in 2005, nearly 30% below the mean salary of male high school grads. Women made \$8,500, which was 47% less than women who graduated.

HOME OWNERSHIP: In 2005, the rate of home ownership was 49% among Illinois households headed by someone lacking a high school diploma. The rate was 64% for high school grads and 75% for college grads.

Sources: Illinois State Board of Education; Center for Labor Market Studies, Northeastern University, Boston.

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