If you drop out of school, prepare for miserable life

*Chicago SunTimes* Editorial, 12/7/2011
In 2007, Illinois had over 225,000 high school dropouts, age 16 to 24 – over 98,000 of these high-school age dropouts are high-school age (14 to 20 years old), which includes over 45,000 high school age dropouts in Chicago.

The amount of information showing the high cost to society is overwhelming, and has been available for many years. While we are asked to advocate for change and solutions in state and federal law, how many law-makers in Illinois actually have high-dropout schools in their districts…and reasons to use scarce government dollars to fix this problem?

View the maps on the following pages. If you know of someone who is creating maps that show poorly performing schools as overlays to electoral districts, then email tutormentor2@earthlink.net so we can share this information on our web sites.

However, if you don’t know anyone doing this type of work, consider becoming our partner, a volunteer and a benefactor/sponsor to help us create this type of a map resource.
This map shows high drop out schools. The map at right shows Illinois legislative districts.

Out of 59 State Senators and 118 Representatives only 51% are needed to enact new legislation.

Which districts will provide the needed votes?
Which Members Have High Drop-out Schools in their Districts?

On the following pages are maps showing current showing Illinois House and Senate Districts.

While the facts showing how much high school dropouts cost the state are strong, if there are no high drop-out schools in a legislative district, what motivates that representative to vote for policy and funding changes that might put long-term programs in place that prevent many youth from dropping out of high school?

Is anyone producing this type of map-analysis where the drop-out schools and legislative districts are on one map?
Almost all legislative districts of Chicago include high drop-out schools. Every legislator has reason to vote for policy changes. Are they?

How many votes in Senate and House represent districts with high drop-out schools? Senate 15; House 21 votes.
Using map overlays, locations of high dropout schools can be plotted*. This is the North section of Illinois showing Legislative Districts.

High drop out schools are spread thinly throughout most of Illinois. Most are in urban areas.

*Approximate location of high dropout schools
Using map overlays, locations of high dropout schools can be plotted*. This is the Central section of Illinois showing Legislative Districts.
Using map overlays, locations of high dropout schools can be plotted*. This is the South Central section of Illinois showing Legislative Districts.

Who is doing research to map locations of poorly performing schools?
Using map overlays, locations of high dropout schools can be plotted*. This is the South section of Illinois showing Legislative Districts.

*Approximate location of high dropout schools
Illinois House Districts and locations of poorly performing schools (2008)

This map is a service of Tutor/Mentor Institute, LLC

This is an example of the type of map that could be created for entire state.
Holding Elected Officials Accountable

Using maps like these voters in each district can better understand school performance and drop out rates in their political districts and can better evaluate performance of elected officials in bringing resources to help solve the program, or providing leadership that bring together business, faith and community groups to solve the problem.

Tutor/Mentor Institute, LLC, www.tutormentorexchange.net Email tutormentor2@earthlink.net
Resources


- **Illinois Task Force on Re-enrolling Students Who Dropped out of School** - [http://www.isbe.net/reports/reenrolled_students08.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/reports/reenrolled_students08.pdf)


- Drop out maps created by **REL Midwest at Learning Point Associates** [http://goal.learningpt.org/catalog/](http://goal.learningpt.org/catalog/)


- **Discuss drop out issues and strategies to expand network of adults surrounding youth in high poverty areas** – [http://tutormentorconnection.ning.com](http://tutormentorconnection.ning.com)
HELP US DEVELOP THIS MAP CAPACITY

These maps are intended to encourage voters, volunteers, donors and policy makers to think, learn and innovate ways to apply these ideas in their own leadership and efforts to reduce poverty, increase graduation, and prepare more youth for 21st century jobs and careers.

At the following Tutor/Mentor Institute and Tutor/Mentor Connection web sites you can see how we put these ideas to practice every day in our effort to support our goals.

http://www.tutormentorexchange.net
http://www.tutormentorconnection.org
http://tutormentor.blogspot.com
http://tutormentorconnection.ning.com

Become a sponsor, volunteer, intern, or research partner to help us do this work. Email tutormentor2@earthlink.net

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