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## News: Local / Quad-City Area

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### School reports going online

By Ann McGlynn

Illinois school district report cards will be released sooner and they will be easier for parents and educators to use in the future, Illinois State Board of [education](#) officials promised while announcing Wednesday that the 2003-04 report cards will be available online Dec. 15.

The next installment of report cards will have fewer to no problems when compared with last year's reports, which were plagued by inaccurate information, officials said. More than 400 Illinois schools were fingered publicly as underperforming when they were not.

Data errors for 1,900 schools were corrected this year before release, said Randy Dunn, who took over leadership as interim state superintendent in September.

"There were terrible problems with errors on last year's report cards," he said. "We knew we couldn't let that happen under our leadership. The agency staff worked hand-in-hand with the districts to pinpoint and fix the problems so that the information we provide to schools will be accurate."

The report cards, which will be available at [www.isbe.net](http://www.isbe.net), provide testing, demographic and financial information for individual schools and districts.



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In regards to testing, the cards detail how a school as a whole did on state and national exams. Officials also break down information based on race, income and disabilities.

While the state will have information available on the Internet next month, Rock Island-Milan School District officials have already shared preliminary information with the school board. High school scores were down, junior high scores were up and elementary school scores were mixed, Superintendent Rick Loy and Assistant Superintendent Jay Marino said.

Language arts scores rose, while math scores went down overall, Marino said. The most encouraging information comes from tracking classes through the system. For example, last year's eighth-graders scored significantly higher on tests than they did when they were in third grade, he said.

The schools now have the information and will use it to teach their students, he said. Individual student reports will be sent once they are received from the state, but district leaders wanted to give the overall picture as soon as possible.

"We got tired of waiting on the state," he added.

The state is collecting suggestions for the new online design, officials said. Suggestions can be made at [www.isbe.net](http://www.isbe.net) by clicking on the "Report Card Ideas" icon. The board will be working with the Illinois Parent Teacher Association on the redesign.

"There is a better way to do this," Dunn said.

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