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## R.I. students improve scores

September 26, 2001

By Leon Lagerstam, Dispatch/Argus Staff writer

Rock Island-Milan students improved their Illinois Standards Achievement Test scores and other students statewide in most categories, school board members learned

"There were 13 areas of possible growth," assistant superintendent J. Jay Marino said. Scores and decreased gaps in nine of those areas."

Drops were seen in fourth-grade science scores and seventh-grade science and social results, he said. Third-grade writing scores remained the same.

Scores show a gradual, but continuous, trend of improvement, especially in the math

For example, 60 percent of the district's third-graders met or exceeded state standard state average of 67 percent. Only 54 percent of Rock Island-Milan third-graders met the test was first given in 1999, and the difference then from the state average was 9 said.

That original third-grade group took the test as fifth-graders last spring and showed improvement. Sixty-two percent of them met or exceeded state standards in reading, compared to a

The same group improved their math scores from 63 percent meeting or exceeding state third-graders to 66 percent as fifth-graders. The state average of fifth-graders meeting was 67 percent this year.

Writing scores also improved for that group. In 1999, 47 percent of them met or exceeded but 65 percent of them posted passing marks as fifth-graders.

Students are tested in reading, math and writing when they are in third, fifth and eighth graders take social science and science tests.

Significant drops were seen in the district's seventh-grade social science and science tests. Seventh-graders were listed at below standards or on academic warning, compared to statewide not meeting standards.

Sixty-two percent of district seventh-graders met or exceeded science standards, compared to

The district has focused attention on reading, writing and math, but test results indicate

science and social science curriculum, Mr. Marino said.

Complete ISAT results, including those for individual Rock Island-Milan schools, were 1 Results will be shared with parents at parent-teacher conferences next week, Mr. Mari

In other action, the board heard about revised plans for a high school fitness center, c costs. Bids for the project are expected in a week.

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