



Written by [R. Cort Kirkwood](#) on September 2, 2025

Teachers Unions Fund Leftist Causes While Students Fail Math, Reading

As union-controlled public schools in big cities continue failing to educate kids, a new report shows that the nation's two largest teachers' unions have contributed almost \$50 million to far-left interest groups since 2022.

When kids headed back to school nationwide last week, the Defending Education website reported that the National Education Association (NEA) and American Teachers Federation (AFT) is more interested in promoting crazy causes than educating kids.

Meanwhile, during the same time, multiple reports showed that urban students are not proficient in basic subjects such as math and reading.



TW Farlow/iStock/Getty Images Plus

Rather than focusing on classrooms and students, teachers' unions are funneling tens of millions in dues to far-left causes, PACs, and activist groups.

Parents and taxpayers deserve schools that educate, not political machines.

pic.twitter.com/OrGLnYI1Wx

— Nicki Neily (@nickineily) [August 25, 2025](#)

Money for DEI, Trannnies

As urban kids languish in schools with barely literate teachers, AFT and NEA poured money into a who's who of leftist kookery.

In the past three years, the two anti-Christian, anti-American unions "have given out a combined \$43,524,123 in funding to leftwing and far-left groups," Defending Education reported.

Some organizations receiving funds include MoveOn.org, PEN America, the Sixteen Thirty Fund, the Trevor Project, and a handful of state and federal leftwing Political Action Committees (PACs). For example, the two unions gave a combined \$9,300,000 to For [Our Future Action Fund](#), a leftwing political action committee. Additionally, the NEA gave the [State Engagement Fund](#) \$9,500,000 over the same period.

AFT contributed \$14,747,625 to organized leftism, while the NEA pumped in almost twice that much with \$28,776,500.

AFT shoveled \$100,000 each into the Color of Change PAC; National Action Network; the Bill, Hillary &



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Chelsea Clinton Foundation; and \$200,000 into the Center for American Progress.

The Democratic Governors Association collected \$600,000.

NEA delivered \$106,146 to the Alliance for Justice; \$500,000 to the Center for American Progress; and \$75,000 to the Tides Center, a "[progressive incubator](#)" tightly linked to left-wing billionaire George Soros.

NEA is also big on GLSEN, the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network. It received \$30,000 to brainwash kids into sexual perversion.

NEA dumped \$60,000 in the Human Rights Campaign Foundation, another arm of the well-funded Lavender Lobby bent on recruiting kids.

Math and Reading Scores in Illinois

While the unions put all that effort into funding leftist causes, math and reading scores in urban schools suffered, the data show.

In April, the Wirepoints website reported, far-left Democrat Governor J.B. Pritzker's Illinois schools are graduating virtual illiterates.

Illinois schools where not a single kid can read or do math at grade level

Illinois State Board of Education: Schools with zero students scoring proficient on the IAR or SAT, 2024

**Zero students proficient
in math**

80 schools

**Zero students proficient
in reading**

24 schools

On average, these schools graduate **nearly 70% of their students**

Source: Illinois State Board of Education, Illinois Report Card 2024
Note: The state board measures students' reading and math proficiencies based on the test results of the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (grades 3-8) and the Scholastic Aptitude Test (grade 11)

WIREPOINTS

"Our 2022 and [2023](#) data tables showing the dozens of Illinois schools where *zero students* are proficient in reading and math [continue](#) to make the [rounds](#) on social media." the [website reported](#):

But it's time for an update now that the state's [2024 Report Card data](#) is out ... and the results are still dismal.

In 2024, there were 80 Illinois schools where *not a single student* tested proficient in math and 24 schools where no student tested proficient in reading. In 2023, it was 67 and 32, respectively.

Incredibly, officials in those schools graduated nearly 70% of their students in 2024.



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2024 ISBE results: Not a single student tested was proficient in math in 80 Illinois schools

Illinois State Board of Education: Schools with zero students scoring proficient in math on the IAR or SAT, 2024

School Name	District Name	Grades Served	Enrollment	Graduation rate	Operational spending per student	Students proficient in math
ACE Amandla Charter School	ACE Amandla Charter	9 - 12	136	89%	\$23,906	0
Astoria High School	Astoria CUSD 1	9 - 12	80	83%	\$16,929	0
Lovejoy Middle School	Brooklyn UD 188	6 - 8	28		\$19,948	0
Cahokia High School	Cahokia CUSD 187	9 - 12	778	55%	\$23,429	0
Cairo Jr./Sr High School	Cairo USD 1	7 - 12	118	64%	\$29,459	0
Century Jr./Sr High School	Century CUSD 100	6 - 12	151	90%	\$14,831	0
Art in Motion Charter School	Chicago Public Schools	7 - 12	532	85%	\$9,233	0
Aspira Charter - Business and Finance HS	Chicago Public Schools	9 - 12	477	90%	\$21,455	0
ASPIRA Charter - Early College Prep HS	Chicago Public Schools	9 - 12	255	89%	\$26,016	0
Bowen High School	Chicago Public Schools	9 - 12	175	59%	\$35,764	0
Bright Elem School	Chicago Public Schools	PK - 8	211		\$30,936	0
Bronzeville Scholastic HS	Chicago Public Schools	9 - 12	105	77%	\$42,867	0
Chicago Collegiate Charter School	Chicago Public Schools	5 - 12	245	71%	\$31,322	0
Chicago Excel Academy HS	Chicago Public Schools	9 - 12	252	22%	\$20,320	0
Chicago Technology Academy HS	Chicago Public Schools	9 - 12	365	91%	\$24,697	0
CICS - Longwood Campus	Chicago Public Schools	3 - 12	1,180	83%	\$21,110	0
CICS - Ralph Ellison Campus	Chicago Public Schools	9 - 12	201	74%	\$31,189	0
Clark Acad Prep Magnet High Schl	Chicago Public Schools	9 - 12	391	82%	\$28,061	0
Collins Academy STEAM High School	Chicago Public Schools	9 - 12	210	74%	\$35,188	0
Corliss High School	Chicago Public Schools	9 - 12	279	74%	\$30,536	0
Crane Medical Prep HS	Chicago Public Schools	9 - 12	264	85%	\$29,018	0
Dett Elem School	Chicago Public Schools	PK - 8	281		\$28,259	0
Douglass Academy High School	Chicago Public Schools	9 - 12	35	72%	\$93,787	0
Dunbar Vocational Career Acad HS	Chicago Public Schools	9 - 12	366	72%	\$26,834	0
Fenger Academy High School	Chicago Public Schools	9 - 12	203	59%	\$33,771	0
Gage Park High School	Chicago Public Schools	9 - 12	346	63%	\$23,755	0
Harlan Community Academy HS	Chicago Public Schools	9 - 12	206	64%	\$34,817	0
Holmes Elem School	Chicago Public Schools	PK - 8	126		\$28,423	0
Hyde Park Academy High School	Chicago Public Schools	9 - 12	809	66%	\$18,348	0
IJLA Charter High School	Chicago Public Schools	9 - 12	66	28%	\$25,385	0
Julian High School	Chicago Public Schools	9 - 12	445	77%	\$25,861	0
Legal Prep Academy Charter HS	Chicago Public Schools	9 - 12	211	85%	\$28,240	0
Marshall Metropolitan High School	Chicago Public Schools	9 - 12	177	52%	\$36,883	0
Multicultural Arts High School	Chicago Public Schools	9 - 12	238	66%	\$25,147	0
Noble St Chtr-Rowe-Clark MS Acad	Chicago Public Schools	9 - 12	343	91%	\$26,898	0
Orr Academy High School	Chicago Public Schools	9 - 12	244	55%	\$26,146	0
Perspectives Chtr - High School of Tech	Chicago Public Schools	9 - 12	418	87%	\$3,986	0
Perspectives Chtr - Leadership Acad	Chicago Public Schools	6 - 12	839	89%	\$2,128	0
Plato Learning Acad Elem School	Chicago Public Schools	K - 8	178		\$22,856	0
Raby High School	Chicago Public Schools	9 - 12	146	60%	\$46,655	0
School of Social Justice HS	Chicago Public Schools	9 - 12	299	69%	\$22,880	0
Spry Community Links High School	Chicago Public Schools	9 - 12	60	85%	\$60,752	0
Urban Prep Chtr Acad Bronzeville HS	Chicago Public Schools	9 - 12	165	82%	\$23,441	0
Urban Prep Chtr Acad Englewood HS	Chicago Public Schools	9 - 12	91	83%	\$32,106	0
Walter Henri Dyett HS for the Arts	Chicago Public Schools	9 - 12	500	87%	\$23,668	0
YCCS Chtr - Chatham	Chicago Public Schools	9 - 12	99	53%	\$29,646	0
YCCS- McKinley-Lakeside Leadership	Chicago Public Schools	9 - 12	96	50%	\$33,096	0
YCCS West	Chicago Public Schools	9 - 12	67	56%	\$36,730	0
YCCS-Albizu Campos Puerto Rican HS	Chicago Public Schools	9 - 12	164	38%	\$18,740	0
YCCS-Association House	Chicago Public Schools	9 - 12	99	38%	\$21,519	0
YCCS-CCA Academy HS	Chicago Public Schools	9 - 12	77	69%	\$31,989	0
YCCS-Community Youth Dev Inst HS	Chicago Public Schools	9 - 12	83	28%	\$28,531	0
YCCS-Innovations of Arts Integr HS	Chicago Public Schools	9 - 12	498	49%	\$25,354	0
YCCS-Latino Youth Alternative HS	Chicago Public Schools	9 - 12	157	21%	\$24,379	0
YCCS-Progressive Leadership Academy	Chicago Public Schools	9 - 12	131	65%	\$26,195	0
YCCS-Scholastic Achievement HS	Chicago Public Schools	9 - 12	113	60%	\$31,332	0
YCCS-Truman Middle College HS	Chicago Public Schools	9 - 12	185	28%	\$24,463	0
YCCS-West Town Academy Alt HS	Chicago Public Schools	9 - 12	94	41%	\$24,604	0
YCCS-Youth Connection Leadership	Chicago Public Schools	9 - 12	130	62%	\$32,205	0
Clay City High School	Clay City CUSD 10	9 - 12	74	79%	\$15,995	0
SIU Charter Sch of East St Louis	East St Louis SD 189	9 - 12	117	69%	\$18,996	0
Edinburg High School	Edinburg CUSD 4	9 - 12	68	86%	\$18,247	0
Gen George Patton Elem School	Gen George Patton SD 133	PK - 8	205		\$28,372	0
Mark Twain Primary School	Kankakee SD 111	PK - 3	274		\$15,773	0
Taft Primary School	Kankakee SD 111	K - 3	300		\$15,599	0
Kansas High School	Kansas CUSD 3	7 - 12	77	82%	\$19,428	0
Madison Senior High School	Madison CUSD 12	9 - 12	128	63%	\$27,742	0
Meredosia-Chambersburg Jr High	Meredosia-Chambersburg 11	6 - 8	53		\$19,177	0
Morrisonville High School	Morrisonville CUSD 1	9 - 12	85	88%	\$17,001	0
Odin Attendance Center 9-12	Odin PSD 722	9 - 12	70	79%	\$16,417	0
Harold B Dawson Middle School	Peoria SD 150	5 - 8	317		\$14,643	0
Quest Charter School Academy	Peoria SD 150	5 - 12	400	89%	\$10,891	0
Eastlawn Elem School	Rantoul City SD 137	K - 5	256		\$18,930	0
Bluffs High School	Scott-Morgan CUSD 2	9 - 12	57	100%	\$17,606	0
Shawnee Elementary School	Shawnee CUSD 84	PK - 5	133		\$14,725	0
Shawnee High School	Shawnee CUSD 84	9 - 12	71	80%	\$13,800	0
South Fork Jr Sr High School	South Fork SD 14	6 - 12	133	74%	\$16,217	0
Venice Elem School	Venice CUSD 3	PK - 8	84		\$30,315	0
Waltonville High School	Waltonville CUSD 1	9 - 12	96	88%	\$16,365	0
Williamsfield High School	Williamsfield CUSD 210	9 - 12	97	82%	\$21,601	0

Source: Illinois State Board of Education, Illinois Report Card 2024

Note: The state board measures students' reading and math proficiencies based on the test results of the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (grades 3-8) and the Scholastic Aptitude Test (grade 11)

WIREPOINTS



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2024 ISBE results: Not a single student tested was proficient in reading in 24 Illinois schools

Illinois State Board of Education: Schools with zero students scoring proficient in reading on the IAR or SAT, 2024

School Name	District Name	Grades Served	Enrollment	Graduation rate	Operational spending per student	Students proficient in reading
Austin College and Career Academy	Chicago Public Schools	9 - 12	170	52%	\$33,383	0
Bowen High School	Chicago Public Schools	9 - 12	175	59%	\$35,764	0
Chicago Collegiate Charter School	Chicago Public Schools	5 - 12	245	71%	\$31,322	0
Chicago Military Academy HS	Chicago Public Schools	9 - 12	209	68%	\$32,435	0
Chicago Technology Academy HS	Chicago Public Schools	9 - 12	365	91%	\$24,697	0
Douglass Academy High School	Chicago Public Schools	9 - 12	35	72%	\$93,787	0
Harlan Community Academy HS	Chicago Public Schools	9 - 12	206	64%	\$34,817	0
Legal Prep Academy Charter HS	Chicago Public Schools	9 - 12	211	85%	\$28,240	0
Spry Community Links High School	Chicago Public Schools	9 - 12	60	85%	\$60,752	0
YCCS- McKinley-Lakeside Leadership	Chicago Public Schools	9 - 12	96	50%	\$33,096	0
YCCS West	Chicago Public Schools	9 - 12	67	56%	\$36,730	0
YCCS-Association House	Chicago Public Schools	9 - 12	99	38%	\$21,519	0
YCCS-Community Youth Dev Inst HS	Chicago Public Schools	9 - 12	83	28%	\$28,531	0
YCCS-Latino Youth Alternative HS	Chicago Public Schools	9 - 12	157	21%	\$24,379	0
YCCS-Scholastic Achievement HS	Chicago Public Schools	9 - 12	113	60%	\$31,332	0
YCCS-Sullivan House Alt HS	Chicago Public Schools	9 - 12	333	36%	\$20,780	0
YCCS-Youth Connection Leadership	Chicago Public Schools	9 - 12	130	62%	\$32,205	0
Ludlow Elementary School	Ludlow CCSD 142	K - 8	47		\$30,020	0
South Fork Jr Sr High School	South Fork SD 14	6 - 12	133	74%	\$16,217	0
Tri Point Elementary School	Tri Point CUSD 6-J	PK - 3	120		\$22,680	0

Source: Illinois State Board of Education, Illinois Report Card 2024

Note: The state board measures students' reading and math proficiencies based on the test results of the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (grades 3-8) and the Scholastic Aptitude Test (grade 11)

WIREPOINTS

The website reported that nearly 20,000 kids attend the zero-proficiency schools. "Every single one of those children will struggle in life because they lack basic reading and math skills," the website concluded.

Worse still is the tax money dumped into the schools with no results.

Dunbar Vocational Career Academy in Chicago "spends \$26,834 in operational costs on each of its 366 students," [Wirepoints reported](#):

The Illinois State Board of Education declares the school "commendable," the state's 2nd-highest rating. Despite that, not a single student taking the SAT tested proficient in math and just 2% tested proficient in reading. And yet 72% of students there graduate.

Farther south is Harlan Community Academy HS, which spends nearly \$35,000 per student. Not a single student there tested proficient in math or reading on the SAT in 2024. Yet Harlan's graduation rate is 64%.

Amusingly, Pritzker bragged about schools in the Land of Lincoln on August 29.

"Turns out when you treat teachers well, invest in students, and focus on improving schools, you get real results," he boasted:

Illinois now ranks third in the nation for our education system for a reason.



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Turns out when you treat teachers well, invest in students, and focus on improving schools, you get real results.

Illinois now ranks third in the nation for our education system for a reason.

pic.twitter.com/hAfjzrBjMs

— Governor JB Pritzker (@GovPritzker) [August 29, 2025](#)

Failure in Maryland

Maryland schools are barely better, Baltimore's [Fox45 reported](#) last week.

Though scores for Math and English language arts are rising, they are still abysmal.

"Third through eighth grade students along with some high schoolers take the state exams in [English Language Arts] and math," the station reported:

In math, 26.5% of students statewide who took the test scored proficient. This is up from 24.1% in 2024.

In English language arts, the outcomes are better. This year, 50.8% of students tested scored proficient — up from 48.4% in 2024. ...

Baltimore City had the lowest ELA proficiencies in the state. Math proficiencies were second lowest.

That is not surprising.

As [The New American reported](#) in 2023, Fox 45's Project Baltimore investigation found that students at 13 high schools failed a math proficiency test administered at 33 high schools last spring. "Not one student" tested proficient at the baker's dozen, the [station reported](#).

As well, 40 percent of the city's high school "schools could not produce a single student doing math at grade level."

The city schools' website [reported similar data](#) for 2021-22. Just 5 percent of high school students were proficient in math. Of those, 43 percent were Asian and 26 percent were white. Just 5 percent of black and Hispanics tested proficient.



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