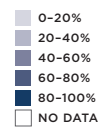
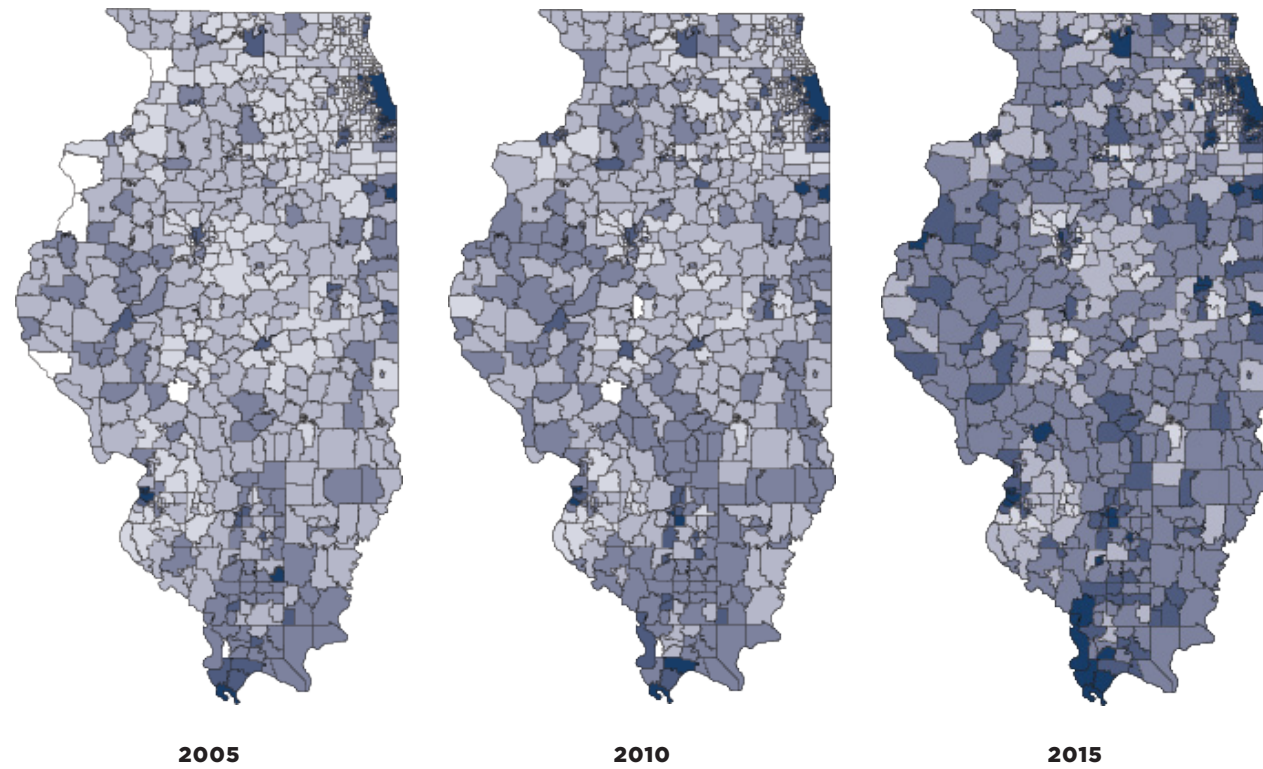


A photograph of a woman and a young girl sitting at a desk, looking at a laptop screen. The woman is leaning over the girl, and both appear to be focused on the content on the screen. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent orange filter. The text 'KIDS' NEEDS INCREASE ACROSS THE STATE' is written in large, bold, white capital letters on the right side of the image.

**KIDS'
NEEDS
INCREASE
ACROSS
THE STATE**

MORE SCHOOL DISTRICTS SERVE LOW-INCOME STUDENTS

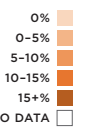
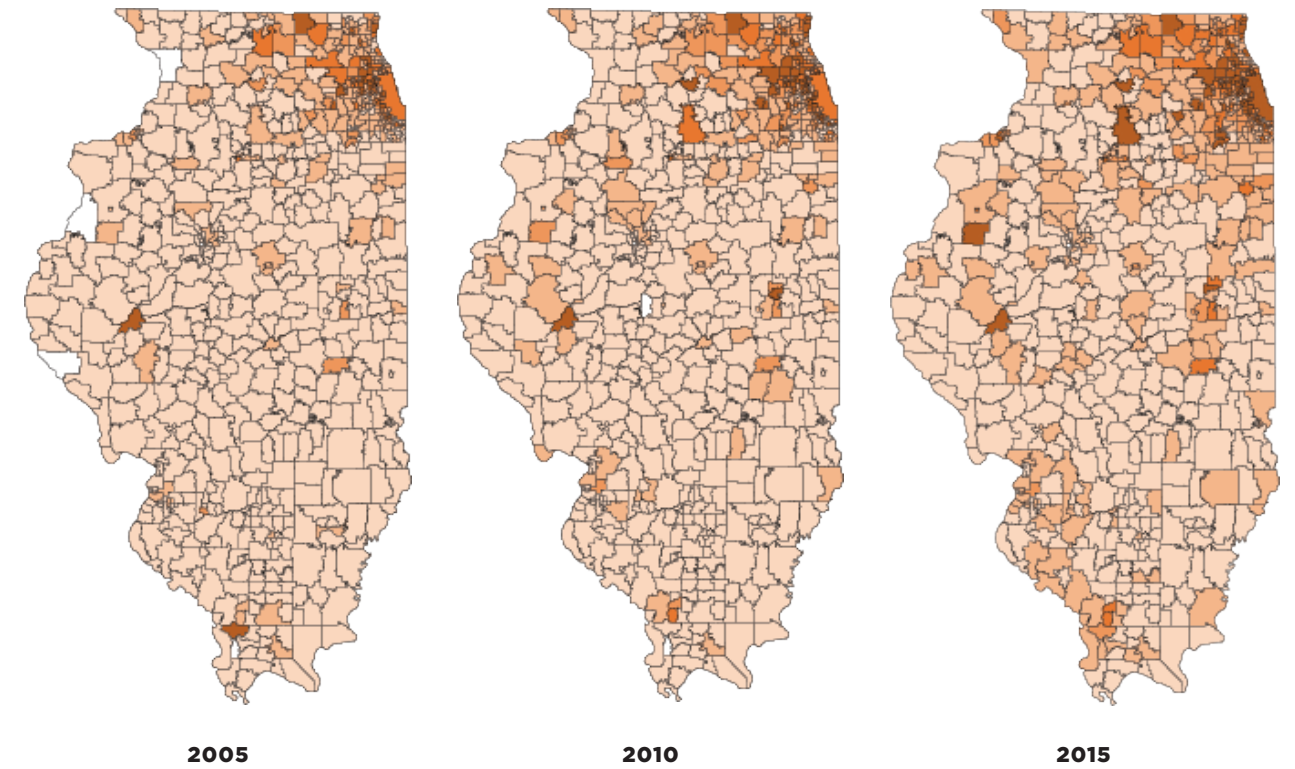
In recent years, far greater numbers of Illinois school districts are teaching students who are living in poverty. In 43% of school districts in 2015, more than half of the students are coming from low-income homes, up from 13% in 2005. Research shows that it costs more to educate low-income students, many of whom start school academically behind their more affluent peers.⁴ These students may need, for example, help to build vocabulary and background knowledge, extra learning time, or links to other services, such as healthcare, to meet the full range of their needs.⁵



Source: Illinois School Report Card

MORE SCHOOL DISTRICTS SERVE STUDENTS LEARNING ENGLISH

Students learning English are now over 10% of the total Illinois public school population and live all over the state. Schools that never served English learners in the past are now realizing they must adjust to meet changing needs, as students learn English and a full array of traditional subjects.



Source: Illinois School Report Card

UNFAIR K-12 FUNDING SHORTCHANGES THE STATE'S NEEDIEST STUDENTS

More than half of Illinois state education dollars go to districts regardless of their wealth, shortchanging poor districts that have students with greater needs. For every dollar Illinois spends on a non-low-income student, the state spends only 81 cents on a low-income student. The existing funding system fails to provide adequate funding to address the social, emotional and physical needs of low-income students, English learners and students with special needs. Because of inequitable funding, students in low-income and majority African American and Latino districts are too often faced with larger class sizes, fewer special classes like art and music, outdated textbooks and increased student activity fees, when they need the opposite.

After a nearly year-long budget impasse, the General Assembly passed a stopgap budget in late June 2016 that ensured that schools would open on time in Fall 2016. However, structural reform is still needed. At the time of this writing, the Governor's School Funding Reform Commission is in discussions to fix the structural issues of Illinois' notoriously inequitable state education funding formula. This longstanding inequity demands change when the General Assembly returns in Spring 2017.

FOR EVERY \$1 SPENT ON A NON-LOW-INCOME STUDENT, OHIO SPENDS \$1.22 ON A LOW-INCOME STUDENT. ILLINOIS SPENDS \$0.81.

Source: The Education Trust

\$1.22

