

ILLINOIS STATE



College of Education
LABORATORY SCHOOLS

Fact Sheet

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ILLINOIS STATE
UNIVERSITY



Laboratory Schools
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University

Service

- The schools add “distinctiveness” to the College of Education and the University (the laboratory schools at Illinois State are the fifth largest of the 94 laboratory schools in the nation).
- The schools attract people to the University and the community. Prospective faculty and administrators often seek to enroll their children in the laboratory schools as a condition of their employment at the University.
- The schools offer valuable outreach programs, e.g., College for Youth, Japanese Saturday School, a regional summer school for high school students, and special education programs that serve children with disabilities from 32 school districts throughout Central Illinois.
- The schools provide a financial savings to the community, as no local property tax dollars are used to fund the schools.
- Faculty associates serve on most College of Education committees, including College Council, Elections Committee, Research Committee, and Scholarships and Awards Committee.
- The schools serve as model sites for state, national, and international visitors who are interested in studying particular programs and practices.
- With the exception of Bone Student Center, the laboratory schools generate more revenue from events scheduled through the Conferencing Unit than any other department on campus.

5/1/01



The laboratory schools—Thomas Metcalf School and University High School—have a four-fold mission: (1) teaching; (2) teacher education; (3) research; and (4) service.

Historical perspective

- The schools have been part of Illinois State University since 1857. The first president of the University also carried the title of principal of the Model School.
- Governor Altgeld closed University High School in 1892; it was reopened in 1911. Thomas Metcalf School has been in continuous operation since the beginning of the University.
- The schools are considered two departments within the College of Education. The building principals are considered department chairpersons.
- The two schools employ 118 faculty associates and 42 staff, and have a total operating budget of \$7 million (FY01), of which 12.5 percent comes from the University (Illinois Board of Higher Education) to support clinical experiences.

- Faculty associates are pensioned through the State University Retirement System (SURS), not the State Teachers Retirement System, and are considered university employees.
- Faculty associates are expected to follow university policies and procedures just like other university employees.
- Faculty associates are the only group of academic division employees on campus without representation on the Academic Senate and without recognition in the University Constitution.
- The schools secure external funding for the University (approximately \$430,000 per year).
- The two principals and the director of the laboratory schools serve on the Administrative Council for the College of Education.
- University High School is the sixth largest feeder school for Illinois State University. There are 510 school districts that serve high school students in Illinois.
- Forty-five University High School students are enrolled in courses offered at Illinois State.
- One-fifth of laboratory school students have at least one parent employed at the University.

Teaching

- Approximately 15 faculty associates teach university courses offered in several departments (Curriculum and Instruction; Special Education; Speech Pathology and Audiology; Mathematics; Theatre; Biological Sciences; and Health, Physical Education, and Recreation).
- As “other public funded schools,” the laboratory schools provide instructional programs for 1,000 elementary and secondary students and another 69 students with hearing, vision, orthopedic, or multiple disabilities.

- University High School is one of the pilot schools in the Illinois Virtual High School network.
- The laboratory schools provided the majority of the funding for two distance education classrooms, which will enhance clinical experience opportunities for teacher education students.

Teacher education

- The schools provide 45,000 hours of clinical experiences for 16 departments (Art; Biological Sciences; Communication; Curriculum and Instruction; Educational Administration and Foundations; Foreign Languages; Health, Physical Education, and Recreation; History; Industrial Technology; Mathematics; Music; Physics; Psychology; Special Education; Speech Pathology and Audiology; and Theatre). All teacher education students complete some of their experiences in the laboratory schools.
- The schools provide 37 percent of the placements for pre-student-teaching experiences. The remaining placements are spread throughout 242 school districts.
- The schools provide clinical experiences in selected majors for students from Bradley University, Parkland College, Illinois Central College, and the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Research

- The schools serve as laboratories for research (15-20 research projects are completed each year).
- Faculty associates make 70-90 presentations at professional meetings each year.