

**Subject:** Illinois student proficiency rates

**From:** Reed Sutman <reed@decaturvote.com>

**Date:** 2/28/23, 15:41

**To:** Misty Fronk <mistylea1968@gmail.com>

Hi Misty,

I'm writing an article about your [WAND Interview](#), in which I challenge some of the claims you made regarding student proficiency levels. Before I publish, I'd like to give you a chance to:

- Respond to my challenges
- Provide sources for your claims
- Clarify your claims
- Any other comments you see fit

The full article is attached, which I will most likely publish on Thursday March 2nd. It may see some stylistic edits prior to publishing, but it is pretty much ready. You may want to look at the disclaimers I put at the end of the article, as I have some conflicts-of-interest that have me biased on this writeup.

The part I would like to highlight & the reason why I'm emailing you for a response is this:

Misty Fronk is running for Decatur School Board because she went to an event hosted by the Illinois Family Institute, a right-wing political advocacy organization, and was told that Illinois schools had a graduation rate of 80% in 2019, but only 12% were proficient in reading & writing and 6% of students were proficient in math.

This is false or misleading, according to the [2018-2019 State Report Card](#), which across all tests, shows 37.4% proficiency in English and Language Arts (ELA), 32.0% proficiency in math, and 48% proficiency in science. SAT tests show 36.7% of students meet or exceed standards in ELA & 36.8% meet or exceed in math, with over 30% "Approaching Standards" in both subjects.

However, the 6% and 12% statistics can be cherry picked from limited categories like Grade 3 Students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), who have 11.6% proficiency in ELA, Grade 8 students with IEPs who have 5.5% proficiency in math, or other categories limited by demographic or disability.

Additionally, I intend to share an unedited copy of this email & your response.

Thank you,  
Reed Sutman

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Reed Sutman  
DecaturVote.com  
217-413-9202

— Attachments: —

MistyFronk.pdf

12.3 KB