



## Frequently Asked Questions:

**What is the best school district in the local area?**

If you are looking for information about how schools “rate” in the local area, you need look no further than the Illinois State Board of Education Web site at [www.isbe.net](http://www.isbe.net) and look for the Illinois State Report Cards. You’ll find thorough information to include class sizes, the number of teachers, school finances, and the academic performance of the students such as scores on standardized tests, and other useful information.

**How do I find out what school district a particular home is in?**

If you plan to purchase a home in St Clair County, you can find out in which school district the property is located by going to the St Clair County Regional Office of Education Web Site and navigating to the following Web address:

<http://ww2.stclair.k12.il.us/stclairco/districtsearch.htm>

**Where do our children go to school if we live on base?**

Register at Scott Elementary School if you have children in grades K-5 students living on base.

Register at Mascoutah Middle School if you have children in grades 6-8 living on base.

Register at Mascoutah High School if you have children in grades 9-12 living on base.

**Where will our children go to school if we haven't moved into an area residence yet?**

While your family is living in temporary lodging on base, or if you secure on-base housing, your child may be enrolled in the Mascoutah School District. If you secure off-base housing, your child may continue in the Mascoutah School District for the current school year only or you may want to enroll your child in the district near your house. Should you decide to live off-base, the Illinois School Code now allows you to register your child in the school district in which you intend to live without having to pay out of district tuition, as long as you can prove that you will live in that school district within 60 days.

**Why aren't all school requirements the same from district to district?**

Each local district is obliged to meet State requirements for students learning standards for all students seeking promotion and graduation. These requirements change from State to State and often put our transitioning students in jeopardy of graduating on time. We hope you will seek tips on preparing your child for transitioning from school to school.

**What can you tell me about these extra fees, including book fees? Do we have to pay these in a public school?**

This answer was provided by Peggy Burke, Superintendent of Whiteside School District, who is extremely supportive of military-connected families: Illinois courts have viewed student fees as separate from tuition. Court cases have upheld individual school board's rights to establish fee levels for various grades and student activities. In *Hamer v. Board of Education*

of School District # 109, the courts held that based on the Illinois constitution, the textbook rental fee was reasonable. The court's reasoning was that the early acts, which addressed public funding of education, made no requirement for schools to furnish textbooks at public expense. In the case of Beck v. Board of Education of Harlem Consolidated School District #122, the court held that a school, even though it may furnish free textbooks, can charge student fees for supplies. The Illinois School Code requires districts to have a policy for waiving fees for students who can not afford to pay.

**You play a MONUMENTAL role in your child's future. Be an effective advocate for your child. Be involved. Attend teacher conferences, be a member of the Parent Teacher Association, consider becoming a mentor, or participate in other school activities. Be there.**