

A History of Our Schools

- 1835 First school in Champaign County was a log cabin on the Sangamon River a mile south of Mahomet
- 1853 Private school in Hensley Township. Tuition, \$13.00 per month
- 1854 First school in Champaign Township. Private. About 12 pupils.
- 1855 An Illinois law on which present state-wide system of schools is based.  
Champaign divided into two districts:  
#1--West of First Street--Avenue School  
#2--East of First Street
- First public school in district which cost \$4,000. "The Little Brick" west of First Street, corner of Randolph and Hill Streets, torn down 1893
- 1860 District 2. First school, frame building cost \$7,200.
- 1868 West High School (destroyed by fire 1893); Lynn, University and Park
- 1872 East side high school was built--later named Marquette School
- 1890 Two districts consolidated as unit district #6
- 1893 Central School, last used as high school 1913-14
- 1894 Lincoln School
- 1898 Willard School
- 1901 District's name changed to #71. Before turn of the century--present schools Lincoln, Willard and Gregory
- 1903 The earliest printed report on public schools showed there were five elementary schools and a high school. Total enrollment was 1807. Value of buildings and equipment: \$62,700. Total expenditures for that year: \$36,057.22.
- 1905 Columbia School and Col. Wolfe School
- 1907 Lawhead School
- 1910 Dr. Howard School
- 1913 Avenue School, built on site where West High School had been, torn down to make way for Champaign Junior High School
- 1914 Edison
- 1924 Bondville School and South Side School
- 1927 Lottie Switzer School
- 1935 Central High School (originally junior high school)

1947 Savoy School

1948 Reorganized: Unit District #4; enrollment approximately 3,500.  
Rural Schools: Durham, Mt. Vernon, Pioneer, Bondville, Savoy,  
Wesley Chapel, Percival

1950 Westview School

1951 Washington School

1955 Bottenfield School

1957 Carrie Busey School

1958 Garden Hills School and Marquette School

1959 Lawhead closed and 1960 Percival closed

1961 Jefferson Junior High School and E.H. Mellon Administrative Center

1963 Centennial High School and Kenwood School

1967 Robeson School

1968 Peak enrollment: 12,494  
Gregory closed

1969 Hensley closed

1971 Bondville, Lincoln and Marquette closed

1973 Reopened Marquette for EMH

1974 Lincoln became a Learning Center

1975 Savoy closed; Lincoln closed

1977 Lottie Switzer closed

1981 Columbia closed; Franklin became an elementary

1982 Columbia opened as magnet middle school;  
South Side closed as an elementary attendance center