

Of particular interest to me are the data presented in “Student Pipeline, 2004”. Roughly 58% of ninth graders DO NOT DIRECTLY ENTER COLLEGE. That percentage is stark, sobering, and staggering.

Under the strategy section/primary recommendations the focus seems to be upon strategies impacting high-schoolers, including ninth graders. The problem is that ninth graders are not all that prepared for success in high school.

Any public agenda needs to address issues of school funding reform, as well as the things currently addressed. As it is now one’s zip code is a major determining factor in the quality of education that our children or grand children receive prior to and including high school. This realization is precisely what has prompted the lawsuit filed by the Chicago Urban League (see “When education is unequal”, Chicago Tribune, 8/22/08).