

Inglewood Unified School District (IUSD)

What Do the 2026 FCMAT Progress Report and the IUSD Report Card Tell Us?

Understanding the Current State of Our School District

In July 2026, the Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team (FCMAT) released its latest progress report on Inglewood Unified School District's recovery under state receivership. Contrary to what has recently been reported by news outlets, this report does NOT state that IUSD will regain control of the school district in 2027.

In December of 2025, The Stop IUSD School Closures Coalition and the ACLU of Southern California also released the *Inglewood Unified Report Card*, a community-based assessment of IUSD's performance during more than 13 years of state and county oversight.

Together, these reports provide a broader picture of where the district has improved and where significant challenges remain.

What is FCMAT?

The Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team (FCMAT) is a quasi state agency that evaluates school districts experiencing fiscal or operational difficulties. This is not an elected board. Instead, the board members are appointed. There is no clear system of accountability for FCMAT. Our Legislators say FCMAT tells them what to do and FCMAT says they only provide recommendations. Since Inglewood Unified entered state receivership in 2012, FCMAT has monitored the district's progress toward financial recovery and restoration of local governance.

Key Findings from the July 2026 FCMAT Progress Report

1. The District Has Made More Progress Than Before

FCMAT concluded that IUSD has made its strongest progress since entering receivership. Improvements include:

- Financial Management averaged 6.37 out of 10.
- Facilities Management averaged 7.26 out of 10.
- For the first time, no individual Financial Management or Facilities Management standard scored below a "4," indicating that every standard reached at least partial implementation.

2. Local Control Has NOT Yet Been Restored

The report does not recommend returning full governing authority to the elected school board at this time.

Under California law, local governance can only be restored after:

- FCMAT recovery recommendations have been sufficiently implemented;
- the district demonstrates the capacity to govern itself;
- the Los Angeles County Superintendent determines future compliance is likely; and
- the State Superintendent and State Board of Education concur.

Even after authority is restored, a state trustee may remain with "stay and rescind" authority until fiscal systems are fully established. This means the state trustee will have control over IUSD due to them being able to rescind any decision made by our elected board.

3. Financial Stability Remains the Biggest Challenge

According to FCMAT, the greatest obstacle is long-term financial sustainability, not governance.

Projected unrestricted operating deficits are:

- **\$13.3 million (2025-26)**
- **\$21.2 million (2026-27)**
- **\$26.4 million (2027-28)**

FCMAT concludes these trends are not sustainable.

4. Enrollment Continues to Decline

Enrollment has declined dramatically since the State Department of Education and the Los Angeles County Office of Education took over the Inglewood Unified School District.

Since its peak of nearly **18,000 students**, IUSD has lost approximately 12,000 students (about 67%) since being under receivership, reducing state funding each year.

5. Audit Findings Still Require Attention

Although audit findings have declined over time, FCMAT reports that repeated findings involving internal controls and compliance remain.

The report states that internal controls must continue to mature before governance is restored.

6. What About the State Loan?

When IUSD entered receivership:

- California authorized a \$55 million emergency loan.
- IUSD ultimately borrowed approximately \$29 million.
- IUSD has paid almost \$20 million in interest on the \$29 million loan to date.
- This loan is not set to be paid off until 2034.

The report notes that IUSD currently has sufficient reserves to pay off the remaining balance early, which could:

- eliminate future interest;
- eliminate annual debt service; and
- help facilitate the next phase of exiting receivership.

Key Findings from the IUSD Report Card

Unlike the FCMAT report, the IUSD Report Card is a community-based assessment developed through public data, surveys, focus groups, media reports, and community input to evaluate the impact of more than 13 years of state and county oversight.

Its principal findings include:

School Closures

The Report Card states that:

- Nearly half of IUSD schools have closed since 2018.
- Twelve schools have closed under state and county oversight.
- These closures have contributed to the creation of "school deserts" in parts of Inglewood.

State Oversight

The Report Card notes that:

- IUSD has had nine state or county administrators during approximately 13 years of receivership.

- It cites previous state reports documenting recurring fiscal and operational concerns.
- It references a 2022 FCMAT statement describing the length of recovery as unusual.

Teacher Staffing and Pay

According to the Report Card:

- IUSD has one of the highest student-to-teacher ratios in Los Angeles County.
- The report argues that staffing levels and recruitment remain ongoing concerns.
- IUSD Educators are the lowest paid in Los Angeles County.

Student Attendance

The Report Card reports:

- 43% of students were chronically absent during the 2023-24 school year.
- This exceeded county and statewide averages.
- The report estimates that chronic absenteeism reduces district funding by approximately \$15-20 million annually.

Enrollment Trends

The Report Card reports:

- Overall enrollment declined approximately 39% between 2015 and 2025.
- Black student enrollment declined approximately 45% during that same period.

Student Outcomes

The Report Card compares IUSD with county and statewide averages and reports:

- **16%** of students met state math standards.

- **29%** met English Language Arts standards.
- Graduation rate: **81%**
- College readiness: **14.5%**
- Chronic absenteeism: **43%**

Where the Two Reports Agree

Although prepared for different purposes, both reports identify several common themes:

- IUSD has made measurable operational improvements.
- Enrollment continues to decline.
- Long-term fiscal stability remains a significant challenge.
- Continued improvement is needed before the district can fully exit receivership.
- Student outcomes and community confidence remain important concerns.

Why These Reports Matter

The July 2026 FCMAT Progress Report indicates that IUSD has made meaningful progress in improving its financial and operational systems. At the same time, it concludes that additional work is needed before full local governance can be restored because of projected deficits, declining enrollment, and remaining fiscal-control issues.

The IUSD Report Card complements that analysis by focusing on the community's experience during state oversight, highlighting school closures, enrollment trends, staffing, student outcomes, and recommendations for greater transparency, accountability, and community engagement.

Together, these reports raise important questions about the future of public education in Inglewood and provide information residents can use to participate in informed discussions about the district's direction.