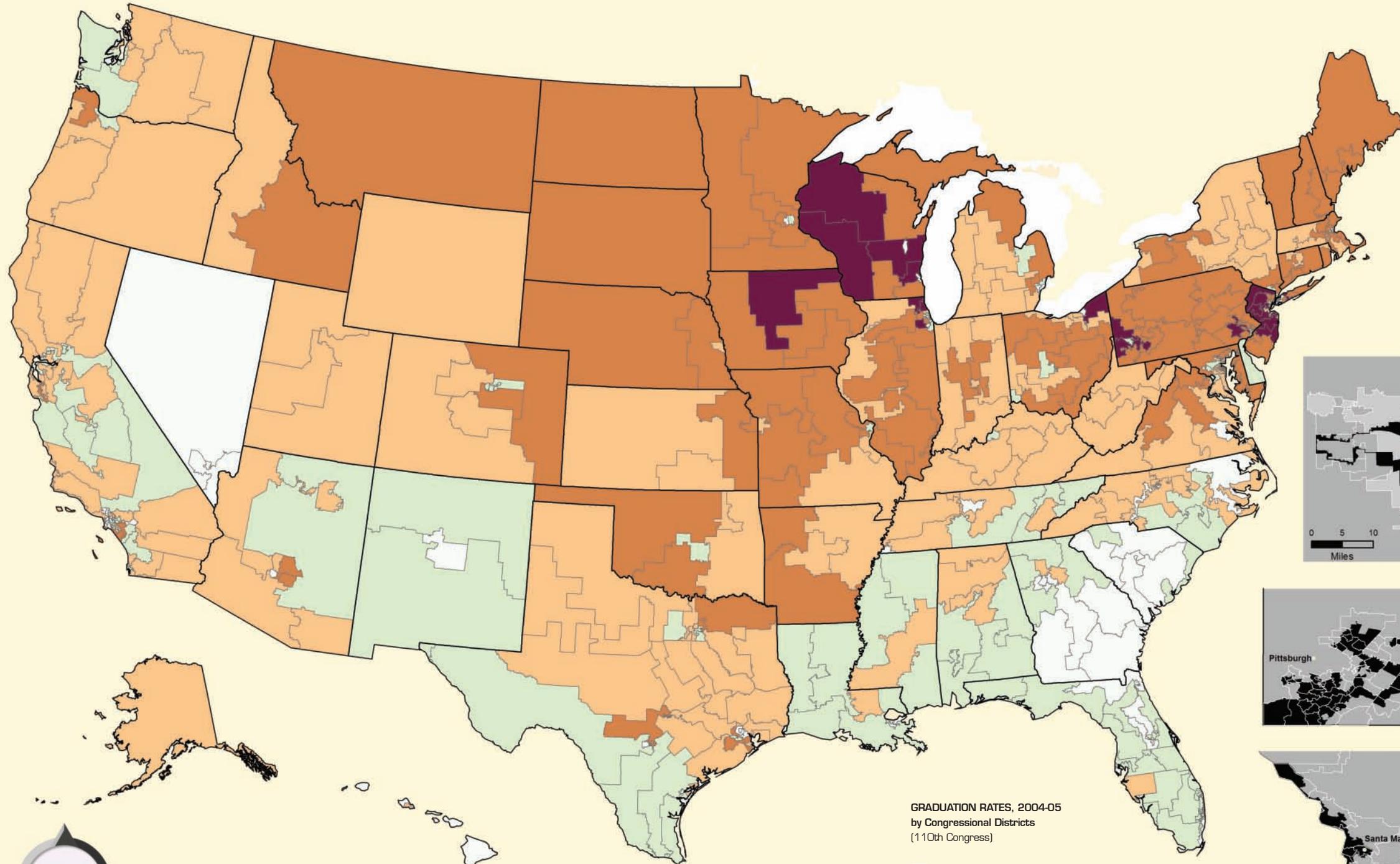


>> For detailed graduation-rate data, go to www.edweek.org/go/dc08.

A Representative's View Of High School Graduation

This map displays 2004-05 graduation rates for every congressional district in the nation (110th Congress). The EPE Research Center performed a geographical analysis to determine which high schools fall within the boundaries of the respective congressional districts. The center calculated graduation rates using its Cumulative Promotion Index (CPI) method and data from the U.S. Department of Education's Common Core of Data. Values reported on this map are the enrollment-weighted averages of the school-level graduation indicators. Detailed data for each congressional district can be found on the EdWeek Maps Web site, online at maps.edweek.org.



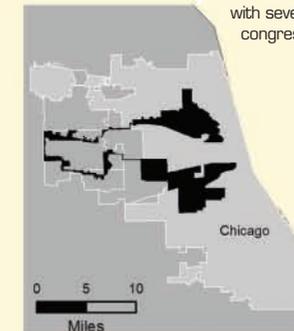
When Educational and Political Geographies Meet

The word "tortuous" has been used to describe the highly irregular silhouettes of many congressional districts. The drawing and redrawing of such political boundaries has a long and storied history in the United States. It has even contributed a well-known entry to the political lexicon—gerrymandering.

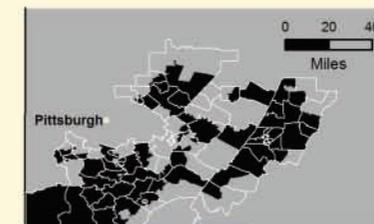
The borders of congressional districts have sometimes been determined with explicit political ends in mind. Drawing those boundaries in certain ways, for instance, may either concentrate or divide particular groups of voters. That, in turn, provides an electoral advantage to the party exercising the greatest influence over redistricting decisions.

Among the byproducts of that process, very complex arrangements may be created among congressional districts and other geographical units, such as school districts. A single congressional district may sprawl for hundreds of miles and overlap with all or portions of several dozen school districts. Such a complicated link between political and educational geographies may make it very difficult for elected officials to monitor the performance of the school systems serving their constituents.

The illustrations below show the school districts that coincide with several of the nation's most geographically convoluted congressional districts.



ILLINOIS
4th Congressional District
SCHOOL DISTRICTS: 18
HIGH SCHOOLS: 17
GRADUATION RATE: 50.3%



PENNSYLVANIA
12th Congressional District
SCHOOL DISTRICTS: 60
HIGH SCHOOLS: 58
GRADUATION RATE: 78.0%



CALIFORNIA
23rd Congressional District
SCHOOL DISTRICTS: 29
HIGH SCHOOLS: 34
GRADUATION RATE: 67.1%

GRADUATION RATES, 2004-05
by Congressional Districts
(110th Congress)

- 55% or less
- 56-65%
- 66-75%
- 76-85%
- More than 85%

■ Congressional district
■ School district boundary



MAP: Christopher B. Swanson, Editorial Projects in Education Research Center
 DATA: Graduation rates calculated using the Cumulative Promotion Index (CPI) method and data from the U.S. Department of Education's Common Core of Data (CCD).
 GEOGRAPHY: School district, state, and congressional-district boundary data from U.S. Bureau of the Census.
 MORE INFORMATION: The EPE Research Center is online at www.edweek.org/rc or email to rcinfo@epe.org.
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