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Governor Rauner signs HB2657, ensuring “highly effective” teachers hired, developed and retained in schools statewide

Passage of education bill marks first major victory for Vision 20/20, a group dedicated to improving schools by changing education policy in Illinois

CHICAGO (July 22, 2015) – Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner signed a historic education bill HB2657, which will ensure that the State of Illinois will now pursue, hire, develop and retain highly effective teachers for public schools statewide, Vision 20/20 announced today.

The passage of this bill, now Public Act 99-0058, marks the first major victory for a collective group known as Vision 20/20. The group consists of the four largest education associations in Illinois along with the Regional Offices of Education (ROE's) and the Superintendents' Commission for the Study of Demographics and Diversity (SCSDD).

Vision 20/20 has been a leading voice and source in changing the way education policy is handled in Illinois, beginning in 2014 with the release of a comprehensive policy brief outlining the group's vision for the future of education in the state.

In January, the group introduced several bills in the Illinois General Assembly with bi-partisan support including HB2657 and HB2683. They were passed and sent to the Governor's desk. Public Act 99-0058 is an Education Licensure Reciprocity bill and HB2683 provides for a Balanced Accountability Model to focus on continuous improvement, recognize the diversity of struggling schools and eliminate achievement gaps across the state.



The group was started by Executive Director of the Illinois Association of School Administrators (IASA), Dr. Brent Clark, and the group spent the last year challenging the State Legislature, the Governor and all stakeholders to take action in improving the overall quality of public education in Illinois.

“Education is an investment in our children’s future, our state’s future, and our nation’s future,” said Dr. Clark. “It is our responsibility as educators to take action to create an education system that meets the needs of all students. Public Act 99-0058 will ensure that Illinois school districts have access to the best quality candidates, regardless of the state where individuals received their initial educator license.”

Jason Leahy, Executive Director of the Illinois Principals Association, believes this new law will improve the quality of candidates for principals who are hiring across the state.

“Having access to the largest, most qualified pool of principals and other school leaders from across the country will help ensure all our students have the kind of leadership needed to produce high levels of adult and student performance throughout Illinois,” said Leahy.

Illinois PTA Executive Director Jolene Lowder applauds the passage of the reciprocity bill and the good work of the Vision 20/20 team.

“Illinois PTA is a strong supporter of the Vision 20/20 policy and we wholeheartedly applaud the efforts of school management to bring back the voice of educators in the decisions made on behalf of the parents and families in Illinois,” said Lowder, whose organization has more than 100,000 members.

Dr. Clark agrees and looks to a future for further improvements to benefit all.

“Our team is committed to continuing to promote the priorities of this vision,” said Clark. “This legislative victory will hopefully be the first of many more wins on behalf of the over 2 million schoolchildren in Illinois. Collectively, we intend to take action to fulfill the promise of public education in Illinois by the year 2020.”

For more information, please visit <http://illinoisvision2020.org>



About The Alliance

The Vision 20/20 initiative began in November 2012 under Dr. Clark's organization and then partnered with the Illinois Principals association (IPA), the Illinois Association of School Business Officials (IASBO), the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB), the Superintendents' Commission for the Study of Demographics and Diversity (SCSDD), and the Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents of Schools (IARSS) to unite the education community and develop a long-range blueprint for improving public education in Illinois.

Vision 20/20's policy platform reflects educators from across the state and is representative of opinions from the southern tip of Illinois through the northern Chicago suburbs. This vision is the result of input from over 3,000 key stakeholders, discussions with field experts, and a review of current literature on best practices.

Alliance membership includes the following organizations and leaders:

Brent Clark, Ph.D., Executive Director - Illinois Association of School Administrators

Jason Leahy, Executive Director - Illinois Principals Association

Michael A. Jacoby, Ed.D., Executive Director - Illinois Association of School Business Officials

Patricia Dal Santo, Former President - Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents of Schools

Roger L. Eddy, Executive Director - Illinois Association of School Boards

Creg Williams, Ed.D., President - Superintendents' Commission for the Study of Demographics and Diversity

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