



# Frequently Asked Questions

## Evidence-Based Funding Model

### 1. What is an evidence-based funding model?

An evidence-based funding model appropriates and distributes general state aid (GSA) based on the cost of delivering research-based programming proven to positively impact students. Evidence-based funding starts with the creation of a set of *essential elements* for a high quality prototypical school district, and distributes GSA consistent with the actual costs of delivery of said elements, ensuring all students have access to a high quality education. Examples of *essential elements* may include, but are not be limited to class sizes, teacher training, full day kindergarten, extended learning opportunities, ESL and special education programming, and technology.

### 2. How are the *essential elements* determined?

The essential elements were determined initially by an evidence-based professional judgment panel, comprised of educators, members of state educational associations, ISBE, and members of the general assembly. This work was guided by National Louis University and was concluded in 2010. Under proposed legislation, a new panel will be convened with the addition of members of the general public who own or operate businesses in Illinois. The new evidence-based professional judgment panel will update any elements of the previous study and recommend a per student appropriation to ensure funding *adequacy* for each district, and a distribution formula to ensure greater funding *equity*.

### 3. How will the *essential elements* be prioritized should the general assembly not adequately fund the recommendations from the evidence-based professional judgment panel?

The evidence-based professional judgment panel will prioritize the *essential elements* should there be inadequate funding to support all of the *essential elements*.

### 4. Will my district receive less funding under the proposed evidence-based funding model?

No. The evidence-based funding model has a hold harmless provision which states that no school district shall receive less GSA than they received during the 2014-2015 school year.

### 5. Is it mandated that my school district implement the *essential elements* to receive GSA?

No. The evidence-based funding model is a funding model only. Local school districts will have the autonomy to budget and spend GSA in a manner that best meets the needs of students.

### 6. How does the evidence-based funding model differ from Senate Bill 1 and Senate Bill 16?

The evidence-based funding model shifts the funding focus from simple student demographics, toward the actual cost of effective educational strategies proven to work for all students.