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GUEST COLUMN WITH MICHAEL A. JACOBY ED.D., SFO, CAE
A LOOK AT THE EVIDENCE-BASED FUNDING MODEL

It is no secret school funding in Illinois public schools is inadequate and contributes to inequities in public education. Currently, there is an unacceptable difference in educational outcomes between students based on their zip codes which is further exacerbated by the state's funding system.

Nationally, Illinois ranks 50th in education funding with a state portion of only 26 percent compared to 45 percent across the nation. This lack of funding contributes to the achievement gap among students from different backgrounds, including students with disabilities, students from low-income backgrounds, and students identified as English Learners (EL).

Illinois cannot begin to address its achievement gap without first adequately funding education for all of Illinois' children. But understanding what to invest in also is critically important. To do that, one has to look at all the elements that enhances the educational experience for all students.



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Illinois Association of School
Business Officials.



Jacoby briefs State Rep Al Riley (D-Olympia Fields) on the evidence-based funding model.

The leadership behind Vision 20/20 has been working with education stakeholders to push for a new school funding system referred to as the Evidence-Based Funding Model. The model is one of the centerpieces of the Vision 20/20 blueprint for the future of public education in Illinois and we believe the best path to follow in reforming Illinois' outdated school funding formula.

As the name suggests, the model relies on research – based funding levels to provide resources for practices that have been proven to help drive student success.

Equity is built in and adequacy is defined by a District Adequacy Target based on 27 research-based elements.

The plan preserves current funding levels for all districts a - hold harmless provision - while funneling the vast majority of new state education funding to school districts the furthest from their District Adequacy Target to help them close that gap. This fast-paced [two-and-a half minute video](#) provides a quick overview of a school funding plan that could help transform public education in Illinois. Educating children is the most important investment a state can make. The Evidence-Based Funding for Student Success model is the most proven way to define that investment.

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