



== MESSAGE FROM THE LEADERSHIP ==

It has been a very busy month for the Vision 20/20 leadership. Our legislation initiatives are advancing through the General Assembly. We need all our school districts, parents and supporters to reach out to their respective state legislator and encourage them to pass our bills. Please see the status of our bills in the Legislative Update section.

The state now has a new State Superintendent of Education Tony Smith, Ph.D. And members of the Alliance have been meeting with him to brief him on our Vision 20/20 plan and our concerns regarding education in our state.

In addition, Governor Bruce Rauner has created the Local Government Consolidation and Unfunded Mandates Task Force in an effort to reduce the burden on Illinois taxpayers and to empower the state's citizens and government officials to streamline local government. We are closely monitoring the actions of the task force to ensure state educators have a voice in the process.

We continue to pick up new supporters and encourage all school districts to join us in supporting our initiative and vision for the future.

Be sure to add us to your list of contacts and follow us on Facebook and Twitter. Help us grow our network of support by referring your contacts to our website at <http://illinoisvision2020.org>.

Brent Clark, Ph.D., *IASA*
Michael A. Jacoby, Ed.D., *IASBO*
Jason Leahy, *IPA*

Patricia Dal Santo, *IARSS*
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Creg Williams, Ed.D., *SCSDD*

== WE'RE GROWING ==

Welcome Some of Our New School Districts!

SUPPORTING DISTRICTS

476

DeSoto CCSD #86	Buncombe ESD #43
Metamora Twp. HSD #122	Cairo USD #1
N. Cook ISC/ROE #5	Flora CUSD #5
Crete-Monee CUSD #201U	W. Harvey-Dixmoor PSD #147
Bremen HSD #228	

== SUPPORTERS ==

- Association of Illinois Rural and Small Schools (AIRSS)
- Illinois Alliance of Administrators of Special Education (IAASE)
- Illinois Association for Career and Technical Education (IACTE)
- Illinois Association of School Personnel Administrators (IASPA)
- Illinois Council of Professors of Educational Administration (ICPEA)

View our complete supporters list at

<http://illinoisvision2020.org/supporters>.

== TELL US YOUR STORY ==

Your Voice Matters!

We would like to know about what your district is doing to fulfill the promise of public education and driving student success.

We will use your stories to promote our vision for public education. To submit, email us at: questions@illinoisvision2020.org



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Vision 20/20- Alliance Initiatives Update



HIGHLY EFFECTIVE EDUCATORS

HB 2657 Education Licensure Reciprocity

In order to recruit and retain highly qualified teacher and administrator candidates, Illinois should allow and streamline educator licensure reciprocity agreements with other states. This will ensure that Illinois school districts have access to the best quality candidates, regardless of the state where individuals received their initial educator license.



21ST CENTURY LEARNING

HB 3100 County-Wide Sales Tax for Technology

Amends the Counties Code. Makes a technical change in a Section concerning school facility occupation taxes.



SHARED ACCOUNTABILITY

SB 1506 State Board of Education Membership

Illinois state policy should be revised to allow current educators to serve on the State Board of Education. Allowing practicing educators to serve on ISBE provides professional expertise that would help guide implementation of state initiatives and help ensure that oversight and regulatory efforts positively impact student learning. This bill calls for three current educators to serve on the nine-member board.

HB 2683 Differentiated Accountability Model

The state should adopt a differentiated accountability model to focus on continuous improvement, recognize the diversity of struggling schools and eliminate achievement gaps across the state. This model would allow local flexibility, promote shared accountability, and be sensitive to local district improvements. We have worked with ISBE to arrive at agreed-upon language.

HB 3535 Unfunded Mandate Relief

Our schools are overburdened and underfunded. Several initiatives have surfaced to help limit unfunded mandates. Please support flexibility for our schools to meet the ever growing needs of students.



EQUITABLE AND ADEQUATE FUNDING

HB 2637 Joint Purchasing Pool

With respect to the requirement that all contracts for the purchase of supplies and materials or work involving an expenditure in excess of \$25,000 or a lower amount as required by school board policy be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder, exempts contracts for goods or services procured through a cooperative organized in any state in the United States of America or the District of Columbia that awards contracts by a competitive process and whose membership is limited to governmental agencies.

SB 1403/HB 4022 Evidence-based Funding Model

The model is scalable so that it can be implemented over time by first targeting low-income school districts and the implementation of best practices as additional funding becomes available. It would be implemented for the 2016-17 school year and includes a hold-harmless provision that ensures that no district would fall below state funding levels for the 2014-15 school year.

To learn more about these Bills, click the Bill Number to connect to our Legislation page, or visit the Illinois General Assembly website at <http://www.ilga.gov/> and search by Bill number.
