



# VISION 20/20

Fulfilling the Promise of Public Education

## 2015 VISION 20/20 INITIATIVES

“In November 2012, the Illinois Association of School Administrators (*IASA*) initiated a visioning process in partnership 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 to develop a long-range blueprint for improving public education in Illinois.”

### **Together We Stand For Excellence In Education For All Illinois Children!**

The following are the initiatives of the Vision 20/20 Partners for the 2015 spring legislative session. The platform is the combined priorities under the *Pillars of Vision 20/20*.



#### **Highly Effective Educators**

- Education Licensure Reciprocity Agreements  
**HB 2657** (Pritchard, R-Sycamore)



#### **21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning**

- Countywide School Facility Occupation/Sales Tax add technology purchases/leases to allowable expenditures  
**HB 3100** (Unes, R-Pekin)



#### **Shared Accountability**

- Allow Current Educator Representation on Illinois State Board of Education  
**SB 1506** (Bertino-Tarrant, D-Plainfield)
- Adopt a Differentiated Accountability Model  
**HB 2683** (Davis, W., D-E.Hazel Crest)
- School District Relief of Unfunded Mandates  
**HB 3535** (Golar, D-Chicago)



#### **Equitable and Adequate Funding**

- Evidence Based Funding Model  
**SB 1403** (Barickman, R-Bloomington)/ **HB 4022** (Welch, D-Westchester)
- Competitive Bidding Exceptions for Governmental Purchasing Pools  
**HB 2637** (Crespo, D-Streamwood)

# SB 1403

(Barickman, R-Bloomington) (Hastings, D-Matteson)  
(Manar, D-Bunker Hill) (Bivins, R-Dixon)

# HB 4022

(Welch, D-Westchester)



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## EQUITABLE AND ADEQUATE FUNDING

### SUPPORT – VISION 20/20 EVIDENCE-BASED SCHOOL FUNDING SOLUTION

On February 12, 2015 Senators Jason Barickman and Andy Manar joined together to embrace this model and are co-sponsoring legislation. Join them in this effort to provide an equitable and adequate solution supported by Illinois' school leaders! This plan will:

- determine per-pupil costs for each school district to guarantee that each student has access to a high quality education.
- define a prototypical cost for every student in every school in Illinois.
- be scalable in two ways: 1) 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; and, 2) so that the General Assembly will be able to select which best practices to fund and invest in, as the first steps to phasing in the whole model by the 2020-21 school year.
- 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.
- focus on inputs such as: student needs, class size, use of instructional coaches/facilitators/mentors for teachers, tutoring programs for low achieving students, specialized instructional resources for English Language Learners, resources for special education students, full day kindergarten, academic based summer school, and other items including per student funding for technology and teacher professional development.
- provide adjustments for factors such as poverty, transportation, support services employees, operation and maintenance employees, supplies and materials, capital equipment needs, technology equipment and infrastructure, and geographic cost differences.
- include an Evidence-Based Professional Judgment Panel which would update the 2010 Illinois School Finance Adequacy Task Force evidence-based model by December 1, 2015. The Panel also would determine the minimal level of local and state funding for each district and provide recommendations on how to address the state's neediest districts first in a multi-year plan to phase in the adequacy model in an equitable manner.

### Why Now?

- The budget crisis in Illinois has resulted in drastic cuts to local school district programs.
- Funding for our public schools has dropped below 2006 funding levels.
- The result of these losses has caused proration of the limited funds available.
- "Proration" has resulted in a distribution formula that disproportionately negatively impacts our most needy schools.

## An Evidence-Based School Funding Solution for Illinois

- The evidence-based adequacy model is a method used to determine per-pupil costs for each school district to guarantee that each student has access to a high quality education.
- The framework defines a prototypical cost for every student in every school in Illinois.
- 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.
- The model focuses on inputs such as:
  - Student needs
  - Class size
  - Use of instructional coaches/facilitators/mentors for teachers
  - Tutoring programs to assist low achieving students
  - Additional specialized instructional resources for English Language Learners (ELL)
  - Adequate resources for special education students
  - Full day kindergarten
  - Academic based summer school
  - Other items, including a set dollar amount per student for technology and materials, and teacher professional development
- There would be adjustments for factors such as poverty, transportation, support services employees, operation and maintenance employees, supplies and materials, capital equipment needs, technology equipment and infrastructure, and geographic cost differences.
- An Evidence-Based Professional Judgment Panel would update by December 1, 2015 a study completed in 2010 by the Illinois School Finance Adequacy Task Force that already developed an evidence-based model for Illinois. The Panel also would determine the minimal level of local and state funding for each district and provide recommendations on how to address the state's neediest districts first in a multi-year plan to phase in the adequacy model in an equitable manner.
- Once the cost of the evidence-based funding model is established, it is scalable so that the General Assembly will be able to select which best practices to fund and invest in as the first steps to phasing in the whole model by the 2020-21 school year.
- Evidence-based models are being used in other states such as Wyoming, Arkansas, Texas and North Dakota.

# HB 3535

(Golar, D-Chicago)



## SCHOOLS DISTRICT RELIEF OF UNFUNDED MANDATES

### SUPPORT – VISION 20/20 Initiative for 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.

- Allow school districts to opt-out of any mandate or requirement imposed by statute or administrative rule after a hearing process.

### YOU CAN HELP

- Support measures that will give local school districts the flexibility to provide programming and fund priorities.
- Oppose legislation and rulemakings that will require implementation of new unfunded mandates.
- Review your legislative proposals and make any unfunded mandates you've proposed, permissive.
- Show your SUPPORT of **local school decision making** and join your colleagues co-sponsoring mandate relief proposals.

### MANDATE IMPACT QUICK FACTS:

The 862 Illinois public school districts are under tremendous pressure to provide a quality public education to help every Illinois child succeed. Never before have our schools been called upon to implement so many new requirements while receiving consistently declining revenues to do so. The United States Congress, the U.S. Department of Education, the Illinois State Board of Education, other state and federal agencies and the Illinois General Assembly continue to add more and more requirements for local schools while cutting the funding that allows districts to meet these ever increasing, costly requirements.

- Fiscal Year 2015 State funding for public schools was equal to below 2006 funding levels. FY 2016 levels will likely be even less.
- In January 2013, the Education Funding Advisory Board (EFAB) recommended a per pupil Foundation Funding Level of \$8,672. The FY14 current "effective" per pupil Foundation Funding Level is \$5,720, and mandated categorical programs like transportation and special education continue to be prorated and underfunded.
- Federal Funding is tied to specific program mandates and they are severely underfunded, e.g. Race to the Top dollars amount to 6% of Title I allocation, far below the cost of district-wide implementation.
- Increasing local funding for schools to offset these losses in State support has increased reliance on local property taxes and brought the statewide local share to over 65% of total education costs.
- There were **12** Unfunded Mandates imposed upon schools by Illinois Legislature 1991-1999 and **132** between 2000-2014.
- During the 2014-2015 school year, local districts will have to comply with **105** more mandates than were required in 2005-2006, with the same amount of state funding.

# HB 2657

(Pritchard, R-Sycamore)



## HIGHLY EFFECTIVE EDUCATORS

### SUPPORT – VISION 20/20 PLAN FOR 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.

Support Legislative Initiative for Educator Reciprocity so that:

- In emergency situations, school districts can employ for up to 120 days substitute teachers who hold a Professional Educator License or License with Stipulations that is endorsed for the grade level of instruction.
- Teachers that have completed an evidence-based assessment of teacher effectiveness or a test of basic skills in another state, do not have to complete additional Illinois assessments upon initial licensure.
- Out-of-state teachers seeking licensure that have completed the same required coursework as in-state candidates need only verify program completion to receive an Professional Educator License. (Those who have not completed required coursework will receive a License with Stipulations and be required to complete any deficient coursework.)
- Endorsements for out-of-state applicants for a Principal Endorsement or Superintendent Endorsement are available to individuals who have completed an out-of-state approved education program to become a principal or superintendent, met State exam requirements and received a certificate or license endorsed in a teaching field. (Those who have not passed State exams may receive a Provisional Endorsement.)
- Endorsements for out-of-state applicants for a Chief School Business Official Endorsement are available to those individuals with a master's degree in school business management, finance, or accounting; completed an internship in school business management or have 2 years of experience as a school business administrator; met all State exam requirements; and have completed modules in reading methods, Special Education, and English Learners.

## Need More Information? Contact the Lobbying Team!

Vision 20/20 is the combined advocacy efforts of the organizations that participated in the “visioning partnership”: the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB); the Illinois Association of School Administrators (IASA); the Illinois Principals’ Association (IPA); the Illinois Association of School Business Officials (IASBO); the Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents of Schools (IARSS); and the Superintendents’ Commission for the Study of Demographics and Diversity (SCSDD). With the resources of these organizations, there are nine full-time legislative specialists that work in the Capitol on each session day and directly lobby the legislature on behalf of Illinois’ public schools.

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