



FULFILLING THE PROMISE OF PUBLIC EDUCATION IN ILLINOIS

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## MESSAGE FROM THE LEADERSHIP

Our state faces many challenges and with the advent of a new legislative session, it is only natural to wonder how our schools will be impacted. The budget stalemate has not ended, the partisan bickering and blame game continues and there appears to be no immediate end in sight. What will it take for the two sides to come together? No one seems to know but eventually, it will likely take compromise and a willingness to do what is truly in the best interest of our residents.

**This concept of “hold harmless” should be a cornerstone of any legislation passed in the General Assembly and sent to the Governor.**

As educators, we believe addressing the issue of school funding should be one of the state’s top priorities. But there is a catch. The state’s solution should not create “winners” and “losers” and instead, should ensure no school district will get less state funding than they already receive. This concept of “hold harmless” should be a cornerstone of any legislation passed in the General Assembly and sent to the Governor.

Further, the state should consider adopting a budget decision cycle to enable school districts to plan accordingly for each school year. If Illinois values acquiring and retaining the highest quality school personnel in the country—from teachers and administrators to school business officials—we must continue attracting the best and brightest and give them a voice in education policies. We need to reduce the amount of mandates, particularly unfunded ones, and allow local districts the ability to do what is best for their students and communities.

From presidential candidates to state and local contenders, all of them run on a platform for improving our public schools. It is easy to talk about improving schools but it takes real leadership to accomplish.

When Vision 20/20 was introduced in November of 2014, we pledged to improve our public schools and we are doing that. Last year, we had two bills become law in our state. This year, we intend to continue our quest to introduce and pass legislation to build on our successes. Later this month, those passionate about education will meet with the leadership of Vision 20/20 to provide recommendations and play a role in crafting our Legislative Agenda for 2016. We look forward to presenting those bills in the months to come and working to make them public acts.

As a current supporter, we are asking you to help us grow our network of support. If your district has not passed a resolution to join the Vision 20/20 family, please do so now. Stand with us to fulfill the promise of public education and be sure the voice of educators is heard. For the latest information regarding anything related to Vision 20/20 please visit our website at [illinoisvision2020.org](http://illinoisvision2020.org) or follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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VISIT US AT [ILLINOISVISION2020.ORG](http://ILLINOISVISION2020.ORG)



===== **FOUR PILLARS** =====  
 ===== **ONE GOAL** =====

When we introduced Vision 20/20, we established the policy brief on four areas of prioritization or pillars. These four pillars have served as a guide to work toward a common goal.

Our Goal: Education is an investment in our children’s future, our state’s future, and our nation’s future. It is our collective responsibility as educators to reflect upon the current state of education in Illinois and take action to create an education system that meets the needs of all students.



**HIGHLY EFFECTIVE EDUCATORS**

- Recruit & Retain High-Impact Educators
- Provide Relevant Professional Development



**21ST CENTURY LEARNING**

- Develop the “Whole Child”
- Preserve Instructional Time
- Invest in Early Childhood Education
- Link Students to College & Careers
- Expand Equity in Technology Access



**SHARED ACCOUNTABILITY**

- Expand Educator Role & Responsibility in State Governance
- Preserve Instructional Time
- Invest in Early Childhood Education
- Link Students to College & Careers
- Expand Equity in Technology Access



**EQUITABLE & ADEQUATE FUNDING**

- Fund Education Based on Local Need
- Stabilize State Funding for Education
- Enhance District Flexibility
- Financial District Flexibility to Increase
- Financial Efficiency

With the creation of the new Pillar Committees and the work and recommendations they have generated, along with the Advisory Committee’s evaluation of those recommendations, we anticipate changes and improvements to our existing policy brief and upcoming legislative agenda. The policy brief has always been perceived as a “working iteration” and following the committee meeting January 20th, changes to the brief will likely occur. The outcome of the meeting will be highlighted in our February newsletter.

===== **WE’RE GROWING** =====

Welcome Our  
New School District!

Sycamore Community Unit School  
District #427

SUPPORTING DISTRICTS



STUDENTS REPRESENTED



PETITIONS SIGNED



===== **SIGN OUR PETITION!** =====

Join the support for Vision 20/20 and sign our petition!

[Click here.](#)

===== **ARE YOU A VISION 20/20 SCHOOL?** =====

===== **IF NOT, JOIN US!** =====

Please remind your school districts that have not passed a resolution endorsing Vision 20/20 to do so and be a part of our growing network.

The number of districts and supporters has risen and momentum is growing. However, we still have work to do before we can have every school in Illinois on board. If your school district has not endorsed the Vision 20/20 plan and would like more information, please contact us at questions at: [questions@illinoisvision2020.org](mailto:questions@illinoisvision2020.org)

