



MESSAGE FROM THE LEADERSHIP

The leadership has finalized its agenda for the spring legislative session. You may recall last year, the Vision 20/20 team introduced 7 bills—two of which were signed into law by Governor Bruce Rauner.

This year, there are ten pieces of legislation that relate to Vision 20/20. The topics include Evidence-based funding, Reciprocity, Unfunded mandates, SAT/ACT choice for districts, State assessments, Third-party contracting, and Educator and substitute teaching licenses. Bill sponsors, a live link to the bill on the general assembly website and a description of the legislation are included in this newsletter.

Illinois Association of School Business Officials Executive Director Dr. Michael Jacoby has been working collaboratively with ED-RED, LUDA, LEND/SCOPE, Forecast5, Concordia University of Chicago and the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability (CTBA) in developing an Evidence-based funding model that addresses the issue of school funding. The emerging recommendation is consistent with the Odden/Picus research base (original researchers that developed the Evidence-based approach), but also translates into a state aid formula focused on both equity and adequacy.

The formula determines the Net State Contribution that would ensure adequate funding for each student in each school while taking into account local capacity and unique student needs. Modeling will be completed shortly and a bi-partisan launch is anticipated. "In a state where so many students have been short-changed by a lack of local educational opportunity tied primarily to differences in local wealth, this model will ensure that more focus is placed on their unique needs and new state resources will be directed almost entirely to their districts. At the same time, no district will lose resources."

Given the current climate in Springfield, we are hopeful some of our legislation will make its way through both chambers and once again be sent to the Governor's desk for approval. Once we have legislation pending that may require legislators hearing from their constituents, we will reach out to our supporters statewide for action.

Roger L. Eddy, [IASB](#)

Jeff Vose, [IARSS](#)

Dr. Creg Williams, [SCSDD](#)

Dr. Brent Clark, [IASA](#)

Dr. Michael Jacoby, [IASBO](#)

Jason Leahy, [IPA](#)

WE'RE GROWING

Welcome Our
New School District!

Sycamore Community Unit School
District #427

SUPPORTING DISTRICTS

522

STUDENTS REPRESENTED

813,129

PETITIONS SIGNED

773

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!



VISION 20/20 PROPOSALS

AMONG EDUCATION BILLS BEING CONSIDERED

A handful of bills emanating from Vision 20/20 are among the pieces of education legislation that have been introduced for the spring session of the General Assembly. Here are thumbnail descriptions of some of the education bills that might emerge this spring (you can read the full versions of the bills by clicking on the underlined links):

Evidence-based funding ([SB 2759](#)) Sen. Jason Barickman (R-Bloomington)

As of April 1, this remained a shell bill waiting for final language regarding revamping the school funding formula. The evidence-based funding model was one of the centerpieces of the Vision 20/20 recommendations and, as the name suggests, would have funding target research-based outcomes and programs. The Vision 20/20 plan also says: "The state's solution should not create 'winners' and 'losers' and instead should ensure no school district gets less 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."

Evidence-based funding panel ([HB 4022](#)) Rep. Chris Welch (D-Hillside)

Amends the State aid formula provisions of the School Code. Forms an evidence-based Professional Judgment Panel. Provides that the Panel shall update and revise a 2010 study and make recommendations for the implementation of an evidence-based adequacy and equity formula for the funding of all school districts. Specifies the members who shall serve on the Panel. Requires the Panel to recommend an adequate per pupil cost figure and a per pupil amount of local revenue figure. Provides that the Panel's recommendations shall incorporate identifiable and prototypical education expenses based on the school district type and student population size. Requires the Panel to submit a final recommendation for full funding of an equitable and adequate educational opportunity for all students by the 2020-2021 school year. Effective immediately.

Educator Licensure Reciprocity ([HB 6128](#)) Rep. Linda Chapa LaVia (D-Aurora)

Allows persons to have completed a comparable preparation program in another state to earn a Professional Educator License. Provides that required testing under certain provisions of the Code includes an evidence-based assessment of teacher effectiveness approved by the State Superintendent in consultation with the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board completed by the end of the second year of employment for Professional Educator License applicants who are holders of an Educator License with Stipulations. Requires applicants for an Educator License with Stipulations to satisfy the requirements for a Professional Educator License. (Amends the educator licensure provisions of the School Code. Allows persons to have completed a comparable preparation program in another state to earn a Professional Educator License. Provides that required testing under certain provisions of the Code includes an evidence-based assessment of teacher effectiveness approved by the State Superintendent of Education in consultation with the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board completed by the end of the second year of employment as a teacher of record for Professional Educator License applicants who are holders of an Educator License with Stipulations.

Educator and Substitute Teaching Licenses ([SB 2912](#)) Sen. David Luechtefeld (R-Okawville)

Another Vision 20/20 proposal under the heading of educator licensure reciprocity and substitute teachers, this bill amends the Educator Licensure Article of the School Code. Makes changes concerning a provisional in-state educator endorsement on an Educator License with Stipulations, a career and technical educator endorsement on an Educator License with Stipulations, a provisional career and technical educator endorsement on an Educator License with Stipulations, a Substitute Teaching License, a teacher leader endorsement on a Professional Educator License, educator testing, the minimum requirements for educators trained in other states or countries, fees for Substitute Teaching Licenses, and requirements for licensees retiring during a renewal cycle.

VISION 20/20 PROPOSALS
(CONT. 2 OF 3)

Unfunded Mandates (SB 3182) Sen. Dale Righter (R-Mattoon)

Vision 20/20 included a proposal that would grant school districts potential relief from non-instructional mandates that were 1) unfunded, 2) in excess of federal mandates, 3) not connected to student safety, and 4) not having to do with civil rights. This bill would create the Local Unfunded Mandate Exemption Act. Provides that all units of local government, school districts, and public colleges and universities may, by a majority vote of the governing body, exempt themselves from specified mandates that are unfunded if it is determined that it is not economically feasible to comply with the unfunded mandate. Provides for notice, public hearing, and other requirements in order for a governing body to exempt itself from any mandate. Prohibits exemption from federally required mandates, mandates pertaining to health and public safety, mandates pertaining to civil rights, and instructional mandates for school districts. Provides for appeal procedures by state agencies affected by exempted mandates. Amends the State Mandate Act. Provides that the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity shall submit yearly to the Governor and the General Assembly a review and report on mandates remaining in effect at the time of submittal of the report.

SAT/ACT choice for districts (HB 4362) Rep. Michael Unes (R-Pekin)

Amends the State Board of Education - Powers and Duties Article of the School Code. Removes a provision providing that of the 3 assessments the State Board of Education shall administer of English language arts and mathematics for students in a secondary education program, one assessment shall include a college and career ready determination exam. Provides that the State Board shall enter into 2 separate contracts to administer 2 college and career-ready determination exams, including, but not limited to, one that is accepted by all of this State's public institutions of higher education, as well as all of the State's post-secondary educational institutions for the purpose of student application or admissions. Specifies that each student shall be offered the opportunity to choose between the 2 exams. Sets forth provisions providing that the State Board shall be required to cover all expenses for each student to take one of the 2 exams for the purpose of college application or admissions consideration.

State assessments (HB 4380) Rep. David McSweeney (R-Cary)

Amends the School Code with respect to State goals and assessment. Provides that the provision requiring the State Board of Education to administer no more than 3 assessments, per student, of English language arts and mathematics for students in a secondary education program applies until the expiration of any contracts entered into before the effective date of the amendatory Act between the State Board and the company or companies that operate the PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers) tests. Provides that after the expiration of any such contracts, the State Board shall enter into 2 separate contracts to administer 2 college and career ready determination examinations, including, but not limited to, one that is accepted by all of this State's public and private institutions of higher education, for the purpose of student application or admissions consideration. Specifies that each student must be offered the opportunity to choose between the 2 examinations. Sets forth provisions providing that the State Board is required to cover all expenses for each student to take one of the 2 examinations for the purpose of college application or admissions consideration. Provides that no State assessments other than these 2 examinations may be administered to students in a secondary education program after the expiration of any contracts entered into before the effective date of the amendatory Act between the State Board and the company or companies that operate the PARCC tests.

VISION 20/20 PROPOSALS
(CONT. 3 OF 3)

Third-party contracting (SB 3098 & HB 6164) Sen. Jason Barickman (R-Bloomington) & Rep. Ron Sandack (R-Downers Grove)

Another Vision 20/20 proposal called for third-party contracting and changes to the way in which physical education and driver's education waivers would be granted. This bill would amend the School Code to allow a Board of Education to enter into a contract with a third party for non-instructional services currently performed by any employee or bargaining unit member, and removes a provision that requires any third party that submits a bid to perform the non-instructional services to provide a benefits package for the third party's employees who will perform the non-instructional services comparable to the benefits package provided to school board employees who perform those services. With respect to excusing pupils from engaging in physical education courses, provides for additional reasons why a pupil may be excused, pursuant to school board policy. Requires a public hearing on whether to adopt such a policy to be held at a regular or special school board meeting prior to adopting the policy. Provides that a school district may offer a driver education course in a school by contracting with a commercial driver training school to provide both the classroom instruction part and the practice driving part or either one without having to request a modification or waiver of administrative rules of the State Board of Education if a public hearing on whether to enter into a contract with a commercial driver training school has been held at a regular or special school board meeting prior to entering into such a contract; sets forth requirements concerning the contract.

Creates the Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act (HB 5729) Rep. Kelly Burke (D-Evergreen Park)

Sets forth provisions concerning postsecondary career expectations; a competency-based, high school graduation requirements pilot program; transitional mathematics courses; reading and communication transitional competencies; College and Career Pathway Endorsements and State Distinction programs; and administrative rules. Effective immediately.

Proposes to amend Section 1 of Article X of the Illinois Constitution (HJRCA 57) Rep. Michael J. Madigan (D-Chicago)

Provides that a fundamental right (instead of goal) of the People of the State is the educational development of all persons to the limits of their capacities. Provides that it is the paramount duty of the State to provide for a thorough and efficient system of high quality public education institutions and services and to guarantee equality of educational opportunity as a fundamental right of each citizen (instead of requiring the State to provide for an efficient system of high quality public education institutions and services). Provides that the State has the preponderant financial responsibility (instead of the primary responsibility) for financing the system of public education. Effective upon being declared adopted in accordance with Section 7 of the Illinois Constitutional Amendment Act.