



MESSAGE FROM THE LEADERSHIP

Illinois Submits Accountability Plan to U.S. Dept. of Education

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) draft plan four was approved by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) at their March meeting and was delivered to the U.S. Department of Education in order to meet the April 3rd deadline.

In the plan, Vision 2020 included the desire for Illinois to adopt a more balanced accountability model. While the ISBE plan does reflect a more balanced approach than the previous accountability model under No Child Left Behind (NCLB), there are some aspects of the ISBE submission that must continue to be addressed.

The following is written testimony that was provided to ISBE regarding the plan sent to the Department of Education. We will continue to work with ISBE in the coming months and years to support a more balanced accountability model which more closely reflects the Vision2020 Blueprint.

Written testimony:

To begin, we thank the State Board and its Staff for the continued opportunity to participate and provide input for consideration regarding the Illinois ESSA State Plan. Our members have appreciated the ability to be engaged and assist in its development. We look forward to participating in the continued work as detailed in the State Plan #4 and its implementation.

Additionally, we are appreciative of the State Board's acknowledgement and inclusion of the recommendations of the Illinois Balanced Accountability Measure Committee and various other educational stakeholders. To this end, as it relates to the academic indicators, we fully support ISBE's recommendation of a simple linear regression model for measuring student growth and that a much larger percentage should be used to weight student growth. We support the inclusion of a science assessment, when ready, as the broader the assessed subject areas, the better in our opinion. Throughout the State Plan #4, ISBE recognizes the need for further educational stakeholder input. We commend this proactive approach and are committed to continued involvement.

Further, we appreciate that many of the student success indicators that were recommended by IBAMC and educational stakeholders such as, Chronic Absenteeism, Climate Survey, 9th Grade on Track and College and Career Readiness, were included. We stand committed to assisting with any working group to further develop the enumerated student success indicators, as well as a Climate Survey that meets the ESSA requirements, P-2 indicator, other elementary/middle school indicator, a fine arts (or access to broader curriculum such as world languages, vocational education and internship opportunities) indicator.

Written testimony continued:

We appreciate and look forward to the opportunity to look at the “whole child” and bring forward to implementation a more balanced approach to accountability in Illinois.

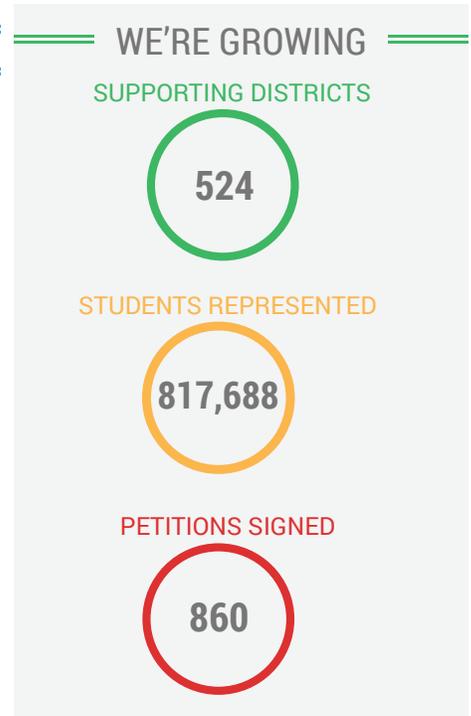
Moreover, we support the four-tiered approach to “levels of performance.” We commend positivity and support rather than rank, sort and punish. We join in ISBE’s desire to support our schools and encourage improvement rather than the previous system that was, unfortunately, negative and punitive.

VISION 20/20 PROPOSALS
AMONG EDUCATION BILLS BEING CONSIDERED

**Equitable and Adequate funding (HB2808)
Rep. William Davis (D-Hazelcrest)**

This bill will:

- establish a funding formula that is based on evidence, data, and best educational practices;
- determine per-pupil costs for each school district to guarantee that each student has access to a high quality education;
- be scalable;
- 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, support services, operation and maintenance employees, supplies and materials, technology equipment and infrastructure, and geographic cost differences; and
- Include an Evidence Based Professional Judgment Panel which would update data regularly and 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.



A status update for the bill: **HB2808 passed out of House Appropriations-Elementary & Secondary Education Committee 3/30 with a 15-1 vote**

**Highly Effective Educators (HB3820)
Rep. Fred Crespo (D-Hoffman Estates)**

The quality of teachers and school leaders is the greatest predictor of student achievement schools can influence. By attracting, developing, and retaining the best educators from within and from outside State boundaries, we can have a profound impact on student learning.

Highly Effective Educators (HB3820) continued:

HB 3820 facilitates the recruiting and hiring of individuals with a career and technical educator endorsement or a part-time provisional career and technical educator endorsement. It removes barriers in hiring career and technical educator substitute teachers. The bill also addresses the minimum requirements for educators trained in other states or countries and Professional Educator License renewal.

Shared Accountability – Mandate Relief:
SB 756 (Morrison, J., D-Deerfield)
SB 1712 (Barickman, R-Bloomington)

SB 756 (Morrison, J., D-Deerfield) allows freshman and sophomore high school students to also be eligible to excused from the physical education requirement under certain circumstances (now just junior and senior high school students).

SB 1712 (Barickman, R-Bloomington) contains the mandate relief provisions for third party contracting, physical education, and drivers’ education.

21st CENTURY LEARNING: ISBE BUDGET REQUEST
Broadband Expansion - Technology Superhighway

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) provides federal match funding through states for schools to expand broadband availability through its E-rate program. The FCC currently has supplemental funds available through the program for construction projects. These funds are in addition to the normal 70% E-rate program. The additional funds are subject to state dollar-for-dollar matching requirements and will be available in FY2018 and FY2019.

It is estimated that 215 schools across 120 districts, serving approximately 300,000 students, need fiber upgrades. The federal funds would provide up to 10% reimbursement of the cost of eligible broadband special construction projects. The expansion of broadband to schools statewide is supported by a partnership with the Office of the Governor, Illinois Department of Innovation and Technology, and EducationSuperHighway. The Office of the Governor supports an investment of \$13 million for District Broadband Expansion over the two-year period for which federal matching funds are available.

The State Board of Education has included in its budget request a \$5 million appropriation to provide matching funds for an additional \$5 million of federal funds to support broadband expansion special construction costs in FY2018.

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