

June 12, 2017

PLEASE REPLY TO:

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Leaders of the General Assembly,

Each of you, as a leader in the General Assembly, understands the incredible impact that the lack of a state budget has had over the last two years. Realizing that, I would like to emphasize to you the anxiety at the local level that the lack of a state budget is placing on school board governing members and administrators, who are now in the extraordinarily difficult position of planning to open schools without knowing what amount, or when, state revenue will flow to us.

As this third year of budget process with no budget in sight, we are asking you to realize the impact that another year without a timely budget agreement will have in individual school districts. This time around, the question may not be "Will the schools open in the fall?" The question is "CAN the schools open in the fall?" As president of my local elementary district of 7,000 students at 13 sites in northwest suburban Cook County, with almost 800 professional and support team members, I can tell you that without a budget, my district would need to secure some type of borrowing – in this case, probably tax anticipation warrants – to get through the year.

OFFICERS
Phil Pritzker
President

Joanne Osmond
Vice President

Karen Fisher
Immediate Past President

Many districts may not be able to secure the funding necessary, to open or to stay open for the full year.

Thomas Neeley
Treasurer

As president of the Illinois Association of School Boards representing 843 public school districts throughout the state, and on behalf of close to 6,000 individual school board members, I implore you to push for the General Assembly to send to Governor Rauner a budget that provides for secure funding to our schools. In order for a budget to be successful, you similarly must support the necessary addition of revenue to make it adequate for all of Illinois' children.

Roger L. Eddy
Executive Director

Please consider the example being set for our children by the inaction to pass a budget – is this how we want our children to see how adults handle disagreements? Send our kids a message that democracy does work even through difficult negotiations. On behalf of my school board colleagues from across the state and for my local community, I ask you to address the People's Business by working through the issues and sending a budget to the Governor this month.

With kindest regards on behalf of the public school children of Illinois,



Phil Pritzker
President, Illinois Association of School Boards
President, Wheeling CCSD 21 Board of Education