

August 11, 2017

Governor Bruce Rauner
207 Statehouse
Springfield, IL 62706

President John Cullerton
327 Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Leader Jim Durkin
316 Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Speaker Michael Madigan
300 Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Leader Bill Brady
309G Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Governor Rauner and Leaders:

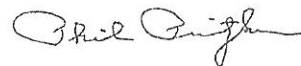
With precious few days remaining before some Illinois schools are scheduled to open, there is growing anxiety over whether or not funds appropriated for K-12 schools will be forthcoming in a timely manner. As you all know, school districts that rely on state aid are affected the most dramatically by funds not flowing as scheduled. Even though the third mandated categorical payment from the FY17 year was made, the recent failure to send state aid payments to districts scheduled for August 10th has heightened the anxiety to a fever pitch. School districts are currently attempting to make preparations for the new school year in an environment of complete uncertainty. This uncertainty will affect decisions that will impact the educational programming that students receive. The concerns expressed by districts are **valid**. Some school districts may not be able to open their doors for students as scheduled. Many other districts will only stay open a couple weeks, and others possibly only a few months without the sustainable and reliable revenue that comes from the appropriation enacted in SB6 for an "Evidence Based Funding Model" (EBM). **Children and parents** are feeling the very real consequences of what we believe are very **fixable issues**.

For over two years, IASB has worked hard to assist in the drafting of a new EBM. The proposed EBM is a vast and necessary improvement over the current formula. The research-based, best-practice elements used to calculate a unique adequacy target for each school district based on their unique student population is a major improvement. Under this formula, available revenue flows to the schools that are the furthest from adequacy with the most need. This is a real chance to close the equity gap that currently exists in school funding. **There is widespread bipartisan support for this approach**. We strongly urge the Governor and Leaders to work together on a compromise so that our schools can receive already appropriated funding in a timely manner. This is an opportunity to show our kids how government is *supposed* to work. Let's send them the right message!

Respectfully,



Mr. Roger Eddy
Executive Director



Mr. Phil Pritzker
President

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