



June 15, 2018

The Honorable Bruce Rauner  
Governor  
207 State House  
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Governor Rauner:

The Illinois Statewide School Management Alliance, which includes the Illinois Association of School Boards, Illinois Association of School Administrators, Illinois Association of School Business Officials, and Illinois Principals Association, respectfully asks you to **VETO Senate Bill 2892**, that mandatorily increases the minimum teacher salary to \$40,000 statewide. Though the increase is phased in, it still will be a substantial unfunded mandate on local school districts that will consume much or all of any new funding benefit school districts receive from the commitment to the new evidence-based funding formula. It is estimated that nearly one-half of school districts currently have starting teacher salaries below that level. This requirement will likely cause a costly ripple effect up the salary schedule for other teachers as well. The bill also includes a mandatory annual cost of living increase tied to the Consumer Price Index after the 5-year phase in period.

Coupled with the recently enacted law requiring school boards to contribute the normal pension costs for any salary increase above 3% (PA 100-0587), enactment of this proposal would require local school districts to increase pay above 3%, then require the school districts to pay the normal pension cost because of the increase!

Illinois has a collective bargaining law that empowers local school boards, together with their teachers and support staff, to set salaries in consideration of the revenues available to run their schools. School leaders and staff must take into consideration all aspects of its budget and make very difficult decisions to provide an effective education program that meets the needs of all students, while considering the will and ability of their local taxpayers to pay for these mandated increases. Often bargaining sessions include items other than salary, such as health insurance costs and pension contributions.

A top-down approach to mandate a minimum salary for one group of employees within the school setting, without fully funding the increases, will cause layoffs, dismissals, and program cuts across the board in Illinois schools. Additionally, programs required to meet state and federal education standards will suffer as there will not be enough qualified staff or programming to meet student needs.

School leaders support their teachers! This proposal will not help teachers and support staff, it will wreak havoc after Illinois just passed school funding reform that has put Illinois "Back on Track" to funding our schools.

Thank you for your consideration of our request to **VETO Senate Bill 2892**. We look forward to your response and are available for questions regarding the impact of this proposal.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Deanna Sullivan".

Deanna Sullivan

Director of Governmental Relations, IASB

Illinois Statewide School Management Alliance

cc: Emily Bastedo, Education Secretary, Office of the Governor  
Andrew Perkins, Deputy Chief of Staff for Legislative Affairs, Office of the Governor