

## RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF EDUCATION FUNDING REFORM

WHEREAS, the 1970 Illinois Constitution states in Article X, Section 1, that:

A fundamental goal of the People of the State is the educational development of all persons to the limits of their capacities. The State shall provide for an efficient system of high quality public educational institutions and services. Education in public schools through the secondary level shall be free. There may be such other free education as the General Assembly provides by law. The State has the primary responsibility for financing the system of public education.

WHEREAS, the system in Fiscal Year 2014 is not efficient with nearly 62 percent of public school districts deficit spending.

WHEREAS, the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) believes that:

A comprehensive restructuring is needed in the way public schools are funded in Illinois and that IASB should be an active partner in responsible grassroots initiatives for school funding reform.

WHEREAS, the IASB believes that adequate funding must be provided for each student in order to guarantee the opportunity for an appropriate public education.

WHEREAS, the IASB reaffirmed the following criteria by which proposals for school finance reform shall be evaluated:

1. The state's funding of public education should provide for a stable, reliable and predictable commitment of revenue.
2. State funding levels for public education should be a function of the actual cost of providing an appropriate education.
3. Adequate funding should be sought through the addition of new state revenues for public education.
4. Any funding formula developed by the General Assembly shall place high priority upon achieving the goal of equity in providing financial resources to local school districts.
5. Increased state funding for public education should not reduce the access of school districts to the local property tax base.
6. In the distribution of state funds to local school districts:
  - a. Funding differentials for various levels of schooling are appropriate only if based on verified costs;
  - b. Consideration should be given to regional differences in the cost of providing an appropriate education;
  - c. The method of calculating the number of students coming from disadvantaged backgrounds should be based on current, verifiable data;
  - d. Size of school district is important only to the extent that a district provides an appropriate education.
7. A specified local tax effort should be required to qualify for state aid.
8. Authority for changing a district's aggregate tax levy should be retained by the local board of education.
9. Taxing authority without referendum for unit districts in all funds should be equal to the sum of the taxing authority in dual districts.
10. Funding should not be tied to mandated training of local Boards of Education.

11. In order to obtain substantial new state revenues for funding an appropriate education, the following considerations should have an impact on any proposal for school finance reform:
  - a. A legitimate level and type of accountability will be needed.
  - b. The physical plant needs of Illinois' school districts should be addressed.
  - c. Taxpayer equity and relief, including uniform tax assessment and procedures as well as tax relief for limited fixed-income and disabled citizens, should be provided.

WHEREAS, the Illinois State Board of Education has outlined five funding principles, namely:

1. Adequacy—provides a level of funding sufficient for a high quality education.
2. Simplicity—provides districts a predictable, understandable revenue stream that is used to maximize student outcomes.
3. Transparency—is easily accessed and understood by all citizens.
4. Equity—begins with everyone contributing a minimum tax rate and adjusts for student need by weighting the formula to allow for additional resources to address impediments to student achievement.
5. Outcome-focused—encourages student growth in learning.

WHEREAS, the School Funding Reform Act of 2014 reallocates education funding in Illinois.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Center Cass School District #66 recognizes the need for education funding reform, however it opposes the School Funding Reform Act of 2014 as written because it does not satisfy the Illinois Constitution, the beliefs and position statements of the Illinois Association of School Boards, and the principles of the Illinois State Board of Education.

Board of Education of Center Cass School District #66

November 6, 2014