

Illinois

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FUNDING PRIORITIES FOR P-12 AND/OR HIGHER EDUCATION

Illinois' fiscal year 2022 budget makes public K-12 education a priority through full funding of the Evidence-Based Funding (EBF) models Base Funding Minimum (BFM). The BFM is a hold harmless measure calculated as the General State Aid distributed to a district in the fiscal year 2017, and any additional Tier distribution funds allocated to a district since.

The Governor has authorized the Illinois State Board of Education to distribute an additional \$569.5M in federal Coronavirus Aid, Recovery, and Economic Security (CARES) Act money, \$2.25B in Federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) money, and approximately \$7B in American Rescue Plan (ARP) money intended to support the safe reopening of schools and to ensure that each child in the public education systems is properly supported while learning in the remote setting.

Additionally, \$16.6M in state funding has been earmarked to support the well-being of teachers and students as they navigate the world of virtual teaching and the possibility of returning to the classroom. For the \$16.6M well-being funds, the budget includes teacher mentoring, principal mentoring and recruitment, training for educators in social-emotional learning and trauma response, and a state Student Care Department.

CHANGES TO FUNDING FORMULA FOR P-12 AND/OR HIGHER EDUCATION

No changes have been made to Illinois' K-12 Evidence-Based Funding (EBF) formula. The EBF formula is conducted in three stages: 1) determining the cost of educating all students according to twenty-six research defined cost factors creating an Adequacy Target, 2) measuring each district's local resources so that it can be compared to the Adequacy Target produced in stage one, creating a ratio, and 3) distributing additional state aid, monies appropriated above BFM requirements, through tiers based on the calculated ratio from stage two. Governor Pritzker signed HB 508 in law in August of 2021. This law seeks to "make whole" funding school districts would have lost to Property Tax Appeal Board and Circuit Court decisions that would reduce the tax base.

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PRESSING STATE ISSUES AFFECTING P-12 AND/OR HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING

Like many other states, Illinois is anticipating a budget shortfall this year due to COVID-related restrictions limiting economic activity, and subsequently impacting state tax revenues. To close the projected \$4.8B deficit, the Governor raised several corporate taxes and reduced several tax credits, including tax credits for contributions to the state's private school scholarship fund. Federal funds from

EXCLUSIVE TO P-12: FORCES DIVERTING FUNDS FROM TRADITIONAL PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

As has been the case in previous years, charter schools are the main component diverting funds from traditional public schools. Currently, there are 141 charter schools operating in Illinois, 128 operate within the city of Chicago while the remaining thirteen are spread throughout the state serving over an estimated 62,000 K-12 students. There are no proposed appropriations in the newest budget for the State Charter School Commission.

EXCLUSIVE TO HIGHER EDUCATION:

In the fiscal year 2022 budget, Illinois has maintained previous funding efforts for public university operations. Included in the budget are additional funds to assist in implementing the Illinois Board of Higher Education's new equity-driven strategic plan.