



For Immediate Release

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Last month, Governor Rauner signed into law Public Act 100-0465, an Evidence-Based School Funding Formula that will send Illinois dollars to school children who need it most; those that go to schools in districts of high poverty and low property values. This formula fixes that problem over time and creates a system that, given sufficient funding support moving forward, is adequate and equitable for all schoolchildren in Illinois. We endorse and applaud this bipartisan effort and are grateful that the General Assembly adopted this research-based model and that Governor Rauner has signed it into law. The Illinois High School District of Illinois is an organization representing the almost 650,000 secondary pupils in public schools in Illinois and has been part of these discussion for almost three (3) years.

Our support does not include, however, the following additions made to the bill after the Governor imposed his amendatory veto:

- The bill in part contains a program that allows wealthy donors a tax credit by donating to private schools. These dollars should instead be spent on public schoolchildren, especially in those high-poverty districts that have been underserved by the State of Illinois for years. Our stance is that public dollars should be spent on public schools.
- The bill in part contains a program that allows voters the right to call a referendum to lower property taxes if a school district is at 110% adequacy funding level as designated by the state. Many of the districts potentially affected are in the position they are in due to good financial management and thoughtful spending of limited resources. The locally elected School Boards are in a position to make a thoughtful, reasonable tax levy. The School Boards that are elected by school district residents insist on local control of local taxpayer dollars.