

The Funding Illinois' Future Coalition works to drive state resources where they are needed to better support achievement for all Illinois students. This is critical in a state with one of the largest equity gaps in the nation.

Our students, our schools and our state need this. Here's why:

Fact: Illinois' social and economic well-being is inextricably linked to the strength of our education system.

Fact: Illinois ranks as one of the most regressive states in how we fund public schools. Put simply, we spend less money to educate the students who need it the most.

Fact: Funding disparities grow deeper with the state's underfunding of general education funds. This disproportionately hurts low-income communities, school districts and students who most rely on state support.

Fact: Illinois contributes a quarter of the total investment in K-12 education; other states, on average, cover half.

Fact: Illinois education funds work at cross-purposes in the current system. That's because a tangle of formulas direct where state funds go, and why. This hamstringing our ability to target resources toward students who, research shows, need additional support to reach their full potential.

As community activists or civic leaders, as advocates or as parents, we all recognize gaps in educational opportunities by virtue of where Illinois students live. We recognize that targeted support is needed at a time when more than half of our students are poor. Such challenges did not exist when the current funding system was created nearly two decades ago, and change is due.

This matters because when state education funding is more equitable and every child receives the resources needed to have the same chance to success, we all win.

We must do better – for the sake of our students and our state.

By joining the coalition, we agree to:

- 1 Lend our organization's name to coalition publications and statements
- 2 Inform, engage and urge our elected officials to support the funding reform legislation
- 3 Publicize our involvement within our networks and communities to inform, engage, and recruit additional members.

Signature

Organization

Name (Print)

Date

Email address

Phone Number

Please submit this form using one of the following methods:

1. **Email** a scan of the signed document to tramos@advanceillinois.org
2. **Mail** the document to: Teresa Ramos - 50 E. Washington Street Suite 400, Chicago, IL 60602

Please join us in Funding Illinois' Future, a coalition of organizations and individuals dedicated to improving how Illinois supports its students and schools.