



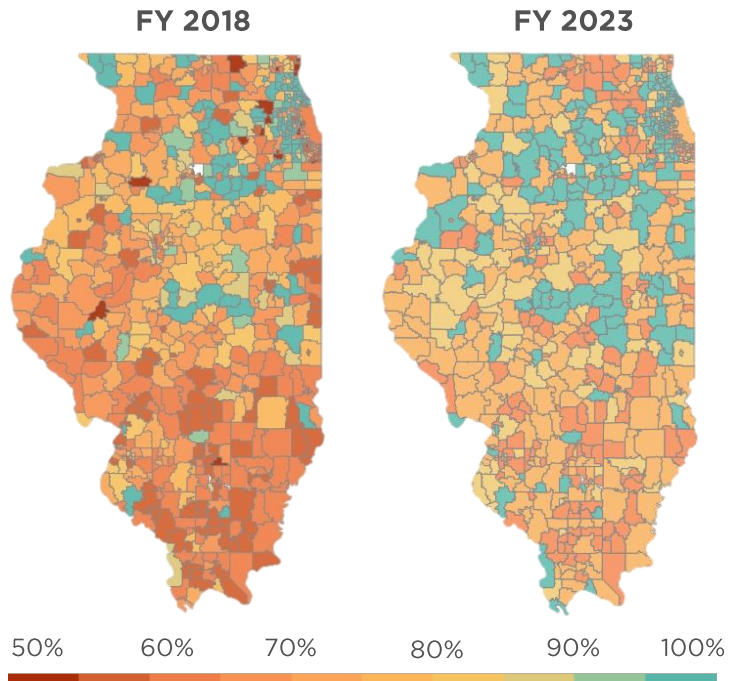
INVEST AT LEAST \$550 MILLION NEW FUNDS IN THE EVIDENCE-BASED FUNDING FORMULA IN FY24 to accelerate Illinois' progress toward adequate, equitable funding for K-12 students.

Illinois' Evidence-Based Funding (EBF) formula works. The formula drives state dollars to public school districts that are furthest from full funding.

Research shows that high quality educational experiences from birth through postsecondary (B-20) make a real difference for students and communities. Early childhood, K-12, and higher education institutions need adequate and equitable state funding in order to provide these opportunities to all students.

Five years ago, Illinois made a commitment to adequately and equitably fund K-12 schools through the passage of the Evidence-Based Funding (EBF) formula. Each year that the state funds EBF, the formula drives new state resources to the districts furthest from full funding. Illinois' investments in EBF have drastically reduced the number of severely underfunded districts, allowing schools to provide stronger instruction and support.

CHANGE IN DISTRICT ADEQUACY (PERCENT OF FULL FUNDING) SINCE ONSET OF EBF



Prior to the passage of EBF, 169 districts were funded at less than 60% of what they needed. Five years later, only 2 districts are still below 60% of full funding.

Even with the meaningful progress that Illinois has made, in FY23 over half of the state's students (more than one million kids) are still in districts funded below 75% of full funding.

We must accelerate our path to full funding. Investing at least \$550 million new dollars in FY24 will help us get there sooner.

We still have a long way to go to fulfill our promise of fully funding K-12 education in our state. If we continue to add an additional \$350 million each year in new funds (roughly the pace we've been going), it would take *at least two decades* from the passage of EBF to fully fund our schools.

Increasing our annual appropriation of new funds to \$550 million will accelerate our pathway to full funding, allowing hundreds of thousands more students to benefit from attending fully funded schools.

Investing \$550 million new dollars in EBF each year will get us to full funding in less than 10 years.

PROVIDING A HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATION FOR ALL ILLINOIS STUDENTS, REGARDLESS OF THEIR ZIP-CODE, STARTS WITH INVESTING \$550 MILLION IN EBF IN FY24.

Investing at least \$550 million more in EBF in FY24 is the best way to address systemic inequities in our education systems.

Despite gains made due to investments in EBF, students from low-income households, Black and Latinx students, and English Learners continue to be disproportionately concentrated in Illinois' most underfunded school districts. Students from rural and urban areas are also more likely than their suburban counterparts to be in underfunded districts.

DEMOGRAPHIC PERCENT OF STUDENTS WHO ARE IN DISTRICTS AT OR BELOW 75% OF ADEQUACY (PERCENT OF FULL FUNDING)

INCOME

71% of students from low-income households



47% of students not from low-income households



RACE

74% of Black students



72% of Latinx students



47% of white students



ENGLISH LEARNER STATUS

69% of English Learners



56% students who are not English Learners



LOCALE

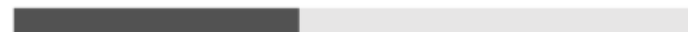
78% of urban students



59% of rural students



42% of suburban students



Stable and long-term state funding through EBF is needed to build a healthy public education system, even as federal stimulus funds provide short-term relief.

The need to fully fund K-12 schools has grown even more urgent since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. **The pandemic has had a profound impact on teaching and learning, highlighting and exacerbating inequities that are deeply rooted in our state's education system.**

Federal relief funding is providing much-needed support to districts. However, these short-term funds cannot and should not replace the state's role in funding schools through EBF. Federal recovery dollars provide additional resources needed to respond to and recover from the pandemic while EBF funds allow districts to build a foundation for long-term, sustainable educational progress.

The challenges caused by COVID-19 will be felt for years to come—long after federal relief funds have expired. Closing the gap to adequate funding in our K-12 schools is essential for districts to continue improving the quality of education in Illinois while also providing long-term support to students whose learning has been disrupted by the pandemic.

A \$550 million increase in EBF in FY24 will allow Illinois to both make a strong recovery from the pandemic and address longstanding inequities so that all Illinois students can receive a high quality education.

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