

#FUNDTHEFORMULA CAMPAIGN

Urge the Illinois General Assembly to Invest an Additional \$550M for EBF in FY26

MARCH – APRIL

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY TOOLKIT

The Time to Act is Now! Illinois students can't wait. Call for \$550 million for the Evidence-Based Funding Formula in FY26.



About Funding Illinois' Future



We are a coalition of more than 100 school districts, leaders, parents, educators, community, civic, and faith-based organizations that helped fix Illinois' school funding formula in 2017 with our fierce advocacy for the historic implementation of the K-12 Evidence-based Funding (EBF) formula.

Today, we continue our fight for equitable and adequate funding for all K-12 schools and providing every Illinois student with the excellent education they deserve.

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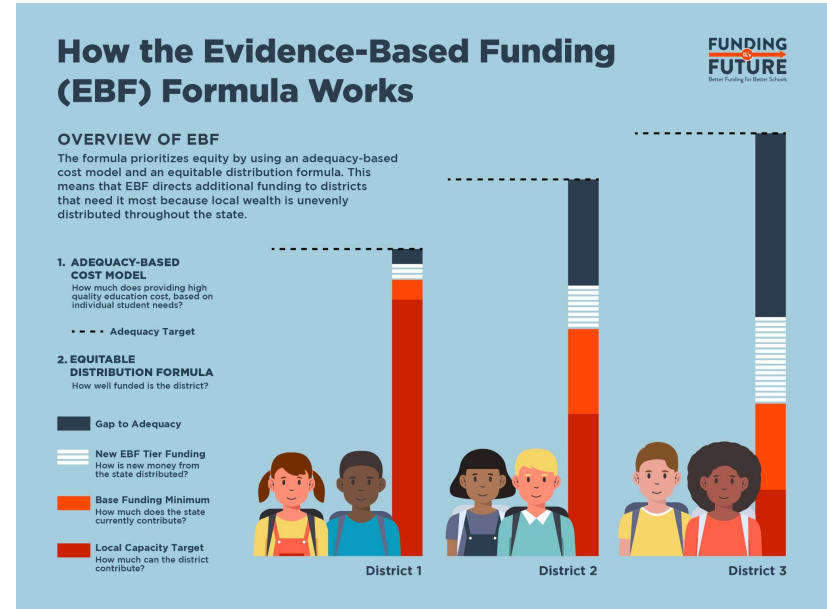
Every child deserves access to the same high-quality resources, dedicated teachers, and enriching learning environments, regardless of their background or where they live. When funding is equitable, it helps to bridge the gap between communities, ensuring that all children can thrive academically and socially.

— Parent from Berwyn

About the Evidence-Based Funding Formula (EBF)

In 2017, the landmark Evidence-Based Funding (EBF) formula overhauled Illinois' existing K-12 education funding system, replacing an outdated and inequitable structure with a formula that prioritizes the state's least well-funded districts, distributes funds based on a research-based estimate of what schools need to fully serve students, and considers differences in student needs across districts.

The Evidence-Based Funding (EBF) formula calculates education costs based on student needs and distributes new state dollars to school districts furthest from full funding. This is only possible when the state invests additional amounts through the formula each year.



Urge the Illinois General Assembly to Invest an additional \$550M for EBF in FY26



At this year's budget address, Governor Pritzker proposed an investment of an additional \$350 million for EBF which will have a significant impact on our least well-funded districts – but it is not enough.

It is crucial for the Illinois General Assembly to invest more than \$350 million into the Evidence-Based Funding (EBF) formula, to accelerate our pathway to adequate and equitable funding in Illinois for our K-12 students. At the current pace of adding \$350 million in new funds annually, many of today's students will graduate without ever experiencing a fully funded education

Urge the Illinois General Assembly to Invest an additional \$550M for EBF in FY26 (cont.)

Let's keep up the progress to ensure all students in Illinois receive the high-quality education they deserve, regardless of their zip code.

We need your help in advocating to ensure that the that the ILGA prioritizes an increase in EBF funding beyond \$350 million. Illinois students can't wait.

Between March 11 and April 22, we will be sharing weekly social media messages, a draft letter, and collecting community stories to address our legislators directly. We encourage you to customize the messages and share why an increased investment in school funding is important to you and your community.

“

This is important to me because I want upward mobility and the chance to make money to provide for myself. **I deserve an education – as do all CPS students – that will prepare me for success in the future. Increasing funding for EBF to \$550 million will help students like me.**

— Maurice Jackson, Peace Ambassador, Alternatives INC. Read more [here](#).

Take action now and
share this toolkit with
your network!

Advocacy Toolkit



“

It provides educators with the resources that are required to ensure everyone is at their full potential. Kids get all of the classes they need to benefit their futures and teachers get everything to properly teach classes

— Collinsville Student

What's in this toolkit?

01 Supplemental Advocacy Materials

In this toolkit you can find supplemental materials for your conversations with legislators or your network.

02 Send a Letter to your Legislators

Elevate the need to invest \$550M new dollars into EBF for the upcoming school year. Modify the letter to highlight your experience and let your senator and representative know why funding is crucial for Illinois' children.

03 Social Media Advocacy

Share this toolkit and messages with members of your community. We need everyone's voice behind the #FundtheFormula campaign!

04 Learn About Other Stories

Throughout this toolkit you can learn more about the stories of students, educators, and other advocates from across the state.

01

Supplemental Advocacy Materials

Supplemental Advocacy Materials



EBF ONE-PAGER Use this one-pager in your engagement with legislators to help communicate the need for additional EBF funding [here](#).



EBF COMMUNITY ONE-PAGER Use this informational sheet in your engagement with your network and community members to help communicate the need for additional EBF funding and share opportunities to join our work [here](#).



LEGISLATOR FUNDING ADEQUACY SHEETS Find your state legislators and view data showing the remaining gaps to full, adequate funding for your state representative and senator to use as a tool for targeted outreach [here](#).



FIND YOUR LEGISLATORS You can use this tool to find out who your Senator and Representative are. Start searching [here](#).

02

Send a letter to your Legislators!

Send a letter to your Legislators!



Please take 3–4 minutes to send a letter to your legislators to urge them to prioritize our students in the FY26 state budget.

[Click here](#) to send a letter to your Senator and Representative.

01 Access the letter [here](#)

02 Input your name, email, and address

03 The system we use will automatically send this to your legislators as long as you provide an address!

04 In the message box, we encourage you to tailor your message to include 1–2 sentences on why equitable funding in education is essential for your school community!

05 Hit sign up and send!

03

Social Media Guidelines

How to Post

Please post using **#FundtheFormula** to help keep the momentum going. Join us for a series of ongoing social media actions to show your support and share your stories of the need to prioritize investing in EBF with your legislators.

KEY LEGISLATOR X (formerly Twitter) HANDLES

Your efforts should be focused on the State Representative and State Senator for your district and school community. If your legislator does not have an X account, tag their appropriate party account listed below.

Tag your State Senator and State Representative (Handles Below):

@HouseDemsIL / @ILSenDems / @ILSenateGOP / @ILHouseGOP

In addition, find ALL legislator contact information and Twitter handles [here](#).

Tuesday, March 11

.@HouseDemsIL @ILSenateGOP @ILHouseGOP @ILSenDems: Funding matters! Decades of research show students thrive when schools are fully funded. #EBF has delivered \$2.1B to IL's underfunded districts, more is needed for quality education. #FundtheFormula

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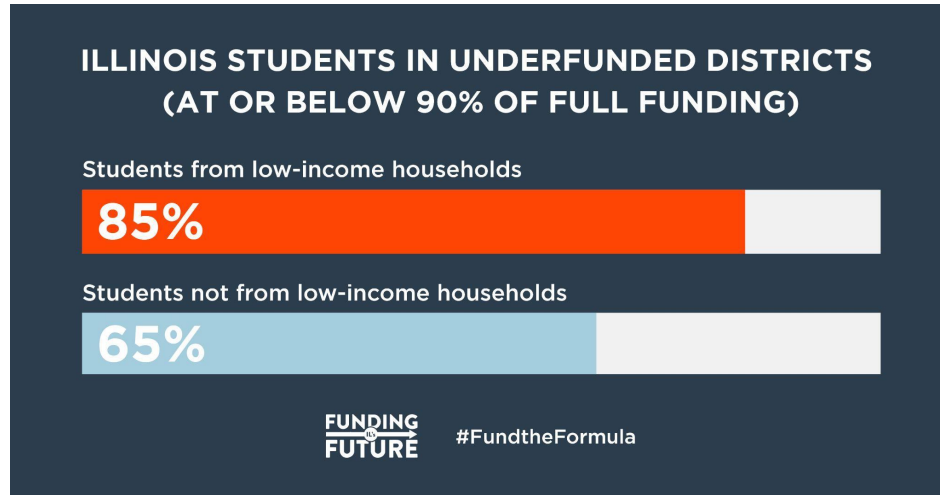


Thursday, March 13

.@HouseDemsIL @ILSenateGOP @ILHouseGOP @ILSenDems: Since EBF, we've reduced severely underfunded IL schools, but 1.3M students remain in underfunded districts. We urge a \$550M investment in FY26. #FundtheFormula #EBF

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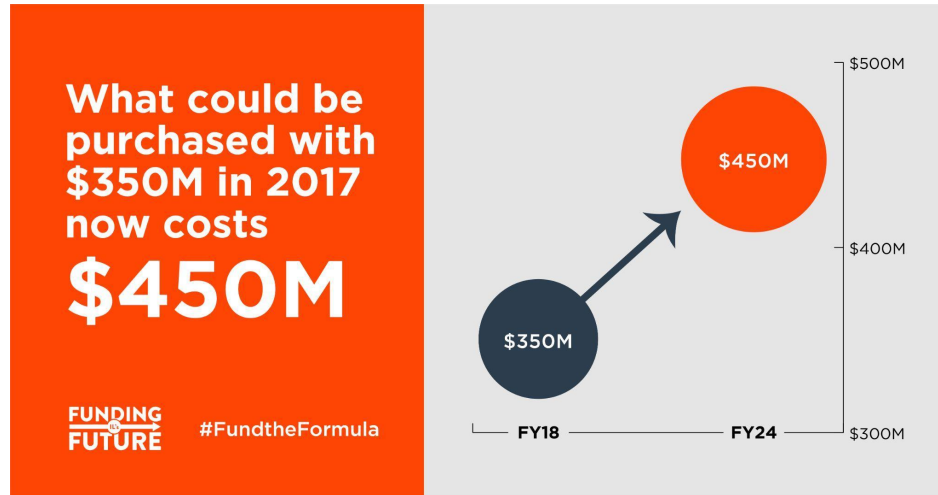


Tuesday, March 18

.@HouseDemsIL @ILSenateGOP @ILHouseGOP @ILSenDems: EBF prioritizes IL's most underfunded districts, but inflation lowers the value of our annual \$350M investment. To reach full funding faster, we need \$550M to #FundtheFormula in FY26. #EBF

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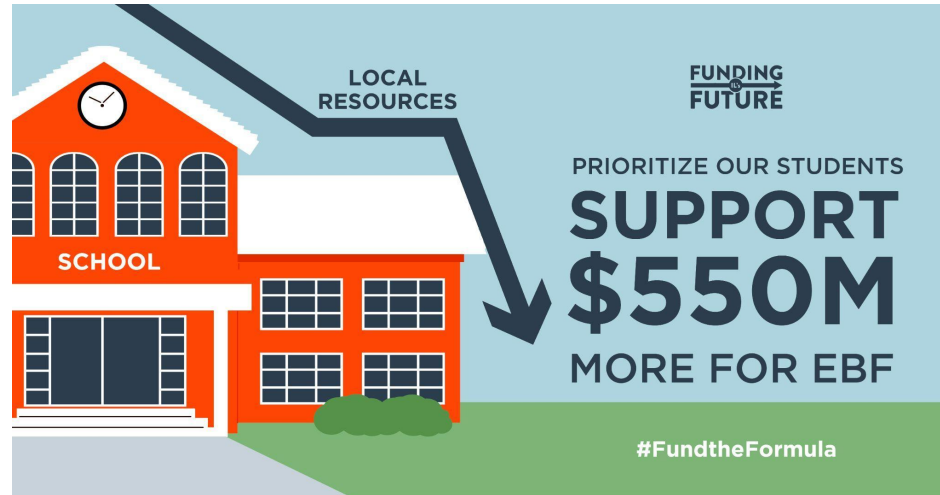


Thursday, March 20

CPPRT revenues for districts are expected to drop by \$500M this year, & federal stimulus funds have expired. We need a stronger #EBF commitment to sustain academic recovery. @HouseDemsIL @ILSenateGOP @ILHouseGOP @ILSenDems #FundtheFormula

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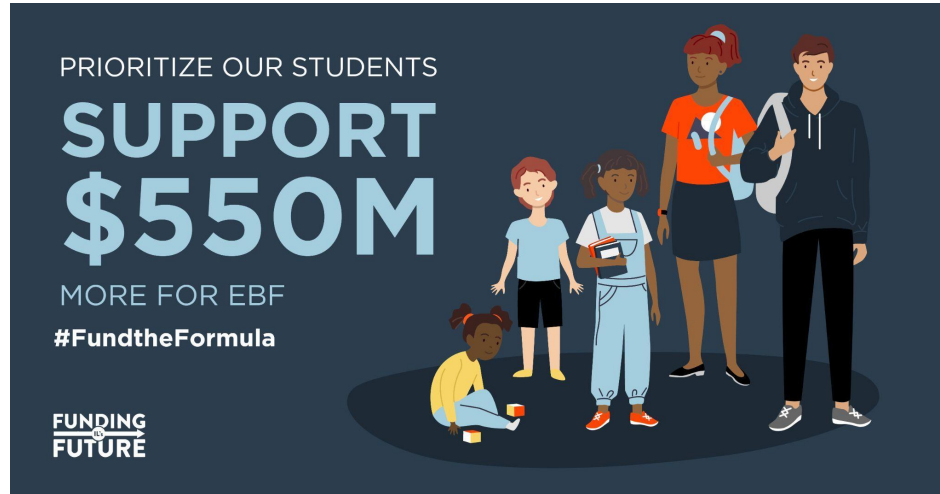


Tuesday, March 25

At \$350M/year, IL schools won't reach full funding for at least another 10 years.
@HouseDemsIL @ILSenateGOP @ILHouseGOP @ILSenDems: IL can't afford to underfund its future. #FundtheFormula

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Thursday, March 27

.@HouseDemsIL @ILSenateGOP @ILHouseGOP @ILSenDems: Equity in education begins by ensuring all school districts have adequate resources and services for their students to thrive. Please prioritize an additional \$550M for EBF in FY26. #FundtheFormula

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Tuesday, April 1

.@HouseDemsIL @ILSenateGOP @ILHouseGOP @ILSenDems: Districts face underfunded reimbursements for mandated costs, like transportation and specialized services, leaving less funding for evidence-based programming that EBF supports. #FundtheFormula

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Prioritize an additional
\$550M
for EBF as short-term federal
pandemic funds are expired
and CPPRT revenue
continues to drop

#FundtheFormula

FUNDING
ILLINOIS
FUTURE

Thursday, April 3

.@HouseDemsIL @ILSenateGOP @ILHouseGOP @ILSenDems: IL districts have responded to the pandemic, adding staff & programs. Let's close the funding gap and #FundtheFormula at \$550M in FY26 to fully equip districts. #EBF

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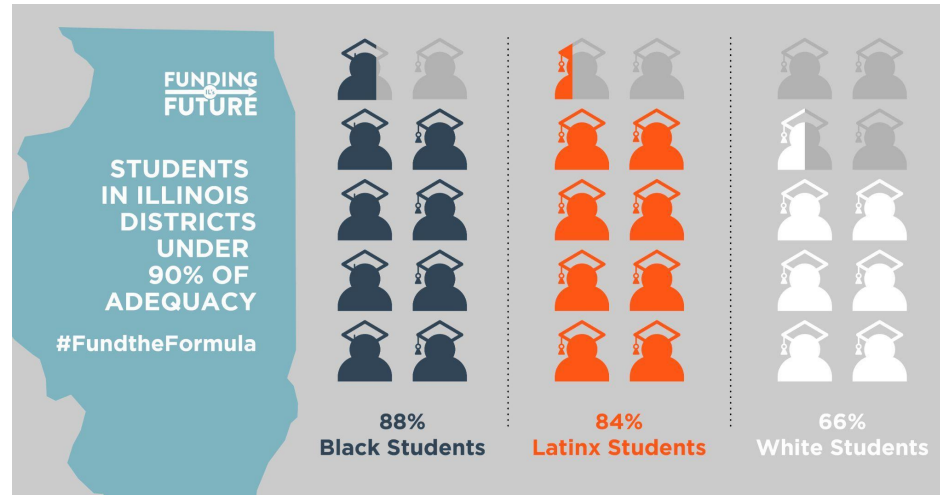


Tuesday, April 8

Despite EBF investments, Black, Latinx, EL, & students from low-income backgrounds still disproportionately attend underfunded schools. @HouseDemsIL @ILSenateGOP @ILHouseGOP @ILSenDems: Prioritize \$550M more for EBF in FY26! #FundtheFormula

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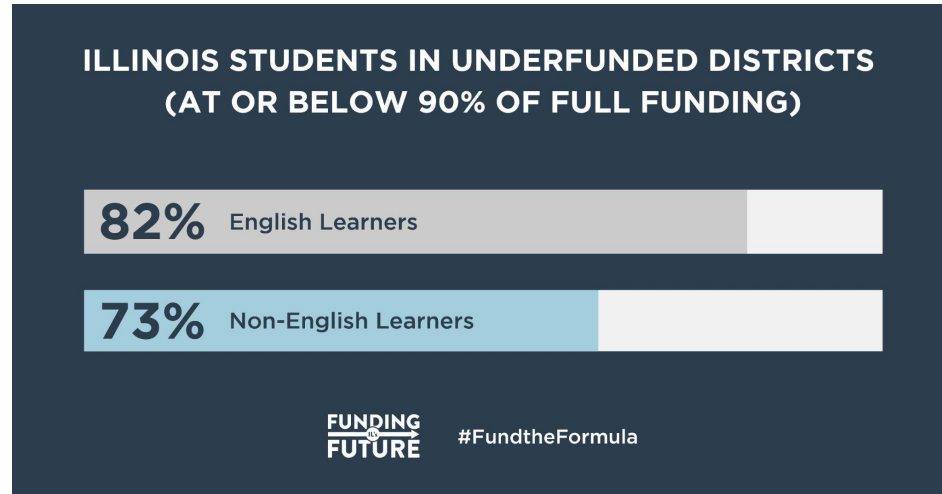


Thursday, April 10

.@HouseDemsIL @ILSenateGOP @ILHouseGOP @ILSenDems, investing \$550M in EBF in FY26 is the best way for the state to work to address systemic inequities in K-12 education.
#FundtheFormula

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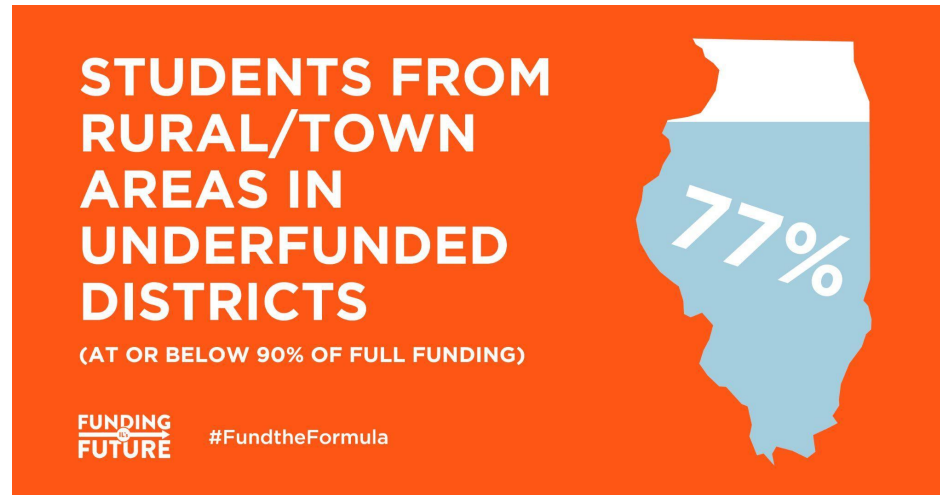


Tuesday, April 15

Increasing our annual appropriation to \$550M in EBF will help more students benefit from fully funded schools & accelerate equitable funding in IL. @HouseDemsIL @ILSenateGOP @ILHouseGOP @ILSenDems, invest \$550M for FY26. #FundtheFormula

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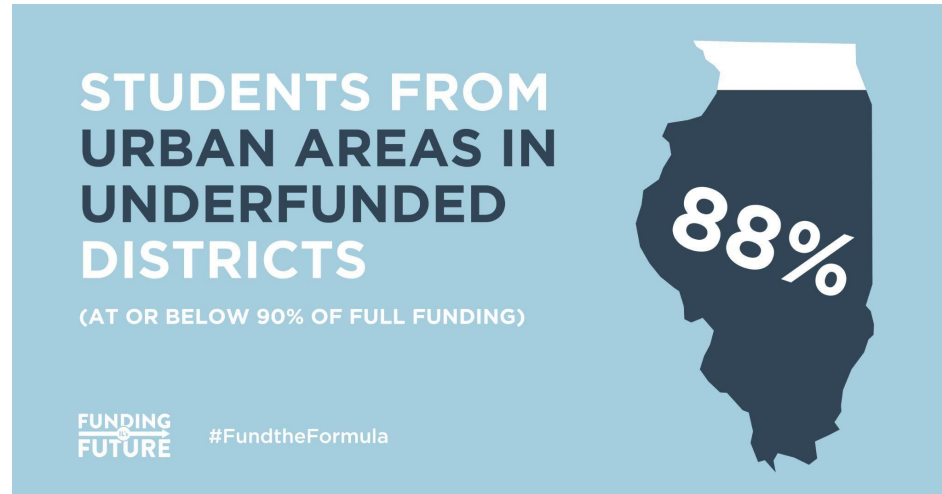


Thursday, April 17

.@HouseDemsIL @ILSenateGOP @ILHouseGOP @ILSenDems, please prioritize an additional \$550M for EBF. The formula is key to closing equity gaps and providing high-quality education for all students, no matter their zip code. #FundtheFormula

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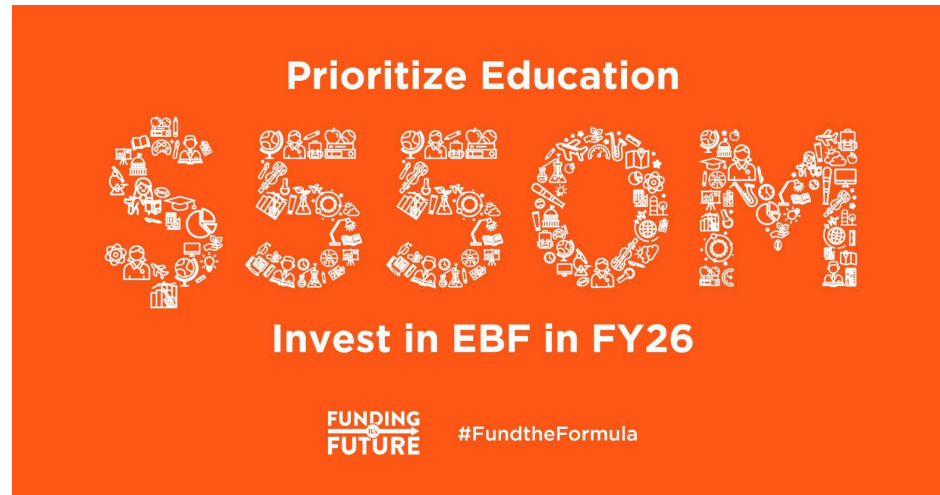


Tuesday, April 22

Investments in education matter! Increasing our EBF funding will let more students benefit from fully funded schools. @HouseDemsIL @ILSenateGOP @ILHouseGOP @ILSenDems, prioritize \$550M in EBF for FY26. #FundtheFormula

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THANK YOU