



URGE KEY LEADERS TO INVEST AT LEAST \$550 MILLION NEW FUNDS IN THE EVIDENCE-BASED FUNDING FORMULA IN FY24.

Accelerate Illinois' progress toward adequate and equitable funding for all K-12 students.

WHY IS ADEQUATE AND EQUITABLE EDUCATION FUNDING IMPORTANT?

Research shows that high quality educational experiences from birth through postsecondary (B-20) make a real difference for our students and their communities. **Our districts need adequate and equitable state funding** to provide these opportunities to all students. When public schools have the necessary resources they need, students perform better academically. Resources can include:

- ✓ Investment in additional social-emotional supports
- ✓ Up-to-date materials and facilities
- ✓ Competitive compensation for educators

"I work in a district that is adequately funded. We have social workers, nurses, interventionists, instructional coaches at every school and instructional assistants for all early childhood and elementary grade levels. This is all possible because we are fully funded." - Suburban Educator

WHAT IS THE EVIDENCE-BASED FUNDING (EBF) FORMULA?

Before adopting a new funding formula, Illinois had one of the least equitable school funding formulas in the country, with one of the lowest levels of state financial support. In 2017, Illinois made a commitment to **adequately and equitably fund K-12 schools** through the passage of the Evidence-Based Funding (EBF) formula.

EBF uses research to determine what resources a district needs. Also, the formula includes more investments for special education, students from low-income households, and English Learners so that all districts can provide high-quality educational opportunities for all students.

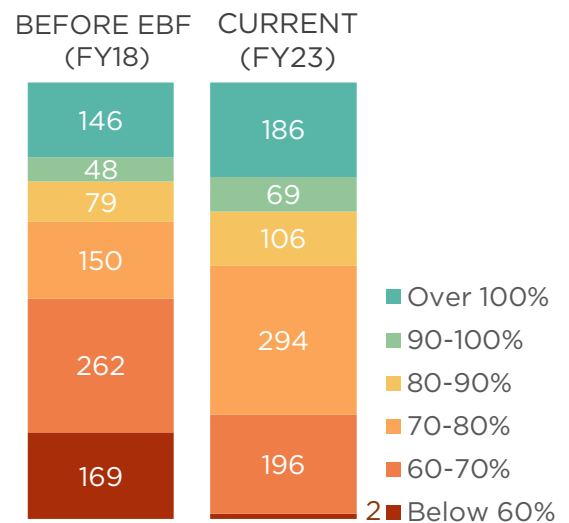
EBF was designed to address continuous under-funding and inequities in Illinois' K-12 funding system. Each year that the state funds EBF, the formula drives new state resources to the districts furthest from full funding. At the passage of EBF, the state committed to investing at least \$350 million new dollars every year into the formula.

IS EBF WORKING?

Over the last six years, Illinois has invested over \$1.5 billion into EBF, significantly reducing the number of severely underfunded districts, and allowing schools to provide stronger instruction and support

EBF drives 70-80% of new state resources to the state's most property poor districts and those that serve the most students from low-income households. Prior to EBF, over 160 Illinois school districts, representing 18% of students had less than 60% of the funding required to meet their needs. After three years of new funding, just 2 districts representing less than 1% of students remain below 60% full funding.

NUMBER OF ILLINOIS DISTRICTS BY FUNDING ADEQUACY (PERCENT OF FULL FUNDING)



In FY18, 169 districts were at or below 60% of full funding, compared to just 2 districts in FY23.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

We still have a long way to go to fully fund K-12 schools in Illinois.

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

Students from low-income households, students of color, and English Learners are 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.

"I continue to see injustices in schools... The school to prison pipeline is still strong in my area with high truancy rates, lack of needed one on one care for students, and buildings that are falling apart." - Urban Youth Organizer

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

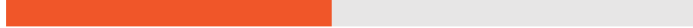
74% of Black students



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



WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT IT?

We still have a long way to go to fulfill our promise of fully funding K-12 education in our state. For the last six years, the state has been adding in \$350 million new funds each year, yet 8 out of 10 students in the state are in districts under 90% adequacy. If we continue at the pace we've been going it would take *at least two decades* from the passage of EBF to fully fund our schools. Investing \$550 million new funds each year will get us to full funding faster.

"This is the time for the state to continue to fulfill its commitment to public school students and allocate at least \$550 million into the EBF formula for FY24. The issue should be met with more urgency. Our students can't wait any longer." - Rural Educator

Let decision makers know that increasing our annual appropriation of new funds to \$550 million will accelerate our pathway to full funding and allow hundreds of thousands more students to benefit from attending fully funded schools.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

We need your voice! For more information on how you can stay informed on our advocacy work, please email engagement@advanceillinois.org