



VISION 20/20

Fulfilling the Promise of Public Education

An Evidence-Based School Funding Solution for Illinois

- The evidence-based adequacy model is a method used to determine per-pupil costs for each school district to guarantee that each student has access to a high quality education.
- The framework defines a prototypical cost for every student in every school in Illinois.
- The model is scalable so that it can be implemented over time by first targeting low-income school districts and the implementation of best practices as additional funding becomes available. It would be implemented for the 2016-17 school year and includes a hold-harmless provision that ensures that no district would fall below state funding levels for the 2014-15 school year.
- The model focuses on inputs such as:
 - Student needs
 - Class size
 - Use of instructional coaches/facilitators/mentors for teachers
 - Tutoring programs to assist low achieving students
 - Additional specialized instructional resources for English Language Learners (ELL)
 - Adequate resources for special education students
 - Full day kindergarten
 - Academic based summer school
 - Other items, including a set dollar amount per student for technology and materials, and teacher professional development
- There would be adjustments for factors such as poverty, transportation, support services employees, operation and maintenance employees, supplies and materials, capital equipment needs, technology equipment and infrastructure, and geographic cost differences.
- An Evidence-Based Professional Judgment Panel would update by December 1, 2015 a study completed in 2010 by the Illinois School Finance Adequacy Task Force that already developed an evidence-based model for Illinois. The Panel also would determine the minimal level of local and state funding for each district and provide recommendations on how to address the state's neediest districts first in a multi-year plan to phase in the adequacy model in an equitable manner.
- Once the cost of the evidence-based funding model is established, it is scalable so that the General Assembly will be able to select which best practices to fund and invest in as the first steps to phasing in the whole model by the 2020-21 school year.
- Evidence-based models are being used in other states such as Wyoming, Arkansas, Texas and North Dakota.



Illinois Association of School Business Officials



Superintendents' Commission for the Study of Demographics and Diversity

