



Nicole Blodgett <nblodgett@panaschools.com>

Fwd: Capitol Watch: Pritzker Delivers First State of the State Address

1 message

Jason Bauer <jbauer@panaschools.com>
To: Nicole Blodgett <nblodgett@panaschools.com>

Wed, Jan 29, 2020 at 3:15 PM

February Board Meeting

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **IASA** <iasa@iasaedu.org>
Date: Wed, Jan 29, 2020 at 3:11 PM
Subject: Capitol Watch: Pritzker Delivers First State of the State Address
To: <jbauer@panaschools.com>

**Pritzker Delivers First State of the State Address**

Gov. Pritzker delivered his first State of the State address at noon today, which was short on details about his agenda for public education this spring session.

Pritzker primarily [used his speech](#) to highlight accomplishments in his first year and send a strong message to lawmakers he is serious about passing meaningful ethics reform, including ending the practice of legislators serving as paid lobbyists and enacting a revolving-door policy so lawmakers can't retire and immediately start lobbying.

Therefore, it looks like we will have to wait until February when Pritzker delivers his budget address to learn more about his school funding proposal and how the governor will address other issues facing public education.

Earlier this month, the Illinois State Board of Education Board approved a budget recommendation of a \$100 million increase for early childhood programs and \$510 million increase in EBF funding. The latter is up \$135 million from last fiscal year.

A \$510 million investment into EBF would be an incredible step forward, and we are hopeful the governor will seriously consider it.

Hanging over everything is how much support there is for a ballot initiative in November to change the state's Constitution to allow for a graduated income tax. The graduated income tax, according to the governor's office, could raise an additional \$3.6 billion a year in new revenue.

What did Pritzker say about education in his speech? A considerable amount of his remarks dealt with early childhood. Pritzker stated:

"We are reaffirming that our most important commitments are to our children and their education. Mark my words, Illinois will be the best state in the nation to raise a young family. Today, 20,000 more kids are getting childcare, and thousands more are going to preschool."

Pritzker noted the state addressed the teacher shortage by raising the minimum teacher salary and "made it easier for high school graduates to get a skilled wage by expanding vocational training and career and technical education for the first time in a decade." The governor also brought up property taxes.

"Property taxes in Illinois are simply too high. That's why it's time to put the best ideas to work from both sides of the aisle. Local governments continue to max out their levies even when they don't need to. There are perverse incentives in state law that encourage that. We can change the law to support local governments and lower property taxes. And with nearly 7,000 units of government in Illinois, it's time to empower local taxpayers to consolidate or eliminate them. These changes, along with our landmark pension reform that consolidated police and firefighter pensions, can make a serious dent in property taxes."

To close, today's speech may not have provided us with specifics on Pritzker's plans, but it reaffirmed his commitment to education. His budget address in February should provide us with more details. Until then, we will keep you updated as the legislative session moves along. Thanks for reading.

Sincerely,

Diane Hendren
Director of Governmental Relations
Illinois Association of School Administrators

IASA | [2648 Beechler Court, Springfield, IL 62703](https://www.iasa.org/)-7305

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Mr. Jason Bauer
Superintendent - Pana CUSD #8
[14 E. Main Street](#)
[Pana, IL 62557](#)
Phone: (217) 562-1500
Fax: (217) 562-1501