



LEND “KICKOFF” COUNCIL MEETING

September 25, 2026
DuPage High School District 88

8:00AM

**JEN FIGURELLI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**PEG AGNOS
EXECUTIVE ADVISOR**





LEND WELCOMES

Senator John Curran

Senator Laura Ellman

Representative Margaret DeLaRosa

Representative Marti Deuter

Representative Barbara Hernandez

Representative Norma Hernandez

Representative Michelle Mussman

Representative Janet Yang Rohr

Maureen Juhas, Chief of Staff, Senator Seth Lewis

Eric Angerer, Chief of Staff, Representative Nicole LaHa



LEND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Co-Chair:

Dr. Jeff Schuler Superintendent, CUSD 200

Donna Cain Board President, DuPage 88

Members:

Allison Fosdick Board Member, IPSD 204

Kara Casten Board Member, CSD 99

Katie McCluskey Superintendent, Bensenville 2

Curt Saindon Assistant Superintendent for Business Services/ CSBO, Woodridge 68

Greg Harris Assistant Superintendent for Business/ CSBO, Downers Grove 58

LEND

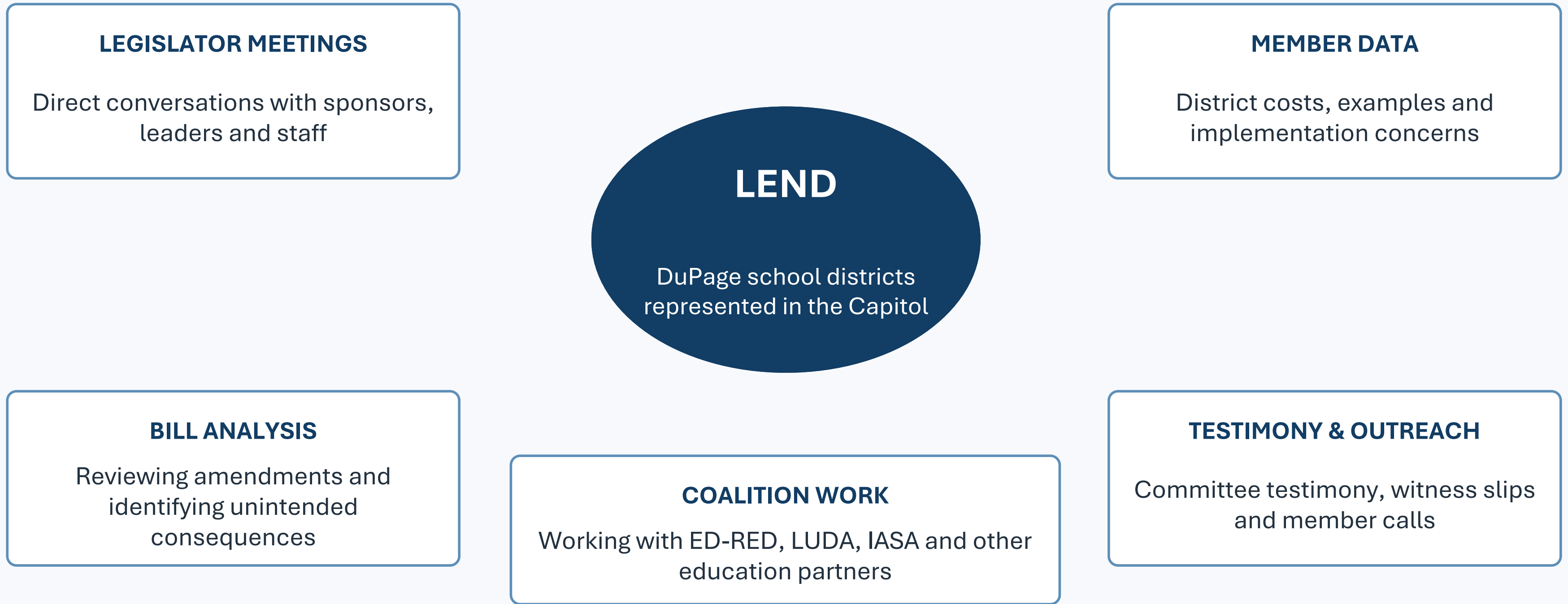
2026 Spring Legislative Session

Advocacy • Impact • Outcomes

January–May 2026

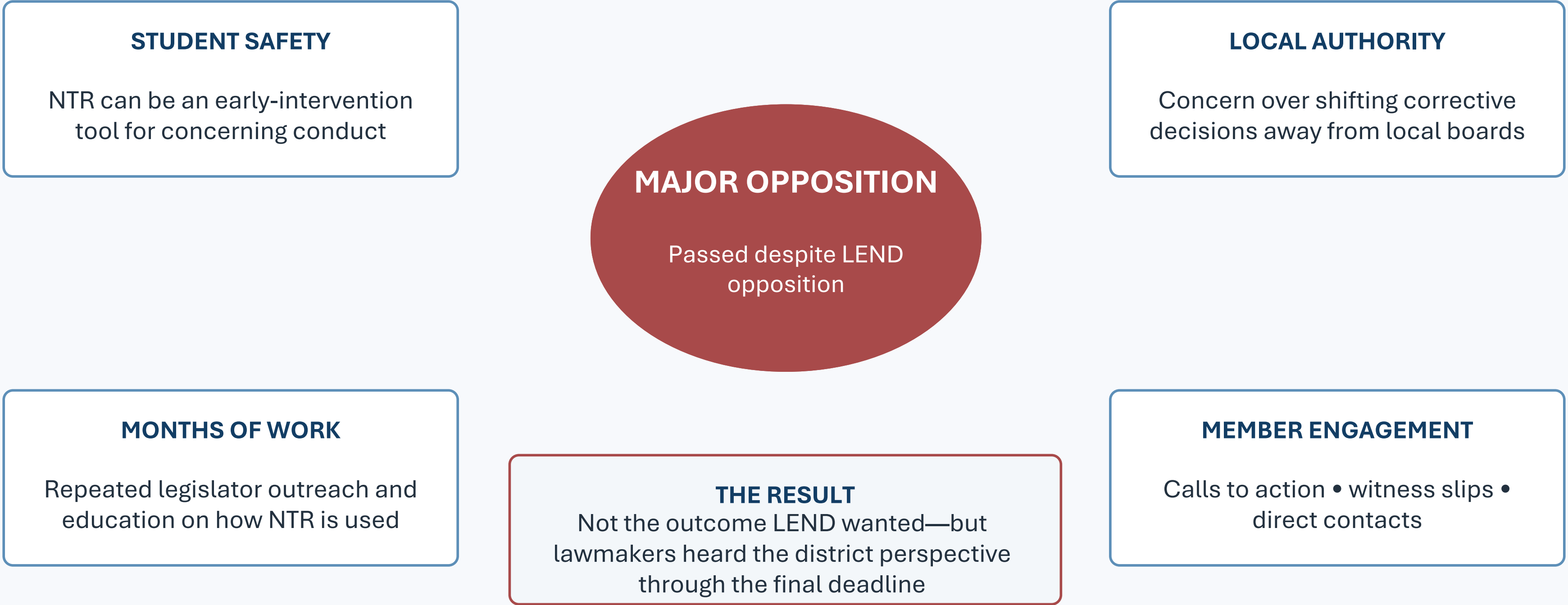
LEND at Work in Springfield

The final vote is only one part of advocacy.



SB2914 — Notice to Remedy

One of the session’s most sustained opposition efforts



HB4535 — E-Learning on Election Day

A problem identified by districts became a legislative solution

THE PROBLEM

Schools used as polling places face safety and operational challenges

THE SOLUTION

Allow an e-learning day without counting it against emergency days

LEND / ED-RED INITIATIVE

THE WORK

Developed with Dr. Patrick Broncato

OUTCOME

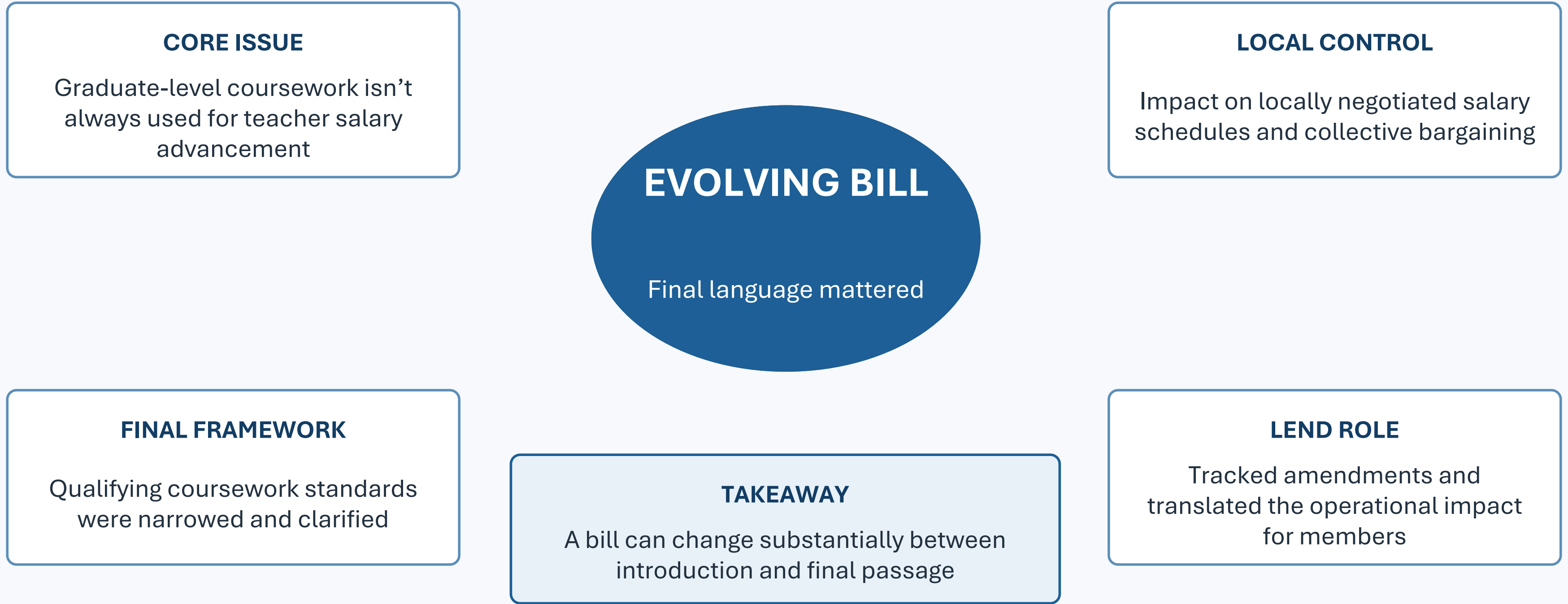
Passed both chambers—districts gain another option when schools are polling places

SPONSOR

Rep. Maura Hirschauer carried the proposal

HB5321 — Teacher Salary Advancement

Why LEND followed the bill through every amendment



World Language Graduation Mandate

One of LEND’s most significant priorities



HB4416 / SB3286 — Unemployment Insurance

A major LEND opposition effort

\$452M+

Estimated annual statewide school-district impact

DISTRICT DATA

LEND and partners collected local cost information

STOPPED

Summer unemployment provision did not pass

TESTIMONY

LEND testified in opposition before House Labor

DIRECT OUTREACH

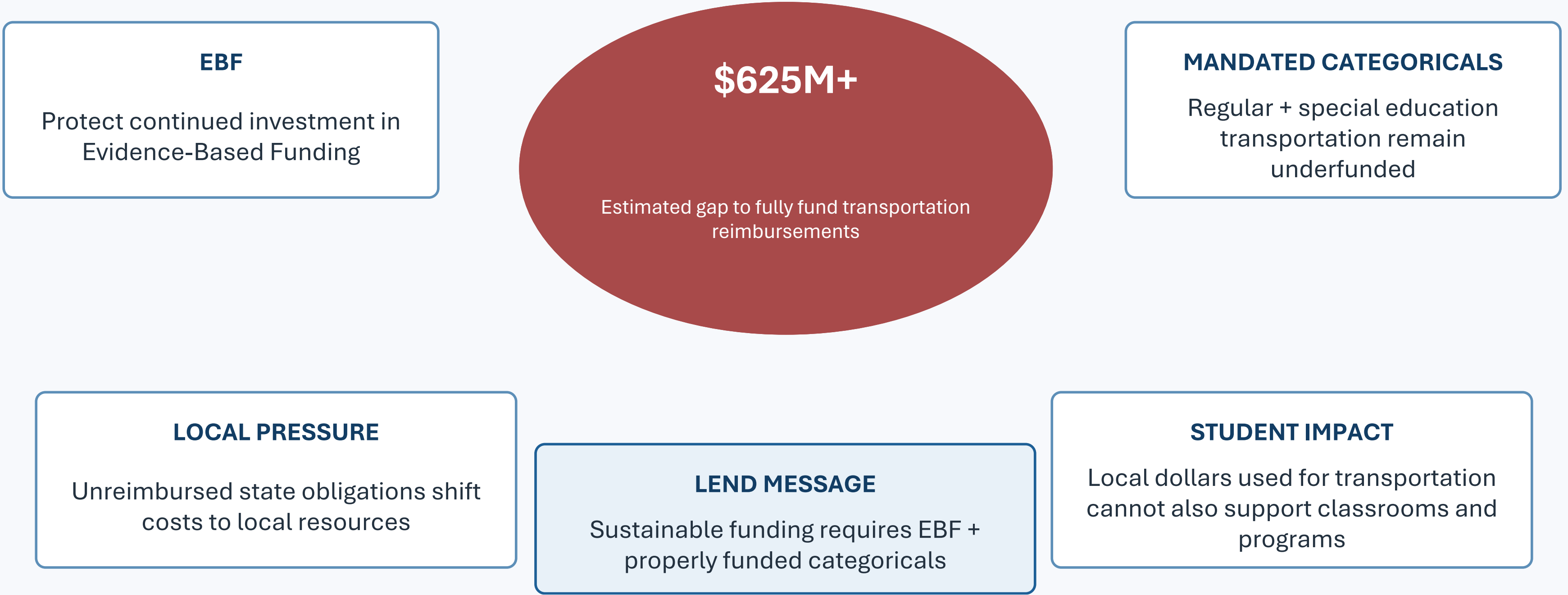
Fact sheet + repeated contact with House and Senate members

WHY IT MATTERED

A major new unfunded expense while existing state obligations remain underfunded

School Funding: The Transportation Gap

EBF matters—but districts also need the State to fund its existing obligations.



Changing Legislation Before It Passes

Important advocacy often happens in amendments and sponsor conversations.

HB4379 • Adult Changing Stations

LEND raised school-facility cost and space concerns, contacted advocates and legislators, and sought changes addressing the impact on schools.

HB4862 • Staff Mental Health

LEND engaged directly with Rep. Janet Yang Rohr to help ensure new requirements recognized employee needs while remaining practical for districts.

HB5321 • Teacher Salary Advancement

LEND followed evolving language affecting graduate coursework, salary advancement, collective bargaining and local compensation structures.

HB5107 • Mobile Panic Alerts

LEND focused on workable implementation and avoiding duplicative technology requirements for districts with existing safety systems.

Emerging & Operational Issues

LEND focused on how statewide policy would work inside schools.

SB2427 • Cell Phones

School-day definition • storage • enforcement • medical/IEP/504 exceptions • high-school flexibility

SB416 • Artificial Intelligence

A broad technology proposal was narrowed substantially; LEND tracked governance, grading and implementation issues.

HB2564 • TRS

Potential impact of salary increases on 6% cap for overload assignments, summer school and additional educator duties.

SB2715 • FOIA

Sensitive school communications plus the burden of large, repetitive or automated public-record requests.

Dual Credit — Beyond the Legislation

Turning legislative work into ongoing collaboration



Bills That Did Not Advance

Not every important outcome is a bill becoming law.

HB5330 IB Training	HB5363 Community School Grants	HB4372 Latine Studies	HB5488 Section 504 Hearings
HB5447 Student Sexual Violence	HB4399 Biodiesel	SB416 AI / Technology	SB2715 FOIA

Stopping, slowing or substantially changing problematic legislation is also advocacy.

What LEND Advocacy Looks Like

Member expertise becomes the case we make in Springfield.



The 2026 Spring Session in One View

Different issues. Different strategies. One consistent LEND presence.

REPEAL

World Language mandate remained a central LEND objective

STOPPED

\$452M+ unemployment insurance proposal did not pass

INITIATED

Election-day e-learning solution advanced from a district problem

FOUGHT

Notice to Remedy remained contested through the final deadline

CHANGED

Multiple bills evolved through amendments and stakeholder work

LEND was at the table.

Your expertise gives LEND credibility.

Your engagement gives LEND its voice.



INFORM

ENGAGE

ADVOCATE

Thank you for giving DuPage school districts a strong voice in Springfield.



LEND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Co- Chair:

Curt Saindon Assistant Superintendent for Business Services/ CSBO,
Woodridge 68

Matt Shipley Chief School Business Official, IPSD 204

Members:

Seth Chapman Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations/ CSBO,
Glenbard 87

Dan Oberg Executive Director of Business Services, West Chicago 94

Brian O'Keeffe Assistant Superintendent for Business Operations, CUSD 200

Greg Harris Assistant Superintendent for Business/ CSBO Downers Grove 58

Michael Frances Chief Financial Officer/ CSBO, Naperville 203



ILLINOIS SCHOOL FUNDING:

What's Happening vs. What Was Intended

DUPAGE COUNTY DISTRICTS



THE CORE ISSUE:

INSTABILITY + HISTORY OF FORMULA

EBF was designed to create equity—but underfunding MCATs also underfunds EBF

Underfunding + declining enrollments + inflation + need for regular change to assumptions = misalignment

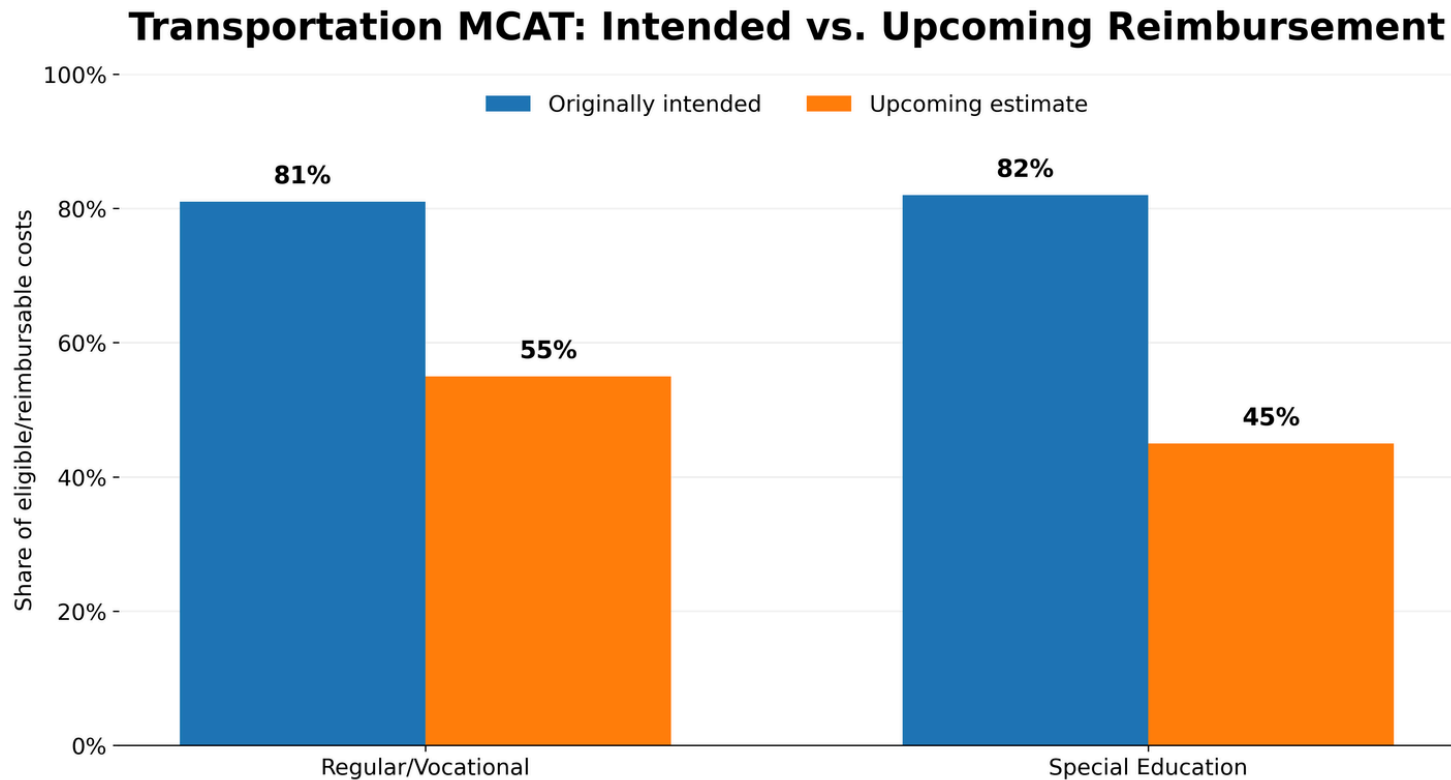
Districts lack predictability in funding (timing + amounts)

WHAT'S NOT WORKING IN THE FORMULA

- EBF + MCATs are not aligned (can't sustainably fund both)
- MCATs have not kept pace since 2017–18 levels
- Hold harmless masking real enrollment + funding shifts

TRANSPORTATION MCAT: INTENDEND VS REIMBURSEMENT

The Transportation MCAT program was designed to cover approximately 81–82% of eligible transportation costs. Under estimated upcoming prorations, the state will cover only about 55% of eligible Regular/Vocational costs and 45% of eligible Special Education costs.



Upcoming estimate reflects estimated proration applied to the original reimbursement assumption.

ADEQUACY % IS MISLEADING

- Adequacy driven by local resources, such as property wealth, not actual revenue
- Strong property values (DuPage) artificially inflate % of adequacy
- No significant new funding triggered until districts fall significantly (~mid-70%)
- Risk: districts will slide backward before receiving help

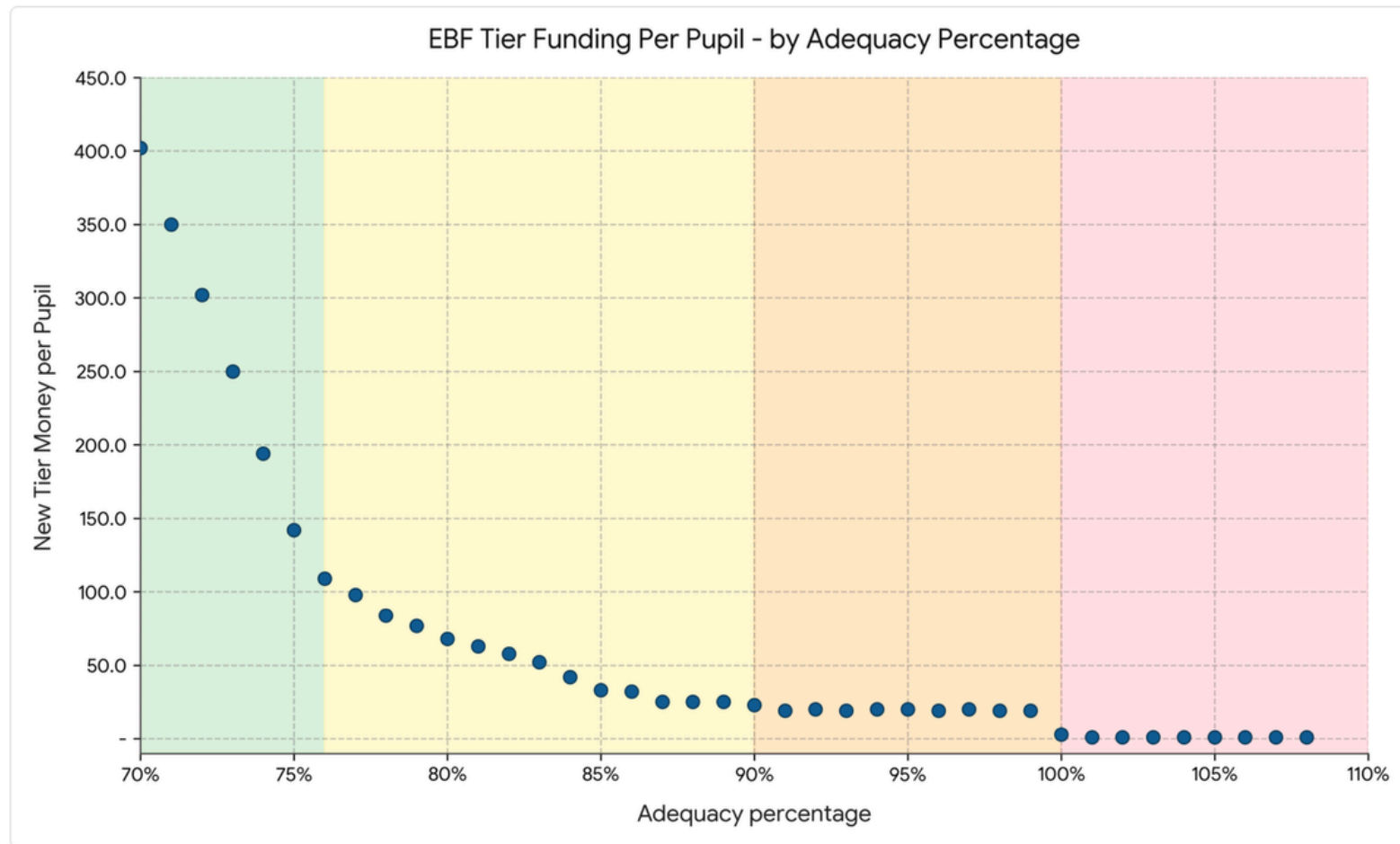
ADEQUACY % VS FUNDING PER PUPIL

Tier 1

Tier 2

Tier 3

Tier 4

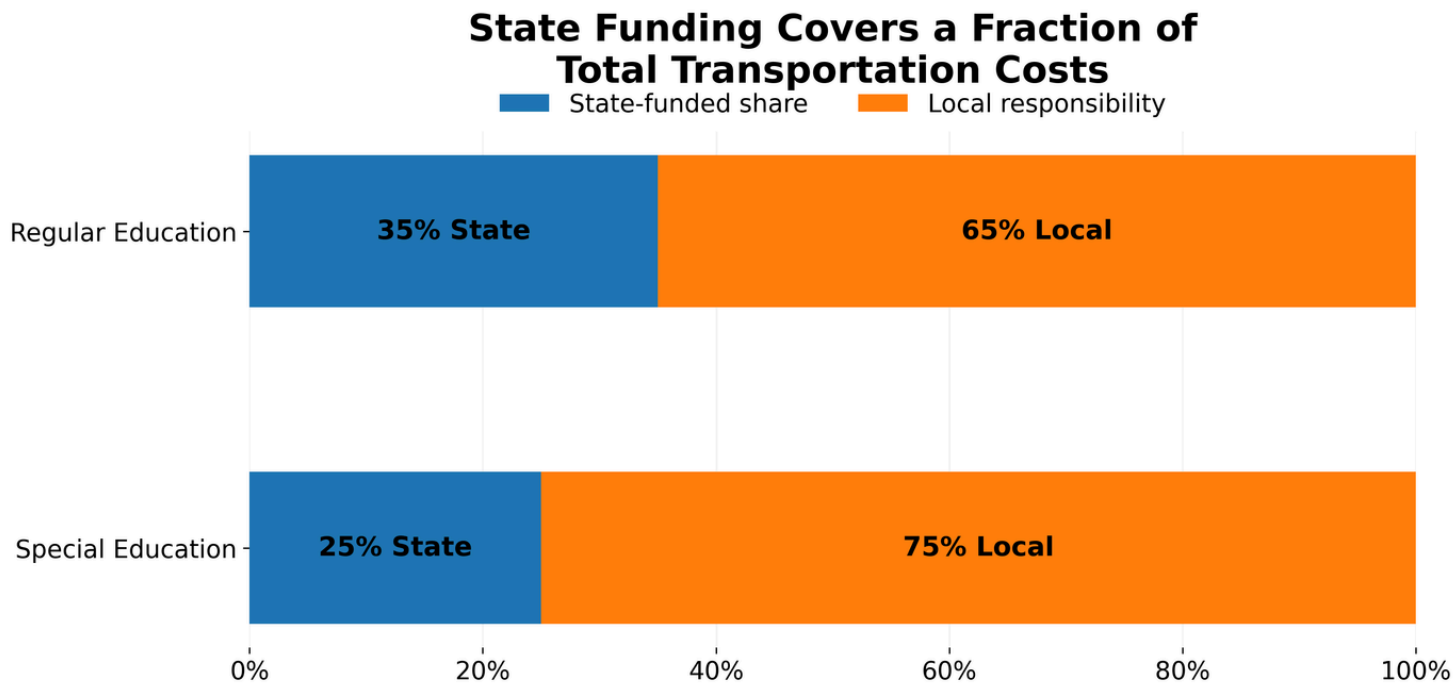


COSTS ARE OUTPACING FUNDING

- EBF increases are below inflation
- Rising costs:
 - Teacher contracts (above inflation)
 - Health Insurance
 - Transportation
- No mechanism to adjust funding to real cost growth

% OF TRANSPORTATION COVERED BY STATE FUNDING

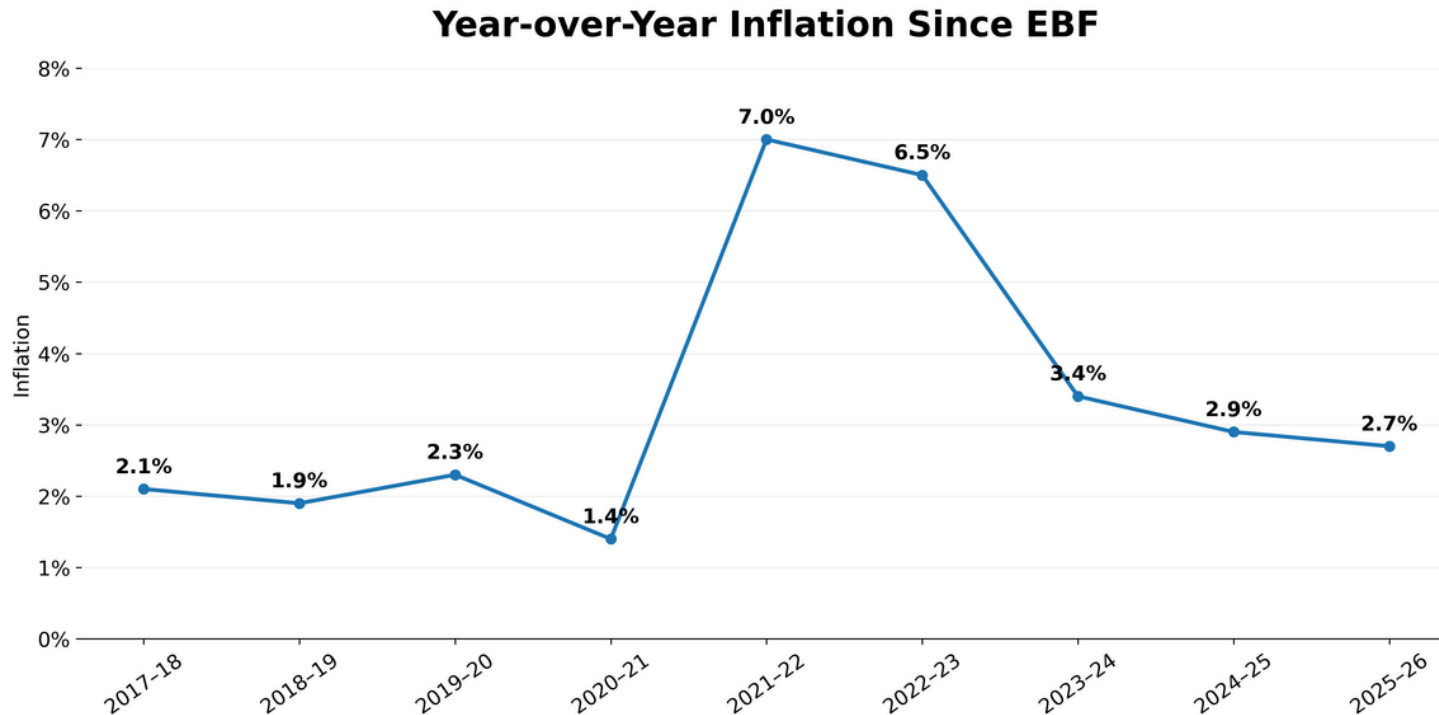
The State is ultimately covering only about 35¢ of every \$1 spent on regular transportation and 25¢ of every \$1 spent on special education transportation. The remainder has to come from local resources.



Estimated share of all transportation costs, including reimbursable and non-reimbursable expenses.

INFLATION VS EBF INCREASES (\$350M BASELINE GROWTH)

EBF's annual \$300 million increase is a fixed dollar amount—not an inflation adjustment. The impact on an individual district varies significantly by tier, with Tier III and Tier IV districts receiving less real (inflation adjusted) new tier funding relative to rising costs.



Annual inflation rates provided for the nine-year period shown.

WHERE THE MONEY IS ACTUALLY GOING

- MCAT underfunding -> districts shift dollars to transportation
- EBF dollars being repurposed to fill gaps
- Tier issues:
 - Tier 2= highest need, lowest support
 - Tier 3 & 4 rely heavily on local funds
- “Rob peter to pay paul” system

REAL IMPACT + PATH FORWARD

Impact:

- Program cuts, staffing limits, delayed mandates
 - Ex: Can't hire for WL mandate, can't fund full day Kindergarten
- Growing deficits (\$15 M in largest districts)

Path Forward:

- Reevaluate EBF formula assumptions
- Restore /maintain MCAT funding levels
- Tie funding to inflation
- Improve predictability + timing
- Reassess hold harmless



BREAKOUT ROOMS



RETURN TO GENERAL SESSION

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



FRANCZEK



CHAPMAN
Focused on Finance

HODGES LOZZI
Eisenhammer Rodick & Kohn



ECB&S | Engler Callaway
Baasten & Srago, LLC

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