

DU PAGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT 13
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Bloomington, Illinois

Regular Meeting January 28, 2019

FOR ACTION

Subject: Resolution in Support of Statewide Access to Property Tax Relief Grants

As I had mentioned in the January 10th *Thursday Letter*, one of the changes in the way Illinois is now funding schools is to provide more State resources to school districts under the adequacy target. District 13 is above this target and, as a result, gets very little State funding. However, as a part of the law changing the funding structure, a grant program has been created for districts like ours to increase access to state resources by rebating local property taxes.

Earlier in the month at the DuPage Division of the Illinois Association of School Administrators, Dr. Tony Smith, the State Superintendent, shared the idea that submitting a resolution to legislators to increase access to the grant is a great idea worth pursuing. Through this effort, the Board and District can be proactive in seeking property tax relief options for the community as the District remains the largest local taxing body on Bloomington's residential property tax bills.

Bloomington School District 13 is well over number 400 on the list of school districts eligible to receive grant funding. The General Assembly approved 50 million for funding this year; enough to satisfy the first ten districts on the eligibility list. Due to the history of the General Assembly not appropriating grants such as these at levels necessary to be equitable to all, I am not recommending applying for the grant at this time. However, I am proposing approving the resolution in order that the General Assembly equitably fund the grant program. Should they do this, District 13 will make application for the funds at that time.

Recommendation: The Board approve the attached resolution in support of statewide access to property tax relief grants, as presented.