



EDUCATION • RESEARCH • DEVELOPMENT

**Bridget Everson**  
Executive Director

*"The voice of suburban schools"*

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2601 Dempster Street  
Park Ridge, IL 60068

July 1, 2021

Dear ED-RED Superintendent:

Thank you, on behalf of the ED-RED Executive Board, for your ongoing commitment to our organization. ED-RED's guiding mission is to be the voice of suburban public schools, and your ongoing participation and support make this possible.

Your district plays an integral role in ED-RED's ability to advocate for students, educators, and administrators. In recognition of the difficult year our districts have faced, **ED-RED's Executive Board has decided to keep membership dues flat for the fifth year in a row.** As our communities continue to recover from the fiscal challenges brought about by COVID-19, we will continue to explore avenues to support our critical work without increasing the cost to our members.

Included in this annual dues request packet, you will find a summary of ED-RED's highlights, the breakdown of dues, and the finalized meeting schedule for 2021-2022. If you or your school board have any questions or would like additional information, please do not hesitate to reach out. Additionally, if you know of another school district in Lake or Cook counties that could benefit from membership in ED-RED, please feel free to pass along my contact information, as I am happy to connect.

As always, thank you for everything that you do for suburban public schools and students. Please contact me at [bridget@ed-red.org](mailto:bridget@ed-red.org) or (847) 692-8048 if you would like to arrange a meeting with you, your staff and/or school board members or if you have any questions or concerns that you would like to discuss. We look forward to working with you during the 2021-2022 school year and the remainder of the 102nd General Assembly.

Sincerely,

Bridget Everson

## ED-RED 2020-2021 Highlights

We started this unique year by having hard but honest conversations with our members through our Equity Ad Hoc Committee. This committee held a record high number of participants, clearly demonstrating our members' interest in this issue. Due to the high participation, the committee was broken down into four subcommittees: Student Discipline and SROs, Data Reporting (Discipline and Arrest Data), Curriculum, and Increasing POC/BIPOC Candidates/Hiring and Professional Development. We developed this committee to allow a space for honest and in-depth conversations amongst our members, while developing a set of guiding principles for each of the subcommittees that we used to conduct legislative discussions. The full committee held monthly meetings featuring guest speakers which included Senator and Leader of the Black Caucus Kimberly Lightford, Dr. Carmen Ayala who discussed ISBE's work on equity, Ken Wallace and Carla Owen from Maine 207 who spoke to their work on developing thoughtful Intergovernmental Agreements for the use of School Resource Officers (SROs), Franczek law firm which addressed how to handle free speech issues as they arise in the current political climate, and Forecast5 Analytics, along with member district Barrington 220, demonstrated how to use school districts data to identify ways to better serve their POC/BIPOC students.

In addition to the Equity Ad Hoc Committee, we also reconvened with our Practitioner-Legislative Action Team (PLAT) and established our Transportation Ad Hoc Committee. The PLAT assisted us when a quick turnaround was needed to review bills during legislative session. The Transportation Committee worked with us to find solutions to COVID related transportation issues facing our districts. We hope to continue the work of these committees, while continuing to identify areas where we can offer support to our districts and be proactive with legislation.

For the first time ever, our fall Kick-Off was held virtually. We had high attendance from not only our ED-RED membership, but also from our ED-RED legislators. Illinois Comptroller, Susan Mendoza spoke to our membership about the financial impact of COVID and answered questions that our districts had in the midst of fiscal uncertainty. Our Legislative Dinner also took on a different form this past year as a Legislative Summit. The Summit was a full-day event with eight sessions of legislative roundtables that allowed the space for our members to connect with their legislators. Each roundtable was attended by three to four ED-RED legislators with a total of twenty-two legislators participating. At noon we held the keynote address which was given by Illinois House Speaker Emmanuel Chris Welch and featured messages from U.S. Senator Dick Durbin and Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi. We ended the Summit with an advocacy 101 session for our ED-RED members.

Throughout the year, we held virtual monthly membership meetings featuring many of our ED-RED legislators who spoke not only to their legislation but also to the future of EBF, state budget, and school district finances, the Executive Director of the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability discussed the fiscal impact of the failed Fair Tax amendment, experts from the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability spoke on the fiscal reality of the state, a speaker from the AASA reviewed changes to education at the federal level given the new administration, and attorney panels discussed and answered many of our members questions.

This session saw an unprecedented number of bills introduced. We worked tirelessly to review and identify those that would have a significant impact on our school districts. As session progressed, many of these bills were put on pause pending further discussions over the summer. In the next few months, we will be collaborating with legislators and stakeholders to create workable solutions for our districts. We also advocated to ensure fiscal stability from the state by putting together an *ED-RED in*



## **Mission Statement**

A united voice advocating for the diverse needs of suburban public schools.

## **Belief Statements**

We Believe:

In a comprehensive education system that supports life-long learning.

1. It is the responsibility of public education to support all aspects of student learning.
2. A local school district must have the ability to make educational and fiscal decisions appropriate for its school community.
3. The State must provide adequate financial support for all public schools and that:
  - Funding for public schools must be stable, reliable, and predictable;
  - The state must fully fund the additional costs for programs that support special education and at-risk students; and
  - All state mandates should be fully funded.

## **Vision and Strategic Goals**

1. To inform and communicate proactively with member districts on the legislative process and pending legislation;
2. To research, prioritize, develop and initiate legislation advantageous to member districts and to advocate for or against pending legislation affecting member districts;
3. To develop and nurture collaborative relationships with state agencies, advocacy groups, and other organizations to accomplish mutual objectives.

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2601 Dempster Street

Park Ridge, Illinois 60068

Office: 847/692-8048

[www.edred.org](http://www.edred.org)





For more than 50 years, ED-RED has represented *"the voice of suburban schools"* in Springfield. Our mission is to advocate for the diverse needs of our member districts and to be a premier education policy resource for both Illinois legislators and suburban public schools. As a member of ED-RED, your district amplifies our voice as a strong coalition of over eighty school districts, special education cooperatives, and Intermediate Service Centers in suburban Cook and Lake Counties.

Membership with ED-RED includes:

- Advocacy with local and State legislators, State policy leaders, and agency personnel on critical school issues such as, K-12 funding, education funding reform, pension reform, property taxes, and other key issues of concern;
- Legislative updates via the monthly From the Floor to Your Door (FTFTYD) Newsletters;
- Action Alerts on ED-RED Hot Topics;
- Invitation to our Fall Kick Off Luncheon;
- Invitation to our Annual Legislative Dinner (January);
- Invitation to our monthly Member Meetings;
- Access to ED-RED staff for research and presentations at member district school board meetings; and
- Access to ED-REDs Members-Only Website publications and features.

**ED-REDs 2020-2021 Dues Structure**

| <b>Type of District</b>        | <b>Dues Rate</b> |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Elementary Districts:          |                  |
| Under 1,000 students           | \$1,500          |
| 1,001-1,999 students           | \$2,250          |
| 2,000 or more students         | \$3,500          |
| High School/Unit Districts     | \$5,000          |
| Special Education Cooperatives | \$3,000          |
| Intermediate Service Centers   | \$3,000          |

**Questions:** Contact – Bridget Everson, ED-RED’s Executive Director at 847/692-8047 or [bridget@ed-red.org](mailto:bridget@ed-red.org).



## ED-RED 2021 - 2022 Meeting Schedule

|                    |                                                                   |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| September 24, 2021 | <b>ED-RED Annual Kick-Off Luncheon</b><br><i>*In-person event</i> |
| November 5, 2021   | <b>Member Meeting</b><br>Time: 1:30 – 3:00 PM.                    |
| December 3, 2021   | <b>Member Meeting</b><br>Time: 1:30 – 3:00 PM.                    |
| TBD                | <b>ED-RED Legislative Summit</b><br><i>*In-person event</i>       |
| February 11, 2022  | <b>Member Meeting</b><br>Time: 1:30 – 3:00 PM.                    |
| March 4, 2022      | <b>Member Meeting</b><br>Time: 1:30 – 3:00 PM.                    |
| April 1, 2022      | <b>Member Meeting</b><br>Time: 1:30 – 3:00 PM.                    |
| May 6, 2022        | <b>Member Meeting</b><br>Time: 1:30 – 3:00 PM.                    |
| June 3, 2022       | <b>Member Meeting</b><br>Time: 1:30 – 3:00 PM.                    |

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## Districts Contact Information

With the start of the new school year, we recognize that our member districts may have new team members. Please take a moment to fill out the Google Form to ensure everyone on your district team is on our listservs and receiving ED-RED communications such as, the monthly newsletter - *From the Floor to Your Door*, meeting reminders, legislative session's Weekly Updates and more!

If you have any questions, please reach out to Arabed Hernandez at [arabed@ed-red.org](mailto:arabed@ed-red.org).

## 2022 CONTACT INFORMATION FORM

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