IAASE Illinois Alliance of Administrators of Special Education
A subdivision of the Council of Administrators of Special Education http://www.iaase.org

To: Membership of the IAASE

From: Senate Bill 16 Sub-Committee
- Brad Blades (Region 6)
- Brenda Patrick (Region 5)
- Roxanne Kovacevich (Region 1)
- Kathy Massey (Region 4)
- Jeff Daugherty (Region 5)
- Gineen O'Neil (Region 1)

Senate Bill 16 Sub-Committee
Information Bulletin for the IAASE Membership

As many of you are aware, Senate Bill 16 (SB 16) is a proposal that aims to overhaul the State's method of funding public school systems. It essentially proposes to roll various types of current education funding into a single, weighted student funding formula. SB 16 seeks to include the following components in that formula:

- General State Aid
- Regular and Vocational Transportation
- Bilingual Education Reimbursement
- Special Education Personnel Reimbursement
- Special Education Summer School
- Funding for Children Requiring Special Education Services
- Special Education Orphanage (non-group home placements)

As you can see, the field of special education is certainly impacted by the possibilities surrounding SB 16. As such, it is our goal to make sure that the IAASE membership is informed on this topic moving forward. Members are advised to monitor the ISBE website and ISBE meeting minutes, along with activities of the EFAC. The EFAC website is as follows: http://www.isbe.net/EFAC/default.htm.

Please pay special attention to the following areas that also need your attention regarding the SB 16 proposal:

Mandated Categorical Grants (MCATS)

- As you can see, this proposal seeks to incorporate several mandated categorical funding streams into the SB 16 formula: Regular and Vocational Transportation, Special Education Personnel Reimbursement, Special Education Summer School, Funding for Children Requiring Special Education Services, and Special Education Orphanage (non-group home placements).
- The original version of SB 16 also sought to include Special Education Private Facility Reimbursement funds into the equation, but that piece has since been taken out through subsequent amendments.
- Mandated categorical funding for special education has traditionally been spared during any type of ISBE proration of school funding.
- Including these categorical funding streams into SB 16 could potentially put special education funding at risk for students in Illinois if proration is necessary in the future.
- Please take a close look at these variables and assess how they impact your district now, as well as in the future through the potential consequences of SB 16.


Special Education Personnel Reimbursement

- SB 16 seeks to include these categorical funds into the proposed formula.
- Districts and cooperatives currently receive $9000 per year for each approved certified staff member and $3500 per year for each approved non-certified staff member working in the special education field.
- Even though the current mechanism of providing reimbursement for special education staff is woefully inadequate, this reimbursement has always been targeted at the correct population and earmarked to benefit students with disabilities.
- Incorporating these funds into a single formula could potentially shift these funds away from the appropriate population.
- Please do your best to gain a good understanding of how this particular area will impact your district or cooperative.

Private Facility Claim Funds

- Originally, the SB 16 proposal included Private Facility Claim funds into the equation, which would have done away with the reimbursement process that is currently in place for these placements, which reimburses districts for any expense in excess of two times per cap for students placed in private facilities. This current reimbursement mechanism causes Private Facility placements to be fiscally advantageous for districts over public placements and has been opposed by the IAASE for quite some time.
- A SB 16 working group in the House has recently decided to amend this proposal in such a manner that removes Private Facility Claim funds from the equation, thus keeping the current reimbursement system in place. Once again, the IAASE is opposed to the current Private Facility Claim, and if SB 16 becomes a reality then the Organization would certainly prefer that Private Facility reimbursement funds be included in the equation.
- Please consider this variable as you assess how SB 16 may impact your district or cooperative moving forward.

Maintenance of Effort (MOE)

- Rolling funds that were originally targeted for special education spending into one formula could potentially make it more difficult for school districts to maintain their effort of special education spending from one year to the next.
- The ISBE has confirmed that districts will continue to be expected to meet the MOE threshold regardless of what happens with SB 16.
- Please consider this fact as you analyze the effects of this potential legislation on your district or cooperative.

Members are advised to keep close watch on SB 16 developments in general, as this proposal has the potential to have a rather significant impact on the field of special education. This sub-committee will continue to keep the IAASE membership appraised of any future changes with SB 16 moving forward.