

Judy Scherzer <jscherze@panaschools.com>**FW: Capitol Watch 04.12.16 District-specific numbers released for governor's education funding plan**

1 message

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Date: Tuesday, April 12, 2016 at 1:04 PM

To: "Dr. Lett" <dlett@panaschools.com>

Subject: Capitol Watch 04.12.16 District-specific numbers released for governor's education funding plan



Capitol Watch



April 12, 2016

District-specific numbers released for governor's education funding plan

Governor Bruce Rauner today (Tuesday) released the district-by-district ISBE FY17 forecast for school funding under the education budget proposal he unveiled during his Budget Address in February. The projections show that 568 school districts would be getting more state funding than they received this year and 284 districts would receive less. The district-by-district forecast can be accessed [here](#).

Rauner's budget proposal included \$55 million more for the General State Aid (GSA) formula as well as \$75 million in additional funding for Early Childhood Education. The governor's plan calculations for FY17 also took into account a forecasted increase in property values statewide, a 6.6 percent increase in CPPRT and an estimated decrease in attendance of 0.5 percent.

The district-specific forecast compares the FY17 estimated state aid to the FY16 actual gross amount received plus the one-time loss limit funding that some poorer districts received this school year. A fact sheet put out by the governor's office said that comparing a fully funded FY17 claim to the FY16 prorated GSA amount would have resulted in no district receiving less money.

The breakdown of the report shows that of the 284 districts that would receive less than in FY16, 89 percent have increased local wealth, 87 percent have lower student attendance, 93 percent have fewer low-income students and 69 percent have a decline in the proportion or concentration of low-income students.

Political reaction to the numbers came quickly from Senate President John Cullerton (D-Chicago), who said he could not see the plan getting legislative approval with so many districts losing money. Notably, the Chicago Public School (CPS) system is projected to lose \$74.4 million under Rauner's plan. Cullerton backs the school funding formula plan (Senate Bill 231) introduced by Sen. Andy Manar (D-Bunker Hill). District-by-district projections for Manar's plan are expected within the next couple of weeks, and numbers for the Vision 20/20 evidence-based funding plan are expected soon thereafter.

"As always, the devil is in the details and we need to take a close look at all of these proposals," said IASA Executive Director Dr. Brent Clark. "We support the Vision 20/20 evidence-based model, but we think there is room for compromise and blending the best parts of all of these plans. We agree with all of those who say the school formula needs to be revised, but the most pressing priority at this point is to get an education budget funded for FY 17."

Madigan proposes school funding constitutional amendment

House Speaker Michael Madigan has proposed an amendment to the Illinois Constitution that would strengthen the language regarding the state's responsibility to fund public schools. The new language would characterize education as a fundamental "right" instead of a "goal" and also that the state has the "preponderant financial responsibility" for funding schools.

If the House and Senate approve the proposal by at least a 3/5 majority, the amendment would be on the November ballot. It would need approval by 3/5 of those voting on the question or a majority of the total votes cast in the election.

Legislative leaders to meet with governor

Legislative leaders also announced this morning that they would be meeting with the governor at 2:30 p.m. today to talk about the budget impasse. It will mark the first meeting between the governor and the four legislative leaders to discuss the budget since December of 2015.

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