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TO: Board of Education  
FROM: Dr. McGill, Superintendent  
DATE: October 20, 2025  
RE: LEND Council Meeting Report

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LEND had council meetings on September 19th and October 17th, 2025.

Here is a summary of the September 19th meeting provided by LEND:

### **Evidence-Based Funding (EBF) & MCATs**

These were top priorities across the groups. Legislators noted challenges tied to the proration of MCATs and the impact that mandates continue to have on next year's funding. Protecting categorical funding was raised as especially important. Legislators also encouraged us to help identify mandates that could be reconsidered or eliminated.

### **Two-Year World Language Requirement**

There was strong interest in rethinking how the requirement fits into broader student "pathways." The idea is to maintain the two-year requirement but allow students to meet it in ways that align with their interests and needs, creating more flexibility for districts and more choice for students. Legislators emphasized the importance of reviewing current barriers to ensure the requirement supports success and fairness for all students.

### **MFSAB**

Although legislation passed last spring creating a "new" permit where employees can take the driving test in the MFSABs it still does not resolve the issue that during the day students cannot be transported by the same staff that transports students after school.

### **Setting the Legislative Agenda**

Legislators reminded us that when new ideas surface in the community, LEND should be the place to process them. This helps ensure that local perspectives shape the conversation and keep DuPage moving forward. Cost-saving strategies may also be a useful agenda topic for an upcoming LEND Executive meeting.

### **Student Voice**

Legislators shared that they try to direct students with community issues back to their school districts before pursuing legislation. Legislators feel strongly about the value of programs like Board Student Ambassadors.

**ISBE Numeracy Plan**

The Illinois State Board of Education will host multiple listening tour sessions across the state to gather direct feedback on the first draft of the Illinois Comprehensive Numeracy Plan. ISBE wants to ensure that all Illinois stakeholders provide feedback on this important work. Input shared will directly inform the final plan.

Here is a summary of the October 17th meeting:

The October 17th Council Meeting featured a focused panel discussion with our legislative sponsors on key legislative and operational topics impacting Illinois school districts.

**Discussion Topics:****Political Speech and Conduct:**

Districts are managing an increase in FOIA requests, and an omnibus FOIA bill is anticipated during the veto session. Given the heightened political climate, the panel emphasized the need for clear legal and policy guidance regarding staff and student speech boundaries.

**Artificial Intelligence in Schools:**

A new State AI Taskforce was established from recent legislation, and has led to growing union interest in AI-related evaluation practices. The panel explored current legal advisories and anticipated legislative developments related to AI in the upcoming spring session.

A Q&A session concluded the discussion, with follow-up planned for any emerging topics identified by sponsors.