



Last July, the Illinois Senate Education Funding Advisory Committee was tasked with recommending ways to improve public education funding in Illinois, which has remained unchanged since 1997. The result of the task force was the creation of Senate Bill 16 (SB16).

If enacted into law, SB16 will make sweeping changes in how the state funds education. SB16 does not increase the level of education funding, but redistributes the pool of funds creating “winners” and “losers”. All state funding, with few exceptions would be combined under one funding formula.

Generally, school districts with higher assessed property values will receive much less state funding. Other districts will receive much more in state funding. This is an attempt by the state legislators to provide greater equity among school districts across the state. The Bill does not address the current issue of unfunded obligations to school district that has occurred in recent years.

How will SB16 impact District 25?

The Illinois State Board of Education has calculated the amount each school district would receive next year if SB16, as written, becomes law. District 25 would lose 79.7% of its state funding or \$3.29 million per year. The first \$3.29 million cut will be phased in over a four-year period. Beginning in year five, there will be a full \$3.29 million reduction in funding to the District.

Of the 862 school districts in Illinois, District 25 is 33rd on the list in terms of those that will experience the largest reduction in state funding, and yet at a \$10,899 per pupil expenditure, the District already operates below the State average of \$11,842.

District 25 prides itself on low class sizes and multiple opportunities for students. A loss of \$3.29 million in funding would put this in jeopardy as District 25 would be forced to consider reducing programs and services to our students. This additional \$3.29 million would definitely impact the classroom and could lead to larger class sizes with less personalized instruction for our students.

In essence, this is a rearranging of funding that would devastate about half of the school districts in Illinois, especially in the northern portion of the state. Overall, school districts in Cook County and the collar counties would lose about \$228 million in State funding, and the rest of the state would gain that amount. (See graphic of the redistribution at [this link](#)).

“Where there is beauty apparent, we are to enjoy it, where there is beauty hidden, we are to unveil it, where there is beauty defaced, we are to restore it, where there is no beauty at all, we are to create it.”—McAfee Brown
AHSD 25 — Investing in our future.



Many Arlington Heights (and other suburban) residents paid more for their houses and pay higher property taxes for the purpose of living in an area with high-achieving schools. This proposed law would, in essence, pull the rug out from under suburban taxpayers and would significantly reduce the State funding to these high-achieving schools. SB16 would pull state funding away from schools that are successful.

The solution is not to take from some to give to others, but rather for the State to fully fund education, rather than ranking 50th in the nation in education funding.

What can you do?

SB16 has already passed the State Senate. You can see how your Senator voted by clicking on [this link](#). The majority of residents in the District 25 attendance area (depending on where you live) are served by House Representatives David Harris or Thomas Morrison and Senator Matt Murphy. You may use the following tool to look up and email your legislators:
http://openstates.org/find_your_legislator/.

It is expected that SB16 will be voted on by the House sometime in November, following the fall election. If you are concerned about the dramatic effect it will have District 25, please contact your Illinois Representative and voice your opinion on this important education bill.