

District Connection

Sandburg ■ Stagg ■ Andrew High Schools

Fall 2014

We want to alert the Consolidated High School District 230 Community to the fact that the pending School Funding Reform Act (Senate Bill 16) proposes to reduce state funding to District 230 by an estimated \$7 million. Although the State of Illinois is constitutionally required to have the “primary responsibility” for financing public education, the truth is that District 230 receives over 84.4% of its funding from local taxpayers, and only 8.7% from the State of Illinois. The proposed School Funding Reform Act would shift even more of the burden of public school financing to our local taxpayers and transfer state funds to other districts through a complicated formula that has no logical rationale.

The School Funding Reform Act has passed in the Senate and is now awaiting a vote in the House of Representatives. You can view how your Senator voted by clicking [here](#)

We are urging the District 230 community to contact their state representatives by using the Call to Action message (see box) to express your concerns over the potential estimated \$7 million loss of State funding to District 230.

Through proposed legislation,

District 230 stands to:

- **lose an estimated \$7 million annually**
- **incur the third biggest loss of total dollars among Cook and collar county high school districts**
- **incur the 10th biggest loss of funding overall in the state**

Call to Action

The District 230 School Board and Administration ask our community to contact your elected officials and express your concerns regarding Senate Bill 16. You can email, write a letter, send a fax or make a phone call.

[Click here to lookup contact information for your legislators](#)

SAMPLE:

Dear Senator/Representative {INSERT NAME},

I am concerned about the impact Senate Bill 16 could have on public education in Illinois.

Consolidated High School District 230 in particular is set to lose an estimated \$7 million each year after it is phased in. This loss equates to 6.1% of the district's total operating budget. To put that into perspective, the loss is equivalent to 97 jobs and \$909 per student.

I strongly believe all students deserve quality education but not at the expense of others. It is not fair that school districts like District 230 who have been fiscally responsible and whose taxpayers contribute through local and state taxes should be punished by the new funding system. A clear, fair and logical funding mechanism should be created. Senate Bill 16 is not clear, fair or logical.

{INSERT PERSONAL REMARKS}

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
{INSERT NAME}

We believe that every child deserves access to high quality education that prepares them for their future. However, we do not believe that improving education for some should be at the expense of others.

District 230 and its partner school districts (117, 118, 127, 135, 140 and 146) stand to lose an estimated \$23 million annually if this legislation is passed. District 230, in particular, is set to lose an estimated \$7 million each year after it is phased in. This loss equates to 6.1% of our total operating budget. To put that into perspective, the loss is equivalent to 97 jobs and \$909 per student.

District 230 would have the third biggest loss of total dollars among Cook and collar county high school districts and the 10th biggest loss overall in the state.

District 230 is rated at the top by the Illinois State Board of Education with Financial Recognition. District 230 spends \$14,687 per pupil – approximately \$1,500 less than the average for Cook and collar county high school districts – and stands to lose \$7 million. The District 230 School Board and Administration believe this is patently unfair.

We do not begrudge any district of additional state funds that will support education for students. We simply don't believe increased funds should be at the expense of other school districts.

District 230 has been fiscally responsible. We have balanced our budget for the past 11 years. We have earned Financial Recognition from the Illinois State Board of Education. We have had our credit rating upgraded by Standard and Poor's to AA. We have held the line on taxes by not going to referendum for operating expenses in decades. We have not requested a tax levy increase in the past two years. We have provided the educational opportunities our students deserve and community expects while maintaining fiscal responsibility to our taxpayers.

District 230 is a diverse school district. More than 30% of our students come from low income families. Our community supports our schools through local taxes (85% of district revenue) as well as state taxes. Our district and our taxpayers have been responsible, yet they stand to lose an estimated \$7 million in State funding for education based on a system that makes no logical sense.

This loss would require significant cuts to educational programs and opportunities and force the district to seek increased revenue from other sources such as fees and taxes. It is not right for the State to force these decisions on the school district when the district is doing the right thing financially.

The District 230 School Board and Administration agree that school funding needs to be reformed in Illinois. We believe that every child deserves access to high quality education that prepares our students for their future. However, we do not believe that improving education for some should be at the expense of others.

A solution is needed to school funding in Illinois. Senate Bill 16 as it is currently written is not the right solution.

In public education, there should only be winners.

Sincerely,
Richard Nogal, School Board President
Patrick O'Sullivan, School Board Vice President
Kathy Quilty, School Board Secretary
Susan Dalton, School Board Member
Melissa Gracias, School Board Member
Kate Murphy-Peterson, School Board Member
Tony Serratore, School Board Member
Dr. James M. Gay, Superintendent