



Auburn Community Unit District No. 10



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FROM THE DESK OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

The Illinois State Board of Education released projected figures on how school districts would be financially impacted under Senate Bill 1. <http://www.isbe.net/budget/html/ed-funding.htm> SB1 is based on the premise that the education funding formula is broken and should be replaced with one that is based on adequacy and equity. The theory is that the State of Illinois would provide greater funding for districts with greater financial need. It sounds great, but it is extremely problematic. Additional funds are allocated to some districts at the expense of other districts; all of them underfunded.

I have met with SB1 sponsor, Senator Andy Manar and truly believe in his sincere efforts to reform education funding in Illinois. It needs an overhaul. However, it would be devastating to pass an education reform bill under the title of "reform" without ever fixing the problem. It is reform without real reform; equivalent to creating a new seating chart in the ballroom of the Titanic as a way to fix the leak.

Under SB1, the Chicago Public Schools would receive an additional \$268 million at the expense of downstate school districts. Many schools south of I-80 are severely under-funded and experiencing financial difficulties and would be big financial losers under this reform. Passing such legislation does not address the real problem. We have been drastically underfunded since 2009. In addition to pro-rations, state payments are so late they are simply missing. Categorical payments have been slashed. Also, there is a bill moving in Springfield that would cut an additional 2.25% from this fiscal year's payments. Compounded, our district alone has lost millions of dollars despite the fact that state funding is prescribed by law.

Many people have stated that new leadership in Springfield will create additional funds for education. This is a revenue problem, so regardless of who is at the helm the math remains the same.

Under one SB1 scenarios released this week, the Auburn School District would be a \$420,493 "winner" and under another scenario Auburn Schools would be a \$102,907 "winner", however; we must keep in mind that even though SB1 places our chair a bit further from the iceberg, we are all seated in the same boat.

Darren J. Root