



Auburn Community Unit District No. 10



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From the Desk of the Superintendent

State Funding

Legislators and the Governor have not reached an agreement on a state budget. The lack of appropriations for K-12 education in Fiscal Year 2017, which begins July 1, will result in dire financial consequences. For Auburn, roughly half of our revenue comes from the state in the form of General State Aid.

There are many schools in Illinois that may not be able to open their doors in August if they receive no funds from the state. We plan on opening our doors in August as usual since we have some fund balances, but our resources are limited. If the legislators and the governor do not release any funds to K-12 education this fall, our reserves and local resources should sustain us through the first semester. Continued dysfunction in Springfield will result in further debt and ultimately a cost shift to our local taxpayers.

There has been a lot of talk and several legislative proposals that address the inequitable funding for public education throughout the state. Some proposals mean more money for Auburn and some mean less. All of them fall short of what we should be funded under the current formula outlined in School Code and by State law. None address the compounding financial shortfalls that have become practice for nearly a decade. None of them address the total lack of state revenue. Equitable state funding does not mean adequate state funding. Inequity means that the state is allocating the same amount of money (which falls short of what is required to educate our children) to K-12 education, but redistributes it differently. This idea creates "winners" and "losers" and by nature creates controversy, but it does not address the real problem; lack of total funds. If any of these proposals which redistributes current state funds passes, not only does the problem still exist it becomes even more financially devastating for many school districts.

Controversy often leads to complacency, but I encourage you to contact your state legislators and voice the importance of passing a state budget that makes our children and our schools a priority. Your board of education and I will continue monitoring the situation and continue doing everything possible to make sure our children are provided with a top quality education.

Darren J. Root

Superintendent
Auburn CUSD 10

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