

AMERICAN LEGION PREMIER BOYS STATE

JOINT RESOLUTION 1

“THE ILLINOIS EDUCATION REFORM ACT (IERA)”

WHEREAS it is a self-evident truth that all people are created equal,

WHEREAS equality of opportunity is a fundamental component of the American Dream,

WHEREAS education is a primary means for democracies to equalize opportunity,

WHEREAS access to educational resources is highly variable across the State of Illinois,

WHEREAS the unequal distribution of educational resources serves to widen the disparity in income distribution in the State,

WHEREAS in order to truly equalize opportunity we must equalize access to educational resources for all residents of the State,

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that:

The Illinois State Legislature should enact the Illinois Education Reform Act, as follows:

1. All taxes collected for the purposes of funding primary and secondary education within the State of Illinois (“Illinois Education Taxes”) shall be collected solely by the State and shall not be collected by any city, county, township, municipality, region or other subdivision of the State.
2. All Illinois Education Taxes shall be collected on an annual basis in the form of a personal income tax on all residents of the State of Illinois at a rate prescribed by the State Legislature on an annual basis.
3. All such Illinois Education Taxes shall be held by the State in a centralized pool (the “Illinois Education Funding Pool”) to provide statewide funding for primary and secondary education.
4. The State shall segment the funds received in the Illinois Education Funding Pool into three sub-pools (subject to the 10% Teacher Bonus Pool described below), as follows:
 - a. 50% of the funds shall be placed in the “Grade School Pool” and shall be used to fund education for students in Kindergarten through Fifth Grade;

- b. 25% of the funds shall be placed in the “Middle School Pool” and shall be used to fund education for students in Sixth Grade through Eighth Grade;
 - c. 25% of the funds shall be placed in the “High School Pool” and shall be used to fund education for students in Sixth Grade through Eighth Grade.
5. Each fiscal year, no less than 85% of, and no more than 90% of, the Illinois Education Taxes received in the Illinois Education Funding Pool during the previous fiscal year shall be distributed to qualifying Illinois public schools as set forth below.
6. From the funds contained in each sub-pool, every qualifying public school in Illinois shall receive the exact same amount of funding per pupil enrolled, regardless of region or municipality. The amount each school will receive per enrolled pupil shall be calculated as: Total dollars to be distributed from the relevant sub-pool, divided by the total number of pupils enrolled in the grades covered by that sub-pool statewide.
7. Each fiscal year, the State shall set aside funds equal to 10% of the funds received in the Illinois Education Funding Pool to be paid out as annual teacher performance bonuses in the following fiscal year (the “Teacher Bonus Pool”).
- a. The criteria to be utilized for determining the teachers to whom such bonuses will be paid shall be determined by the Illinois Department of Education;
 - b. Such criteria will be applied by the chief administrator of each individual public school district and reported to the Illinois Department of Education
 - c. The number of recipients of such performance bonuses in any particular school district may not exceed 25% of teachers in that school district in any given fiscal year.

Illustrative Example: If \$20 billion of Illinois Education Taxes were collected in 2009, \$9 billion would be placed in the Grade School Pool, \$4.5 billion would be placed in each of the Middle School Pool and the High School Pool and \$2 billion would be placed in the Teacher Bonus Pool. If the State elects to distribute 90% of those taxes in 2010, then the total funds available for distribution to public schools would be \$16.2 billion (\$8.1 billion for K-5; \$4.05 billion for 6-8; and \$4.05 billion for 9-12.).

If there are 1 million pupils enrolled in Kindergarten through Fifth Grade in qualifying Illinois public schools, then the amount of funding to be provided to each qualifying public school per such pupil enrolled will be \$8,100. (Calculated as: \$8.1 billion / 1 million students).