




MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable JB Pritzker, Governor
The Honorable Jim Durkin, House Minority Leader
The Honorable Don Harmon, Senate President
The Honorable Dan McConchie, Senate Minority Leader
The Honorable Emanuel "Chris" Welch, Speaker of the House

FROM: Dr. Carmen I. Ayala 
State Superintendent of Education

DATE: December 28, 2022

SUBJECT: Professional Review Panel House Resolution 722/Senate Resolution 900 Findings

Pursuant to House Resolution 722 and Senate Resolution 900, the Professional Review Panel (PRP) was tasked with continuing the rigorous analysis and financial modeling required to evaluate the potential value, impact, and financial implications of implementing the findings in the PRP Ad Hoc Committee report. Possibilities to close racial equity gaps in opportunities and outcomes were also examined as well as other charges. This report is a summary of the PRP's findings.

This report is transmitted on behalf of the State Superintendent of Education. For additional copies of this report or for more specific information, please contact Hector Rodriguez, Director, Governmental Relations at (312) 793-2770 or hrodrigu@isbe.net.

cc: Secretary of the Senate
Clerk of the House
Legislative Research Unit
State Government Report Center

Professional Review Panel

House Resolution 722
Senate Resolution 900
Findings

December 2022



Illinois
State Board of
Education

House Resolution 722 and Senate Resolution 900 direct the Professional Review Panel (PRP) and Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) to conduct the rigorous analysis and financial modeling required to evaluate the potential value, impact, and financial implications of implementing the findings in the PRP Ad Hoc Committee report related to adjusting the Evidence-Based Funding (EBF) formula's calculations in order to more accurately reflect the costs of supporting students exposed to trauma and living in concentrated poverty (Charge B). Possibilities to close racial equity gaps in opportunities and outcomes were also examined (Charges C and H). Modeling options, including, but not limited to, those presented in the report considered differentiating existing cost factors within and adding new cost factors to the formula's calculation of districts' Adequacy Targets in order to determine the implications for equity as well as the anticipated fiscal impact of said adjustments.

The resolutions also urged the PRP to complete the study and development of findings related to reenrolling students who have dropped out of school by the extended deadline included within the PRP Ad Hoc Committee report by December 31, 2022 (Charge G).

The resolutions also urged ISBE to revise the district spending plan template and requirements and annually make all districts' spending plans publicly available on ISBE's website beginning with fiscal year 2023 by January 2023.

Suitable copies of the resolutions were delivered to the state superintendent of education, the chairman of the ISBE Board, and members of the PRP following adoption.

The chair of the PRP assigned the tasks included in the resolutions to the Recalibrate and Programs Committees.

The Recalibrate Committee met on May 20, June 30, August 11, August 26, and October 18, 2022, to discuss Charges B, C, and H. The committee discussed defining concentrated poverty and modeling that will need to be completed by the ISBE. The extensive modeling was received in October, and the committee requested additional time to discuss the data and create a recommended definition of concentrated poverty accurately and thoroughly.

The Programs Committee met on April 18, May 26, August 10, and November 21, 2022, to discuss reenrollment of students who have dropped out of school. The committee brought the following recommendation to the PRP at its November 28, 2022, meeting, which passed by roll call vote:

After reviewing all of the relevant research and information, it is the group's finding that there are existing cost factors within the Evidence-Based Funding formula that can be utilized to address the re-enrollment and graduation of high-risk high school students. Before December 15, 2025, the PRP should review this topic to determine if additional recommendations should be made to the Governor, State Board, or General Assembly.

To complete the revision of the district spending plans template, ISBE convened an advisory group to establish a value proposition and guide integration of the EBF Spending Plan into other required plan(s) for maximum resource allocation alignment and benefit for identified student groups. The advisory group consists of representatives from districts and advocacy organizations across the state, with a goal to have membership be reflective of organizational unit diversity (size, region, student demographics) and to include advocacy stakeholders spanning student groups and professional organizations. Members

include program and finance leaders from districts, as well as leaders from the Illinois Association of School Business Officials, Illinois Federation of Teachers, Illinois Alliance of Administrators of Special Education, Association of Illinois Rural and Small Schools, and the Illinois Advisory Council on Bilingual Education. After thorough discussions, the advisory group determined that the EBF Spending Plan would best align with existing statutory requirements and promote transparency through integration into the annual district budget process. Beginning in fiscal year 2024, the EBF Spending Plan will appear as a new tab in the budget form submitted by districts. Annual Spending Plans submitted by districts will therefore become publicly available through the district budget form beginning with the 2024 budget cycle. To align the statutory deadline for submitting the EBF Spending Plan with the annual budget process, it is proposed to amend School Code 18-8.15 (h) (9) as follows:

All Organizational Units in this state must submit annual spending plans as part of the budget submission process, and no later than October 31, to the State Board.

This legislative change was approved to be included in the State Board's 2023 legislative agenda.