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Stand for Children Urges Springfield to Fund School Formula

Asks Lawmakers to Continue the Momentum of Last Summer's Historic Reform

Springfield – Today before the House Appropriations-Elementary & Secondary Education Committee, Jessica Handy, Government Affairs Director of Stand for Children Illinois, asked state lawmakers to keep the momentum going for school funding reform by fully funding schools through the new Evidence-Based Funding formula and committing \$350 million in new funding to drive student achievement. New funds invested in the formula will shrink Illinois' school funding equity gap.

“Last summer’s historic school funding reform was a call to action: school funding must be equitable, adequate, and spent wisely during the implementation of the new formula,” said Handy. “It is something our state should rightly be proud of, but now we must finish the job we started when we set out to fix the formula. We must ensure that the reform succeeds by appropriating the new resources it needs. Without new funding, nothing changes, and we will only close the equity gap if we invest new resources in the formula. Getting every district to adequacy may seem like an insurmountable challenge, but \$350 million per year will make a big difference in itself. \$350 million in the new formula will be a significant boost for schools and will keep us on the path to equity and adequacy. We as a state must stay unified and focused on giving every child the resources and support they need to be successful.”

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Stand for Children is a non-partisan education advocacy organization focused on ensuring all students graduate from high school ready for college or career training.

Visit www.stand.org/illinois for more information.