

the  
NEW  
STAND

Inauguration  
Mini-Edition

## Equitable School Funding

The Evidence-Based Funding Formula, enacted in 2017, created an equitable framework for assessing how much funding each district needs to support its specific student population. The formula also determines how close each district is to reaching that level and distributes new dollars equitably.

However, the system cannot achieve equitable funding unless significant funds are devoted to the formula annually. The law sets a “Minimum Funding Level” of \$350 million each year, and that goal has been met in each year but one. At this rate, it will take over two decades to reach adequate funding.

An increase of \$550 million in the next budget would step up Illinois’ path to adequacy and put us on track to reach full funding within 10 years. Over half of Illinois’ students - more than one million children - attend underfunded schools. We need a path to funding adequacy, not a path to continued mediocrity.

Illinois Assessment of Readiness Data Third Grade Language Arts					
2022	30.6	19.3	22.6	25.4	2
2021	29.7	21.1	22.6	26.1	1.9
2019	22.5	18.5	22.7	32.8	3.6
<div><div></div> Did not meet <div></div> Partially met <div></div> Approached <div></div> Met <div></div> Exceeded</div>					

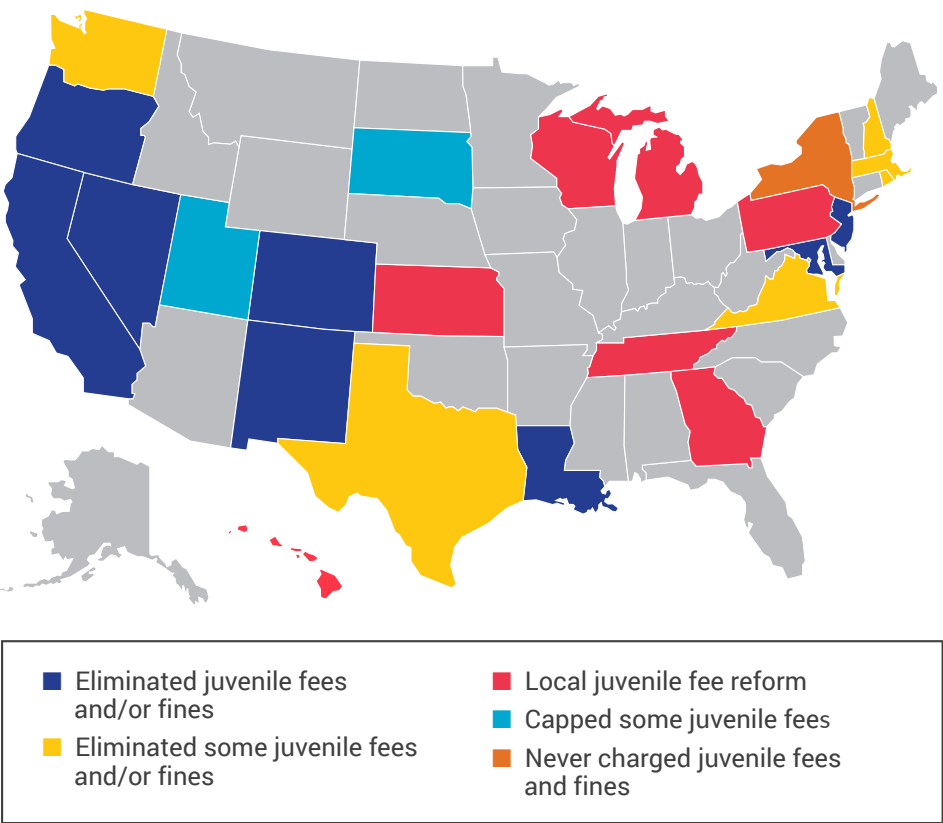
## Youth Justice

Illinois youth can face fees and fines at every stage of the juvenile court process – everything from administrative costs to public defender fees to DNA tests. These fees, which are unrelated to victim’s restitution, can quickly add up and disproportionately impact low-income youth and their families. A family’s inability to pay can lead to years of escalating debt that can force families to choose between paying down these debts or paying for essentials like groceries or rent.

While these payments can be a significant burden for Illinois families, they are not a significant source of revenue for county courts. Less than 0.01% of circuit court revenue consists of collected juvenile court fees and fines in Illinois. This tiny slice is an average of \$785,065 across the 90 counties where data was available. For more data, please visit [stand.org/JuvenileFeesandFinesCitations](https://stand.org/JuvenileFeesandFinesCitations).

Recognizing this, 20 states—both majority Democratic and majority Republican—have eliminated juvenile court fines and fees since 2015 in a movement called Debt Free Justice.

Municipal ticketing in schools is a related issue that can have similar financial repercussions for families. An investigation by *ProPublica* and the *Chicago Tribune* found nearly 12,000 tickets issued to students referred by their public schools. Many of these are for minor infractions such as vaping but the tickets can require a mandatory appearance at a municipal hearing, requiring students to miss school, and conclude with fines that can amount to hundreds of dollars. Read the investigative report: *The Price Kids Pay: Ticketed at school* at [bit.ly/3hLVFCz](https://bit.ly/3hLVFCz). We support legislation to end juvenile court fees and fines and minimize municipal tickets as school discipline for minor infractions.



## Literacy & Justice For All

Half of Illinois third graders ‘partially met’ or ‘did not meet’ Illinois’ reading benchmarks. The literacy crisis is urgent but solvable.



Most states have enacted literacy reform in recent years, but states that have shown the most success have recognized the complexity of the issues and developed a multi-pronged approach, supported with funding and strong leadership from their state education agency. We support these policies:

- Increasing funding for the Early Childhood Block Grant by \$120 million.
- Ensuring teacher candidates understand how the brain is re-wired as children learn to read and how explicit, systematic instruction connecting spoken sounds to written letters supports that process.
- Providing professional development opportunities to teachers and administrators on the most up-to-date research on literacy instruction.
- Developing an evaluation tool to ensure new literacy curricula aligns with learning standards.

For a high-level introduction to literacy policy, check out the recent Emily Hanford podcast *Sold a Story*.



### Teach Kindness

provides free access to research-based resources that intentionally and systematically teach kids to practice kindness on a regular basis and manage their emotions, actions, and statements. Doing this, students become better equipped to navigate the world. **If any schools in your district are seeking social-emotional learning support, WeTeachKindness.org provides user-friendly information and easy registration to access this free program.**



Find the crossword solution at [stand.org/Feb23NewsStand](http://stand.org/Feb23NewsStand).

1. Bottom
6. Cured pork
9. Delight in
14. Disentangle
15. Poem
16. Fine or Murphy
17. When politicians take office (2 words)
20. On fire
21. Conjunctions linking alternatives
22. Chicken
23. Spanish suffix to make something smaller
24. One aged 13 - 19
26. Knick-knacks
28. Adverse Childhood Exp.s
29. Poetic "over"
31. Angry
32. Ratio betw. net income and investment
33. Conditioner applied to rinse cycle
36. Vitamin B9
39. Picnic pest
40. Least
42. Toss
43. A Mexican perennial
45. Shoeless
47. Consume
48. Police officer, informally
49. Not on
50. Pinch
52. Fool
54. At a distance
57. Move many betw. accts.
58. From Vientiane
59. Afflict
61. Overloaded hosp. wing
62. End-of-session party headlines, maybe (3 words)
66. Sum
67. \_\_\_\_\_ Morgue
68. A Greek island or Will County town

[illegible]

1. Constructed
2. Musically-inclined orphan
3. Annual Governor's speech (4 words)
4. Private, for-profit univ in Schaumburg
5. Childhood toy classic
6. Apocalypse-affiliated individuals
7. Fed. accessibility law
8. Way
9. Dad of X  $\Delta$  A-Xii, son of Enrol
10. Gran

19. Suffix that turns verbs into nouns, usually related to trades
25. Yield
27. Reindeer or coffee
28. Pioneer of dial-up internet
30. Turn in
32. Juliet's man
33. Depressed
34. \_\_\_\_\_ roll (2 words)
35. Vandalos or Odeot-Hassan
36. Trapper's objective
37. In addition

- add-on
46. Org. that likes ag. ed.
48. The Sixteen,  
Polyphony, King's  
College, and The  
Monteverdi
50. Obligations
51. The game is \_\_\_\_\_
52. Auto
53. Photo
55. Severe
56. Plots
58. HDL's counterparts
60. Arsenic and Old
63. Spigot
64. Pecan or pistachio
65. www address

A portrait of a woman with dark hair tied in a bun, wearing a black top and a gold necklace, smiling against a background of white flowers.

332 S. Michigan Ave., Suite 900  
Chicago, IL 60604