Better Funding for Better Schools (SB 231) is the long awaited education funding reform package that accounts for student needs, considers local ability to contribute resources, incorporates evidence-based incentives, and promotes adequate funding for all students in Illinois.

Illinois' regressive school funding formula has resulted in the largest funding gap in the nation. The state's funding system is a web of complicated formulas that result in less than half of all State education dollars going to school districts based on a local district's ability to pay for local schools. More than half of State education dollars go to districts regardless of their wealth, shortchanging poor districts with students who have greater needs.

After a 3-year long process, competing proposals, technical concerns, and a deep dive into evidence-based research, Better Funding for Better Schools has emerged as a fresh approach to solving Illinois' funding equity problem once and for all.

Here's how:

1. **By accounting for student needs and characteristics to distribute funding.** Funding goes to districts based on the needs of their students, which drives more state dollars to districts that need support the most.

2. **By reflecting a district's ability to support local schools with local funds.** Many districts tax themselves at higher than average levels and are still not able to adequately fund schools. Districts in less economically developed areas of the state often are taxed at higher rates but end up with inadequate local resources for their schools.

3. **By using a single, straightforward funding model.** Special deals are over, a welcome relief for districts who confront bureaucratic hurdles to get the funds they're already due.

4. **By funding all school districts the same way.** This includes pension parity for Chicago, which currently is the only district in Illinois that does not receive state funding for pensions.

**Illinois has the most regressive funding system in the country.**

For each dollar spent on non-low-income students...

**Ohio Spends $1.22 on Low-income Students**

**IL Spends $0.81 on Low-income Students**

Source: Funding Gaps, Education Trust, 2015

The Bottom Line

Better Funding for Better Schools fixes our worst-in-the-nation school funding system. The time is now—we must invest equitably in every child in Illinois regardless of where they live or their community's wealth so they can access the great education they deserve.

For more information, visit [betterfundingforbetterschools.com](http://betterfundingforbetterschools.com) #FairSchoolFunding
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