

Education-related Appropriations in the FY23 Budget

The FY23 budget passed both chambers and was signed by Governor Pritzker. The following highlights will impact charter public schools and the public education sector:

- Per pupil facilities funding to **every charter school** in Illinois from the School Infrastructure Fund. This is Illinois' first ever charter school facilities fund and will enable charter schools to redirect their finances to better meet student needs. **(INCS-led initiative)**
- \$350 million appropriation to the evidence-based formula (EBF) to fulfill Illinois' promise to address longstanding inequities in K–12 funding. **(INCS-supported with statewide education coalition)**
- \$4.2 million for the Minority Teachers of Illinois Scholarship to better attract, support, and target resources to diverse teacher candidates. **(INCS-supported with statewide education coalition)**
- \$122 million to MAP grants allowing increased post-secondary aid to low-income households and students of color.

Defeated Anti-Charter Legislation

The following anti-charter school bills were defeated. If passed, these bills would have harmed charter public schools and their ability to serve their communities.

- **SB 2941/HB 4723 (Villanueva, D – Summit and Guzzardi, D – Chicago)** would require charter public schools to have a Labor Peace Agreement (LPA) with any requesting union as a condition of receiving state funding. This bill violates 105 ILCS 5/27A-11 by removing funding from school districts and the charter schools they oversee. **(INCS defeated prior to scheduled hearing in House Charter committee)**
- **SB 3768 (Castro, D – Elgin)** would allow a local school district to assume jurisdiction over a state-authorized charter school upon renewal. **(INCS defeated and bill was not assigned to a committee)**
- **HB 5323 (Mason, D – Gurnee)** would change the definition of “Organizational Unit” in the evidence-based funding code to a State-approved charter school that has greater than or equal to 15% fewer low-income students than the school district in which the charter school is located. **(INCS defeated and bill was not assigned to a committee)**
- **HB 5322 (Mason, D – Gurnee)** would allow for the local school board or ISBE to revoke or not renew a charter school based on the charter failing to adequately address racial, socioeconomic, or educational disparities between the local school district and the charter school. **(INCS defeated and bill was not assigned to a committee)**

Passed Education-related Legislation

The following bills have passed both chambers and await Governor Pritzker's signature. If signed into law, these bills will have an impact on the entire education sector:

Homeless Student Fee Waivers

- **HB 5265 (Guzzardi, D – Chicago)** expands access to fee waivers for low-income students and prevents any monetary charge collected by a public school, **including charter schools**, from a low-income student as a prerequisite for participation in any curricular or extracurricular program. **(INCS supported and worked in coalition with the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless)**

Employee Benefits & Pay

- **HB 1167 (Yang-Rohr, D – Naperville)** requires school districts **and charter schools** to pay benefits to employees and contractors who provide educational support services for school closure or e-learning days. Provides paid administrative leave to vaccinated employees who miss class time due to COVID-19 effective immediately and retroactively to the 2021-2022 school year.

Charter School Compliance

- **SB 4056 (Belt, D – East St. Louis)** would **require charter schools** to have threat assessment procedures and school bullying policies to be reviewed by ISBE.

Food Service Contracts

- **HB 4813 (Gordon-Booth, D – Peoria)** would require school districts to consider other factors beyond price, such as nutritional offerings, when considering food service contracts. Food service contracts are currently awarded to the lowest responsible bidder.

Employee Mental Health Days

- **SB 3914 (Loughran-Cappel, D – Plainfield)** would require school districts to allow employees to use paid sick leave for mental health.

Standardized Assessments

- **SB 3986 (Pacione-Zayas, D – Chicago)** would prohibit ISBE from developing, purchasing, or requiring a standardized assessment for students enrolled or preparing to enroll in prekindergarten through grade 2, other than for diagnostic purposes.

Service Time Adjustments for Chicago Teachers Pension Fund

- **HB 5472 (Yang-Rohr, D – Naperville)** prevents cancellation of the service retirement pension of a pensioner who is re-employed as a teacher or administrator on a temporary and non-annual basis or on an hourly basis, so long as the person:
 - Does not work as a teacher or administrator for compensation on more than 120 days in a school year.
 - Does not work as a teacher or administrator for compensation on more than 140 days in a school year in the case of a person who retires with at least 5 years of service as a principal or administrator.
- **SB 3465 (Martwick, D – Chicago)** the service retirement pension of a pensioner shall not be cancelled if the pensioner is employed in a subject shortage area and the employer that is employing the service retirement pensioner meets specified requirements. Effective until June 30, 2024.

Substitute Teacher Days

- **SB 3907 (Turner, D – DeCATUR)** allows someone with a Short-Term Substitute Teaching License may teach up to 15 (instead of 5) consecutive days per licensed teacher who is under contract. A school district may hire a Short-Term Substitute Teaching Licensee for teacher absences lasting 6 or more days per licensed teacher who is under contract if the Governor has declared a disaster due to a public health emergency.
- **SB 3893 (Joyce, D – Kankakee)** allows substitute teachers to teach for 120 (instead of 90) school days for any licensed teacher through the 2022-2023 school year.

Expand Paraprofessional License Access

- **SB 3988 (Pacione-Zayas, D – Chicago)** allows a paraprofessional educator endorsement on an Educator License with Stipulations to be issued to an applicant who is at least 18 years of age, exclusively for grades PK – 8, only until the individual reaches the age of 19 years and otherwise meets the criteria for a paraprofessional educator endorsement.