



July 26, 2017

Let's Support our Schools!

As we head to Springfield for a Special Session called by the governor to work on education funding, I urge continued support for Senate Bill (SB) 1, which was passed by the Illinois General Assembly. SB 1 would change how Illinois funds public education using a new funding formula, which is based on the Evidence-Based Model (EBM), and would be a more adequate and equitable way to fund public schools in Illinois. Both Republicans and Democrats support this bill, and there is broad support in the city of Chicago, suburbs and downstate. I support and I voted for SB 1, aiming to change the K-12 public education funding formula based on the EBM.

We also need to urge the governor to sign House Bill (HB) 213 that I authored that passed the General Assembly on June 23 and was sent to the governor on July 21 to ensure the responsible management of the Illinois Common School Fund and provide more funding for local schools. The measure will ensure that tax dollars fund school systems in Illinois, rather than counting on funds from the lottery.

HB 213 is a measure that amends the Illinois Lottery to ensure that any money transferred to the Common School Fund from the State Lottery Fund shall be added to, and not in lieu of, any other money due to be transferred to the Common School Fund by law or appropriation. In Fiscal Year 15, \$679 million went to the Common School Fund, meaning schools could win big with these funds helping to make the education system in the state of Illinois a flourishing one.

Summer is soon coming to an end and our children will be headed back to school. We have a responsibility to give as much support to our schools as we can to give our children the best opportunities for success in life. For the sake of our children and our education system, I continue to advocate for the provisions in SB 1, and I urge the governor to sign HB 213 to make it the law of the land.

Sincerely,

La Shawn K. Ford
State Representative-Eighth District