



OFFICE OF THE SENATE PRESIDENT
STATE OF ILLINOIS

JOHN J. CULLERTON
SENATE PRESIDENT

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March 7, 2016

Dear Dr. Beth Purvis,

I read with interest your letter to Illinois public school superintendents.

Those superintendents, their teachers, students, parents and taxpayers need to know what the governor's education budget actually does to their individual school districts. Since you have already calculated that you can fund the outdated foundation level with an additional \$55 million in taxpayer resources, then perhaps you have already calculated the individual effects for each school district in Illinois.

Before arguing that the governor's plan should pass "without delay," you owe it to superintendents to provide them with information on the effects.

We both know that the governor's plan will create winners and losers. We would like to know who they are before we vote.

Last year, Illinois Senate Democrats increased school funding by more than a quarter billion dollars – an investment the governor ultimately signed despite the lack of Republican support – and still many of the schools serving the most impoverished students in this state lost millions of dollars in state funding.

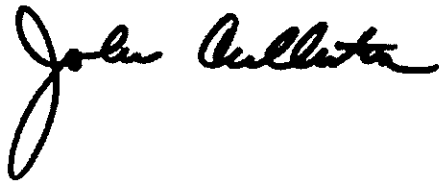
It speaks to the fundamental unfairness of our current system. It's why Senate Democrats are committed to creating a better system that sends resources where they are most needed and can do the most good.

In order for us to do that we need information. Weeks ago, Senate Democrats sent you details regarding a possible alternative formula and asked that you break it down, district by district, so we could study the results and make changes and improvements.

We certainly will not vote for an education budget until we have this information.

Again, this information is vital so that the public can better understand the governor's budget proposal and we can continue to explore how to overhaul the state's unfair and outdated school finance system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Cullerton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

John J. Cullerton
Illinois Senate President