

ED-RED

EDUCATION | RESEARCH | DEVELOPMENT

From the Floor to Your Door

This communication is sent to all ED-RED member district school administrators and school board members



ED-RED JULY ACTION ITEMS

(1) Mark Your Calendars! The 2020-2021 Member Meeting schedule is now available on our website! To download the calendar, [click here!](#)

(2) Complete the Superintendent Survey. ED-RED wants to know how our members are informing ED-RED legislators about your reopening plans. We ask that superintendents (or a designee) take this quick survey as we develop our own plans to support your work.

(3) Sign up for our Equity Ad Hoc Committee. See the description of this new ad hoc committee below and click here to sign up! This ad hoc committee is open to any school board member or school administrator including superintendent, assistant superintendents, principals, curriculum directors, etc.

(4) Check out these great resources from our sponsors!

Franczek

- [Franczek's ISBE FAQ](#)
- [Franczek COVID 19 Resource Center](#)

Curriculum Associates

- Supporting ISBE Return to School Recommendations: [i-Ready: New Challenges Require New Tools](#)
- Transformative Principal Podcast – [How We Nearly Doubled Math Scores with Kevin Finnegan](#)

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A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Good afternoon,

Welcome to the July edition of ED-RED's monthly newsletter *From the Floor to Your Door*. Now that 2019-20 school year is officially closed out, I know you are all working hard to determine what next fall and winter are going to look like in the new normal, both with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and

the horrific events that lead to the death of George Floyd. The ED-RED Executive Board and staff are doing the same.

Just last year, the Executive Board updated our mission statement just last year to reflect the diversity that exists among ED-RED member districts, communities, and families. To reiterate, ED-RED's mission is that we are an essential voice advocating for the diverse needs of suburban public schools. The horrific events in May has led me to reflect deeply about the role we must play as a legislative advocacy organization going forward. I am proud to have learned over the last two years of the incredible things ED-RED districts are doing to push the limits on education for all students and that includes the innovative work being done around equity. To that end, we have more important work to do in the upcoming session to advance equity across ED-RED member districts and the State in light of these recent events. We have a commitment to the students in our schools and will continue to play a leadership role in putting students first in our state policy discussions.

Together, we can and must do better. To start, we are creating an Equity Ad Hoc Committee. First and foremost, we want to listen, learn, and share the work that is being done in our member districts related to equity. Additionally, there have been legislative efforts in recent years intended to help address the equity gap and we are working to identify previously stalled proposals that are worth revisiting in the coming months. Our policy intern is in the process of examining those past legislative proposals and researching efforts in other states to help us inform our own work. We would love to have both school board members and school administrators (superintendents, assistant superintendents, principals, curriculum directors, etc.) on the Equity Ad Hoc Committee! [To sign up for the Equity Ad Hoc Committee, please click this link.](#)

At the same time, you are all finding ways to best keep students safe when school resumes next month. Just last week, ISBE released new guidance for returning to school this fall in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. We are once again offering to help facilitate a dialogue between ED-RED member districts and your local legislators and we want to make it as easy as possible. The first step included in this newsletter is a brief survey of ED-RED superintendents to learn more about what conversations are being had with legislators about district reopening plans. [If you are an ED-RED superintendent, please click here to take the survey.](#) After we assess interest, there will be multiple opportunities to help districts facilitate reopening legislator discussions including both group and individual meetings or just simply using ED-RED to share reopening plans with local legislators on behalf of member districts. We ask that the survey be completed by ED-RED superintendents by Monday, July 5th.

As always, if you have any questions in the information linked below, do not hesitate to reach out!

Best,
Sarah Hartwick
Executive Director
ED-RED

POSTING AGAIN NOW THAT ISBE GUIDANCE HAS BEEN UPDATED!

SUPERINTENDENTS: BE SURE TO SHARE REOPENING AND PLANNING FOR THE FALL WITH LOCAL LEGISLATORS (AND DON'T FORGET THAT ED-RED CAN HELP!)

As you are all discussing how student will return to school this fall, you should also be thinking about how/when to involve your local legislators. ISBE has released multiple guidance documents over the recent months to assist districts in navigating and planning for next school year. All of the guidance documents can be found on [ISBE's COVID-19 Resource](#) page and we have included supplemental materials from our partners on [ED-RED's COVID-19 Resource](#) page.

It is important to make sure, at some point in your planning process, that your local legislators are also informed of your plans. Let ED-RED help with this! To assess this need, we have put together this superintendent survey so that we can determine the best way to support your work. [We are asking that all ED-RED superintendents complete this BRIEF survey by Monday, July 6th.](#)

As always, ED-RED can help coordinate meetings and information sessions with your local legislators. We can even help to share any information you put out regarding your reopening plans with your local legislators. Just let us know and do not hesitate to reach out!

As you can see, there are multiple ways this can be accomplished and ED-RED is here to help you! Email Sarah Hartwick at ANY time for brainstorming and feedback: shartwick@ed-red.org.

FINAL ACTION: SPRING 2020 LEGISLATIVE SESSION SUMMARY

The Governor has taken action on all of the bills passed this last session. The education bills shared in past summaries are listed below. You can also access the complete list of bills tracked during the four-day session [via this link](#). Remember that many bills were amended from their original language/intent so we updated the notes section to make it easier for members to see how each bill impacts schools.

Below is an updated with final action session summary sent when the GA adjourned. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out!

[FY 2021 Budget \(PA 101-637/SB 264\)](#)

The appropriation for EBF, mandated categoricals and all other grant lines in ISBE's budget holds district flat to current year levels.

[Capitol Re-Appropriation Bill \(PA 101-638/HB 64\)](#)

The legislature re-appropriated capital projects that were funded in last year's capital bill (along with some changes). ED-RED member projects that were included last year's capital bill are all included again in this re-appropriation provisions. If any project was modified or removed, you should have already been notified by ED-RED staff. Email Sarah Hartwick (shartwick@ed-red.org) if you have any questions or click [here](#) to view the bill and search (Ctrl + F) for your district name.

[K-12 and Higher Education Omnibus Bill \(PA 101-643/SB 1569\)](#)

ISBE proposed legislative clean-up items to align the School Code with the guidance and Executive Orders issued during the COVID pandemic. A high-level summary of the K-12 provisions included in house amendment #5 to SB 1569 are listed below. This bill was effective June 18, 2020. [To view the language of the bill, please click this link.](#)

- Remote Learning Plans: makes changes to the implementation of attendance and clock hour requirements within remote learning plans when the state is in a designated public health emergency (as defined in the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act).
- Extends the sunset on section 17A of the School Code allowing for inter-fund transfers to June 30, 2021 (instead of this year).
- Extends all licenses set to expire this year for one additional year.
- Removes the requirement of classroom teaching for student teacher candidates.
- Aligns high school graduation requirements with ISBE issued graduation guidance for 2020 high school graduates only and clarifies that the diploma issued to 2020 high school graduates shall be considered valid.
- PERA: requires teachers to maintain 'excellent' rating on an evaluation if the evaluation has not yet been completed due to a public health emergency and waives remediation plan commencement and completion during a public health emergency.
- Allows the Constitution Test to be administered remotely.
- Waives the requirement of the PE assessment during a public health emergency.
- Prohibits the withholding of student report cards due to lack of health, immunization, and dental exam submissions during a public health emergency.
- Allows the 8th grade U.S. history requirement to be conducted remotely.
- Allows ISBE to adopt rules to modify graduation requirements during a public health emergency.
- Makes changes to CPS's Local School Council vacancies and meeting requirements.
- Makes technical changes to the Property Tax Relief Grant recipients.
- Amends the IL Articulation Initiative General Education statute to require courses taken during a public health emergency to be transferrable and graded as 'pass,' 'credit,' or 'satisfactory.'

[November 2020 Election Day \(PA 101-642\)](#)

SB 1863, House Amendment #6 designates the November 2020 election, to be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2020, as a State holiday. This holiday is for the 2020 election only. This bill was effective June 16, 2020.

[School District Debt Extensions \(PA 101-646\)](#)

School districts that requested statutory debt extensions were all included in SB 1937, House Amendments #3 and #4. Please keep in mind that if you are ever in need of a debt extension to let ED-RED know! We can help work with your local legislators and usher the bill through the legislative process! This bill was effective June 26, 2020.

Other Education Related Bills

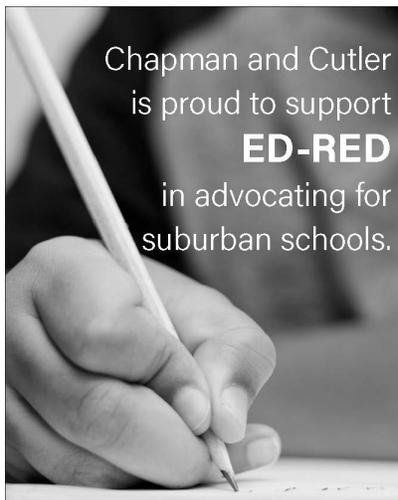
- [PA 101-645/SB 1857](#): Retired teachers were allowed to return to serve as substitute teachers for a maximum of 120 days or 600 hours last year, but that allowance was set to expire this June. SB 1857 extended the sunset for one-year to June 30, 2021. This bill was effective June 26, 2020.
- [PA 101-633/HB 2455](#): Essential employees may qualify for workers compensation due to COVID-19 if the employee is required to come into contact with members of the general public. The

definition of "essential employees" in HB 2455 includes school district employees. This bill was effective June 5, 2020.

- [PA 101-635/SB 685](#): This bill allows counties to defer property taxes (though many counties had already made the decision to do so). This bill was effective June 5, 2020.
- [PA 101-632/HB 2096](#): A provision of this bill removes the prohibition that bids for school construction cannot be opened electronically (now they can). This bill was effective June 5, 2020.
- [PA 101-636/HB 357](#): This is the Budget Implementation Bill (BIMP) that prescribes how the budget is to be implemented. This bill was effective June 10, 2020.
- [PA 101-630/SB 2099](#): Creates the COVID Urgent Remediation Emergency (CURE) Borrowing Act to authorize state borrowing. This bill was effective May 29, 2020.

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