

October 2020

ED-RED serves to advocate on behalf of over eighty suburban public school districts, including special education cooperatives and intermediate service centers. The role of public education is to develop a well-informed and socially responsible public. School districts are better positioned to meet this expectation when they have the support of their communities and local legislators.

The events of 2020 have shed light on the critical role that schools are expected to play in serving their communities. This fall, school districts across Illinois rose to the challenge to meet the educational and social emotional needs of their students. Administrators and school board members adapted quickly to meet these needs in an ever-changing landscape.

Looking forward into 2021, ED-RED will continue to lead advocacy efforts for our member districts so that the children, families and the communities that our member districts serve will receive the same high-quality education that they have come to expect. In order to meet and exceed this expectation, ED-RED is asking for the following legislative support from our local ED-RED legislators:

1. **Equity and Access to Education.** In making legislative decisions, ensure all students have access to a high-quality education and keep equity at the forefront of our legislative negotiations.
2. **Financial planning.** Although the future of State funding is uncertain, we must continue to prioritize that all adequate funding through the EBF for all schools to meet the needs of our communities.
3. **Flexibility.** When given flexibility, public schools can do amazing things. COVID-19 provided an opportunity for some mandate relief in exchange for allowing schools to be innovative in educating and providing for their students across all levels. Future mandate relief and flexibility are imperative to allow schools to continue to be responsive to the needs of the children in their communities.

The political landscape in which we live is ever-changing. ED-RED will continue to advocate for its member school districts and serve as a resource for our local legislators. We ask that our local legislators continue their thoughtful and responsive relationship with us as we commit to collaboratively supporting the work of suburban public schools, and the communities, families, and students that they serve.