

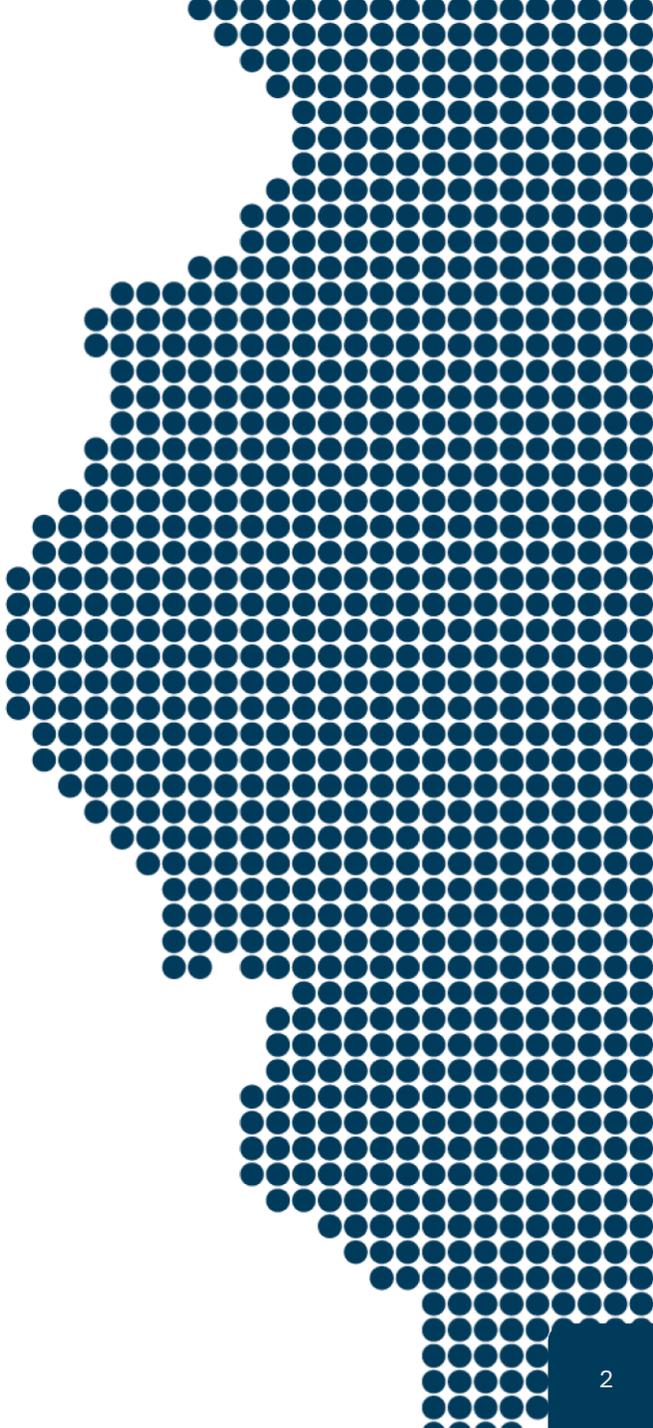
ED-RED

March Members Meeting

2026

Dr. Tony Sanders,
State Superintendent

ISBE Legislative Priorities — Spring 2026



Budget Realities



Evidence-Based Funding (EBF): **\$305 million**

Mandated Categoricals

- **Transportation – Special Education: \$20M increase (54.9% proration)**
- **Transportation – Regular and Vocational: \$10M increase (68.4% proration)**

- **Special Education – Private and Public Tuition: \$20M increase (62.9% proration)**
- **Special Education – Orphanage Tuition: An increase of \$921,100 to maintain proration level of 100%**

- **Orphanage Tuition: \$15,668.3 million to maintain proration level of 100%**
- **Illinois Free Lunch and Breakfast: \$9 million to maintain 32% reimbursement rate**



- **Agricultural Education:** \$800,000 increase to support program needs
- **Career and Technical Education:** \$5.93 million increase in FY 2027, bringing total funding to \$65.23 million
- **Dolly Parton's Imagination Library:** \$1 million increase to meet growth of the program

Finance Omnibus

HB 5551 and SB 4014

- **Tuition reimbursements for youth in care**
 - Corrects inconsistency between public and non-public day school tuition
- **Equalized Assessed Value (EAV) adjustments**
 - Thanks to a state law enacted in 2021, districts get repaid without having to file for EAV adjustments
- **Illinois Teaching Excellence Grant Program**
 - This grant is now appropriated to ISBE to ensure stable support networks for educators pursuing National Board Certification.

Chronic Absenteeism ≠ Expulsion SB 3774

- Administrative withdrawal for unexcused absences is **non-punitive**.
- Student remains in good standing and can return or enroll in another district.
- Notification to parents or guardians must occur before administrative withdrawal.



World Language Credit SB 4026

This measure would ensure academic credit is awarded for:

- Proficiency in home or native language demonstrated via a standardized test
- Prior high school level coursework in home or native language documented on student transcript



Art by a student at Woodland Middle School

State-Authorized Charter Schools SB 4040



- Not intended to close any existing charter school
- Provides a mechanism to give local school boards oversight on charters currently overseen by the state
- Streamlines appeal process

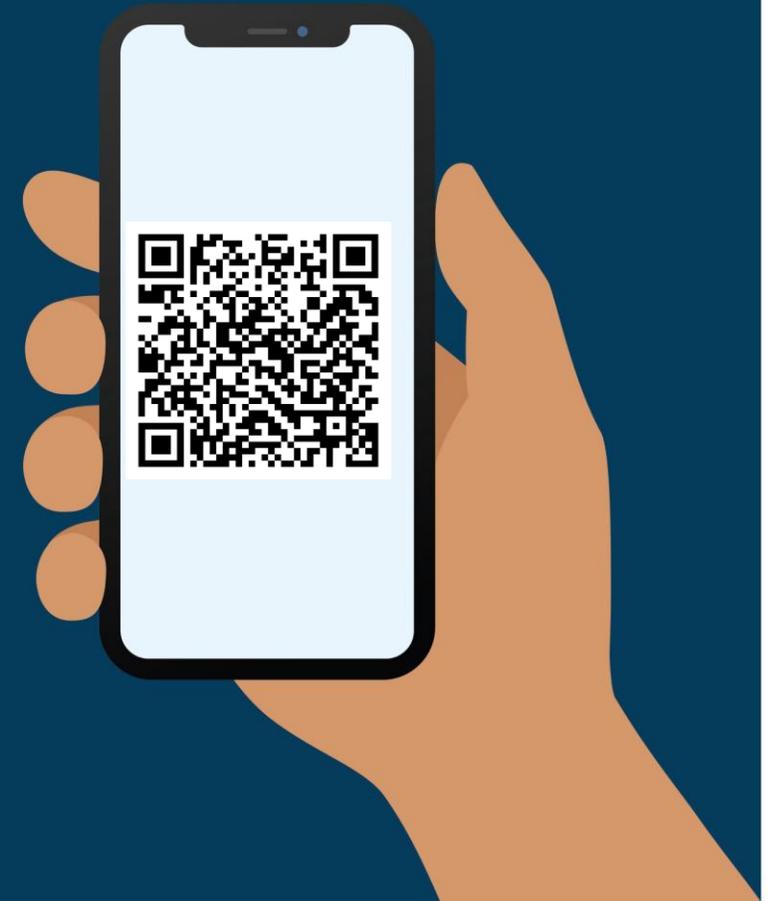
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Share your feedback!

SB 2427

Illinois School Phone Policies Survey

Survey is open through July 1



School Code Cleanup HB 5552



- Amend PA 104-0128 to address minor drafting errors, clarify which **content area tests** would be eligible for reciprocity, which educators would be eligible for a provisional license.
- Clarify that the **comparable wage index** metric in EBF calculations will be used beginning in FY 2026.
- Clarify what is required when submitting **waiver applications**.

- Codify the expectation that local school boards must consider a charter school's provision of special education and English learner services during the **charter renewal process**.
- Amend Public Act 104-0261 to restore the option to request an **extension for submission of the Annual Financial Report**, and inform districts what types of data they are required to publish in the newspaper to fulfill their obligation to publish a Statement of Affairs.

School Code Cleanup HB 5552





Thank
you!