

# ED-RED'S APRIL MEMBER MEETING

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April 10, 2026



EDUCATION.RESEARCH.DEVELOPMENT

*Advocating for quality public education on behalf of the suburban school districts we serve*

# TODAY'S **AGENDA**

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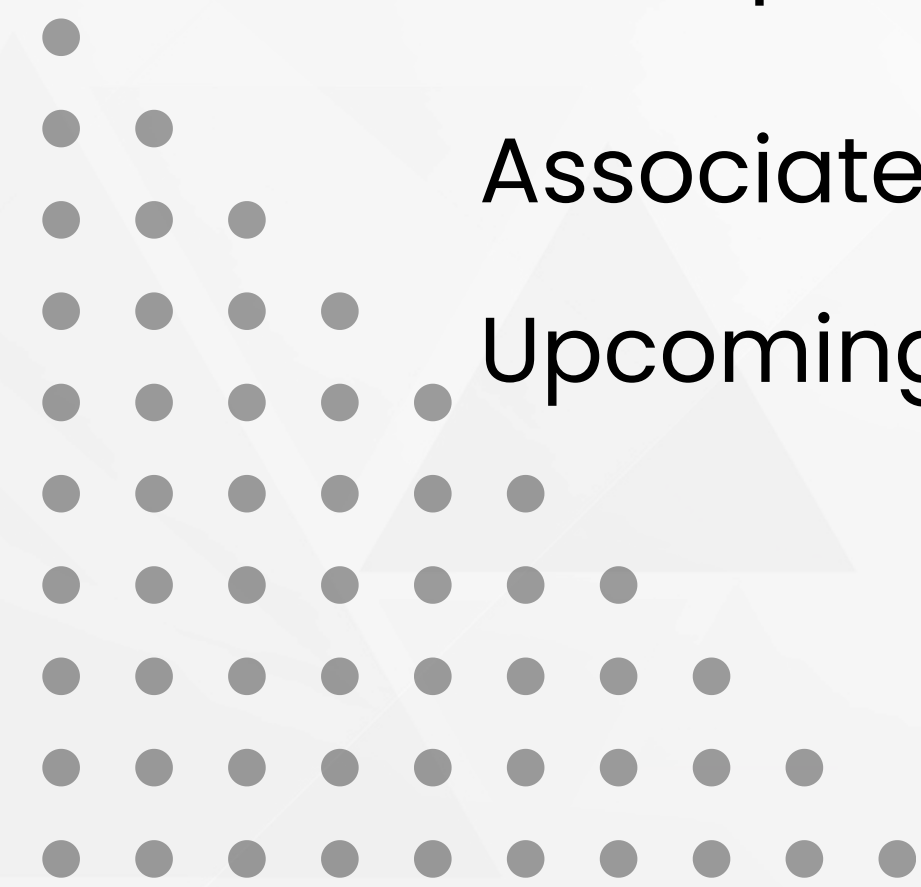
Consent Agenda

Guest Speakers

- Representative Daniel Didech
- Representative Faver-Dias
- Representative Nicolle Grasse

Associate Director Report

Upcoming Member Events



# **CONSENT AGENDA**

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## **MARCH MEMBER MEETING MINUTES**

# GUEST SPEAKERS

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**Rep. Daniel Didech**  
IL District 59



**Rep. Laura Faver-Dias**  
IL District 62



**Rep. Nicolle Grasse**  
IL District 53



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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- Legislative Session Overview
- ED-RED Initiatives
- Hot Bills

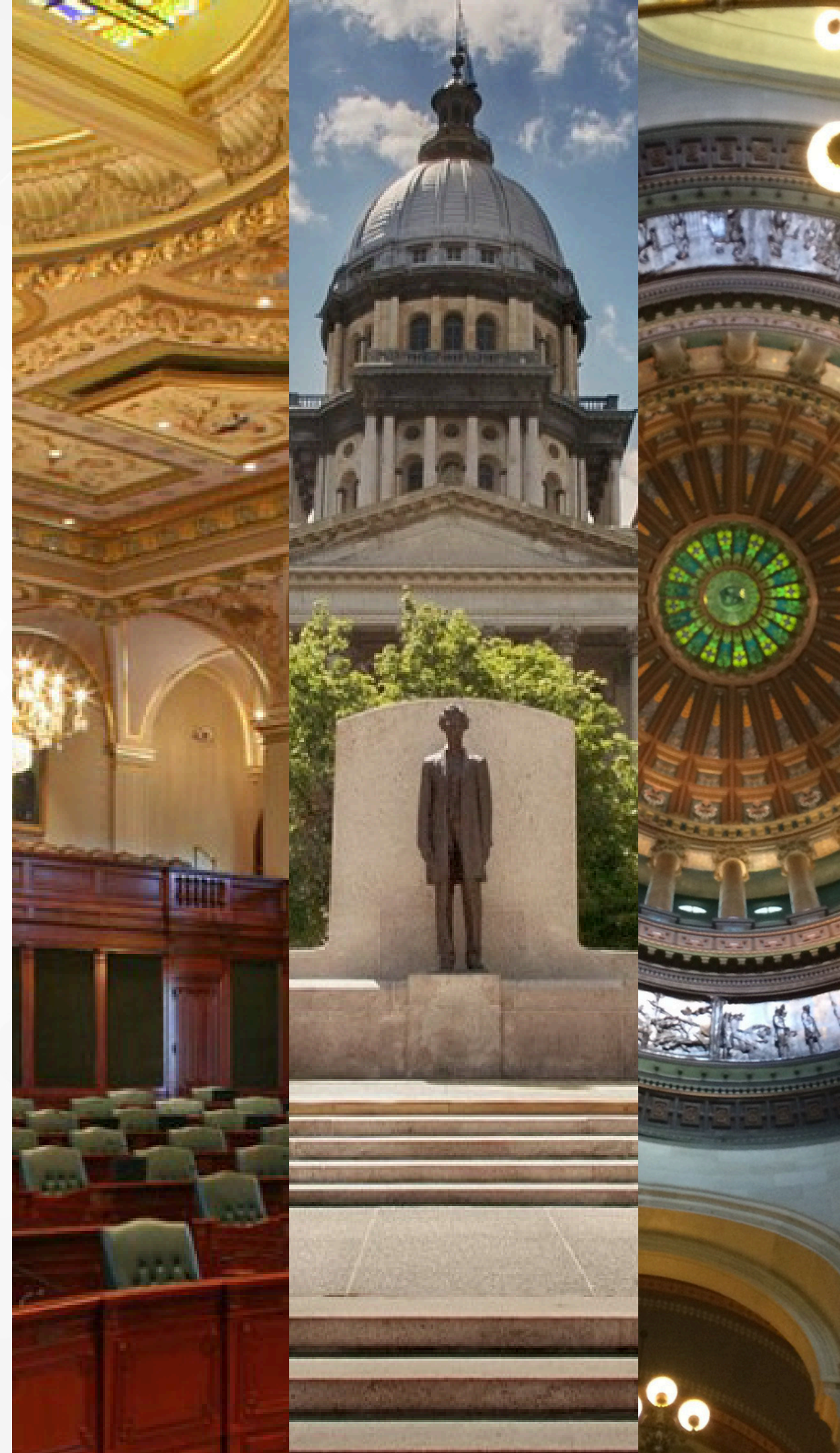


**ED-RED**

# **LEGISLATIVE SESSION OVERVIEW**

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- **Increase in Floor Action**
- **April 17: Third Reading Deadline for House and Senate**



# 2025-26 Annual Initiatives

## **World Language Graduation Requirement**

Create more flexibility for  
students

## **Law Enforcement Procedure Off- Campus**

Extend applicable  
procedures to school  
activities and protect school  
staff

## **MCAT Funding**

Educate members on the  
importance of the funding,  
specifically for Tiers 3 & 4

# MCAT Funding

- Engaged Legislators
- Will continue efforts this upcoming week
- Highlighted:
  - The underfunding of MCATs
  - \$761 million to be fully funded in FY27
  - Impact of unfunded mandates on local property taxpayers: HB4416

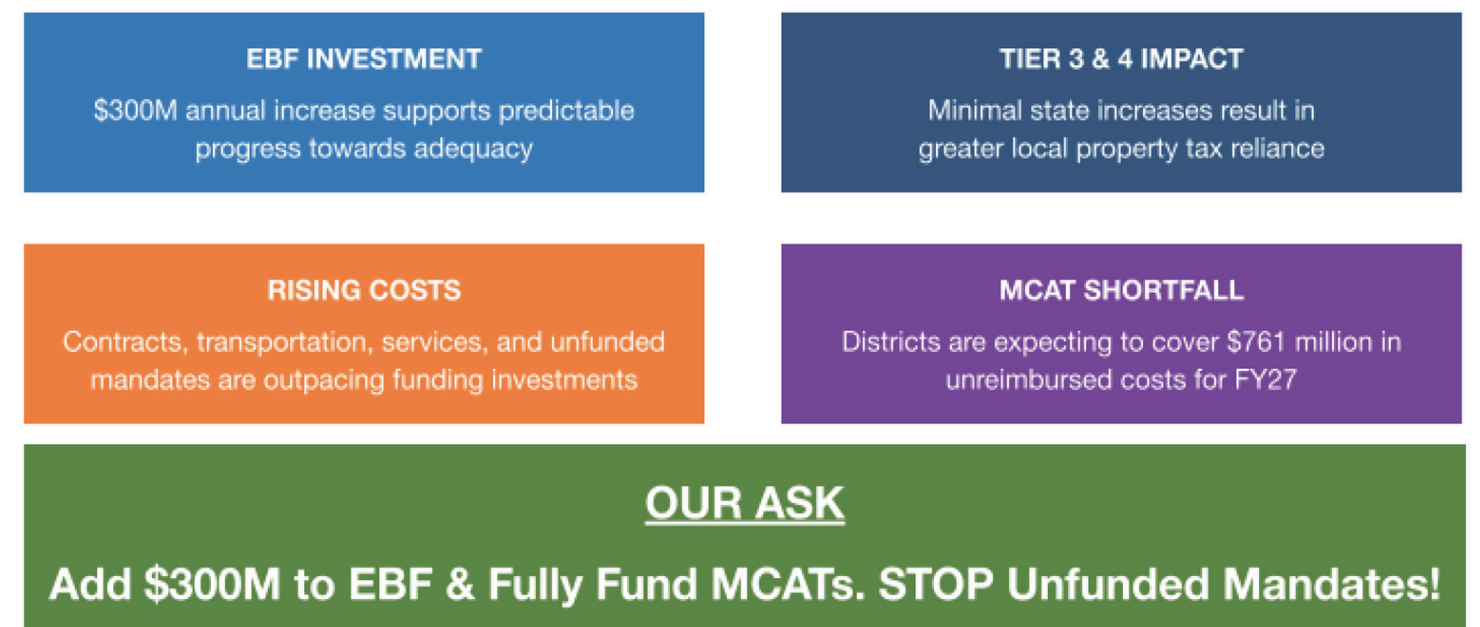


## Illinois School Funding: A Growing Imbalance for Districts and Taxpayers

### *A growing reliance on local taxpayers due to structural funding imbalance*

Illinois has made meaningful progress in improving school funding through the Evidence-Based Funding (EBF) formula. However, a growing structural imbalance is emerging, driven in large part by the chronic underfunding of mandated categorical grants (MCATs). While EBF is designed to prioritize the state's most under-resourced districts, insufficient funding for core reimbursements is shifting an increasing share of education costs onto local property taxpayers, particularly in Tier 3 and 4 districts.

- **Limited EBF gains for many districts:** While the state invests approximately \$300 million annually through EBF, the formula appropriately prioritizes, as it should, the least adequately funded districts. As a result, 84% of new EBF dollars (FY 2026) go to Tier 1 districts, with Tier 2 districts receiving the next largest share, and only less than 1% of new funding reaching Tier 3 and Tier 4 districts.
- **Property wealth driving “adequacy” gains:** In many communities, increases in adequacy levels are the result of a number of factors including rising local property values, further deepening reliance on property taxes to fund schools.
- **Costs outpacing available resources:** District expenditures for contracts, transportation, food service, and special education continue to rise faster than available funding, putting additional strain on local budgets. These escalating cost pressures impact all districts, regardless of their adequacy level.
- **Severe underfunding of MCATs:** Mandated categorical grants remain significantly underfunded, with an estimated **\$761 million needed to reach full funding in FY27**.
- **Unfunded mandates shifting the burden locally:** Shortfalls in MCAT reimbursements leave districts covering millions in costs the state fails to reimburse, turning state obligations into local property tax burdens. **NEW UNFUNDED MANDATES: HB4416 (Unemployment Insurance) adds cost and complexity with no additional resources.**
- **FY27 Federal Uncertainty:** The recently released FY27 budget proposal includes a \$6.5 billion cut to K-12 education programs.



# Hot Bills:

- HB4416 - UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE FOR ESPS
- HB5507 - FOOD REFORM - STUDENT HEALTH
- HB4379 - ADULT CHANGING STATION
- SB4062 - IMPACT FEES
- SB3735 - AI STUDENT TECH RIGHTS & BIOMETRIC INFO
- SB2914 - NOTICE TO REMEDY
- HB4375 - INTERFUND TRANSFER
- HB4535 - E-LEARNING DAYS ELECTIONS



# HB4416 (EVANS) / SB3286 (VILLIVALAM)

## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE FOR ESPS

- HB 4416 would make educational support personnel eligible for unemployment benefits during scheduled school breaks longer than 1 week (winter and summer breaks) beginning June 1, 2026.
- Heard in Labor Committee on 3/25
- Continue to share our opposition and our estimated cost of **\$452 million** with Legislators
- Met with House New Dems Caucus 3/31

**Meeting scheduled for 4/15**

# HB4416 (EVANS) / SB3286 (VILLIVALAM)

## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE FOR ESPS

- Thank you for contacting your legislators!!!
- Continue engaging your House Reps.
- Talking points can be found on the members-only page of our website.



### OPPOSE HB 4416 (Evans)/SB 3286 (Villivalam) Unemployment Insurance

HB 4416 would make educational support personnel — including paraprofessionals, custodians, bus drivers, and food service staff — eligible for unemployment benefits during scheduled school breaks beginning June 1, 2026. Education support professionals are valued and essential members of our school communities. However, this proposal creates significant fiscal and operational concerns for districts statewide:

#### Cost Concerns:

- Data from ~25% of Illinois school districts ≈ \$7 million per week in unemployment benefit costs.
  - Estimated statewide impact (excluding CPS) ≈ \$28 million per week.
  - Estimated annual cost (9-week summer) ≈ \$252 million per year.
- CPS ≈ \$200+ million annually

**TOTAL ≈ \$452 MILLION ANNUALLY**

#### Unfunded Mandate

- Expands unemployment eligibility without state funding.
- Increases district unemployment insurance costs and contribution rates.
- Shifts financial responsibility to local property taxpayers.
- Diverts limited dollars from classrooms and student services.

#### Districts are already managing:

- Inflation and rising operational costs.
- Proration of Mandated Categoricals (MCATs) especially regular and special education transportation.
- Staffing shortages

This permanent expansion of unemployment benefits creates a significant and ongoing unfunded mandate and will result in financial volatility, making responsible multi-year budgeting more difficult for school districts.

#### Loss of Local Control:

School districts vary widely in:

- Size and staffing models
- School calendars
- Collective bargaining agreements

A statewide mandate removes local flexibility to structure employment agreements based on community needs.

#### Why This Matters for Students:

Every new mandate without funding results in:

- Increased pressure on property taxpayers
- Reduced classroom resources
- Fewer program investments
- Less financial flexibility during emergencies

Well-intended policy should not unintentionally reduce support for students.

# HB5507 (HARPER)

## FOOD REFORM - STUDENT HEALTH

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- School districts are required to begin phasing out "ultraprocessed foods of concern" and "restricted school foods" by July 1, 2029, with a complete prohibition on vendors offering these foods to schools by July 1, 2032
- Directs the DPH to define and regularly update what foods are restricted based on scientific evidence, and to oversee implementation with training and guidance for schools
- Requires annual reporting and transparency from food vendors and the State on what foods are being sold in schools and progress toward reducing unhealthy options.
- Specifies key exclusions, including that alcoholic beverages are not considered ultraprocessed foods under the Act.

# HB4379 (BRIEL)

## **ADULT CHANGING STATIONS**

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- Expands adult changing station requirements to all public buildings and mandates certain new or renovated buildings include at least one powered, ADA-compliant adult changing table in a public gender-neutral restroom.
- Amendment coming with the following provisions:
  - Buildings constructed on or after January 1, 2029, will not include retrofitting of existing structures.
  - Will clarify that the adult changing stations can be installed in a handicap stall.

# SB4062 (CASTRO)

## IMPACT FEES

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- Governor's BUILD Illinois Initiative
- Makes the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) responsible for developing a Statewide formula for determining impact fees. Charges for a study to be conducted to identify specific factors to be included.
- **Main concern:** implementation of a statewide one-size-fits-all formula.
  - Illinois school districts operate in different regional settings (rural, suburban, urban) with varying land use, enrollment trends, and capital needs.
  - Long-standing TIF challenges that impact schools financially
- Submitting our feedback to the Governor's office this afternoon.

# SB3735 (MARTWICK)

## STUDENT TECH RIGHTS & BIOMETRIC INFO

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- Subject Matter Hearing
- The bill provides broad rights for students and parents to opt out of educational technologies while requiring school districts to provide a “comparable analog version.”
  - “Comparable analog version” requirement creates implementation and curriculum challenges
  - Potential increase in costs for materials, staffing, administration, and compliance
  - Adds new administrative burdens for opt-out tracking and vendor oversight
  - Raises questions regarding conflicts with federal/state assessment requirements
  - Biometric restrictions may impact assistive technology for students with disabilities
  - Could disrupt existing district technology investments and systems

**Hearing scheduled this afternoon**

# SB3735 (MARTWICK)

## STUDENT TECH RIGHTS & BIOMETRIC INFO

- ED-RED, IASA, IASBO, LEND/SCOPE/IHSDO filed joint written testimony
- Posted on the members-only section of the ED-RED website

Chair Castro, Subcommittee Chair Cunningham, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Illinois school districts and school leaders, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony regarding the proposed Student Educational Technologies Rights Act (SB 3735).

We appreciate the intent of this legislation to address important issues related to student privacy, the appropriate use of technology, and increased transparency for families. These are priorities that school district leaders share and have been actively working to address in partnership with parents and communities as technology becomes more integrated into education.

As we review the proposal from a district leadership and operational perspective, we would offer several considerations and questions regarding implementation, cost, and alignment with existing legal and educational frameworks.

The bill provides broad rights for students and parents to opt out of educational technologies while requiring school districts to provide a “comparable analog version.” From an operational standpoint, this raises important questions about how districts are expected to define and ensure parallel experiences across digital and non-digital formats. It is unclear what standards or guidance will be provided to ensure consistency across districts, particularly in situations where a comparable analog version may not exist or may not provide the same level of access or engagement. This requirement appears to necessitate the maintenance of parallel instructional systems, which may introduce complexity in curriculum alignment, resource allocation, and consistency of student experience.

From a fiscal perspective, we are concerned about the potential cost implications associated with these requirements. The proposal appears likely to increase expenditures related to printed instructional materials, supplemental resources, administrative oversight, and legal compliance. At the same time, these costs would be driven by individual opt-out decisions that may fluctuate over time, making them difficult to predict and incorporate into responsible budget planning.

The proposal also introduces new administrative responsibilities related to tracking student opt-outs, managing data-related requests, and overseeing vendor compliance. These requirements raise questions about what systems or processes are anticipated to support districts in meeting these expectations, as well as what level of documentation will be required to demonstrate compliance. As written, the bill appears to expand administrative responsibilities at a time when many districts are already operating with limited capacity.

We would appreciate clarification regarding how this proposal aligns with federal requirements. In particular, we have questions regarding how districts should navigate situations in which opt-out provisions may conflict with federally required activities, such as statewide assessments administered to meet accountability expectations. Clear guidance in this area will be essential to ensure districts are not placed in a position of conflicting compliance obligations.

# SB2914 (CAPPEL)

## **NOTICE TO REMEDY**

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We have been negotiating this bill throughout session. The unions began with the desire to:

- Make NTR's grievable in front of a third party (hearing officers)
- Remove notices from personnel files 4 years from the date of issuance.

School Management Offered:

- Allow an employee to request removal of the NTR from their personnel file after five years at the discretion of the school district.
- Provides the employee an opportunity to respond both in writing and in-person prior to the board's formal issuance of the warning.
- Allows the employee to directly speak with the board prior to the formal vote on an NTR (in closed session) and to be represented by a bargaining unit representative during the board meeting.

**Meeting scheduled for 4/13**

## HB4375 (HOFFMAN)

# INTERFUND TRANSFERS

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- The bill passed out of the House floor: 109-00

## HB4535 (HIRSCHAUER)

# E-LEARNING DAYS - ELECTIONS

- The bill passed out of the House floor: *81-25-000*
- Senator Villivalam to carry it in the Senate!

***On to the Senate!***

# Upcoming Event:

- **June Member Meeting:**
  - Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup> @ 1:30 pm at Maine 207
- **ED-RED & Lake ROE Mini-Summit:**
  - Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup> @ 8 am at Lake ROE Campus
  - **REGISTRATION OPENS MONDAY!**



# Adjournment

