



# EVIDENCE BASED FUNDING

## WHY IT MATTERS TO CHICAGO PARENTS

### WHAT IS EVIDENCE-BASED FUNDING (EBF) AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

On August 31, 2017, Illinois replaced one of the most *inequitable* K-12 public education funding formulas in the country with the “Evidence-Based Funding for Student Success Act,” or “EBF.”

Chicago Public Schools (CPS) funding primarily comes from local and state sources, with state funding accounting for about 30% of CPS’s budget. **Since EBF came into existence, CPS has received nearly \$300 million in additional state funding.**

EBF is considered to be a “best practice” in school funding for numerous reasons — key among them is that the formula accounts for the cost of evidence-based educational practices.<sup>1</sup>

The formula increases funding for districts by putting more dollars into special education, English language learners, and low-income households to help ensure resources reach districts serving students with the greatest needs.

The amount of state funding that goes toward EBF is determined annually by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), the Governor, and the Illinois General Assembly. **When Illinois created EBF, the State promised that all school districts would be fully funded by 2027. The formula has improved funding at CPS since 2017, but the annual amount of additional funding for EBF needs to be substantially increased if Springfield intends to keep its promise.**

<sup>1</sup> [The Center for Tax and Budget Accountability \(CTBA\). \(2023\). Educating Illinois: A Look at the Evidence-Based Funding](#)

## EBF & FULLY FUNDING YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION

CPS is still about \$1.4 billion short of being fully funded by the State. That is because the State is only funding the formula at the minimum level of \$350 million annually.

If the state keeps funding EBF at the \$350 million minimum, it will take until 2038 for CPS to get to full funding. That's 20 years after evidence-based funding was established and more than a decade after the state deadline. **This means that another generation of CPS students will not experience the benefits of a fully funded school.**

If the state moved to providing at least \$550 million in new funding annually, CPS would get to full funding by 2031 — just four years after the state deadline.

## CPS STUDENT FUNDING GAP

100%  
FULLY FUNDED OR \$16,818 PER STUDENT

25%  
GAP OR \$4,271 PER STUDENT

75%  
IS THE CURRENT CPS FUNDING RATE  
FROM STATE AND LOCAL SOURCES OR  
\$12,547 PER STUDENT

## KEY TERMS

**ADEQUACY TARGET.** The amount of resources a district needs to operate based on the Evidence-Based Funding formula. The adequacy target is based on 34 inputs such as class size, the student population a district serves, number of core teachers, etc and changes year to year.

**EVIDENCE BASED FUNDING (EBF).** Considered the “best practice” in school funding. This funding approach accounts for the cost of research-backed education practices that enhance student achievement over time. The formula directs resources to districts serving students with the greatest need.

**EQUITABLE FUNDING.** When districts/schools receive funding based on their unique student needs to provide a high-quality education.

**FUNDING ADEQUACY.** Usually presented as a percentage, this shows how far along a district is in meeting its adequacy target.

**FULL FUNDING.** Federal funding makes up 10% of the funding a district receives. State and local resources account for the remaining 90% of funding. Under the Evidence-Based Funding Formula, the state covers the difference between existing state and local resources and the amount of resources a district needs to operate.

**PER-PUPIL FUNDING.** the amount a district/school spends per student.

## WHAT HAS CPS DONE WITH ADDITIONAL EBF FUNDING?

CPS is using the new funding from the EBF formula to better serve its students. This includes investments in areas that are proven to improve student outcomes, namely:

- High-quality instruction and curriculum for all students;
- Increased funding for diverse learners;
- Reduced class sizes;
- Expanded teacher professional development;
- Social-emotional learning and academic supports for students most in need; and
- Increased access to arts, dual-language instruction/programs, pre-k, and more special classes and programs.

**IF THE STATE KEEPS FUNDING EBF AT THE \$350 MILLION MINIMUM, ANOTHER GENERATION OF CPS STUDENTS WILL NOT EXPERIENCE THE BENEFITS OF A FULLY FUNDED SCHOOL.**

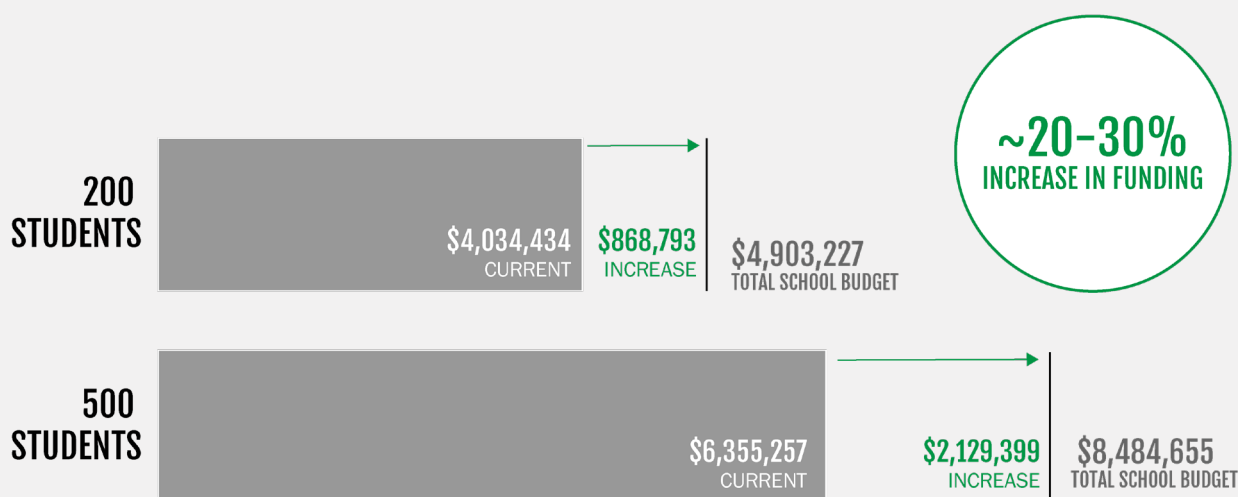
## WHAT COULD YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL DO WITH ADDITIONAL EBF FUNDING?

Fully funding CPS would result in an increase of almost \$4,300 per student. This increase could drastically change the way students experience education in CPS and allow every school – regardless of zip code – to offer a full menu of academic courses, social-emotional supports, and extracurricular activities.

With this new funding, all CPS schools could ensure every student receives five-days-a-week of art, music, and foreign language classes, as well as hire a full-time librarian.

## NEW FUNDING BY SCHOOL SIZE

A fully-funded EBF will dramatically increase funding received by CPS schools



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