



Fulfilling the Promise of
Public Education In Illinois

AN ADVOCACY FRAMEWORK



Vision 2030 provides
a **blueprint** to enhance public education
through **future-focused learning**
with **shared accountability**
and **predictable funding**

AGENDA

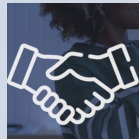
01 Background



02 Future Focused Learning



03 Shared Accountability



04 Predictable Funding



05 Take Action



01

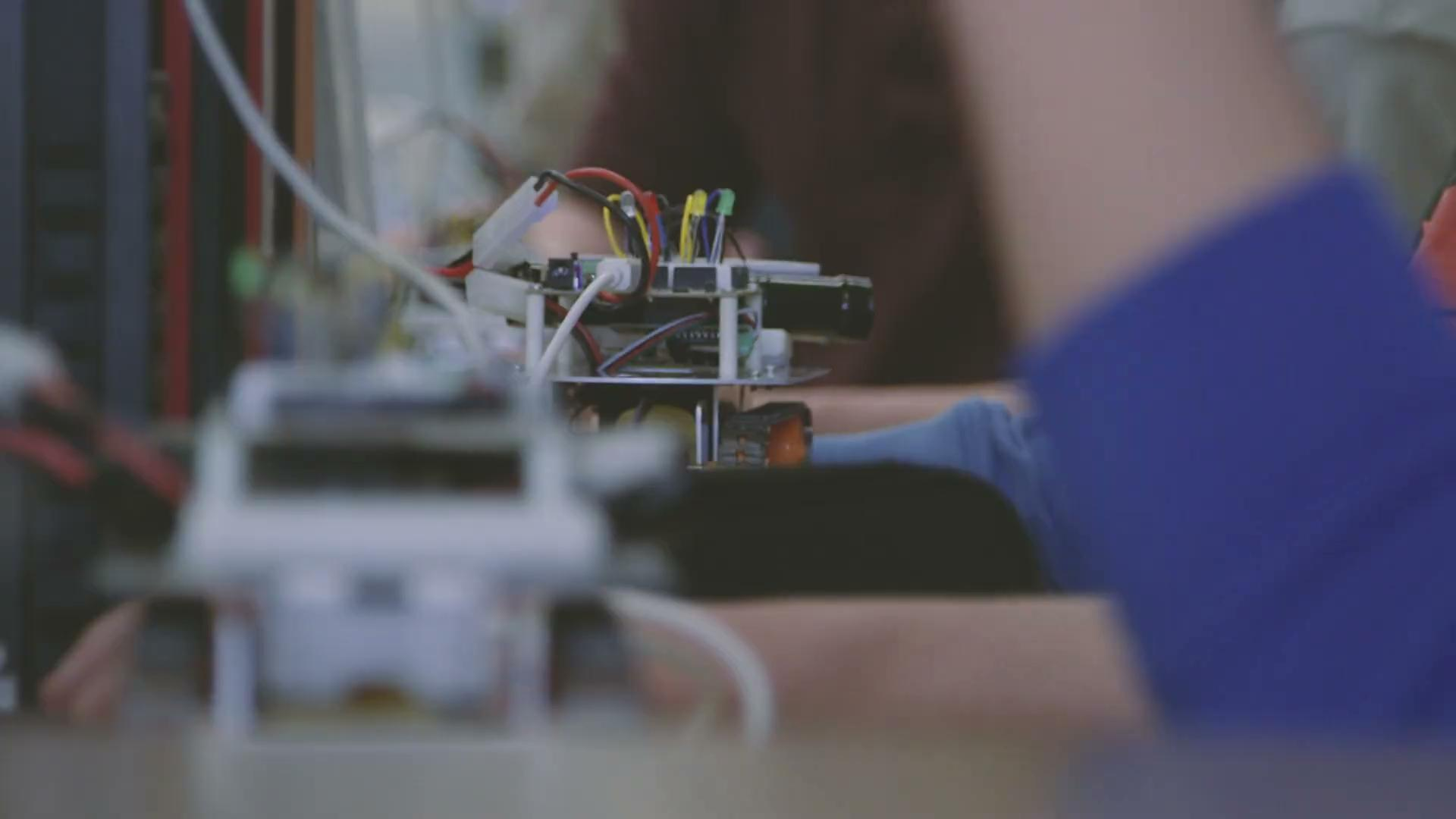


Background



The Association
of Illinois Rural
and Small Schools





Building on the Work of Vision 2020

Vision 2020 Goals and Outcomes



- Evidence Based Funding (EBF)
- Teacher Recruitment
- College and Career Readiness
- Illinois Balanced Accountability System

EBF has increased State funding from \$5.9 billion in 2017 to \$8.28 billion in 2024

Call to Action

Goal: Grassroot support for Vision 2030 through local Board Resolutions across Illinois

- 90% of Boards in Illinois Supported Vision 2020
- Board Resolutions were critical in communicating to legislators the unified support for the Goals of Vision 2020
- School districts across Illinois are being asked to express support for the goals and priorities of Vision 2030 by passing a resolution at a public meeting.



Sample Resolution in Support of Illinois Vision 2030

Please help fulfill the promise of public education in Illinois by placing the below resolution in support of Vision 2030 on the agenda for action at a public meeting of your board of education in December 2024/January 2025. Sample talking points for the superintendent, board president, or policy committee chair are available to introduce the resolution supporting Illinois Vision 2030.

Illinois Vision 2030

WHEREAS, public education plays a defining role in ensuring equal opportunity for children in Illinois and throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, it is our collective duty to ensure that every student, regardless of demographic or geographic identity, has equal access to a quality, public education; and

WHEREAS, we believe that strides need to be proactively made to face challenges and continually improve our public education system; and

WHEREAS, there have been three areas of prioritization identified as integral in improving our public education system: Future-Focused Learning, Shared Accountability, and Predictable Funding; and

WHEREAS, Future-Focused Learning should address: promoting future-driven skills that allow for more college and career exploration; enhancing student safety and well-being; attracting and retaining a high quality and diverse educator pipeline; and promoting curriculum and instructional flexibility to meet the unique needs of local communities; and

WHEREAS, Shared Accountability should address: reforming the Illinois assessment system to be a timely and useful measure of student proficiency and growth over time; reforming the current accountability system to provide local flexibility for identifying

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at the _____ Board of Education
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(S) in supporting the Vision 2030 education

_____ Board of Education urges
e the necessary legislative changes to implement
pillars of education improvement as contained in

_____, Board President

_____, Board Secretary

02



Future-Focused Learning



Future Focused Learning

Reshaping our schools and classrooms and redefining student success to reflect and prepare students for all the different ways that the world and economy continue to change.

1

Promote future-driven skills that allow for more college and career exploration

2

Enhance student safety and well-being

3

Attract and retain a high quality and diverse educator pipeline

4

Promote curriculum and instructional flexibility to meet the unique needs of local communities

Future Focused Learning: Ideals

Resources for Safe Buildings

Students learn best, and educators teach most effectively, when they feel safe and connected to one another and to their communities

Emerging Career Fields

We want to engage students in thinking about their pathways to college and career sooner—as early as elementary school (grades K-5) - while having opportunities for vocational training and college-level courses while still in high school

Consider Mandates

We must encourage and preserve time and financial resources for local curriculum innovation and programming by allowing local educators and school boards to make opt-in decisions to best meet the needs of students in our communities

Excellent Educators

Opportunities to develop new approaches to attract and retain excellent educators, encourage future career educators, provide innovative opportunities for educators to grow, while filling needs in special education, math and science, and bilingual education

Future Focused Learning: Policy

Promote future-driven skills that allow for more college and career exploration, flexible pathways, and early college opportunities

Attract and retain a high quality and diverse educator pipeline and an improved professional experience

Enhance student safety and well-being in quality facilities that are conducive to learning and are safe for all students and personnel

Promote curriculum and instructional flexibility to meet the unique needs of local communities

03



Shared Accountability



Shared Accountability

Thinking beyond annual standardized tests to more fairly and effectively measure student success by considering both growth and proficiency over time.



1

Reform the Illinois assessment system to be a timely and useful measure of student proficiency and growth over time



2

Reform the current accountability system to provide local flexibility for identifying indicators that create a more holistic view of student success



3

Reform the mandate process to ensure implementation procedures that promote flexibility and local decision making

Shared Accountability: Ideals

Growth and Proficiency

Academic progress does not always happen in a linear manner—both growth and proficiency should be measured over time within and across grade levels

Meaningful Assessments

Identifying and considering all the things that matter to a student's success in the elementary grades, early indicators of college and career readiness in middle school & keep students on-track toward high school graduation and a college/career pathway

Real Time Data

Timely insights from benchmark assessments—even if drawn from unofficial data—can be a powerful tool to inform teaching strategies and academic interventions at both classroom and individual student levels

School Ratings

Should be established based on clear performance thresholds rather than rankings that can pit schools within the same district against one another - with a focus on publicly recognizing all schools that achieve high levels of student achievement at or above grade-level

Shared Accountability: Policy

Reform the Illinois assessment system to be a timely and useful measure of student proficiency and growth over time

Reform the current accountability system to provide local flexibility for identifying indicators that create a more holistic view of student success

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04



Predictable Funding

Predictable Funding

Providing excellent education resources and future-focused learning opportunities for student success requires long-term predictable and sustainable funding.

1

Protect the integrity and funding of the evidence-based funding formula

2

Strengthen public education through pension reforms

3

Establish equitable statewide funding sources for capital and safety needs

4

Enhance financial flexibility for all school districts

Predictable Funding: Ideals

Fund EBF

The State must consistently fulfill its promise of allocating a minimum of \$350 million in annual Evidence-Based Funding

Life Safety Projects

Health and life safety projects should not be subject to limitation by property tax caps or require ISBE approval and rethink the current levy structure to address these urgent needs without impacting educational funding

Pension Reform (Tier 2)

Changes to the current pension model must occur to attract and retain high-quality staff to educate our students, but it is not effective or realistic to divert local school district resources away from schools and students to shoulder this responsibility

School Facility Sales Tax

All school districts deserve this option—and should have the flexibility to use these dollars not just for capital projects, but also to support school safety and mental health initiatives (this is already available to half of the school districts in the State)

Predictable Funding: Policy

Protect the integrity and funding of the evidence-based funding formula at the annual statutory minimum of \$350 million

Establish equitable funding sources for capital and safety needs with a statewide solution to provide for all districts

Strengthen public education through pension reforms including a Tier II pension model that attracts and retains high-quality professionals

Enhance financial flexibility for all school districts to allow for maximum flexibility at the local level to educate students

05



Take Action



The Association
of Illinois Rural
and Small Schools



Vision 2030
Centers Around

**Keeping
students
safe**

**Keeping
high-quality
educators
in front of
students**

**Enhancing
post-secondary
success**

**Improving
measurement
of what is
working**

Vision 2030

Priorities for the Future

01



Future Focused
Learning

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To learn more and share your support please visit:

IllinoisVision2030.com

Questions?