
Illinois PTA Action Alert

Dear PTA Advocate,

Now more than ever, the children of Illinois need **YOU!** Before the 96th General Assembly recessed on May 31, they adopted a “doomsday budget.” Almost all appropriation bills that were adopted fund essential services at 50%--not nearly enough to meet the needs of our citizens. The F/Y 2010 budget for the State Board of Education will be used to fund General State Aid and Mandated Categoricals. Services too numerous to mention that support education at all levels have also faced severe cuts. The end result: children and families in Illinois that are most vulnerable will face the greatest hardships.

Ask your School Superintendent and School Board how this budget will impact **YOUR** district.

Now is the time to call your Representative in the Illinois House of Representatives and ask him/her to support HB 174, as amended by the Illinois Senate. This bill is critical to the creation of an adequate, equitable, sustainable funding source for Illinois' schools, and other essential services. You can find your Representative's phone number on the Illinois PTA website if you don't already have it handy. www.illinoispta.org .

Talking Points: HB174, as amended by the Senate, will

- Provide property tax relief for homeowners;
- Increase the Earned Income Tax Credit to offset any tax increase of the working poor;
- Expand the sales tax to include services already taxed by states around us;
- Increase the Illinois corporate income tax rate from 4.8% to 5%;
- Increase the Illinois personal income tax rate from 3% to 5%; and
- Provide new revenue to K-16 education, along with education reforms including increase accountability, enhanced science, technology and math programs, and teacher mentoring.

Let your Representative know that, as a PTA member, you expect support of this bill so that we can ensure the future of every child in every public school in Illinois. We can accept nothing less!

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