

— From the Department of Government Relations —

Chicago Voucher Program SB 2494 Sen. Meeks/Rep. Joyce

OPPOSE

Analysis

The bill creates the Illinois School Choice Program which provides that any student enrolled in a Chicago Public School that is performing in the lowest 10% shall be eligible to receive a voucher equal to the foundation level per pupil which is \$6119. That voucher can be redeemed at any parochial or private school in the City of Chicago. The program will be administered by the State Board of Education. Additionally, the bill creates the School Choice Fund as a special fund in the State treasury.

Rationale for Opposition

\$100 million GSA Cut for Suburban & Downstate Schools

The IEA opposes the diversion of public funds to any private school or any other private educational institution. This bill will further erode state support of an already underfunded public education system where a majority of school districts in the state face financial difficulty, and many public schools are not receiving the resources needed to provide a quality public education.

This bill would allow 22,000 students at 49 Chicago schools a state voucher. This will result in an estimated loss of \$100 million to state support for suburban and downstate schools.

Opponents

- **Illinois Education Association**
- **IFT & CTU**
- **AFL-CIO, AFSCME, Ed Red, IASA, IASB, IASBO, IPA, LEND, LUDA, Laborers, SCOPE, HSDO**