

FACT SHEET

— From the Department of Government Relations —

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

Analysis

The bill creates a permanent voucher program for Chicago called the Illinois School Choice Program. The program provides a voucher to any student enrolled in a Chicago Public School that is performing in the lowest 10% or an overcrowded school that has a percentage of low-income students of 70%.

The voucher is equal to the foundation level per pupil at \$1650 plus the poverty grant supplement of \$2075 for a total voucher equal to \$3725. 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

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.

Opponents

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