

Illinois Education Association's Position Statement Unfunded Mandates

IEA Guiding Principles:

- Regarding the issue of mandates that have been imposed upon school districts, the Illinois Education Association supports the full funding of all statutory and regulatory mandates currently in place. Therefore, the IEA does not support any legislation which could systematically eliminate many of the programs that already exist in public schools across the state. Eliminating mandates in order to save money for local school districts is not an acceptable alternative to fully funding public education in the state of Illinois.
- The IEA believes a widespread elimination of school mandates could have serious, unintended consequences for students and school employees. The IEA is committed to its continued effort of working toward a responsible and fair funding formula for all the school children of Illinois. The IEA does not believe that a part of that solution should be an undefined elimination of mandated services for public school students.
- The IEA supports the formation of a School Mandates subcommittee and the forthcoming discussion it would create surrounding the subject of school mandates. The subcommittee should be responsible for examining mandates that currently exist in statute but are not meeting the needs or expectations of school districts and public school students.
- The IEA opposes any future mandates which do not have a clear and specific source of revenue. Most of the school mandates in Illinois are not currently funded. Therefore, the creation of more such mandates should not be considered a responsible course of action.