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May 24, 2007



Colleagues:

We are in the home stretch of our *Invest in Excellence* campaign. Though I know this is a difficult time of year for school employees to participate in political action, **I must ask you to remain engaged in the campaign.**

You might have read that Speaker Madigan has announced there is insufficient support in his caucus for a tax increase for education at this time.

Our interpretation is that the speaker is telling those of us who care about fixing funding that we need to convince the members of the House, both Republicans and Democrats, that we expect action.

In other words, the door is not closed on a solution this year, but we had better knock louder!

Working with IEA staff and leaders, a plan has been developed to try to move the legislature to develop a veto-proof majority in both houses to pass legislation addressing the pressing needs of schools statewide.

Please contact your legislators this weekend!

Our lobbyists have been told that while faxes and e-mails are helpful, **conversation, whether in person or by phone, has the most impact on how a legislator will vote.**

Your state senators and representatives will be home for the weekend. It is crucial that as many IEA members as possible make contact and deliver this message in a friendly but firm tone:

Hello. I'm (your name), I teach/work at (school) and I'm a member of IEA.

- The time is now to fix school funding.
- It is crucial that you support a tax increase that will allow every student to have a high quality education.
- IEA members will be furious if the legislature adjourns without fixing school funding.

HOW AM I DOING?

Please rate this electronic correspondence.

Very Helpful
Helpful

Adequate
Needs Improvement

Invest In Excellence

Great Public Schools for Every Community



Thanks for your support.

Here are some ideas on how you can help get the legislature to do the right thing:

- 1. Make a free call to your legislator at their Springfield office through the A+ Illinois hotline.** Call 1-800-651-0315 and deliver the message stated above. The number will be in service until May 31. Please encourage your colleagues to call as well.

Contact district offices today for a weekend appointment: Call your [senator](#) and [representative](#) at their district office and ask to meet with them. Set up a time; bring a small group of colleagues if possible.

If a meeting isn't possible, ask to speak directly to the legislator. If he/she is unavailable, either find out when they will be available or leave a message asking for a call back. Be sure to say you are an IEA member.

- 2. Approach lawmakers at Memorial Day events:** Legislators will likely be found at any patriotic events, such as parades or festivals occurring in their home districts. If you see your senator or representative anywhere, ask to speak to them and deliver the message stated above.

Finally, IEA is running a heavy schedule of radio ads this weekend on stations statewide. The new IEA radio spot can be heard [here](#).

Friends, this plan can succeed, but only if you and your colleagues are involved. Please make the call right now.

Thank you for all you do.

Ken

>> **Contact**

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