



- Illinois school districts face some of the most unequal funding in the nation. Over 83% of school districts in IL are poorly funded and more than 1.7 million students attend those underfunded schools. IL currently ranks near the bottom, 45th out of 50 states for equitable school funding.
- There are 3 main sources of school funding in Illinois: federal, state, and local. Overall, 60% of all school funding comes from property taxes. Dependence on local tax money builds inequality into school funding. Districts with more property wealth receive more school funding. Districts with less property wealth get less.
- Racial inequality is baked into property tax based school funding. Through a practice called 'redlining' homes in racially mixed neighborhoods and majority black and brown neighborhoods were devalued compared to majority white neighborhoods and denied loans. This practice was legally ended in 1968, but research shows that racist housing practices continue today.
- Before 2017, Illinois funding of local school districts was based on a theory that the state should provide equally for the basic educational needs of each child. This was carried out through a state funding formula that relied on various individual funding streams, largely dependent on the local property wealth within each school district and based on its student enrollment. The outcome of this funding model was unequal, disproportionately underfunding low income, black and brown students.
- To fix this, education justice activists and legislators passed the [Evidence Based Funding for Student Success Act](#) in 2017. Evidence Based Funding (EBF) is designed to prioritize the distribution of state funding to students with the most need and to school districts with the lowest local funding. An 'evidence-based' formula sets the amount for fully funded schools, based on the needs of students and allocates resources based on research-based best practices in education.
- EBF legislation commits the state of Illinois to fully fund schools by 2027. Unfortunately, the EBF is currently funded at its minimum allowable amount. As of 2022, the Illinois State Board of Education found the EBF was underfunded by some \$4.8 billion and would not reach full funding until 2043. *That means nearly two generations of IL public school students will not receive adequately funded public education.*
- It's not too late, there is still time to demand all public school students in Illinois receive a fully funded education. **Contact [PEER Illinois](#) at naoma@ilraiseyourhand.org, learn how to educate your community and your elected representatives on your school district's needs and Illinois' responsibility to fully fund the EBF. In addition, take the [PEER IL Survey](#) and tell us what your school districts need. Thank you!**