

WE DEMAND

FAIR FUNDING

FOR OUR FUTURE

The Illinois Federation of Teachers represents 103,000 members statewide — K-12 educators, paraprofessionals and school support staff, higher education faculty and staff, and state employees.

Across every sector, the problem is the same and the answer is clear: Illinois needs new, sustainable revenue from the ultra-wealthy and corporations to keep our public institutions strong.

The future well-being of our neighbors, communities, and state depends on our ability to fund and support the core pillars that sustain our democracy — quality education from kindergarten through college, strong public programs, and the American worker.

This year, the urgency is greater than ever. The federal government is starving blue states — cutting tax receipts, defunding public assets, and eliminating grants and programs that support working families. If Illinois is going to protect its people and fulfill its promise, we must raise the revenue ourselves. It must be our top priority.

K-12 EDUCATION

The Challenge

- › About three-quarters of Illinois students attend districts funded below adequacy.
- › It will take \$3 billion in additional annual investment to bring every district to 90% adequacy — the target set by the Evidence-Based Funding (EBF) law.
- › The average adequacy for underfunded districts has reached just 76.6% in FY 2026.

What Revenue Would Do

- › Prevent the program cuts many districts now face.
- › Provide smaller class sizes to promote learning and more support staff like nurses and social workers.
- › Allow districts to offer competitive pay and benefits to retain teachers and paraprofessionals.
- › Fulfill the EBF promise by 2027, ensuring every child — no matter their ZIP code — has access to a well-resourced school.

HIGHER EDUCATION

The Challenge

- › Illinois' higher-education system has been chronically underfunded, resulting in program and staff cuts and skyrocketing tuition that has driven students out of state.
- › Deferred maintenance and outdated facilities undermine student learning and safety.
- › Adjuncts and part-time faculty face low pay and unstable employment.

What Revenue Would Do

- › Repair and modernize campus infrastructure.
- › Restore programs and student services cut during past budget crises.
- › Keep tuition affordable and attract/retain talented faculty and staff.
- › Make Illinois' universities a destination of choice once again.

PUBLIC EMPLOYEES & STATE SERVICES

The Challenge

- › Illinois has one of the lowest ratios of state employees per capita in the nation.
- › Chronic understaffing delays vital services for families, seniors, and small businesses.
- › Years of underfunding threaten pension stability and public trust.

What Revenue Would Do

- › Rebuild the state workforce and restore timely, efficient services.
- › Protect retirement security for those who serve our state.
- › Strengthen community safety nets and essential public programs.

**BE BRAVE.
CHOOSE REVENUE.
INVEST IN ILLINOIS.**

Revenue isn't just about taxes — it's about what they make possible.

- › Smaller classes and thriving schools.
- › Affordable, high-quality higher education.
- › Safe, efficient public services.
- › Dignity for workers who keep Illinois running.



Illinois Federation of Teachers
A Union of Professionals

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