



PROPOSALS FOR MANDATORY CONSOLIDATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Two separate proposals calling for the mandatory consolidation of Illinois school districts are being debated in the Capitol. The Illinois Association of School Boards opposes both initiatives, and urges school board members and administrators to contact their legislators and the Governor.

GOVERNOR PAT QUINN'S CONSOLIDATION PROPOSAL

- Reduce the number of school districts in Illinois from 868 to 300
- Draw new school boundaries the same way as the General Assembly draws legislative district boundaries – based on the census
- School districts to each have a population of 30,000-35,000 people
- The Governor states that this consolidation proposal will save taxpayers \$100 million based on the elimination of school administrators' salaries
- A commission appointed by the Governor will establish the new school districts without input from local school district citizens or from the legislature

HB 1886 (RITA, D-BLUE ISLAND)

- Dissolves all school districts on July 1, 2012
- Abolishes all school boards on July 1, 2012
- Establishes county school districts
- Sets a date for a special election for each county to elect members of the new county school board
- Transfers all powers, duties, assets, property and employees from the former school boards to the newly created county school board

ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS POSITION

The Illinois Association of School Boards strongly opposes these proposals for mandatory school district consolidation. The IASB has clear positions, initiated and approved by the members of the IASB, which state that any school district reorganization must be approved by a majority vote of the districts affected and that no arbitrary pupil enrollment or geographical component be used to force consolidation. IASB Position Statements 7.01 and 7.02 can be reviewed at:

<http://www.iasb.com/govrel/positions.cfm>

ACTION REQUIRED

School board members are encouraged to contact their State Representative, State Senator, and the Office of the Governor and voice their opposition to these proposals. The following talking points may be used in discussions with your elected officials:

- Consolidation should be intended to facilitate educational improvement rather than changes in district organization based only on enrollment or geographical location
- Reorganization and consolidation should be initiated by local citizens and final approval should be determined by a vote of the citizens
- Local citizens, and those elected locally to govern the school district, must have the authority to make those decisions which affect the educational well-being of the students living within their community
- School district organization should reflect the community's interest and values and not be dictated arbitrarily from the State's central government
- Suggested cost-savings from school consolidation have not been proven
- Savings from eliminating a superintendent's salary will likely be negated by the increase in overall teachers' salaries after a consolidation
- Additional building and school construction costs will likely negate any administrative cost savings
- Stretching school districts boundaries to meet an arbitrary population figure will cause student transportation problems and increased costs in many areas
- Adjusting school districts by using the census could change school district boundaries every 10 years

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