



Support Predictable and Stable Funding for Illinois Schools Prioritize an Increase of \$295 Million in MCAT Funding for FY26

Support SB2655 (Sen. Meg Loughran Cappel)

SB2655 appropriates an additional and urgently needed \$295 Million to 3 MCATs, all of which support critical student services. SB2655 will help Illinois school districts provide essential and mandated transportation and special education services to students.

There are two significant state funding streams that support Illinois schools. Both are critical:

1) Evidence-Based Funding (EBF)

Enacted in 2016, the Evidence Based Funding formula has been a significant and positive step forward to ensure equitable and adequate school funding. The state has continued to meet its annual commitment to EBF funding at the statutory minimum of \$350 million. EBF is working and Illinois must continue to support it.

2) Mandated Categoricals (MCATs)

MCATs are funded separately outside of the EBF calculation. Three MCAT line items that support critical services for schools include: Reg. Transportation, Sp. Ed. Transportation, and Sp. Ed. private facility. Unfortunately, despite transportation costs rising, the State's support for these critical mandated student services continues to decline. This is one step towards full funding of MCATs.

MCAT Proration History

MCATS have continuously been prorated for the last 15 years.

	Regular Transp.	Sp. Ed. Transp.	Sp. Ed. Private Facility
SB2655	83%	84%	TBD*
Proposed FY26 Budget	71.0%	61.0%	TBD*
2025	78.9%	69.0%	78.0%
2020	84.5%	82.9%	79.6%
2015	72.1%	97.0%	97.0%
2010	100.0%	100.0%	99.0%

* Due to recent changes to how this line-item is distributed, the proration percentage is not yet available