

How to Navigate Running for School Board

Understanding the
Board Member's Role

September 23, 2026

School Board Elections



April 6, 2027



Upcoming Livestreams

09/23/2026

- **How to Navigate Running for School Board: Understanding the Board Member's Role**

10/07/2026

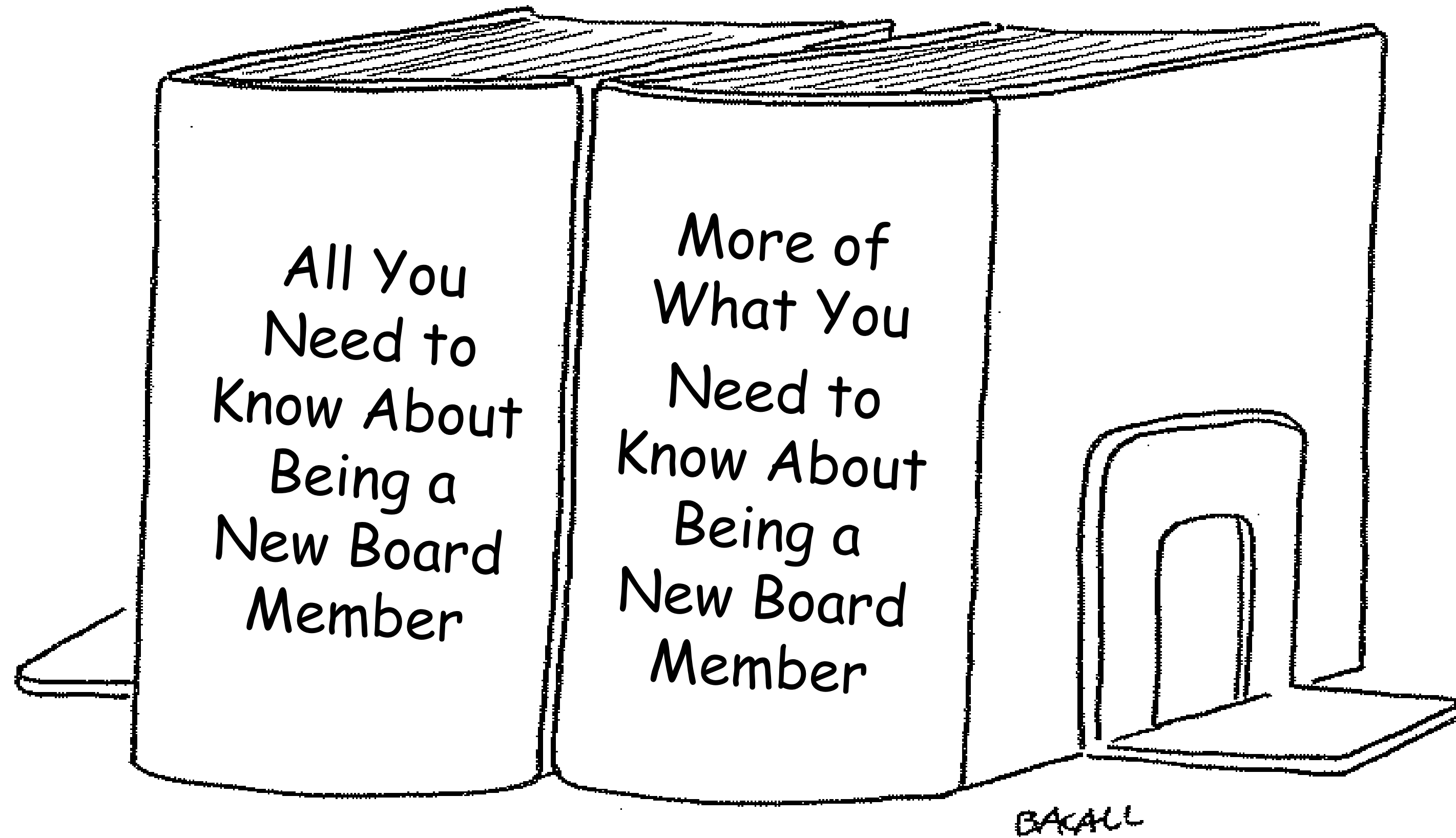
- **How to Navigate Running for School Board: Petition Circulation**

10/21/2026

- **How to Navigate Running for School Board: The Statement of Economic Interests**

11/04/2026

- **How to Navigate Running for School Board: Petition Filing**



Overview

The Big Picture

- Public Education in Illinois
- Illinois Association of School Boards

Governance Basics

- Mandatory Board Member Training
- Q & A





Education in the U.S: A Large, Complex System

- 49.3 million public school students
- 4.7 million private school students
- 3.8 million public school teachers
- 0.5 million private school teachers
- 99,200 public schools
- 13,318 public school districts

**Over
90,000
board
members**

Source: National Center for Education Statistics

Districts in Illinois

Elementary	367
High School	96
Unit Districts	387
Department of Juvenile Justice	1
Total	851

3,827 Schools



Source: Illinois Report Card state snapshot



District Size – Student Enrollment

- Smallest - 22
(Ohio CHSD 505)
- Largest outside of Chicago - 33,525
(Elgin U-46)
- Chicago - 323,047
(Chicago Public Schools District 299)

Source: Illinois Report Card 2025

Board Demographics

Newly elected in 2025	1,147 (20%)
Board members between the age of 18 - 29	0.6%
Board members between the age of 30 - 39	6.38%
Board members between the age of 40 – 59	56.32%
Board members over the age of 60	35.74%

Source: IASB Member Survey and IASB database



Illinois Public School Enrollment

Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 12

1,848,560 students

(approx. 91% of all Illinois school students)

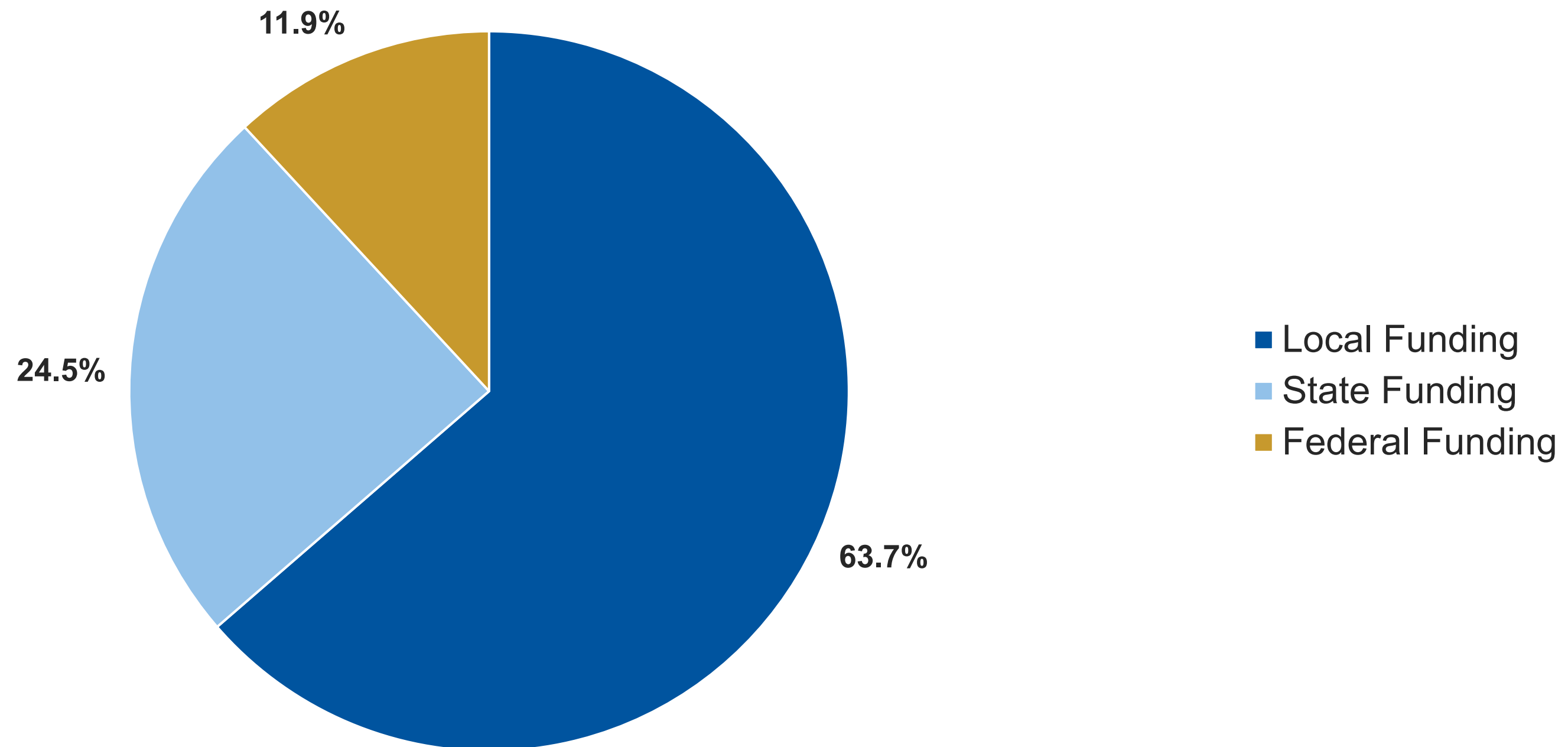
Source: Illinois Report Card 2025-2026

Ethnicity/Race

Demographic	2025
All	1,848,560
American Indian	4,558
Asian	105,669
Black	301,432
Hispanic	528,901
MENA	4,666
Pacific Islander	1,551
Two or More	83,710
White	818,073

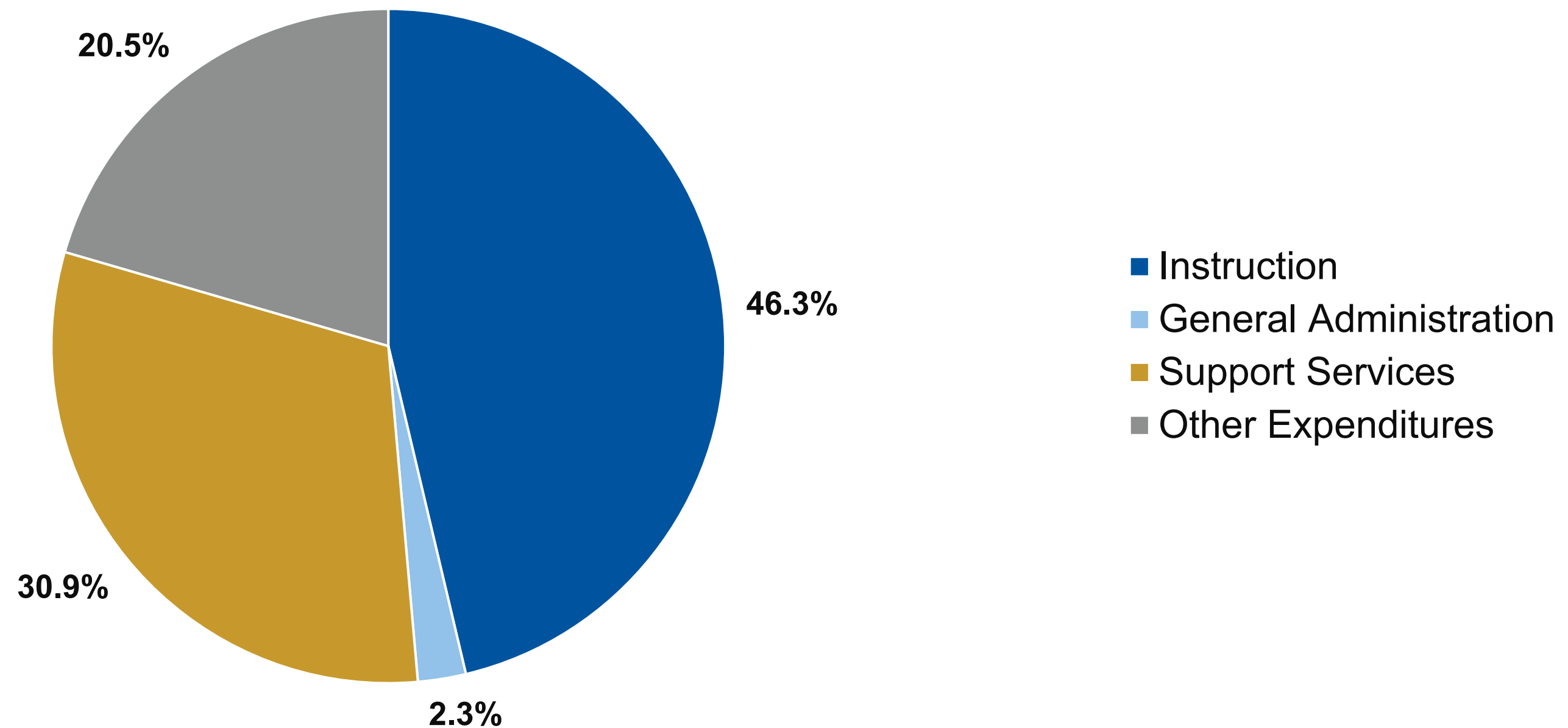
Source: Illinois Report Card 2025

Illinois School District Averages Revenue Percentages



Source: Illinois Report Card 2024

Illinois School District Averages Expenditure Percentages by Function



Source: Illinois Report Card 2024

Operating Expenditure/Pupil (FY2021)

District Type	Median Expenditure	Expenditure Range
Elementary	\$19,739	\$9,162 - \$46,900
High School	\$25,300	\$13,308 - \$71,723
Unit	\$20,605	\$10,125 - \$60,878

Source: FY2025 Annual Finance Reports



IASB Mission Statement

The mission of the Illinois Association of School Boards is to Light The Way for its members by developing their competence and confidence through a robust toolkit designed to build excellence in local school board governance, including:

- Premier training experiences;
- Networking opportunities for mutual support;
- Valuable benefits, pooled services, information, and expertise;
- Advocacy on behalf of public education; and
- A platform for a strong collective voice on common interests and concerns.

What Does a School Board Do?



How School Boards Work



The Role of the Board of Education
in the Community



What is the Board's Role?

Governance

Mission, Vision, Goals

Policy

Evaluate Superintendent



The Board's Role

- **Governs** the school district
- **What?** How much?
- **Vote**

The Superintendent's Role

- **Manages** the school district
- **How?** When? Where? Who?
- **Recommend and implement**



Foundational Principles of Effective Governance

The Board:

1. Clarifies District Purpose
2. Connects with the Community
3. Employs the Superintendent
4. Delegates Authority
5. Monitors Performance
6. Takes Responsibility for Itself



What Makes a Team Successful?





- Public body
- Communication, trust, purpose
- Everyone's contributions are important
- Govern as one unit



- Variety of backgrounds, experiences, passions
- Seven equal members
- No one individual has authority
- Board takes action at legally convened meetings



Mandatory Training

Open Meetings Act Training

- Must complete no later than **90 days** after taking the oath of office
- The law as it pertains to school board meetings and members.

Professional Development Leadership Training (PDLT) and Performance Evaluation Reform Act (PERA) training

Must complete the training within the **first year** of the board member's term

4 hours of training including:

- Education and labor law
- Financial oversight and accountability
- Fiduciary responsibilities
- Trauma-informed practices
- PERA training



Training for New Board Members

Online

- IASB Bundle
- Includes a course on roles and responsibilities

In-Person

- June and July
- Includes course on roles and responsibilities



www.iasb.com

- Resources and information
- Board candidates, new board members, veteran board members
- Elections, calendars, training, roles and responsibilities

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