



To Service and Strengthen our Regional Schools and Communities

Regional Office of Education #26
Hancock/McDonough Counties

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It's time for our local communities to take back the conversation about public education in Illinois. We believe in local control with state accountability. That's why we are excited to share with readers a new initiative called Vision 20/20. It's a blueprint for the future of public education that has been developed by Illinois educators from all regions of the state. We want to continue expanding opportunities for all students in McDonough County.

The goal of Vision 20/20 is summarized in its tagline: "Fulfilling the Promise of Public Education." Education is an investment in our children's future, our state's future, and our nation's future. It is our responsibility as educators to reflect upon the current state of education in Illinois and take action to create an education system that meets the needs of all students.

We, the McDonough County Superintendents of Schools and Boards of Education, endorse Vision 20/20 because we believe that this reform effort puts our students first.

Vision 20/20's policy platform is divided into four main pillars:

21st Century Learning – Our universities and businesses need graduates with critical thinking/problem solving skills, the ability to collaborate with others, and be effective communicators, which will lead to a vibrant local, state and national economy.

Highly Effective Educators – The single most important indicator of success is the quality of the classroom teacher. We need to attract, develop and retain the highest quality of teachers and leaders for our schools.

Shared Accountability – Local school boards accept the responsibility of continuous improvement while needing the autonomy to make decisions that are in the social and economic interest of McDonough County.

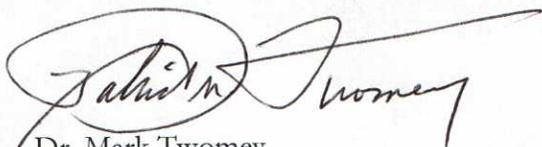
Equitable and Adequate Funding – The state has a responsibility to provide an adequate level of funding. Specifically, *what it actually costs* in order to offer instructional opportunities to all students so that they have the skills to thrive in the global economy.

How can you help the students of McDonough County? Visit the website at www.illinoisvision2020.org and sign the petition in support, follow the progress on Twitter at @ILVision2020, and contact our legislators. Changing the course of public education in Illinois can only happen with grassroots support and we are asking you to help us fulfill the promise of public education to more than 3,500 children in McDonough County and the more than 2 million schoolchildren in our state.

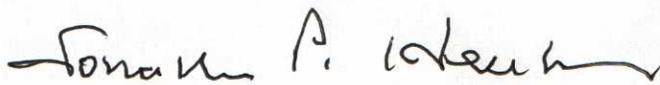
Sincerely,



John Meixner
Hancock/McDonough Regional Superintendent of Schools



Dr. Mark Twomey
Macomb Community Unit School District Superintendent



Dr. Jon Heerboth
West Prairie Community Unit School District Superintendent



Kathy Dinger
Bushnell-Prairie City Community Unit School District Superintendent