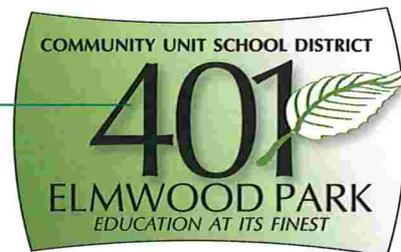


Elmwood Park C.U.S.D. #401



Nicolas D. Wade, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

August 15, 2017

Dear Students, Parents and Guardians, Community Members and District Employees,

With concerns over school funding happening throughout the state, estimates on the total funds Elmwood Park CUSD #401 would receive from the state between SB1, an evidence-based funding formula that takes into account 27 evolving variables, and Governor Bruce Rauner's amendatory veto, which has rewritten SB1 to bear a resemblance to past practices of funding inequity and remove Chicago Public Schools from eligibility, have been released.

Districts throughout the state received the estimates from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) where data points, supplied from the Governor's Office, from FY16 and FY17 were interchangeably used. This means the data used does not take into account evolving variables, and the reason for certain data points being used over others has not been fully realized or explained by ISBE or the Governor's Office. The estimates also take into consideration possible wealth that could be taxed by a school district, **regardless** of tax caps, TIFs, or other restrictions established by municipalities, counties, and/or the state. In short, the calculation for eligible funds received under the amendatory veto are based on how much a district could tax the community and businesses, even if the district is legally unable to do so.

This has led to an estimate from ISBE and the Governor's Office that Elmwood Park CUSD #401 would **lose** \$157,020 if changes under the Governor's amendatory veto took effect. That same estimate believes if SB1 was passed as is, the District would **receive** \$228,359. That is a \$385,379 difference between the two options before State policymakers, and the loss under the parameters of the amendatory veto would be compounded in the following years.

According to the estimate of the amendatory veto taking effect, the only other district in Illinois to receive **less** money than Elmwood Park CUSD #401 is Chicago Public Schools.

It is my hope the Governor's amendatory veto be overridden by the State legislature, or a compromise be reached between lawmakers and the Governor that realizes the worth of the evidence-based funding formula found in SB1. As lawmakers are deciding how best to vote and/or negotiate, it is recommended to contact your local legislators and state leaders about how their upcoming decision can impact Elmwood Park CUSD #401.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Wade'.

Dr. Nicolas D. Wade, Superintendent