

12/1/2014

108-R-14

A RESOLUTION

**Opposing passage of Senate Bill 16 –
Education Funding Reform Act of 2014**

WHEREAS, The 1970 Illinois Constitution States in Article X, Section 1 that the State has primary responsibility for financing public education in Illinois; and

WHEREAS, Local school districts have seen a 10% decline in State funding for education over the last 14 years; and

WHEREAS, Local school districts are responsible for bearing the costs of complying with over 140 unfunded State mandates; and

WHEREAS, Underfunding of existing grant programs has resulted in late and skipped payments to local school districts; and

WHEREAS, Evanston's public school Districts 202 and 65 are alternate grant funded schools, which receive only a relatively small portion of State funds for schools; and

WHEREAS, The bulk of funding for Evanston schools comes from property tax revenue; and

WHEREAS, The amount of funding schools may levy from property tax revenue is limited by tax caps set by the legislature; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 16 does nothing to increase overall State funding for public education in Illinois; and

WHEREAS, The funding changes proposed in Senate Bill 16 include the elimination of State funding for special education programs and services required by State and Federal law; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 16 would eliminate supplemental low-income grants for districts with high concentrations of poverty, including Districts 65 and 202; and

WHEREAS, approximately half of all Illinois school districts, including District 202 and District 65 would lose State funding under the formula proposed in Senate Bill 16; and

WHEREAS, The funding formula proposed in Senate Bill 16 would result in a loss of \$6.5 million per year for District 65 and \$2.2 million per year for District 202; and

WHEREAS, The cuts in State funding for Districts 65 and 202 that would result from passage of Senate Bill 16 would represent a loss of 80% of State funding for public schools in Evanston; and

WHEREAS, Districts 65 and 202 would be unable to make up for the loss in State funding through property taxes due to existing tax caps; and

WHEREAS, The loss of this funding would force Evanston's public schools to increase class sizes and make cuts to student services and staff; and

NOW BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EVANSTON, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS:

SECTION 1: The foregoing recitals are found as fact and incorporated herein by reference;

SECTION 2: The City of Evanston opposes Senate Bill 16 and urges the Illinois General Assembly to instead adopt legislation that provides adequate, equitable, transparent and accountable distribution of funds to all Illinois school districts.


Elizabeth B. Tisdahl, Mayor

Attest


Rodney Greene, City Clerk

Adopted: December 8, 2014