

IEA Talking Points – March 10, 2007

Why are you supporting this plan?

- The education plan proposed by Governor Blagojevich represents a tremendous step forward on the road to ensuring every child in Illinois has the opportunity to receive a high quality education.
- Our standard for any school funding plan has always been that the revenue stream must be predictable, sustainable and provide adequate funding to every school district, while harming no district. The governor's plan meets that standard.
- The economic future of Illinois hinges on the quality of education in our public schools. Governor Blagojevich believes, as we do, that Illinois needs to invest in excellence. We enthusiastically support this plan.
- We are pleased the governor's plan includes substantial increases for Illinois colleges and universities. The decision to invest in higher education will pay dividends for the schools and students, as well as for the communities the schools serve.
- The costs of providing special education have been crushing the finances of districts statewide. The governor deserves tremendous credit for recognizing that reimbursements to school districts for special education, which haven't changed in decades, must be significantly increased.
- The governor's spending priorities make good sense to us. For example, induction and mentoring programs for new teachers and administrators, along with smaller class sizes, would go long way toward helping districts retain and attract quality teachers and improving teaching and learning conditions.

What is your position on 750?

- The best school funding legislation is that which addresses the problems hurting kids throughout the state and is capable of passing the General Assembly and being signed into law. The governor's plan is that legislation.

Do you oppose 750?

- We are not against any bill that addresses the inequities that are hurting children throughout Illinois. The governor's plan not only addresses the inequities by providing more funding but stands the best chance of becoming law, so that plan is our focus.