

# Reflecting on a Historic Triumph

2017 Annual Report

FUND OUR  
SCHOOLS

Advance  
ILLINOIS

**10**  
YEARS

STOP  
TALKING

WE  
MATTER

Our Kids  
DESERVE  
funded  
schools.

**FAIR  
FUNDING**  
for Illinois  
**STUDENTS**  
in 2017  
#fixtheformula

learning education knowle  
skills progress advanta  
concept success job car  
thinking growth progress  
  
SAVE THE SCHOOLS  
FAIR FUNDING  
for Illinois  
STUDENT  
in 2017  
#fixtheformula

# Dear Friend,

2017 was a banner year for Advance Illinois.

Our unique brand of policy analysis, community engagement, communications, and legislative strategy allowed us to do what was once thought impossible: fix Illinois' broken school funding system. For decades, Illinois ranked worst-in-the-nation for equitable school funding. Over five years of arduous advocacy, Advance Illinois and the diverse partners of the Funding Illinois' Future coalition and Fix the Formula campaign successfully pushed for legislation that brought about historic school funding reform.

**Illinois' new funding system is equitable.** It recognizes the individual needs of all students in rural, urban, and suburban areas across the state and accounts for each district's property wealth. The system then drives resources to the most underfunded schools. Our state now has the foundation to ensure students' zip codes do not determine the quality of their education.

**This is just the beginning.** The new school funding system is vital in supporting all students throughout their school career and beyond. In the midst of the school funding campaign, we continued our efforts to help Illinois achieve its goal of having 60% of adults with a postsecondary degree or certification by 2025. To do this, we focused on key levers of the education continuum, including kindergarten transitions, teacher quality, college and career readiness, and school improvement under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). At the same time, we kicked off a statewide listening tour as part of our organization's 10th anniversary activities. The feedback gathered from communities across the state will help us develop a robust agenda for the next 10 years.

Our funding victory has shown us what's possible when we combine thoughtful policy and strategy, timely and actionable communications, and tireless advocacy. We look forward to sharing our 10-year agenda and more game-changing initiatives in the months ahead.

Thank you for your partnership in this work,



**JOHN A. EDWARDSON**  
*Co-Chair, Advance Illinois*

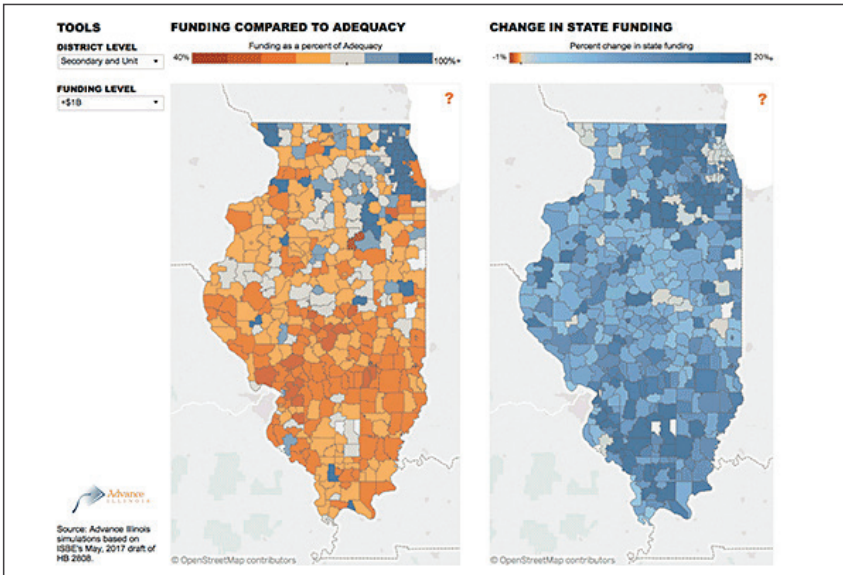


**MARIN Gजाजा**  
*Co-Chair, Advance Illinois*



**GINGER OSTRO**  
*Executive Director, Advance Illinois*

# What It Took To Win



**CRAIN'S** CHICAGO BUSINESS **OPINION**

YOUR VIEW

## Fixing the school funding formula: Illinois CEOs' next rallying cry

It's not an overstatement to say that the economic success of our state, and of our citizens, hinges on our progress toward a healthy state public education system. Our next generation of business leaders is entering kindergarten today. The schools they attend must prepare them with the skills they need to complete the postsecondary degrees and credentials that employers demand.

I saw this need firsthand at CDW, even though nearly two-thirds of our co-workers had a four-year college degree. As a result, we invested in specialized training for thousands




**John Edwardson is the chair of Advance Illinois and the**

reduced-price lunch is now 45 percent. While 90 percent of students are graduating high school in Carmi, just 40 percent are ready for college and an even smaller percentage complete their degree.

The story is similar throughout the state. In 43 percent of Illinois school districts in 2015, more than half of the students are coming from low-income homes, up from 13 percent in 2005. Research shows it costs more to educate low-income students, many of whom start school academically behind and may require extra learning time. Research also shows that

Dear House Representative

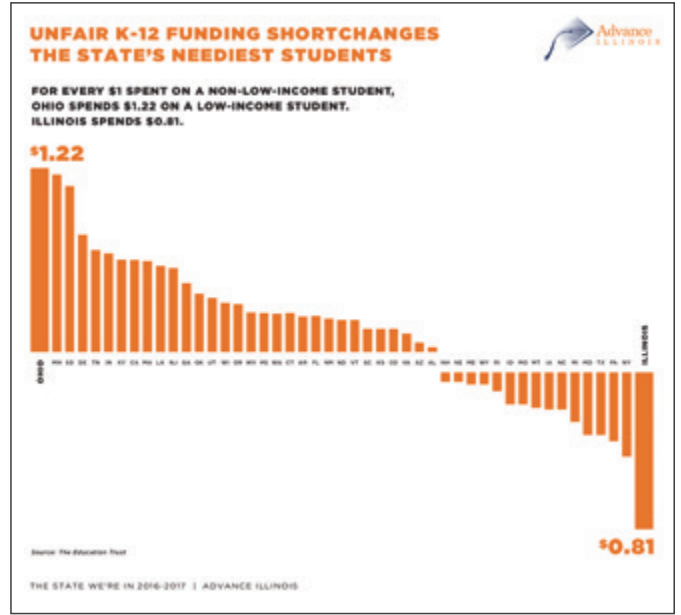
**JEHAN GORDON-BOOTH**

 School Districts in Your Area Gain...

**\$2,697,256**

**VOTE YES on SB1**





# 2017 Wins

**Influenced the state's new ESSA plan** to ensure the new accountability system would be fair, clear and supportive and include a supports and intervention system that provides meaningful help for struggling schools to improve.



**Supported the development and implementation of the Kindergarten Individual Development Survey** commonly known as KIDS. This comprehensive, statewide measure of kindergarten readiness was implemented during the 2017-18 school year.



**Led a campaign to reform Illinois' education funding system.** The Governor signed SB1947 into law on Aug. 31, 2017.



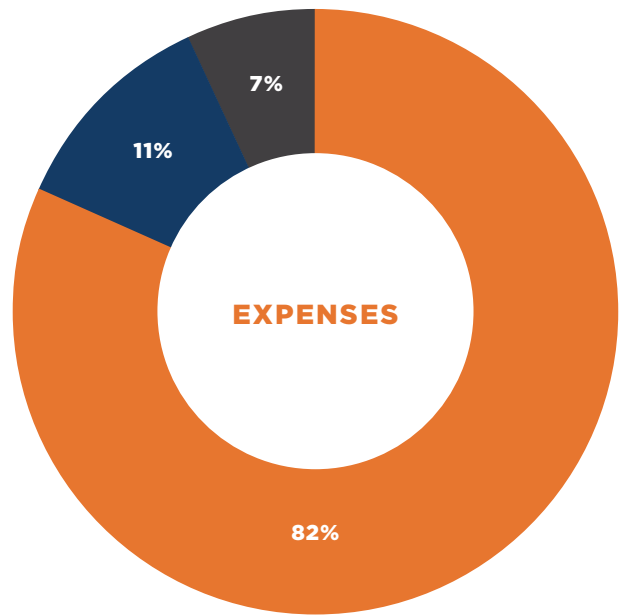
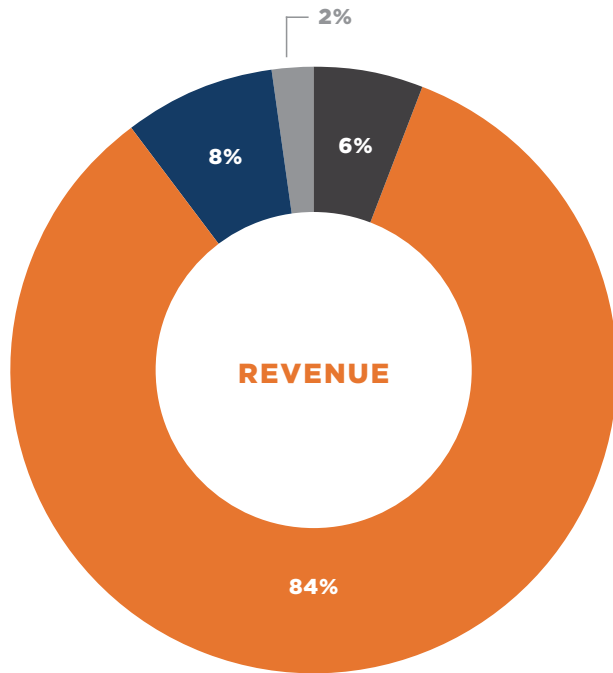
**Strengthened Illinois' 60 by 25 Network** by educating communities on how to bring together education institutions, businesses and nonprofits to form a more comprehensive system that helps students prepare for life after high school.



**Organized a diverse group of stakeholders** to understand the teacher shortage in Illinois and align on key short-term and long-term goals.

**#TEACHERS4ILFUTURE**

# Financials



● Foundations	\$1,751,257
● Corporations	\$169,50
● Individuals	\$126,212
● Other	\$44,000
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<b>Total Revenue*</b>	<b>\$2,090,969</b>

● Program Related	\$1,947,913
● Fundraising	\$271,874
● General Administration	\$152,488
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<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$2,372,275</b>

\* Per GAAP requirements, revenue includes restricted and multiyear pledges recognized in FY2017 and for which corresponding expenses will be incurred in subsequent years.

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#### \$500,000 AND UP

*The Joyce Foundation*

### VISIONARIES

#### \$250,000 - \$499,999

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#### \$100,000 - \$249,999

*Anonymous*

*The Crown Family*

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*Foundation*

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*Robin Steans and Leonard Gail*

*Marin and Kate Gjaja*

*Gorter Family Foundation*

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*Anonymous*

*Yolanda N. and Jason J. Tyler*

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#### \$1,000 - \$4,999

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*Anonymous*

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*The Robert Thomas Bobins Foundation*

*Annice Brave*

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