



Support SB2236

No tax credits for private school scholarships until public schools meet minimum funding

As part of the new funding law, individuals and corporations can contribute to private school tuition scholarships through the Invest in Kids tax credit scholarship program. In return they may receive a 75% tax credit of up to 1 million dollars. This bill amends the Invest in Kids Act to require the state to make the minimum funding payment to public schools before tax credits can be redeemed by donors. Donors are still able to make donations to allow the scholarship fund to distribute scholarships but receive no credit unless the previous year's funding level to public schools is met.

What does the bill specify?

- **Reporting on minimum funding:** The State Board of Education will determine whether or not the Minimum Funding Level described in the School Code has been met for the fiscal year and report that determination to the Department of Revenue.
- **Limits on credits:** No credits will be awarded until the IL State Board of Education certifies that the minimum funding level has been met.
- **No carry-forward:** If the minimum funding level is not met, funds donated to the Scholarship Fund in excess of \$100 million will not be allowed to roll over for tax credits in later years.

Why is this important?

- **Responsible Funding:** In years where the legislature is unable to raise the minimum revenue necessary to fund public education the state should not reduce revenue by offering tax credits.
- **Ensuring the public good:** Most Illinois students are reliant on public schools for education. Ensuring at least a minimum of funding for those schools is necessary to meet the needs of nearly 90%¹ of Illinois families.

¹ <https://goo.gl/2xCtER>