

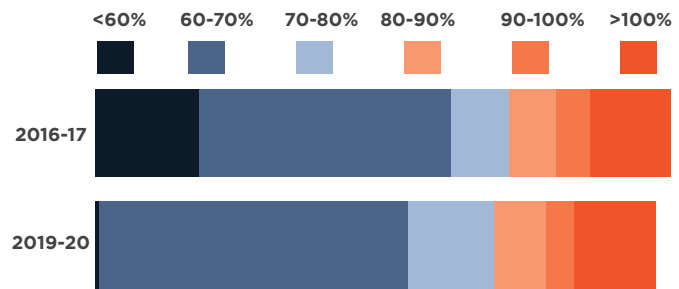


**FUND THE FORMULA | Illinois' students cannot afford another year without EBF funding—they need state leaders to honor their commitment to adequate and equitable funding by investing at least \$350 million through the EBF in FY22.**

Data from the first three years of funding through EBF show that the formula works:

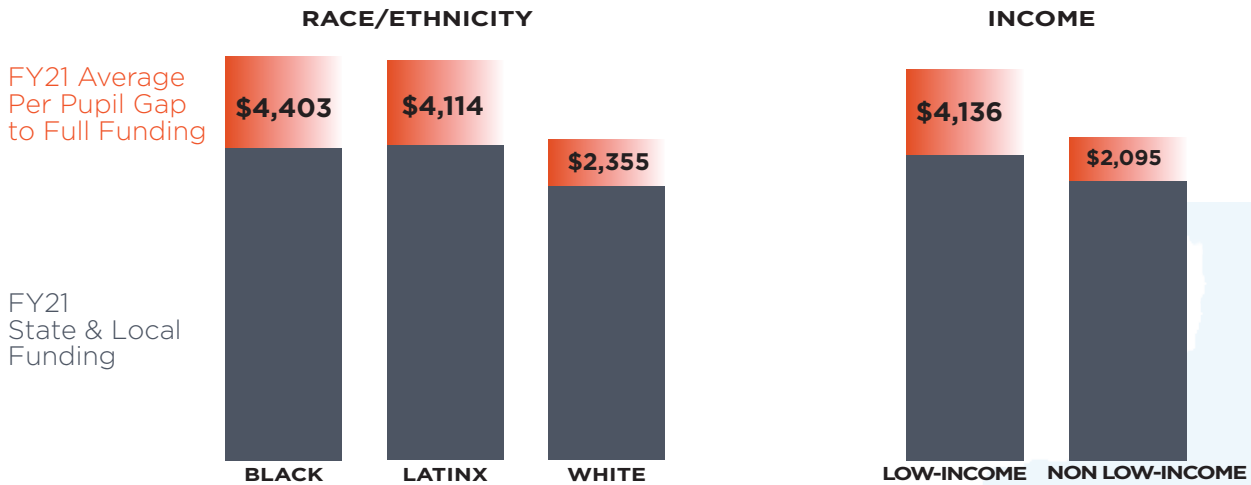
- ▶ EBF drives between 70-80% of new state resources in any given year to the state's most property poor districts and those that serve the most students from low-income households.
- ▶ During the first 3 years of the formula, state investment in schools through EBF moved districts serving over 300,000 students from below to above 60% of full funding.

NUMBER OF STUDENTS BY DISTRICT PERCENT OF ADEQUACY



But, with a roughly **\$7 billion gap to full funding**, the state has a long way to go to make good on the promise of EBF. Roughly 80% of all Illinois students are in districts below 90% of full funding. Even more disturbing, over half of the state's students are learning in districts below 70% of full funding, including nearly 75% of Black and Latinx students and 44% of white students. To put that in perspective, **districts below 70% of full funding face a gap of over \$4,500 per student.**

**FUNDING EBF IS THE BEST WAY TO CLOSE FUNDING GAPS BY RACE/ETHNICITY AND INCOME. ANOTHER YEAR OF "FLAT" FUNDING WOULD ALLOW ALREADY DRAMATIC GAPS TO WIDEN.**



It will take at least \$350 million in additional state funds each year to make progress toward fully funding all public school districts. Last year, in FY21, no new funding flowed to schools through the formula. Going into FY22, facing even steeper needs, **our students cannot afford for the state to fail to fund the EBF formula again.**

The legislature has an opportunity to step up for Illinois' students by investing new state funding in EBF this year, as promised.

**THREE YEARS OF STATE FUNDING THROUGH EBF HAS BEGUN TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE, BUT MORE THAN HALF OF ILLINOIS' STUDENTS - OVER 1 MILLION KIDS - ARE STILL IN DISTRICTS BELOW 70% OF FULL FUNDING.**

**IT'S TIME TO GET BACK ON TRACK AND FUND THE FORMULA.**





## **SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT | One-time federal funds are needed for short-term recovery interventions, but are not a substitute for stable and long-term state funding through EBF, starting with at least \$350 million in FY22.**

In the face of economic challenges caused by the pandemic, and in light of federal stimulus funding for COVID-19 relief, it's tempting to think that the state's responsibility for adding funding through EBF can be postponed for another year. Nothing could be further from the truth.

**Fully funding all schools and providing emergency COVID-19 relief to address unprecedented health, safety, and recovery needs are two separate sets of costs.**

That means that federal funding, which is a one-time influx of dollars to be spent over the next 2 school years on pandemic recovery, will not help get districts any closer to full, adequate funding in the long term. More importantly, short-term federal funds do not permit districts to make the deeper structural investments they need in longer-term staffing and program improvements. Relying on those funds for recurring costs would create deep funding cliffs for districts that would force them to make cuts as soon as those dollars run out.

Both federal stimulus funds and EBF tier funding will be needed for districts to:

- + Hire and retain high quality educators
- + Provide critical social-emotional & trauma responsive supports
- + Hire counselors and social workers
- + Make building repairs and updates needed to protect student and staff health and safety
- + Provide additional supports like tutoring and summer school

Federal funds should not be viewed as a substitute for EBF funds, but instead as a bridge to get districts past the immediate pressures caused by the pandemic. Funding for the EBF formula must, at the same time, contribute to long-term stability and progress toward equity and excellence for Illinois' students.

Another year without EBF funding risks harming Illinois students' educational recovery. It also threatens local communities that are already struggling economically in the wake of the pandemic. If the state does not fund the formula, those communities will once again bear the burden of being forced to raise property taxes to meet their students' needs.

**SCHOOL FUNDING IS A STATEWIDE ISSUE—ALL BUT THREE ILLINOIS COUNTIES INCLUDE AT LEAST ONE SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT IS BELOW 90% OF FULL FUNDING.**

**ILLINOIS STUDENTS ARE COUNTING ON LEGISLATORS TO KEEP THEIR PROMISE AND CONTINUE TO FUND THE EBF FORMULA, STARTING WITH AT LEAST \$350M IN FY22.**

