

May 30, 2007

## EDUCATION ROUNDTABLE URGES GOVERNOR AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO FUND EDUCATION PRIORITIES



*The Illinois Education Roundtable is an organization committed to unifying the voice of educational organizations and consists of representatives from 19 school leadership associations and organizations representing more than 6000 school board members, over 7000 school leaders and in excess of 230,000 teachers and other school personnel.*

This year nearly all legislators, the Governor, educational and business leaders have agreed that significant new revenues are needed to adequately fund public education in Illinois. However, a “No Growth” budget will not meet those needs. At best it will be status quo and at worst, it will mean a reduction in resources to schools that are already struggling to give the children of Illinois the educational opportunities they deserve.

The Illinois Education Roundtable has identified four (4) school funding priorities and calls upon the Illinois General Assembly to unify around a funding reform plan in order to take action for children in 2007.

### **THE STATUS QUO IS NOT ACCEPTABLE FOR THE CHILDREN OF ILLINOIS.**

### **NOW IS THE TIME FOR ACTION ON AT LEAST THE FOLLOWING FOUR (4) FUNDING PRIORITIES:**

- 1. Special Education Personnel Reimbursement**
- 2. Foundation Level**
- 3. Mandated Categorical Funding**
- 4. School Construction**

*(FOR MORE DEFINITION, SEE PREVIOUS EDUCATION ROUNDTABLE RELEASES)*

### **ROUNDTABLE POSITION ON NEW ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES**

Accountability and reform components have been advanced by groups such as the Metropolitan Mayor’s Caucus and the Burnham Plan authors. There are many excellent policy ideas on the table. However, those additional accountability measures have been proposed only with the expectation that they would accompany major funding reform. **Therefore, the Illinois Education Roundtable believes that new accountability measures for education should be considered as companion legislation with additional funding targeted toward the priorities above. In addition, new accountability measures must be fully funded and not become “unfunded mandates” on schools.**

**Now it is time to reach consensus and take action on the priorities identified above. A “No Growth” budget will not serve needs of the children of Illinois**

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