

POLICY NEWSLETTER

FALL 2023

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ieanea.org/resources/education-policy

Visit IEA's Education Policy Webpage:



EDUCATION POLICY WORK

Education policy is often developed by Illinois legislated or state organized committees, commissions, task forces, advisory councils, and work groups. Our members and staff work together to advocate for equity focused research-based education policies as members of these groups.

Thank you to the following members who have volunteered their time to work with these groups.

- Paul Adams
- Katrina Anthony
- Ross Berkley
- Bryce Cann
- Jacob Carlson
- Jamie Davis
- Kimberly Engelman
- Andrea Evers
- Laura Gonzalez
- Karl Goeke
- Christine Hollenkamp
- Susan Hudson
- Irlanda Jiminez
- Rachel Juarez
- Tammy Knippenberg
- Bridget Lahart
- Beth MacKenna
- Tameeka McFarlane
- Melissa McCutchen
- Jay Mehta
- Johnetta Miller
- C. Duke Novak
- Kimberly Radostits
- Warren Richards
- Jaleen Rodriguez
- Suzanne Schafer
- Ryan Schilb
- Arnita Scott
- Stephanie Suerth
- Jean Zaar

If you are currently serving on a legislated or state organized committee, commission, task force, advisory council, or work group, or have been appointed to serve on one of these groups and are not included on this list, please contact Dr. Diana Zaleski, IEA Education Policy and Agency Relations Director at Diana.Zaleski@ieanea.org.

POLICY UPDATES

INVEST IN KIDS

The following is a message from IEA President Al Llorens regarding the sunset of Invest in Kids.

It is a new day in Illinois. We are incredibly grateful to our lawmakers for choosing to end the voucher scheme known as Invest in Kids. This program sent millions of taxpayer dollars to private schools and was created under the guise of helping students of color, but we now know the funds went primarily to white students. [Here is the fact sheet.](#)

The voucher system was intentionally created with a lack of oversight and accountability, leaving us with no data to measure its effectiveness. Public money belongs in public schools, and we are glad our lawmakers believe that, too. Eighty percent of our public schools in Illinois are underfunded. We need to focus on providing the necessary funding to our public schools so that all children in Illinois continue to have access to a high-quality, public education.

In solidarity,
Al Llorens
IEA President

[HB3641 – Omnibus Bill](#)

(105 ILCS 5/21B-20) Establishes a provisional career and technical educator endorsement on an Educator License with Stipulations. Endorsements may be issued to applicants with a minimum of 8,000 hours of work experience in the skill for which the application is seeking the endorsement. The employing school board and regional office of education must verify, in writing, that no qualified teacher holding a Professional Educator License or an Educator License with Stipulations with a career and technical educator endorsement is available to teach and that circumstances require the issuance of the provisional endorsement.

(105 ILCS 5/22-96) Establishes a short-term approval for licensed educators assigned to teach physical education, music, or visual arts who do not hold an endorsement in the content area. To retain employment, educators must acquire an endorsement in the content area prior to the end of the validity period of the short-term approval.

(105 ILCS 5/27-20.3) Requires the Illinois State Board of Education to develop content related to the Native American genocide in North America by July 1, 2024.

[HB1358 – Omnibus Bill](#)

Changes the effective date of Public Act 103-542 to July 1, 2024. This moves the streamlined mandated training content effective date to July 1, 2024, instead of January 1, 2024 to align with the new 5-year renewal cycle.

This is not an exhaustive list, only a summary. To read about all of the bills that were passed during the fall veto session, please visit IEA's 2023 Legislative Session webpage.

POLICY NEWS

- Governor Pritzker announced a proposal to create a new state agency to house all early childhood programs and funding. The new agency will provide a more equitable, integrated, and holistic system of services for young children and families in Illinois. To initiate the development of the new agency, the Governor will sign an Executive Order, and will work with the General Assembly on legislation in the spring. [Press Release](#).
- The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) released the 2023 Illinois Report Card showing strong progress in students' recovery from the pandemic – with increased proficiency rates and the highest graduation rate in 13 years. [Press Release](#).

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES



EDUCATION POLICY ONLINE BOOK CLUB



The Education Policy Online Book Club is an asynchronous learning opportunity for members. Asynchronous learning opportunities do not require member participation at a set time. Interact with other members throughout each week on your schedule.

The Teacher Wars: A History of America's Most Embattled Profession by Dana Goldstein

January 8 – March 1, 2024 (8 PD Hours)

In *The Teacher Wars*, an unprecedented history of public-school teaching, Dana Goldstein reveals that teachers have been embattled for nearly two centuries. She uncovers the surprising roots of hot button issues, from teacher tenure to charter schools, and finds that recent popular ideas to improve schools—instituting merit pay, evaluating teachers by student test scores, ranking and firing veteran teachers, and recruiting “elite” graduates to teach—are all approaches that have been tried in the past without producing widespread change. Dr. Zaleski will facilitate the discussion.

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Sing a Rhythm, Dance a Blues: Education for the Liberation of Black and Brown Girls by Monique Morris

June 10 – July 26, 2024 (8 PD Hours)

For this book we will be collaborating with IEA's Racial and Social Justice Department. In *Sing a Rhythm, Dance a Blues* Morris brings together research and real life in this chorus of interviews, case studies, and the testimonies of remarkable people who work successfully with girls of color. The result is this radiant guide to moving away from punishment, trauma, and discrimination toward safety, justice, and genuine community in our schools. Sherri Jones and Dr. Zaleski will facilitate the discussion.

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The Coddling of the American Mind: How Good Intentions and Bad Ideas Are Setting Up a Generation for Failure by Greg Lukianoff and Jonathan Haidt

October 7 – November 22, 2024 (8 PD Hours)

Something has been going wrong on many college campuses in the last few years. Speakers are shouted down. Students and professors say they are walking on eggshells and are afraid to speak honestly. Rates of anxiety, depression, and suicide are rising—on campus as well as nationally. How did this happen?

In *The Coddling of the American Mind* Lukianoff and Haidt explore the origin of these problems. They explore changes in childhood such as the rise of fearful parenting, the decline of unsupervised, child-directed play, and the new world of social media that has engulfed teenagers in the last decade. They examine changes on campus, including the corporatization of universities and the emergence of new ideas about identity and justice. They situate the conflicts on campus within the context of America's rapidly rising political polarization and dysfunction. Dr. Zaleski will facilitate the discussion.

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ONLINE COURSES

Reforming Student Discipline Policies and Practices

January 8 – March 1, 2024 (8 PD Hours)

This online course is for members who are interested in learning more about reforming student discipline policies and practices. We will review applicable state and federal laws, consider example student discipline policies, and identify alternatives to exclusionary discipline. In addition, we will discuss how to advocate for inclusive discipline policies that hold students accountable and improve school climate and safety for all members of the school community. Dr. Zaleski will facilitate this course.

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Local Policy and Advocacy Training

June 10 – July 26, 2024 (8 PD Hours)

This online course is for members who are interested in learning more about education policy and how to advocate for local policy change. We will discuss the organization of local and state government, and explore the role of laws, rules, and ordinances that govern public education. In addition, we will discuss how to advocate for meaningful local policy solutions. Dr. Zaleski will facilitate this course.

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Please contact Dr. Zaleski, Diana.Zaleski@ieanea.org, with any policy related questions.