

HB4652 (Hernandez) & SB3215 (Turner)

## **Student Teaching Stipend Program SUPPORT**

### **Background**

Student teaching is an important experience that gives students the opportunity to apply what they've learned in their teacher preparation programs. Not unlike internships in other professions, student teaching prepares candidates to assume the responsibilities of their chosen profession. However, unlike other professions where paid internships are now standard, student teaching remains unpaid.

### **Issue**

Student teaching requires candidates to do the work of a full-time teacher which severely limits their ability to stay gainfully employed. Student teaching is a significant financial stressor which deters many students from pursuing a degree in education.

Illinois statute allows for paid student teaching, but few school districts or institutes of higher education can financially support these programs. The Illinois Education Association (IEA) believes that student teachers should receive compensation during this important practicum experience.

Paid student teaching significantly reduces the financial stress of pursuing a degree in education and will encourage more students to enter the teaching profession. States such as Oklahoma, Michigan, Colorado, and Maryland provide their candidates with a student teaching stipend.

### **Rationale for Support**

Illinois' student teachers deserve compensation. This bill will strengthen and diversify our teacher pipeline – ensuring that all student teachers receive fair compensation for their labor.