



NEW K-12 FUNDING FORMULA MAKING PROGRESS FOR STUDENTS, BUT OUR WORK IS NOT DONE

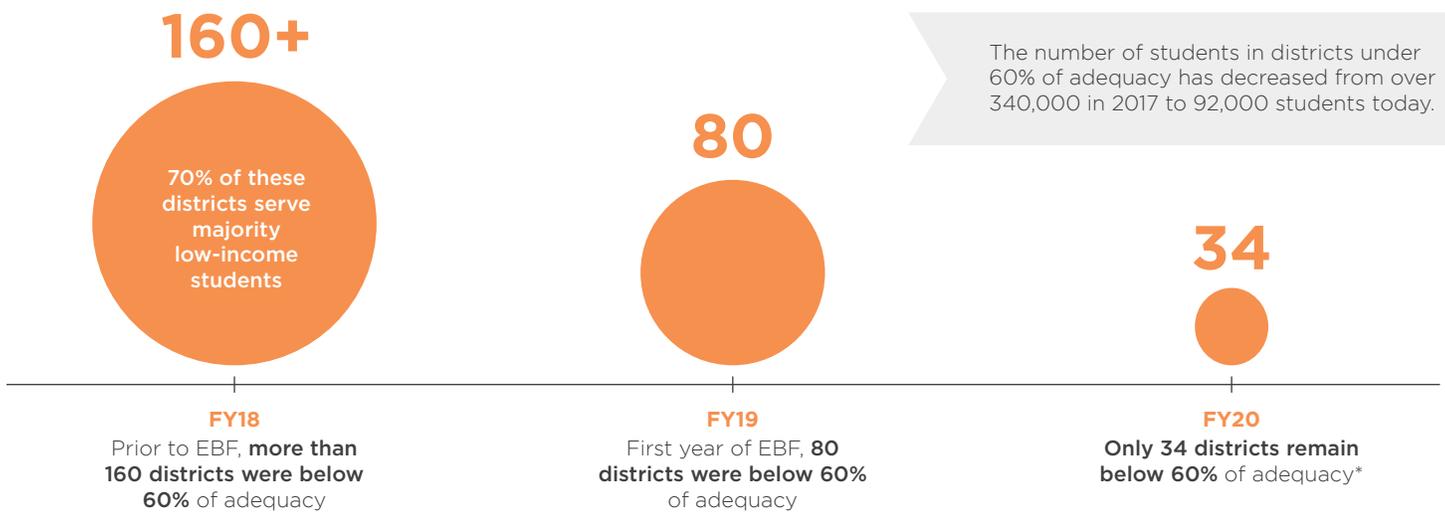
Evidence-Based Funding For Student Success Act Update

In 2017, after many years of advocacy by a united coalition of statewide partners, a major victory was won for Illinois children. The Evidence-Based Funding (EBF) for Student Success Act made education funding more equitable across Illinois. Advance Illinois analyzed the first three years of this investment, and **we are excited to see that the formula is having tangible impact: significantly fewer districts are below 60% of adequacy, and the new funds are being targeted to our highest need students.** While this progress should be celebrated, significantly more work remains to achieve our shared goal of providing schools with the necessary resources to educate all of our students.

OUR PROGRESS AT A GLANCE

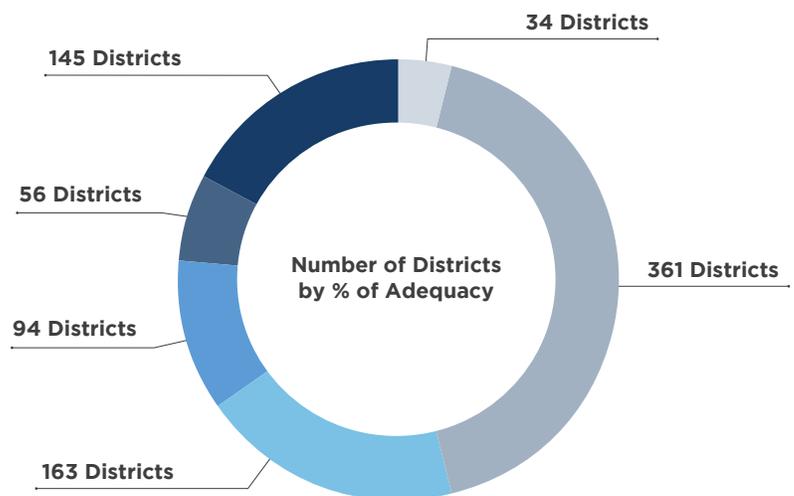
DISTRICTS ARE STARTING TO MOVE TOWARD FULL, ADEQUATE FUNDING

From FY18-FY20, Illinois moved from having more than 160 school districts below 60% of adequacy to only 34



HOWEVER, ALMOST HALF OF ALL DISTRICTS STILL FALL BELOW 70% OF ADEQUACY

Percent of adequacy after FY19 fund distribution



* Reflects estimates of the change in adequacy following distribution of FY20 funding, using FY20 adequacy targets. Estimates do not include schools administered by Regional Offices of Education, which were included in the EBF for the first time in FY20.

Even though student need is increasing, funding gaps based on race and income are starting to close

As part of the commitment to get to funding adequacy within 10 years, \$350 million of new funds must be added to the formula each year. In its first year, FY18, the state appropriated \$366 million to the new formula. In the second year, FY19, only \$300 million was invested. In the third year, FY20, \$312 million will be distributed through the EBF tiers.**

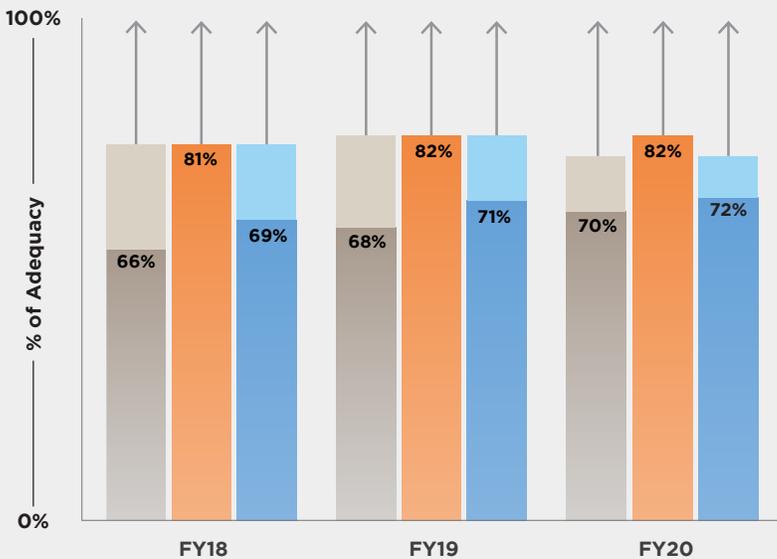
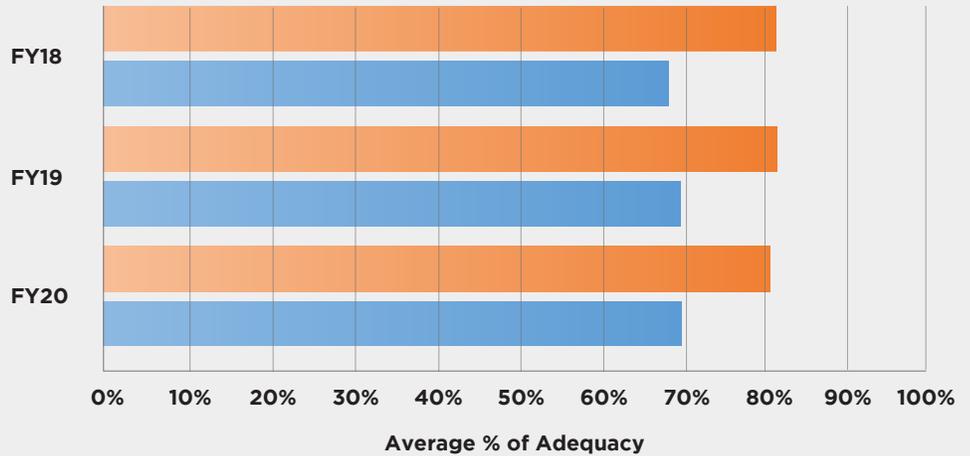
Through analysis of the first two years of EBF, two important trends are clear:

- 1. **The needs of our students are increasing** as the number of English learners and low-income students rises. The cost of adequacy, which reflects student need, rises accordingly.
- 2. **The state invested less new money in the second year of EBF than in the first year**, slowing progress toward full funding for students most in need.

In reviewing the data, we see that while the formula is having the intended impact, our increased need and less-than-anticipated funding has limited the progress towards closing the equity gaps.

THE AVERAGE PERCENT OF ADEQUACY FOR LOW-INCOME STUDENTS HAS INCREASED FROM 68% BEFORE EBF TO 69% TODAY

■ Non Low-Income Students
■ Low-Income Students



THOUGH GAPS IN PER-PUPIL FUNDING BETWEEN BLACK, WHITE, AND LATINX STUDENTS ARE BEGINNING TO SHRINK, WORK REMAINS TO CLOSE EQUITY GAPS IN % OF ADEQUACY

CONTINUED INVESTMENT NEEDED TO SUSTAIN PROGRESS

We are thankful that the FY20 funding investment increased by approximately \$312 million. **Moving forward, the state must commit to a minimum annual investment of at least \$350 million into EBF.** While more work remains, Illinois is making strides and must stay on the path to adequate and equitable funding for all students, regardless of race, zip code, or economic status. Advance Illinois and our statewide partners are pleased to be a part of this journey toward equity, access, and, ultimately, the success of the children of Illinois.

** These numbers do not reflect resources allocated to the Property Tax Relief Fund. The EBF law requires that each year, when at least \$350 million in total new funds is appropriated for EBF, \$50 million goes to The Property Tax Relief Grant (PTRG). Any additional funding goes back through the formula. The PTRG is meant to provide tax relief to districts that have been forced to rely heavily on local property taxes to make up for insufficient state funds. Changes made to the distribution mechanism this year will ensure that PTRG funds are directed to high-tax districts, with priority given to those furthest from full funding.