



Ogle County Educational Cooperative
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Dear State Legislators,

Never has the state of Illinois taken in more tax revenue, yet our schools continue to be funded by the state at rates lower than we were several years ago. That fact is simply unacceptable. We are continually asked to do more with less and as a collective group of educational leaders we are writing to express our deep concerns. We sincerely believe that our elected leaders in Springfield want the absolute best schools possible for the children of our County, but looking at the data provided on the next page it is clear that while our elected leaders may *want* great schools, they are not *committed* to that end.

On the following page you will see the decrease in state aid for several Districts in our county – a simple glance at the numbers is staggering. What intensifies the issue is that while funding from the state has decreased, an increased reliance on local property tax has emerged. This compounds the problem for most Districts in the state, especially in the rural areas in which we are located. Some districts have also been subject to over a 10% decline in local funding as a result of declining home values. Moreover, categorical payments, especially in Transportation and Special Education have not been timely nor consistent with past proration amounts.

Additionally, as support has continued to wane from the state, expectations and mandates have not. It is difficult enough to do the same amount of work and continue to progress with less resources, but to do more with less is near impossible and simply not fair. We ask you to consider the ramifications of the decisions that you make – the decision to not put kids and education first. The failure to not fund General State Aid and categorical fully has led to significant (10% or higher) rates of reduction-in-force in some of our County schools and some Districts have been forced to cut opportunities for students ranging from Career Tech to visual and performing Arts as well as many student activities. The decisions you are making have very real results, some that are putting Districts on the verge of financial collapse without additional support via referendum. This must stop – children must be a priority and we stand united in asking that you put schools, children, and our future at the top of your agenda and make a difference in the lives of children in Ogle County, and throughout the state of Illinois.

We ask that the legislature develop a plan to provide school districts with adequate and stable funding to not only address minimum needs and mandates, but to allow schools to truly progress and become innovative environments that truly meet the needs of our students.

We welcome any opportunity to have this discussion with you – whether publicly or privately.

Sincerely,
OCEC Superintendents

School	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
FORRESTVILLE	\$ 2,996,877.00	\$ 2,348,718.00	\$ 2,341,075.00	\$ 2,523,338.00	\$ 2,140,697.00	\$ 1,842,723.88	\$ 1,745,898.69
CRESTON CCSD 161	\$ 126,001.00	\$ 125,335.00	\$ 134,995.00	\$ 230,110.00	\$ 223,384.00	\$ 204,408.00	\$ 130,099.14
ESWOOD CCSD 269	\$ 94,646.00	\$ 86,321.00	\$ 80,357.00	\$ 73,086.00	\$ 60,822.00	\$ 64,061.43	\$ 59,349.72
KINGS CONS SD 144	\$ 311,496.00	\$ 228,734.00	\$ 213,110.00	\$ 231,954.00	\$ 205,358.00	\$ 162,529.42	\$ 114,470.52
MERIDIAN CUSD 223	\$ 6,198,379.00	\$ 4,773,417.00	\$ 5,220,733.00	\$ 5,804,209.00	\$ 5,518,145.00	\$ 5,195,885.42	\$ 5,332,837.01
OREGON	\$ 3,533,348.00	\$ 2,769,998.00	\$ 2,632,939.00	\$ 2,922,033.00	\$ 2,600,457.00	\$ 2,373,148.63	\$ 2,487,111.62
POLO CUSD 222	\$ 2,323,374.00	\$ 1,800,247.00	\$ 1,798,721.00	\$ 1,970,010.00	\$ 1,801,713.00	\$ 1,627,754.57	\$ 1,529,769.48
ROCHELLE CCSD 231	\$ 4,621,832.00	\$ 3,525,209.00	\$ 3,478,080.00	\$ 3,964,533.00	\$ 3,856,073.00	\$ 3,732,575.12	\$ 3,803,378.53
ROCHELLE TWP HSD 212	\$ 3,059,935.00	\$ 2,227,385.00	\$ 2,013,328.00	\$ 1,962,649.00	\$ 1,784,878.00	\$ 1,505,743.09	\$ 1,221,629.47
AMBOY	\$ 2,647,412.00	\$ 1,971,685.00	\$ 1,960,632.00	\$ 2,017,129.00	\$ 1,739,309.00	\$ 1,390,568.38	\$ 901,020.85
AFC	\$ 1,382,575.00	\$ 1,469,652.00	\$ 1,124,586.00	\$ 1,091,953.00	\$ 975,702.00	\$ 833,338.66	\$ 729,906.08
STEWARD	\$ 78,573.00	\$ 74,933.00	\$ 64,809.00	\$ 125,893.00	\$ 47,913.00	\$ 43,707.19	\$ 32,632.00
TOTAL	\$ 27,374,448.00	\$ 21,401,634.00	\$ 21,063,365.00	\$ 22,916,897.00	\$ 20,954,451.00	\$ 18,976,443.79	\$ 18,088,103.11