



Elmwood Community
School District #322

April 24, 2017



Dear Elmwood Families,

More than 380 Illinois school district superintendents, representing 1.3 million students, have signed on to support a grassroots statewide initiative called, simply enough, "Pass Illinois' Budget!" We hope you will support this effort, which launches today, April 24.

While Illinois public schools have benefited from a partially-funded state budget, our schools, students, families, and communities will continue to suffer without a full state budget. We also will continue to struggle if Mandated Categoricals, state payments which support special education, bilingual education, transportation, and other important services, do not get paid this year. To date, the State of Illinois owes our district **\$219,576.54** in those Mandated Categoricals, and there is no state budget on the table for approval. We are calling on members of the Illinois General Assembly and the Governor to do the following:

- Immediately, and with bipartisan support, end the state budget impasse.
- Improve the state's education funding formula and invest in students and schools, including higher education institutions, throughout the state.
- Pay school districts what they are owed this year.

Please join the effort and:

- Contact your legislator! Click the following link to find your legislator.
 - https://openstates.org/find_your_legislator/
- Ask your legislator to take action to address the three items cited above.
- Use social media to share your budget concerns with the hashtag **#PassILBudget**
- Ask your friends and community members to join our efforts.

The 389 participating superintendents represent nearly 65 percent of Illinois public school students from Carbondale to Chicago to Rockford. Let's all work together to #PassILBudget and create adequate and equitable funding for our schools.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Dr. Chad Wagner