



65 E. Wacker Place
Suite 1620
Chicago, IL 60601
Ph. 312-368-1066
Fx. 312-368-1090

108 E. Cook St.
Springfield, IL 62704
Ph. 217-528-9200
Fx. 217-528-7214

www.ilcatholic.org
Diocese of Belleville
Archdiocese of Chicago
Diocese of Joliet
Diocese of Peoria
Diocese of Rockford
Diocese of Springfield-in-IL

August 29, 2017

Catholic Conference of Illinois Statement on Final Passage of Senate Bill 1947, Education Funding Legislation

Access to a quality education is one of the greatest social justice issues of our time, and is much too important to be determined solely by where a student lives. As Pope Francis notes in *The Joy of Love*, "... the overall education of children is a 'most serious duty' and at the same time a 'primary right' of parents." We believe the new legislation will help give students and their parents the opportunity to choose their education and their future. We are grateful to the governor and the legislative leaders on both sides of the aisle for choosing sensible compromise in making this choice a reality in Illinois. The governor and other elected officials deserve our praise for turning an out-of-date school funding blueprint into a distribution formula that is both fair and equitable across the state.

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The Catholic Conference of Illinois was created in 1969 to serve as the public policy voice of the Illinois bishops and the six dioceses of the state: Belleville, Chicago, Joliet, Peoria, Rockford and Springfield-in-Illinois.