



Background: How We Got Here

- The Evidence-Based Funding (EBF) model was created to direct state dollars to schools most in need while protecting all districts through a hold harmless provision.
- Mandated Categorical Transportation (MCAT) funding, however, is separate from EBF and has no hold harmless protection. It funds a portion of State mandated local costs in six areas. In 2025 it was funded at these levels:

Special Education Private Tuition (\$203M) Special Education Transportation (\$467M) Regular and Vocational Transportation (\$342M)	Special Education: Orphanage (\$119M) Regular Education: Orphanage (\$9M) Free Lunch/Breakfast (\$9M)
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- As EBF dollars have increased, MCAT reimbursements have decreased, creating an ongoing funding gap for suburban districts. Each year the percentage of the total funding has decreased to levels well below full funding of the State's obligations.

Special Education Private Tuition (Yet to be determined because of passage of SB 3606) Special Education Transportation (61%) Regular and Vocational Transportation (71%)	Special Education: Orphanage (100%) Regular Education: Orphanage (100%) Free Lunch/Breakfast (32%)
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- This continued reduced funding has shifted overall costs from the State to local Districts. As a result overall State funding has been reduced for many schools across Illinois in recent years.

Impact on DuPage Schools

- EBF has raised the statewide floor for education funding, but most DuPage districts have not seen meaningful increases over time.
- Approximately 90% of new EBF dollars go to Tier 1 districts, while Tier 2–4 districts (including nearly all DuPage districts) have not even kept pace with inflation.
- MCATs continue to be significantly underfunded, forcing districts to cover transportation and other ancillary service costs with locally generated funds.
- Local property taxes remain the primary funding source for DuPage schools.

Equity and Adequacy Concerns

- The EBF “adequate funding” target is **only 90% — not 100%**. It was created that way.
- The other 10% is assumed to come from:
 - Federal aid
 - Student fees
 - Investment earnings
 - TIF surplus or local incentive payments
- Tier 1 Districts receive significantly more federal aid than DuPage’s Tier 2–4 districts.

Why DuPage Opposes a Special Payout to CPS

- Chicago Public Schools (CPS) already benefits from unique revenue streams — federal relief funds, city contributions, and pension supports.
- A payout would divert limited state dollars away from districts that have not received their fair share under the EBF or MCATs.
- DuPage districts continue to shoulder the majority of costs for transportation and mandates without adequate state reimbursement.

“DuPage County schools have done more with less for years.

We support equitable funding — but not at the expense of fairness.

Until the State fully funds MCATs and addresses inflationary pressures on Tier 2–4 districts, we cannot support a bailout that shifts even more resources away from our students.”