

LEND New Member Orientation

Jen Figurelli, Executive Director

Karli Ryan, Director

Peg Agnos, Executive Advisor

LEND Mission Statement

- The mission of LEND is to identify, inform, and influence legislation and regulations that impact students and school communities of DuPage County.



What is LEND?

- Legislative Education Network of DuPage was established in 1980 under the umbrella of the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB)statewide organization.
- In 2001, school districts in DuPage, in an effort to empower the suburban voice and the needs of students in DuPage County formed LEND as an independent entity.
- Representing school districts throughout DuPage County and serving 170,000 students LEND advocates, educates, and provides training to its members.



What is LEND?

- LEND has a long standing reputation of being collaborative and is unique as the only countywide organization.
- LEND is governed by an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) between our member districts.
- LEND has a seven member executive committee with two co-chair (per the IGA one a superintendent and the other a board member).
- Council meets monthly and is the decision making body of the organization and includes administrators, board members and business managers representing member districts.



LEND Executive Committee

Co-Chair, Jeff Schuler, Superintendent, CUSD 200

Co-Chair, Donna Cain, Board Member, DuPage 88

Members:

- Kara Casten, Board Member, CSD99
- Allison Fosdick, Board Member, IPSD 204
- Hector Garcia, Superintendent, CHSD 1818
- Greg Harris, Business Manager, Downers Grove 58
- Mr. Curt Saindon, Woodridge 68

LEND Sub-Committees

FY 2026 Committees:

- Finance Committee
- Federal Committee
- Policy and Mandates Committee
 - Dual Credit Committee
- Literacy Committee
- EL/Dual Language Committee

When needed and at the discretion of the executive director and the executive committee additional committees can be established

If you are interested in serving on one of our committees please contact Jen Figurelli or Karli Ryan.

LEND Sub-Committees

Finance Committee Legislation 2023:

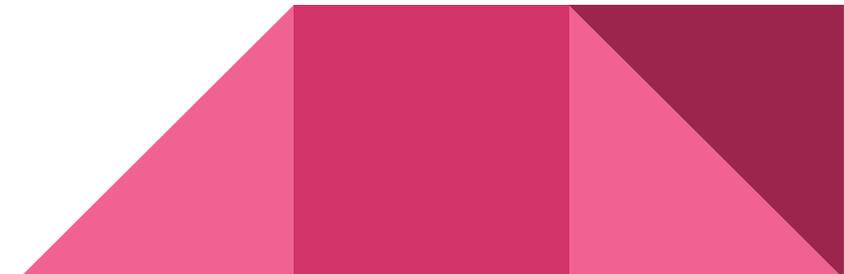
- HB3523 (Yang Rohr/Ellman)
 - *Public Act 103-0049*
 - Reduces the Treasurer's bond coverage requirements as determined by the school board in an amount no less than 10%.
 - Eliminates confusion as to what amount districts should use to fulfill this requirement by providing school districts with a consistent and auditable budget number to use for the basis of the bond requirement.
 - Eliminates the duplicative bonding of funds for school districts, but still ensures that new issuances are bonded appropriately until that new issuance is added to the annual comprehensive bond requirement.



LEND Sub-Committees

Policy and Mandates Legislation:

- **HB1123 (Costa Howard/Ellman) FY23**
 - *Public Act 103-0116*
 - Allows for students who meet all credit requirements for graduation to be counted on the Illinois State Report card
 - Allows students to continue to receive services as provided through their IEP requirements (18-22 transition program)
 - The current ISBE process does not allow for students that have met the credit requirements for graduation to be counted with their cohort.
 - The high school graduation rate is penalized which impacts the school district scoring on the Illinois State Report Card
 - This proposal does not change the definition of graduation rates.



LEND Sub-Committees

Dual Credit Committee Legislation:

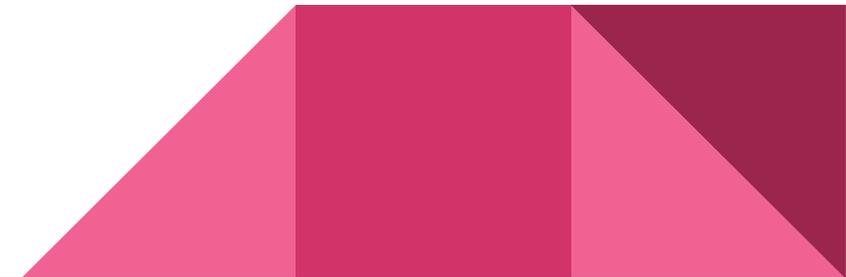
- **HB 2967 (Castro/Costa Howard) FY25**
 - *Public Act 104-0012*
 - Provides Right of First Refusal
 - Sets Parameters for Out of State Dual Credit Partnerships
 - Establishes An Appeals Process
 - Creates a Dual Credit Standing Committee
 - Clarifies Credentialing Language



LEND Sub-Committees

Literacy Committee:

- Statewide Literacy Plan:
 - Our LEND committee attended the first meeting in Bloomington as the plan was being developed.
 - We remained steadfast in working with ISBE and all stakeholders throughout the process.
 - In November of 2023, ISBE was finalizing their Statewide Literacy Plan.
 - The following [document](#) is LEND's response to our final concerns in the plan that were adjusted accordingly by ISBE per our request.



What is our purpose?

- To be aware of current issues, research these issues, and present them in a professional manner.
- To review legislative proposals that may affect your area, community and our part of the state.
- To determine the impact on your students and school district community. To assist you in communicating the local impact to your legislators.
- Legislators often know the statewide implications of a law. **LOCAL IMPACT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY**

What is our purpose?

- Our relationships span beyond the General Assembly by collaborating alongside the Illinois State Board of Education, Special Education Advocates, Unions and Statewide Organizations.
- LEND provides testimony, develops fact sheets, position papers and educates our members through our monthly council meetings and our This Week in Springfield updates.



What is our purpose?

LEND gains access for member districts to a person(s) with influence in the legislative process at the right time.

- Staff, committee clerks, agency personnel.
- Identify a personal connection to a legislator or other person(s) in the process.
- Develop dialogue among various groups representing opponents and proponents.



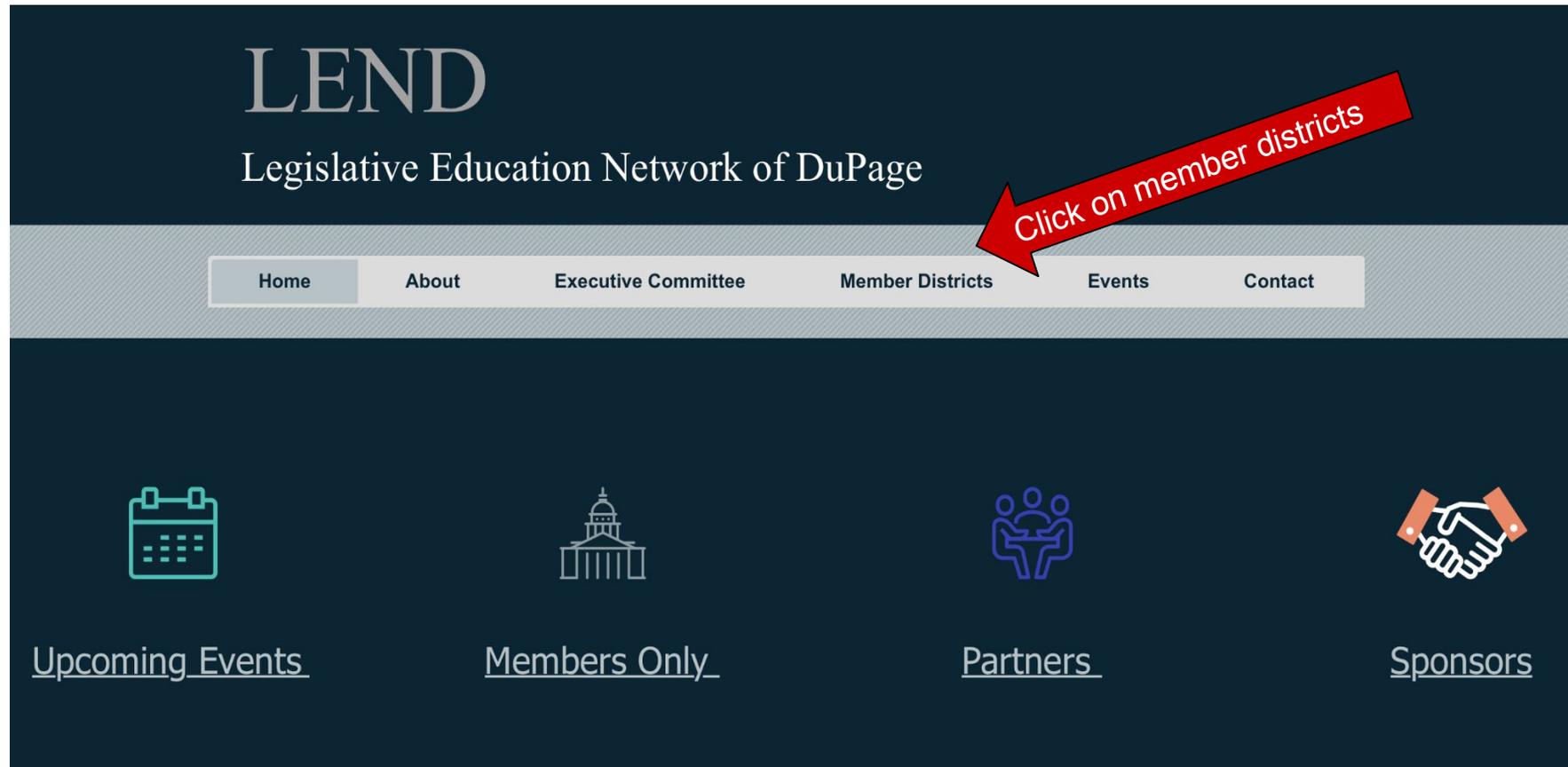
What Can You DO?

Each year over thousands of bills are filed with the General Assembly. LEND will review and analyze all bills that impact K-12 education. There is power in numbers so we may ask you to **CALL TO ACTION:**

- Contact your local legislators
 - Call
 - Email
- Fill out a witness slip with the General Assembly before a committee hearing.
- Testify in Springfield
- Communicate with your communities
 - Social Media
 - Direct message

Contact Your Local Legislators

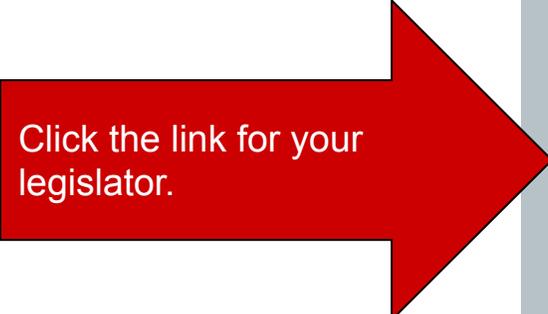
To find the legislators that represent your school district visit www.lenddupage.org:



Contact Your Local Legislators

To find the legislators that represent your school district visit www.lenddupage.org:

Member Districts



Click the link for your legislator.

Bensenville 2

Legislative Contacts
[Senator Seth Lewis \(R\)](#)
[Representative Jennifer Sanalidro \(R\)](#)
[Senator Don Harmon \(D\)](#)
[Representative Norma Hernandez \(D\)](#)

Addison 4

Legislative Contacts
[Senator Glowiak Hilton \(D\)](#)
[Representative Diane Blair-Sherlock \(D\)](#)
[Senator Seth Lewis \(R\)](#)
[Representative Jennifer Sanalidro \(R\)](#)
[Senator Don Harmon \(D\)](#)
[Representative Norma Hernandez \(D\)](#)

Wood Dale 7

Legislative Contacts
[Senator Seth Lewis \(R\)](#)
[Representative Jennifer Sanalidro \(R\)](#)

Itasca 10

Legislative Contacts
[Senator Seth Lewis \(R\)](#)
[Representative Jennifer Sanalidro \(R\)](#)

Contact Your Local Legislators

To find the legislators that represent your school district visit www.lenddupage.org:

Translate | Select General Assembly | Search 104th General Assembly

ILGA.GOV | LEGISLATION & LAWS | REPORTS & INQUIRY | RULES & REGULATIONS | SENATE | HOUSE | LOG IN

Don Harmon (D)



Don Harmon (D)

Member Details

Springfield Office: 309 G Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706
(217) 782-8176

District Office: 6941 W. North Ave.
Oak Park, IL 60302
(708) 848-2002
(708) 848-2022 Fax

Biography

Attorney; born 1966, in Oak Park; graduated St. Ignatius High School; B.A., Knox College; J.D. and M.B.A., University of Chicago; married (wife, Teresa), has three children: Don, Frances, and Margaret.

Associated Representatives:

[Norma Hernandez](#)
Camille Y. Lilly

You will be directed to the legislators contact page that displays both their Springfield and local offices



To File A Witness Slip

You will receive a Call To Action email from our LEND team with explicit instructions on how to file the witness slip:

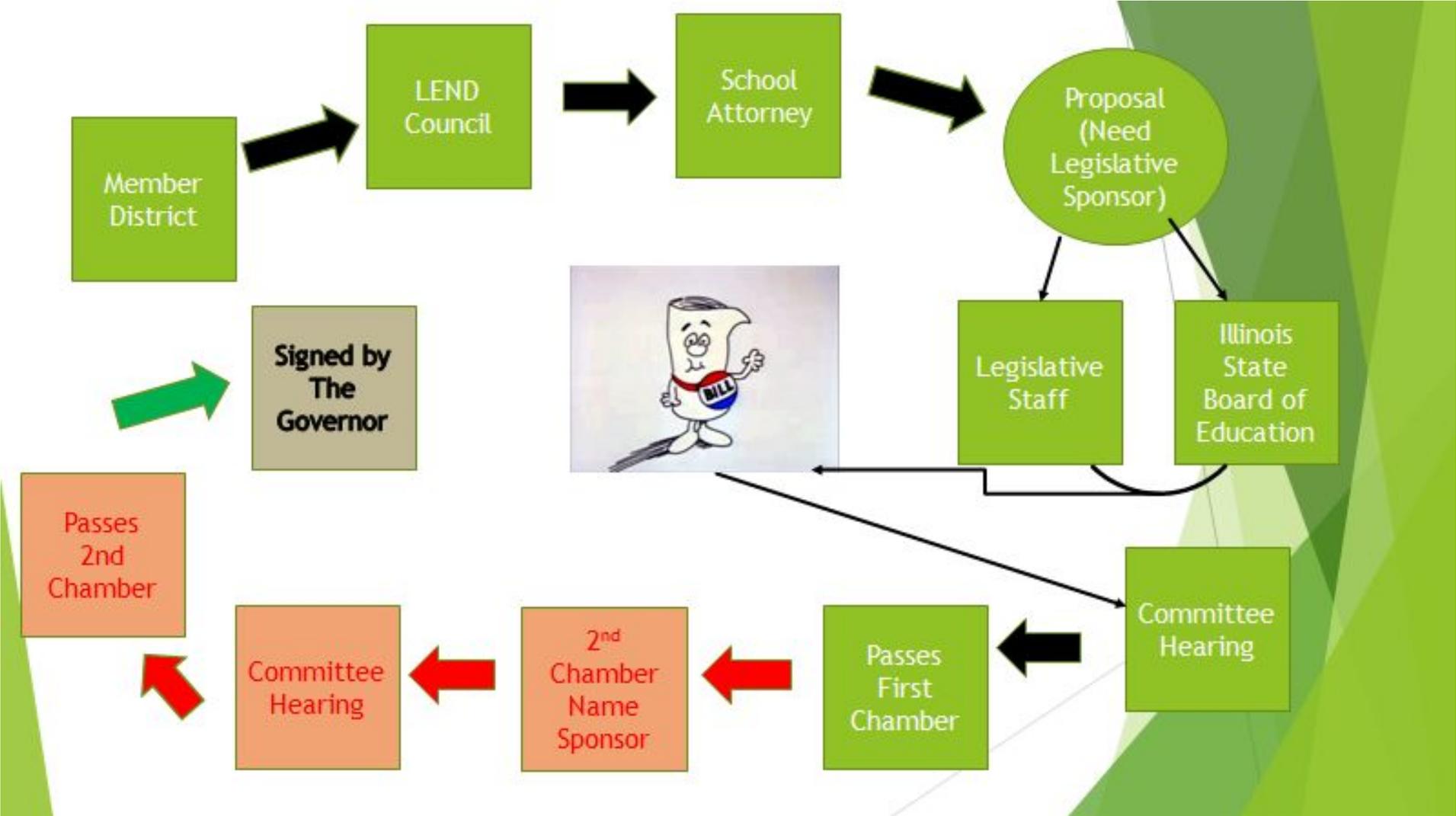
- A link will be provided for the specific witness slip we need filed.
- Click on the link and enter your specific information:
 - Name
 - Address
 - Organization (School District Name)
 - Who you are representing (School District Name)
 - Click proponent if LEND Supports the legislation
 - Click opponent if LEND opposes the legislation
 - Check record of appearance only
- A copy of your filed witness slip will be emailed to you.



Fill Out A Witness Slip

Example of a witness slip

Overview of Legislative Bill Process



Members Only Page

LEND

Legislative Education Network of DuPage

- Home
- About
- Executive Committee
- Member Directory
- Contact

Click on Members Only and enter password: LEND2024@



[Upcoming Events](#)



[Members Only](#)



[Partners](#)



[Sponsors](#)

Contact Information

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