



**VISION 20/20**  
Fulfilling the Promise of Public Education

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **1. What is Vision 20/20?**

Vision 20/20 is a student-centered vision for the future of education in Illinois. It focuses on four policy priorities: highly effective educators, 21<sup>st</sup> century learning, shared accountability, and equitable and adequate funding. The initiative was developed based on the input and efforts of educators from across the state, based on unprecedented collaboration among the Illinois Association of School Administrators (IASA), the Illinois Association of School Business Officials (IASBO), the Illinois Principals Association (IPA), the Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents of Schools (IARSS), the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB), and the Superintendents' Commission for the Study of Demographics and Diversity (SCSDD).

### **2. How is Vision 20/20 different from other reform proposals?**

Vision 20/20 is an education policy brief drafted by educators based on the experiences and input of thousands of educators from every corner of the state. This is the first time educators have ever proposed a policy platform with this level of collaboration, consensus, and commitment. To ensure action, Vision 20/20 is building a grassroots coalition across the state. Vision 20/20 is seeking the support of educators, businesses, parents, and other education reform groups from every region across the state to advance the policies of Vision 20/20.

### **3. What are the three priorities Vision 20/20 wants to introduce initially for legislative action?**

(1) current educator representation on ISBE, (2) teacher reciprocity agreements with surrounding states, and (3) the promotion of 21<sup>st</sup> century technology.

### **4. How does Vision 20/20 propose to pay for the policies outlined in Vision 20/20?**

Vision 20/20 exists to advocate for children. The public education system was created to develop productive citizens that contribute to the economic prosperity of our state. Vision 20/20 provides broad policy direction to realize that goal. While Vision 20/20 is concerned with both equity and adequacy of school funding, the goal of Vision 20/20 is not to advocate for any specific revenue policy to solve the state's larger structural deficit challenges but rather to advocate for investment of new state revenues toward public education.

### **5. Does Vision 20/20 address Senate Bill 16?**

Vision 20/20 does not directly address Senate Bill 16. Vision 20/20 believes Illinois children deserve both an equitable and adequate funding model for public education. As such, Vision 20/20 recommends an evidence-base-funding plan that addresses both equity and adequacy.

### **6. How does Vision 20/20 impact Chicago?**

An effective public education system impacts all Illinois children, regardless of geographic

location. Although Chicago Public Schools (CPS) operates under different school code, Vision 20/20 views Chicago legislators and CPS educators as allies in enacting policy to fulfill the promise of public education in Illinois.

**7. What does opting out of mandates look like? Will allowing districts to opt out decrease the quality of education?**

Opting out of mandates does not imply opting out of accountability. Vision 20/20 proposes relief from certain mandates not tied to student learning. Vision 20/20 believes the role of the state is to hold schools accountable for outcomes but not to dictate a universal approach or process for how to operate schools statewide. Vision 20/20 envisions a task force to determine which mandates are essential and which should be discretionary.

**8. What does differentiated accountability mean?**

The proposed differentiated accountability model modernizes the Illinois accountability system in a manner that satisfies federal requirements under the state's flexibility waiver. The proposed differentiated accountability model recognizes the diversity of Illinois schools by focusing on continuous improvement and district outcomes rather than exclusively on comparisons of diverse schools to a single standard.

**9. What is your stance on standardized testing? Do you have an opinion on PARCC?**

Vision 20/20 believes first and foremost that assessment should be used to inform instruction. Vision 20/20 is concerned about the trend toward more state and local testing and proposes a more balanced approach. The Vision 20/20 position on standardized testing is not related to PARCC. PARCC will need to establish its own credibility with educators. The Vision 20/20 proposal of a balanced assessment system reduces the amount of time devoted to assessment by developing a state testing program that meets the needs of local districts, allowing districts to forgo local assessments while creating consistency and alignment across the state.

**10. When will the plan have specifics?**

This document is a vision for the future. It is built on guiding principles and includes broad policy statements that Vision 20/20 hopes to advance through legislation over the next six years. Specifics will be communicated in the future in the form of legislative proposals.