

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **More than 390 School District Superintendents Urge Lawmakers and Governor to Pass State Budget**

*School chiefs call for end to impasse, and seek equitable  
funding, payment on past due bills*



**LOCATION** – Canton Superintendent Rolf Sivertsen joins more than 390 school chiefs from across the state, representing 1.3 million students, in calling for the Illinois General Assembly to immediately pass a state budget. The grassroots initiative, called “Pass Illinois’ Budget!,” also urges lawmakers and the Governor to improve the state’s education funding formula, and pay school districts millions of dollars owed in unpaid bills this year.

As legislators return to Springfield following spring break, school districts are using school marquees to share their frustration with the state budget crisis and taking to social media with a call to #PassILBudget. The state now owes Canton Union #66 more than 1.8 million dollars and has been operating without a full budget for the past 22 months.

"Our District has joined the fight to hold our legislators accountable for creating a dysfunctional climate for the school children of Illinois." "I stand with more than 390 superintendents from across the state in a call for action," said Canton Superintendent Rolf Sivertsen "We need to end the impasse now and move forward with a budget that will serve the two million K-12 Illinois public school students who represent our future."

The superintendents 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, throughout the state.
- Pay school districts what they are owed this year.

While K-12 education has benefited from a partially-funded state budget, Illinois schools, students, families, and communities will continue to suffer without a full state budget. Districts 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.

State revenue accounts for about 46% of Canton's budget. The General State Aid payments, which support general operating expenses, are being paid on time, however, the categorical payments are not. Canton has not received any categorical payments this year with the exception of one late quarter payment from last fiscal year. The shortfall means Canton will likely need to delay purchases of supplies and equipment and possibly lay off staff to reduce expenses next school year.

The 394 participating superintendents represent 65 percent of Illinois' public school students from Carbondale to Chicago to Rockford and are listed as follows:

Mr. Tony Sanders, School District U-46 (39,963)  
Dr. Karen Sullivan, Indian Prairie CUSD 204 (28,283)  
Dr. Jeff Craig, Aurora West SD 129 (12,554)  
Dr. Jennifer Garrison, Sandoval CUSD 501 (485)  
Mr. Forrest Claypool, City of Chicago SD 299 (392,051)  
Dr. Ehren Jarrett, Rockford Public School District 205 (28,459)  
Dr. Lane Abrell, Plainfield SD 202 (27,877)  
Mr. Fred Heid, CUSD 300 (20,926)  
Dr. John Sparlin, Oswego CUSD 308 (18,500)  
Dr. James Mitchem, Valley View CUSD 365U (17,020)  
Mrs. Jennifer Gill, Springfield SD 186 (14,893)  
Dr. Mark Daniel, McLean County USD 5 (13,751)  
Dr. Sharon Kherat, Peoria Public School District 150 (13,297)  
Dr. Donald Schlomann, St. Charles CUSD 303 (12,915)  
Dr. Jeff Schuler, CUSD 200 (Wheaton) (12,876)  
Dr. Brian Harris, Barrington CUSD 220 (8,850)  
Mr. Jim Greenwald, Granite City CUSD 9 (6,200)  
Mr. Arthur Culver, East St. Louis SD 189 (6,086)  
Dr. Barry Reilly, Bloomington SD 87 (5,455)  
Dr. Donald D. Owen, Urbana School District 116 (4,200)  
Dr. Todd Stirn, Burlington Central 301 (4,055)  
Mrs. Mary Havis, Berwyn South SD 100 (3,936)  
Dr. Ben Martindale, North Chicago SD 187 (3,676)  
Dr. Michael Lubelfeld, Deerfield SD 109 (2,973)  
Dr. Gregory Fuerstenau, Taylorville CUSD 3 (2,628)  
Mr. Mike Gauch, Harrisburg CUSD 3 (2,054)  
Mr. Chuck Lane, Centralia HSD 200 (931)  
Mr. David Rademacher- Patoka CUSD 100 (241)  
Mr. Kerry Herdes- South Central CUD 401 (649)  
Mr. Matt Renaud- Raccoon CONS SD 1 (234)  
Mr. Craig Clark- Centralia SD 135 (1,337)  
Mr. John Consolino, Iuka CCSD 7 (209)  
Mr. Ralph Grimm, Galesburg CUSD 205 (4,542)  
Mr. Kristin Humphries, East Moline SD 37 (2,804)  
Mr. Brad Skertich, Southwestern CUSD 9 (1,512)  
Mr. Rich Well, Vandalia CUSD 203 (1,536)  
Mr. Dan Cox, Staunton CUSD 6 (1,273)  
Mr. Tim Branon, Central City SD 133 (321)  
Mr. Robin Brooks, Selmaville CCSD 10 (246)  
Mr. Brad Detering, Salem CHSD 600 (736)  
Ms. Leslie Foppe, Salem SD 111 (1,044)  
Dr. David Lett, Pana CUSD 8 (1,314)  
Mr. Jeff Humes, Odin PSD 722 (301)

Mr. Fred Lamkey, Edinburg CUSD 4 (289)  
Mr. Chris McCann, Kell Cons. SD 2 (114)  
Mr. David Schulte, Irvington CCSD 11 (58)  
Dr. Melissa Kaczowski, Roselle SD 12 (708)  
Dr. John Butts, Medinah SD 11 (645)  
Dr. Susan Homes, Smithton CCSD 130 (518)  
Dr. Kristen Kendrick-Weikle, Warrensburg-Latham CUSD 11 (953)  
Mr. Gary Miller, Momence CUSD 1 (1,180)  
Mr. Daniel Brue, Meridian CUSD 15 (1,035)  
Dr. Scott Doerr, Nokomis CUSD 22 (640)  
Dr. Andrew Brooks, Delavan CUSD 703 (474)  
Dr. Kerry L. Cox, Carrollton CUSD 1 (601)  
Dr. Lisa Hichens, Batavia USD 101 (6,022)  
Mr. Ryan Heavner, Greenview CUSD 200 (243)  
Mr. David Chavira, East Coloma-Nelson CESD 20 (291)  
Mr. Andy Richmond, Carbon Cliff-Barstow SD 36 (304)  
Dr. DeAnn Heck, Central A&M CUD 21 (771)  
Mr. Victor White, Prairieview-Ogden CCSD 197 (243)  
Mr. Brad Turner, Mulberry Grove CUSD 1 (425)  
Dr. Lori Franke-Hopkins, Jersey CUSD 100 (2,556)  
Mr. Todd Pence, St. Joseph CCSD 169 (875)  
Ernie Fowler, Nashville CHSD 99 (404)  
Dr. Diane Cepela, Newark CCSD 66 (240)  
Mr. Scott Watson, Bismarck Henning CUSD (909)  
Mr. Shannon Bumann, AlWood CUSD 225 (390)  
Dr. Chad Wagner, Elmwood CUSD 322 (705)  
Dr. Chad Allison, Illinois Valley Central USD 321 (2,167)  
Dr. Lynn Panega, Lake Park High School District 108 (2,642)  
Dr. Patrick Anderson, Wood River-Hartford ESD 15 (749)  
Mr. Erik Van Hovel, Windsor CUSD 1 (380)  
Mrs. Brenda Donahue, Marseilles ESD 150 (594)  
Mr. Kenneth Schwengel, Arthur Community Unit SD 305 (1,251)  
Dr. Lance Thurman, Riverton CUSD 14 (1,427)  
Mr. Darryl Hogue, River Bend CUSD 2 (982)  
Mr. William Faller, Pecatonica CUSD 321 (898)  
Mrs. Sandra Kabat, Farrington CCSD 99 (75)  
Mr. Jim Littleford, Charleston CUSD 1 (2,860)  
Mr. Rolf Sivertsen, Canton Union SD 66 (2,604)  
Mr. Christopher Grode, Murphysboro CUSD 186 (2,138)  
Mr. Edward Fletcher, Monmouth-Roseville CUSD 238 (1,708)  
Dr. Roger Alvey, Illini Bluffs CUSD 327 (961)  
Dr. Scott Dearman, Deer Creek-Mackinaw CUSD 701 (1,100)  
Mrs. Dee Scott, Casey-Westfield CUSD 4C (893)  
Dr. Douglas Wood, Ball-Chatham CUSD 5 (4,797)

Mr. Tad Everett, Sterling CUSD 5 (3,458)  
Dr. Kevin Cogdill, Marissa CUSD 40 (617)  
Dr. Christine A. Sefcik, Grant Community HSD 124 (1,912)  
Cathie Pezanoski, Elwood CCSD 203 (380)  
Ms. Drusilla Lobmaster, Ludlow CCSD 142 (80)  
Dr. Kimako Patterson, Prairie-Hills ESD 144 (2,563)  
Dr. David Moyer, Elmhurst SD 205 (8,436)  
Dr. Kevin Suchinski, Hillside SD 93 (508)  
Mr. Larry Lovel, Trico CUSD 176 (963)  
Mr. Michael Smith, Tuscola CUSD 301 (981)  
Mr. Brian Brooks, St. Joseph Ogden CHSD 305 (470)  
Mrs. Kathy Countryman, Sycamore CUSD 427 (3,795)  
Dr. Jay Morrow, United Township High School District 30 (1,712)  
Mr. Aaron Hopper, Panhandle CUSD 2 (500)  
Dr. Mike Oberhaus, Rock Island SD 41 (6,767)  
Dr. John Burkey, Huntley Community SD 158 (9,473)  
Mr. Jeff Hinman, Tremont CUSD 702 (930)  
Dr. Art Fessler, Community Consolidated SD 59 (6,902)  
Dr. Judy Wiegand, Champaign CUSD 4 (9,951)  
Dr. Jon Bartelt, Bloomington SD13 (1,291)  
Dr. Jim Carlson, Seneca Township HSD 160 (448)  
Mrs. Kelle Bunch, Liberty CUSD 2 (658)  
Dr. Lori James-Gross, Unity Point CCSD 140 (705)  
Mr. Geoff A. Schoonover, Cornell CCSD 426 (102)  
Dr. Mike Schiffman, Freeport SD 145 (4,118)  
Dr. Kevin Russell, Chicago Ridge School Dist. 127.5 (1,505)  
Dr. Michael Connolly, Keeneyville ESD 20 (1,525)  
Dr. Nick Polyak, Leyden CHSD 212 (3,375)  
Mrs. Robin Becker, Germantown SD 60 (265)  
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Dr. Lynette Zimmer, Lake Villa CCSD 41 (2,759)  
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Mr. Mike Curry, V I T CUSD 2 (369)  
Mr. Steve Wilder, Knoxville CUSD 202 (1,109)  
Dr. Dan Oest, Nippersink S.D. 2 (1,137)

Dr. Dan Oest, Richmond-Burton C.H.S.D 157 (709)  
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Mr. Jeff Fritchtnitch, Altamont CUSD 10 (761)  
Mr. Gary Lewis, Oakwood CUSD 76 (1,022)  
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Ms. Diana Zurliene, Fairfield PSD 112 (723)  
Mr. Ryan McGuckin, Woodland CUSD 5 (512)  
Mr. Richard Towers, Christopher CUSD 99 (805)  
Ms. Helen Boehrsen, St. George CCSD 258 (461)  
Mr. Mark Heuring, Damiansville Elementary SD 62 (114)  
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Dr. Phil Ehrhardt, Benjamin School District 25 (636)  
Dr. Joseph J. Majchrowicz, Burnham School District 154.5 (218)  
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Dr. Edward J. Stange, Sunset Ridge SD 29 (477)  
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Dr. Linda Dvorak, Iroquois West CUSD 10 (993)  
Bobbi Williams, Decatur Public Schools 61 (9,106)  
Mr. Jeff Mitchell, Wayne City Unit 100 (515)  
Mr. Shawn Teske, Warren CUSD 205 (404)  
Mr. Randy Otto, DePue SD 103 (441)  
Dr. Kyle Schumacher, La Grange School District 102 (3,113)  
Mr. Tim Farquer, Williamsfield CUSD 210 (290)  
Dr. John Hutton, Gurnee District 56 (2,141)  
Dr. Pamela Kibbons, Taft School District 90 (325)  
Dr. Gayle Wahlin, Fenton High School District 100 (1,478)  
Dr. John Kosirog, Niles ESD 71 (583)  
Dr. Theresa Hill, South Holland SD 151 (1,564)  
Dr. Maura Zinni, Frankfort CCSD 157C (2,507)  
Dr. Heidi Wennstrom, Butler SD 53 (528)  
Dr. Steve Webb, Goreville CUSD 1 (620)  
Dr. Scott Wakeley, Bradley-Bourbonnais Community HSD 307 (2,100)  
Dr. John Corbett, Wood Dale District 7 (1,143)  
Dr. James Hammack, Byron CUSD 226 (1,482)  
Dr. William G. Caron, Scales Mound CUSD 211 (232)  
Mr. Edwin Shoemate, Cobden CUSD 17 (553)  
Dr. Andy Henrikson, Mundelein Elementary SD 75 (1,662)  
Mr. Adam Ehrman, New Berlin CUSD 16 (940)  
Dr. Mark McDonald and Dr. Marion Hoyda, Aurora East SD 131 (14,659)

**Other Supporters:**

Tony Reeley, Executive Director of Eastern Illinois Area of Special Education

Michelle Mueller, Superintendent, Regional Office of Education (ROE) 40

Julie Wollerman, Regional Superintendent, ROE 3

Marchelle Kassebaum, Assistant Superintendent, ROE 3

Eric Brackmann, Director, Ford County Special Ed Coop

Kathy Horath, Director, Macon-Piatt Special Education District

Jim Nelson, Executive Director, North DuPage Special Education Cooperative

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Brenda Patrick, Director of Mid-State Special Education

Ron Daniels, Regional Superintendent of Schools, ROE 13

Dennis Litteken, Mater Dei Catholic High School, Breese

Dr. Kyle Thompson, Assistant Regional Superintendent, ROE 11

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