



FACT SHEET

— From the Department of Government Relations —

Senate Bill 10 (Manar) - SUPPORT

Minimum Teacher Salary

SB 10 would change the minimum salary for teachers to \$40,000. Currently, the state school code says the minimum salary for teachers in Illinois is \$10,000 for teachers with 120 semester hours or more and a bachelor's degree, \$11,000 for teachers with 150 semester hours and a master's degree.

Background

The language pertaining to the minimum salary of a teacher in Illinois is over 30 years old. A salary of \$10-\$11,000 per year is not a living wage. The school code should reflect that teachers are a vital part of every community in the state and deserve a salary which reflects their importance.

Rationale for Support

There is a worsening teacher shortage crisis in the state of Illinois. Two of the top reasons teachers leave the profession is low salary and benefits and a lack of public respect for the profession. Currently, Illinois law states that the minimum teacher salary should be between \$10,000 and \$11,000 dollars. By raising that floor to a minimum of \$40,000 for all teachers across the state it will send a message that Illinois not only wants to address the issue of compensation, but also recognizes the need to show that educators are respected. This bill was passed by both chambers of the General Assembly last session before it was vetoed by then Gov. Bruce Rauner.

Now, more than ever, Illinois teachers are being asked to do more and more with less and less. To make matters worse, teachers have never been paid equally compared to other professionals who have earned bachelor's degrees. **SB 10** is an IEA initiative that attempts to take the first steps toward rectifying the inequities that exist in teacher salaries.

Furthermore, the IEA feels teacher salary should be a part of the conversation regarding the teacher and substitute teacher shortage crisis currently gripping Illinois. While changes to teacher prep courses, licensure, assessments, etc. are important, it is unreasonable to assume that more students will be enticed into a profession in education without compensating them with a salary that reflects their educational background, as well as their professionalism.

While there appears to be universal agreement that being a teacher is one of the most important and toughest jobs in our state, there is no place in the school code that would seem to support that concept. It is time to pay our children's teachers the wages they deserve.