



Education wins with the IEA

1983 - Present

#IEAstronger

1983 | Illinois Labor Relations Act signed

The culmination of a 15-year lobbying effort, Governor Jim Thompson signs HB 1530 into law. The IEA's Collective Bargaining Bill established comprehensive collective bargaining rights for Illinois' public school employees.

1984-86 | Hundreds of IEA locals formed

More than 600 locals bargain contracts as a result of the Collective Bargaining Law. Over the next couple of years average teacher salary rise. Local bargaining nets as much as 11.5 percent and new support personnel contracts gain as much as 12.5 percent.

1993 | IEA wins "5+5" early retirement law for teachers

Five Plus Five lets teachers and administrators age 49 and older retire early by buying up to five years of credit for age and experience toward their pensions, helping many teachers who sign up for a full pension.

1994 | IEA begins major push for school reform

This marked the beginning of a three-year effort to reform how schools are funded.

1996 | School funding reform initiative launches

IEA launches **School Funding Reform Initiative** with the theme "**It's Not Fair**" to reform how public education is financed in Illinois. The plan sought to remedy inequitable school funding based on property taxes. It was a valiant effort by a historic statewide education coalition of supporters (IEA, Illinois Federation of Teachers, Illinois Association of School Administrators, Illinois Association of School Boards, Parent-Teacher Association) and Governor Jim Edgar, however our fight to pass meaningful school funding reform ends in the Senate with Senate President Pate Philip.

1996 | IEA works to impact charter schools legislation

IEA leaders take part in the signing ceremony on April 10. Charter School law is "a good beginning toward systemic school reform in our state."

1997 | IEA announces Student-Centered Education Renewal Plan (SCERP)

Based on three years of research and the input of IEA members from across the state, IEA leaders and staff work to develop a bold school renewal plan. "We must develop our own child-centered blueprint for change in

the public schools. We must do it now; before the anti-education forces set the agenda." The plan covers school restructuring, early start, school performance, parental involvement, community involvement, school and student safety, school organization and infrastructure, high professional standards, leadership and accountability, teacher tenure, teacher retention and recruitment, school funding reform and fiscal reform.

1997 | IEA's creates new Grassroots Political Activist (GPA) program

The GPA program gets underway at the Summer Leadership Academy.

1998 | SCERP revised to create Renewal for Illinois Schools and Education (R.I.S.E)

1998-99 | IEA fights for passage of the Teacher Certification Bill

IEA leaders and staff work with the State Teacher Certification Board in an attempt to implement a teacher-controlled certification system. However, the Illinois State Board of Education challenged key components of the IEA plan. In 1999, the IEA prevails when Governor George Ryan signs the IEA-backed Teacher Certification Bill into law. IEA, through its R.I.S.E plan for better schools, supported a multi-tier teacher certification system, and IEA leaders and staff attended the July 12 bill-signing ceremony in Chicago.

1998 | IEA-supported 2.2 percent flat pension bill becomes law

2.2 win brings a major teacher pension hike to IEA members. 2.2 represents the jewel in the teachers' pension Triple Crown that IEA earned in the last part of this decade. In 1994, IEA secured legislative guarantees of continuing appropriations to fund the Teachers' Retirement System. In 1995, IEA stopped the threat to eliminate TRS health insurance benefits. 1998 will be remembered as the year that the IEA brought about parity in retirement benefits for Illinois teachers — our retirement benefits are now on a par with those of our counterparts in other states. It was a 20-year battle, but the IEA persisted.

2000 | IEA steps up efforts to organize adjunct faculty at community colleges

IEA pursues an aggressive strategy to combat problems of disproportionately low salaries, lack of health benefits, exclusion from policy development, lack of employment security, academic freedom and connection to the

community. Adjunct faculty want and deserve what their full-time counterparts have — benefits, vacation, salary and a voice in education matters.

2001 | IEA is approved as a professional development provider

The designation means that the IEA can assist Illinois teachers in their recertification efforts.

2002-03 | Adjunct faculty win collective bargaining rights

With the passage of HB1720, the Illinois Education Labor Relations Act was amended to allow adjunct faculty to petition the local college board for the right to bargain collectively. IEA leaders, members, lobbyists and other staff who were instrumental in the passage of the bill, estimate that as many as 20,000 employees are affected by this new law.

2006 | IEA launches Invest in Excellence

The school reform campaign goals were to increase student achievement by improving the public ed system; provide adequate resources to all preK-12 public schools; provide adequate resources to all public higher ed institutions in ways that will keep tuition affordable for all students; provide long-term solution for pension system stability and funding; and do no harm to any public education entity.

2007 | IEA coordinates massive C.A.R.E rally

As part of Invest In Excellent campaign, rally goers marched from Prairie Capitol Convention Center to the Capitol to fix education funding. An estimated 8,000 education employees, IEA staff, parents and students gathered in Springfield for this historic event.

2007 | IEA says “no” to an Illinois Constitutional Convention

Believing that a constitutional convention would most likely take a look at pension funding reform, the IEA strongly opposed a con-con and successfully fought to make sure one did not happen.

2007 | Protections for education support professionals (ESPs) becomes law

IEA achieved a major victory in providing job protection for all ESP employees through HB 1347. This major achievement made the subcontracting of ESP employees much more difficult for school district employers. IEA-NEA is strongly opposed to privatization because of the threat it poses to the quality of education, the accountability of public schools to the communities they serve and the well-being of children in the school.

2010 | SOS Rally Day

On April 21, the IEA, in co-operation with the Responsible Budget Coalition (RBC), launched the SOS rally day at the Illinois State Capitol in Springfield. An estimated 15,000 people came to the capitol urging lawmakers to stop cutting the state’s most vital services, including education.

2013 | State passes pension reform law that IEA fights and wins

In December 2013, the state legislature passed and Governor Pat Quinn signed a pension reform law that ended automatic, compounded yearly cost-of-living increases for retirees, extended the retirement ages for current workers and limited the amount of salary used to calculate pension benefits. IEA, and other public employee unions, fought this law all the way to the Illinois Supreme Court, which then ruled in 2015 that the law was unconstitutional.

2014 | Launch of SCORE grants

These grants go to early career members who partner with organizations within their communities to do projects that benefit schools and towns.

2015 | Trauma-informed systems

IEA begins work with the Partnership4Resilience and starts ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) training to help members meet the needs of the whole child through high-quality, statewide, trauma-informed training.

2017 | Illinois House of Representatives adopts ACEs resolution

The IEA took the trauma-informed schools initiatives to another level when the Illinois House passed an IEA-backed resolution calling for the Illinois State Board of Education, the Illinois Department of Human Services, the Administrative Office of the Courts, and the Illinois Department of Corrections “to become informed regarding well-documented detrimental short-term and long-term impacts to children and adults from serious traumatic childhood experiences.

2017 | IEA Legal wins major victory for striking ESPs

A judge orders 168 members of the Educational Support Professional Association off the picket line and back to work after the school district filed a temporary restraining order alleging if ESPA nurses and classroom aides were not at work the students would be in “clear and present danger.” The IEA legal team wins a key victory in court when the judge dismisses the district’s court filing, allowing those members to rejoin their union brothers and sisters on the picket line. In the end, ESPA members were offered a fair contract by the district and voted to ratify.



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