

The Illinois Association of Private Special Education Centers



OPPOSE SB 3606

- **Proration & cost concern** – ISBE preliminary, initial data shows that the amended proposal would be at least \$70 million+. Proration is estimated at least 55%, which threatens the entire system.
 - **Economically challenged schools lose** - Proration will have a disproportionate effect on students from economically challenged schools. Their placements will be at greater risk as they do not have the local funds to cover due to proration.
 - **Illinois current financial state** – Evidence based funding is flat funded this session. This would create a large financial hole for Evidenced Based Funding if this were to pass.
 - **Measure is not “equalizing”** - Public schools have a number of funding streams to pull from to operate their special education programs. Districts have only one funding stream for a private placement. Proration would greatly jeopardize the placements of the most severely disabled students in Illinois.
 - **Placements decided by IEP team** - Districts place students in Private Special Education centers as the result of a decision made by the IEP team.
 - **Cost Containment** - Private placements are subject to vigorous cost containment measures each year to ensure the fidelity of their spending. ISBE oversees the Illinois Purchased Care Review Board with caps on administrative and occupancy costs.
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Members of *The Illinois Association of Private Special Education Centers* provide highly specialized services to the state's most vulnerable students whose disabilities are so severe and complex that they interfere with the students' intellectual, behavioral, and mental health functioning. The emotional needs of our students in the state are extremely high.

Types of Students:

- Have been psychiatrically hospitalized
- Live in residential treatment centers or group homes
- Chronically truant from school
- Have been removed from public school for the safety of other children
- Have emotional and behavior-disorders so severe that the students need clinical programs in order to educate them properly and to keep non-involved children safe
- Students with severe autism
- Involved with DCFS or Department of Juvenile Justice
- Diagnosed with severe emotional disorders

Private programs are different than public programs (NOT comparable):

- More specialized and more intensive
- Mandated smaller class sizes
- Intensity of clinical services (i.e., # of social workers per student, family therapeutic services)
- Cost containment measures
- Structured rate setting by state agency based on actual audited costs
- Regulated caps on administrative and occupancy cost
- Comprehensive monitoring and accountability
- The money follows the students