

State of Illinois
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
207 State Capitol, Springfield, Illinois 62706

August 15, 2003

To the Honorable Members of the
Illinois Senate
93rd General Assembly

I am committed to funding education for our school children, including special education, and the FY 04 budget reflects that commitment. While we were not able to fund every program, we significantly increased funding for education (by \$381 million for fiscal year 2004) and for special education programs overall (by 145 million for fiscal year 2004). In these difficult fiscal times, I believe that we must operate within the constraints set by that budget and not allow costs to be passed on to future years. Therefore, I am modifying SB 1333 so that at least for the next two years reimbursements for these special education costs must be paid solely from the year they are appropriated.

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 9(e) of the Illinois Constitution of 1970, I hereby return Senate Bill 1333, entitled "AN ACT concerning education", with the following specific recommendations for change:

on page 4, by replacing line 17 with the following:
"year thereafter through fiscal year 2002 and then in fiscal year 2006 and each fiscal year thereafter, if the amount"; and

on page 4, by replacing line 22 with the following:
"the next fiscal year, and the payments required to eliminate"; and

on page 4, by replacing lines 25 through 32 with the following:
"Notwithstanding any other provision of this Section or this Code, beginning with fiscal year 2003 and continuing through fiscal year 2005, total reimbursement under this Section in any fiscal year is limited to the amount appropriated for that purpose for that fiscal year, and if the amount appropriated for any fiscal year is less than the amount required for purposes of this Section, the insufficiency shall be apportioned pro rata among the school districts seeking reimbursement."; and

on page 10, by replacing lines 15 and 16 with the following:
"1994 and each fiscal year thereafter through fiscal year 2002 and then in fiscal year 2006 and each fiscal year thereafter, if the amount appropriated for any fiscal year is less"; and

on page 10, by replacing lines 20 and 21 with the following:
"reimbursed on August 30 of the next fiscal year, and the payments required to eliminate any insufficiency for prior"; and

on page 10, by replacing lines 23 through 31 with the following:

"for the current fiscal year. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Section or this Code, beginning with fiscal year 2003 and continuing through fiscal year 2005, total reimbursement under this Section in any fiscal year is limited to the amount appropriated for that purpose for that fiscal year, and if the amount appropriated for any fiscal year is less than the amount required for purposes of this Section, the insufficiency shall be apportioned pro rata among the school districts seeking reimbursement."

With these changes, Senate Bill 1333 will have my approval. I respectfully request your concurrence.

Sincerely,
Rod R. Blagojevich
Governor