



A HISTORY OF SUCCESS

EDUCATION WINS WITH THE IEA

1983

Illinois Labor Relations Act signed

The IEA's Collective Bargaining Bill established comprehensive collective bargaining rights for Illinois' public school employees.

1984

Hundreds of IEA locals formed

More than 600 locals bargain contracts as a result of the Collective Bargaining Law.

1993

"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.

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.

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's creates new Grassroots Political Activist (GPA) program

The GPA program gets underway at the Summer Leadership.

1997

IEA announces Student-Centered Education Renewal Plan (SCERP)

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.

1998

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

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.

1998

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.

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.

2001

IEA is approved as a professional development provider

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

2002

Adjunct faculty win collective bargaining rights

With the passage of HB 1720, the Illinois Education Labor Relations Act was amended to allow adjunct faculty to petition the local college board for the right to bargain collectively.

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 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

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

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.

2010

SOS Rally Day

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

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

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.

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.

2018

\$15 minimum wage

Raises minimum wage every year until it reaches \$15 an hour in 2025.

2018

Collective Bargaining Freedom Act

Prevents any area of the state from becoming a right-to-work zone.

2018

Drivers Ed Protections

Requires school districts that contract with a third party to teach drivers education have to make sure the teacher meets the educator licensure and endorsement requirements and the observation requirements that apply to non-tenured teachers.

2018

Threat Assessment Protocol Teams

Created the Threat Assessment Protocol Teams for school districts to help prevent school violence. Outlines the authority to create the teams, makeup of these teams, and responsibilities for the teams. This legislation also expands the county sales tax expenditure to include school health and safety personnel.

2018

Minimum Teacher Salary

Set the minimum salary for a teacher in Illinois at \$40,000.

2018

Elimination of the Illinois State Charter School Commission

Abolishes the Charter School Commission by 2020. Ends the appeal route for charter school operators and gives communities final say on whether or not charter schools can operate in their school district. Transfers oversight to the Illinois State Board of Education.

2018

Additional Education Funding

This year's budget included an additional 5 percent in funding for higher education, an additional 6 percent for community college and an additional \$375 million for k-12, as well as a \$50 million increase in college grant money and a \$50 million increase in early childhood education funding.

2018

Mental Health Early Action on Campus Act

Created the Mental Health Early Action on Campus Act. Provides that to raise mental health awareness on college campuses, each public college or university in this state must complete specified tasks. Provides that the board of trustees of each public college or university must designate an expert panel to develop and implement policies and procedures.

2020

March 11 | World Health Organization declares COVID-19 a pandemic

IEA works with the state's leading science-based experts to get the best back-to-school advice. And, IEA has a seat at the table, from the start, with all the education stakeholders on how to lead through this worldwide pandemic in our state.

2020

March 17 | IEA ensures paychecks keep coming

IEA negotiates agreement with education stakeholders that ensures all employees will be paid during the end of the school year and that benefits cannot be slashed, among other items.

2020

May 1 | Clock hours

IEA wins ability for members to earn clock hours for the time spent learning to provide remote learning.

2020

May 24 | Support Staff

IEA passes legislation that ensured support staff could receive unemployment compensation through the end of the calendar year, even if they thought they'd be employed the next academic year; to ensure workers' compensation benefits for those who contracted COVID-19 at the start of the pandemic and continues to fight for this; and a law that assures that during a public health emergency: state standardized assessments are waived as long as the U.S. Department of Education agrees; preschools can provide childcare to essential workers ages 0-12; blended learning days can be used; defined remote learning; allows for remote learning planning in a calendar; waived the five-hour clock requirement; waived the PE requirement; allowed for flexibility to education requirements; extended licensure expiration by a year; waived the student teaching requirement for 2020; rolled over evaluations and altered remediation plans.

2020

August 8 | Medical review panel

IEA announces medical review panel for district back-to-school plans.

2021

March 4 | Vaccines

Educators prioritized for vaccine.

2021

March 15 | Online Tracker

IEA's COVIDtracker website launched.

2021

April 5 | Sick days for COVID

Paid administrative leave for those who had to stay home for COVID-related reasons. It also restores COVID-related sick days to employees who had to use them earlier in the 2021-2022 school year.

2021

May 13 | Mental Health Days

IEA passes legislation to require five mental health days each school year at full pay, and includes that employees are not required to provide a medical note or other documentation to use the mental health days.

2021

IEA continues leading the way to keep our school safe

2023

SB 1235 | State Universities Retirement System recalculation

Ensures that our SURS members will receive full pension credits for their years of service as an educator who participates in SURS.

2023

SB 1351 | Waiver of final year evaluation

A teacher set to retire in their last year can waive their evaluation if the previous overall evaluation was proficient or excellent.

2023

SB 1352 | Teacher resignation timeline

The timeline to submit a resignation during the school term must be concurred by the board. If the resignation is after the school term, the resignation letter must be submitted 30 days prior to the first student attendance day. This legislation also sets the timeframe for when a district must notify the teacher of submitting their license to the state superintendent as well as when the state superintendent must notify the teacher once a decision has been made.

2023

SB 1468 120 | Return to work TRS provision

Until 2026, retired teachers are allowed to return to the classroom for up to 120 days without impairing their TRS annuity.

2023

SB 1872 | Reduces tenure track from four years to three

Teachers hired on or after July 1, can attain tenure in three years with an overall evaluation of proficient in their second and third years. They can attain tenure in two years with two years of overall excellent on their evaluations.

2023

SB 2017 | Education Support Professionals paid holidays

Ensures ESPs receive school holidays off without a deduction in pay or time.