



Funding Our Schools: Time for a Turnaround

*The City Club of Chicago
Monday, January 25, 2016*



www.IllinoisSenateDemocrats.com

#fixtheformula

#fairschoolfunding

A tale of three districts



**Our state has the most
inequitable system of school
finance in the country.**



John J. Cullerton • *Illinois Senate President*

**Nationally, we rank a
dismal 42nd in terms of
the performance gap in
reading scores among
low-income students.**

#42

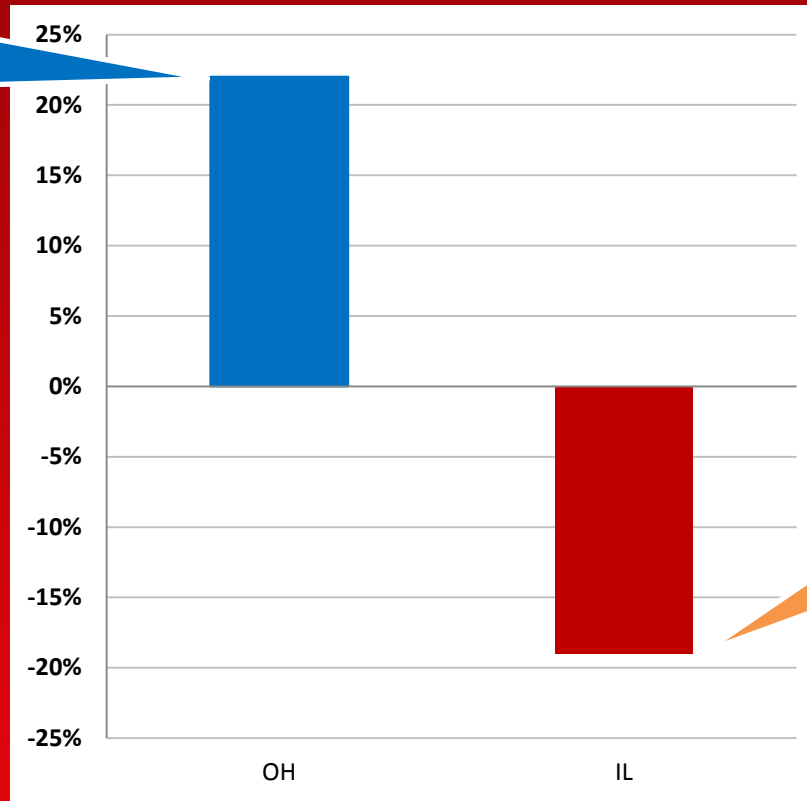


John J. Cullerton • Illinois Senate President

Illinois has the most regressive funding system in the country

For each dollar spent on students ...

Ohio spends \$1.22 on low-income students



IL spends \$0.81 on low-income students

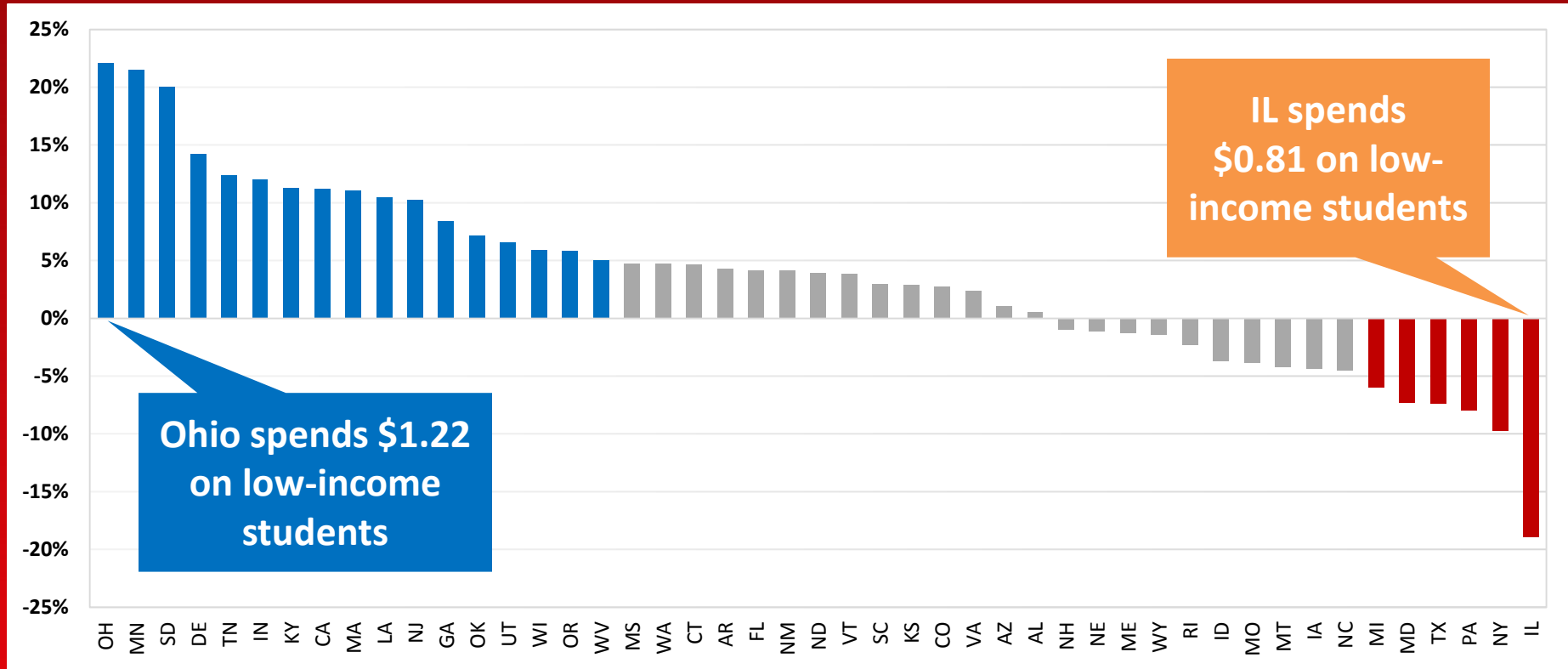


Source: Funding Gaps, Education Trust, 2015

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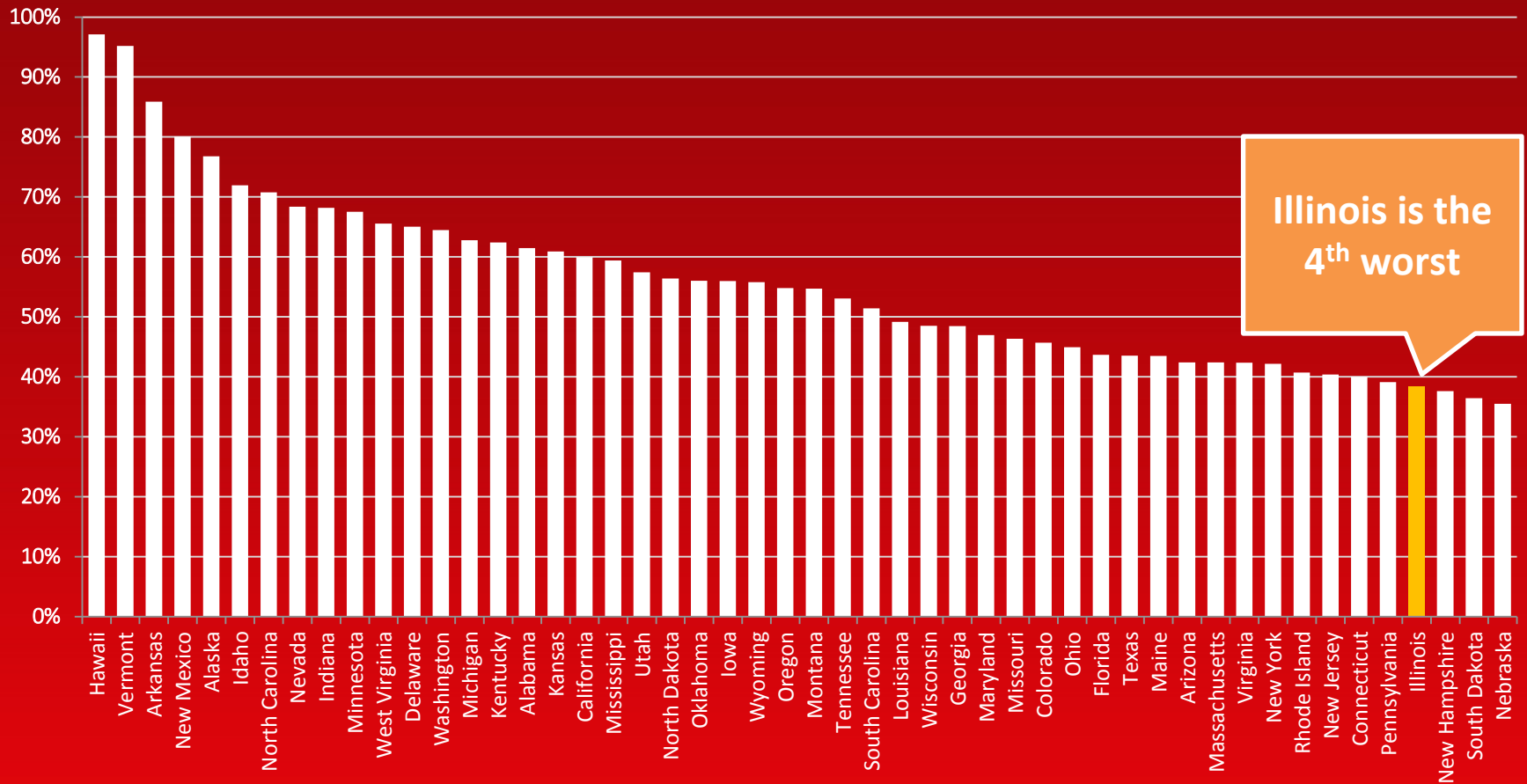
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**How much are we going to
spend on education?**

**How are we going to
spend it?**



Illinois is near the bottom nationwide for its share of state funding



State and local funding only. Federal funds are excluded. Source: United States Census Bureau. Public Education Finances: 2013. June, 2015.

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Key principles should underlie our funding formula

- State resources should go to school districts based on the needs of their students with more funds to support kids who we know – from research and our own common sense – need extra support.
- Funds should be distributed through a single, straightforward model. Special deals are over.
- We need to take into account a school district's ability to support local schools with local funds.
- Accountability needs to follow these dollars.



**There are winners and far
too many losers in the
current system.**



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What reform means for Chicago

A funding formula that recognizes the needs of low-income students would benefit Chicago just as it would Berwyn, Cairo and East St. Louis – all of which have a student poverty rate at nearly 90 percent or higher.

Pension parity must be part of a new formula.



The problem with the current formula: The dollars aren't going where we know they are needed.



From 2013 to 2015, Chicago improved student performance more than other large city school districts

“Chicago Public Schools makes the grade on Nation's Report Card”

- *Chicago Tribune Editorial Board*

“Of the 21 urban districts assessed, only three saw multiple instances of score increases: the District of Columbia, Miami-Dade County, Fla., and Chicago.”

- *Education Week*

“CPS Students Outpace Growth of National Urban, State Peers in Reading, Math”

- *Chicago Public Schools*





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