

1131 South Dee Road
Park Ridge, Illinois 60068
Voice: 847-692-8048
<http://www.ed-red.org>

Primer on the 99th Illinois General Assembly and Preview of the 2015 Spring Legislative Session

- 15+ new legislators joined the Illinois General Assembly on January 14, 2015 for the first year of the 99th General Assembly.
- The legislature holds its Spring Legislative Session from mid-January to May 31st each year. The legislature then turns for a two-week Fall Veto Session in November/December and January Lame Duck Session in early January each year.
- Caucus leadership: House Speaker Michael Madigan (Chicago), House GOP Leader Jim Durkin (Western Springs), Senate President John Cullerton (Chicago) and Senate GOP Leader Christine Radogno (Lemont).
- The state legislature operates on a bicameral system.
 - House – 118 Members serving 2-year terms
 - Senate – 59 Members serving (2) 4-year terms and (1) 2-year term = 10 year cycle
- Committees/Subcommittees
 - Senate – 25/28
 - House – 51/13

- Committees will generally meet once a week, while subcommittees meet as needed (some meet weekly, some meet only once during session).
- Each committee has a Chair and Vice-Chair from the majority party (Dem) and a Minority Spokesperson from the minority party (GOP).

Statehouse majority/minority party breakdown 2005-2016:

	State House (71 required for supermajority)	State Senate (36 required for supermajority)
94th GA (2005-2006)	65 Dem, 53 GOP	31 Dem, 27 GOP, 1 Indep.
95th GA (2007-2008)	67 Dem, 51 GOP	37 Dem, 22 GOP
96th GA (2009-2010)	70 Dem, 48 GOP	37 Dem, 22 GOP
97th GA (2011-2012)	64 Dem, 54 GOP	35 Dem, 24 GOP
98th GA (2013-2014)	71 Dem, 47 GOP	40 Dem, 19 GOP
99th GA (2015-2016)	71 Dem, 47 GOP	39 Dem, 20 GOP

- Education issues on the table for 2015 Spring Session:
 - Retreads from prior years: education funding reforms, student discipline, student data privacy, new unfunded mandates, minimum wage, report of the Physical Fitness Task Force (due April 1).
 - Potential new issues: new requirements for charter schools, local government consolidation issues, reforms of the state’s pension system, lobbyist ethics reforms, reforms to Illinois’ tax code, worker’s compensation and tort insurance reforms, consolidation of state agency operations, movement to public private public partnerships across agencies and state services, new leadership within ISBE, changes within ISBE operations and programs.