

NEWS

... from the Illinois House of Representatives

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May Education Bill Passes House *Bill Moves to Governor's Desk for Consideration*

SPRINGFIELD – Legislation sponsored by State Rep. Karen May (D-Highland Park) requiring school districts to notify parents whose children are identified as having hearing or sight problems of local programs that could assist them unanimously passed the House on Wednesday.

“The challenges that face students who suffer from hearing or sight impairment require a highly trained and specialized staff of teachers” May said. “Though the state of Illinois has wonderful facilities in Jacksonville, it is important to the students progress, and the welfare of their families, that they receive the assistance they need as close to home as possible.”

Senate Bill 87 requires school districts to notify, in writing, the parents or guardians of hearing or site impaired children about local schools that provide educational services designed specifically to help such children. Currently in Illinois, schools are required to inform parents if their child may be eligible to be enrolled in the Illinois School for the Deaf or the Illinois School for the Visually Impaired. However, both of these schools are located in Jacksonville. May’s legislation gives parents more information regarding option for their children that are closer to home.

“Illinois is fortunate to have the schools in Jacksonville, but for some families its is simply no feasible,” May said. “When there are other options closer to home, for instance Center View Therapeutic School or Center Glen Therapeutic School, two residential schools both located in Northbrook, parents should be made aware of them.”

Senate Bill 87 now moves to the Governor’s desk where he is expected to sign the legislation.