



Understanding the General State Aid Process:

The Players & Phases

What is General State Aid?

105 ILCS 5/18-8.05

General State Aid (GSA) is one component of the total funds distributed to public schools. It is meant to provide unrestricted grants to Illinois public schools districts in an equitable manner.

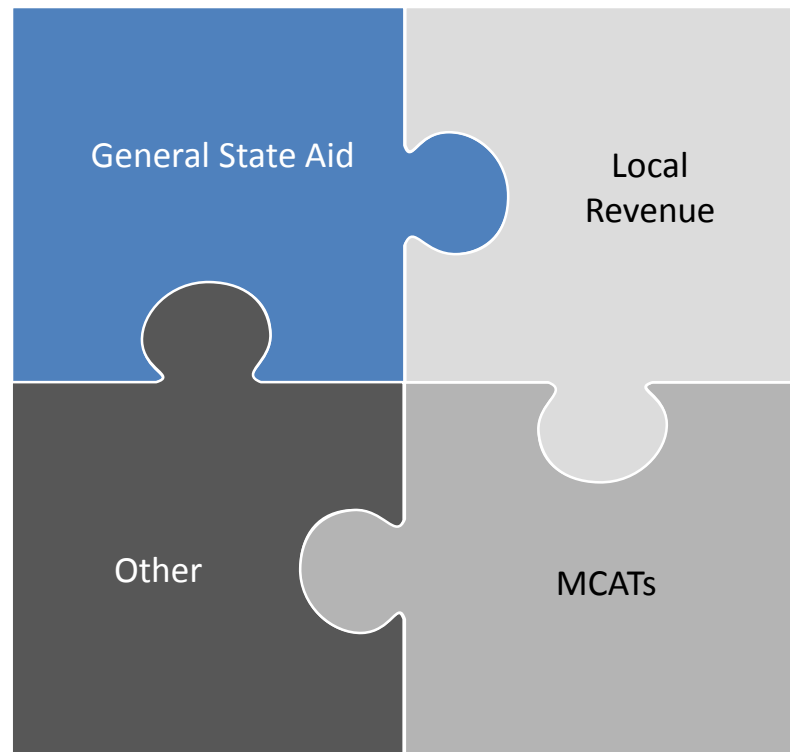
Public Education Funding

GSA is comprised of 2 Grants:

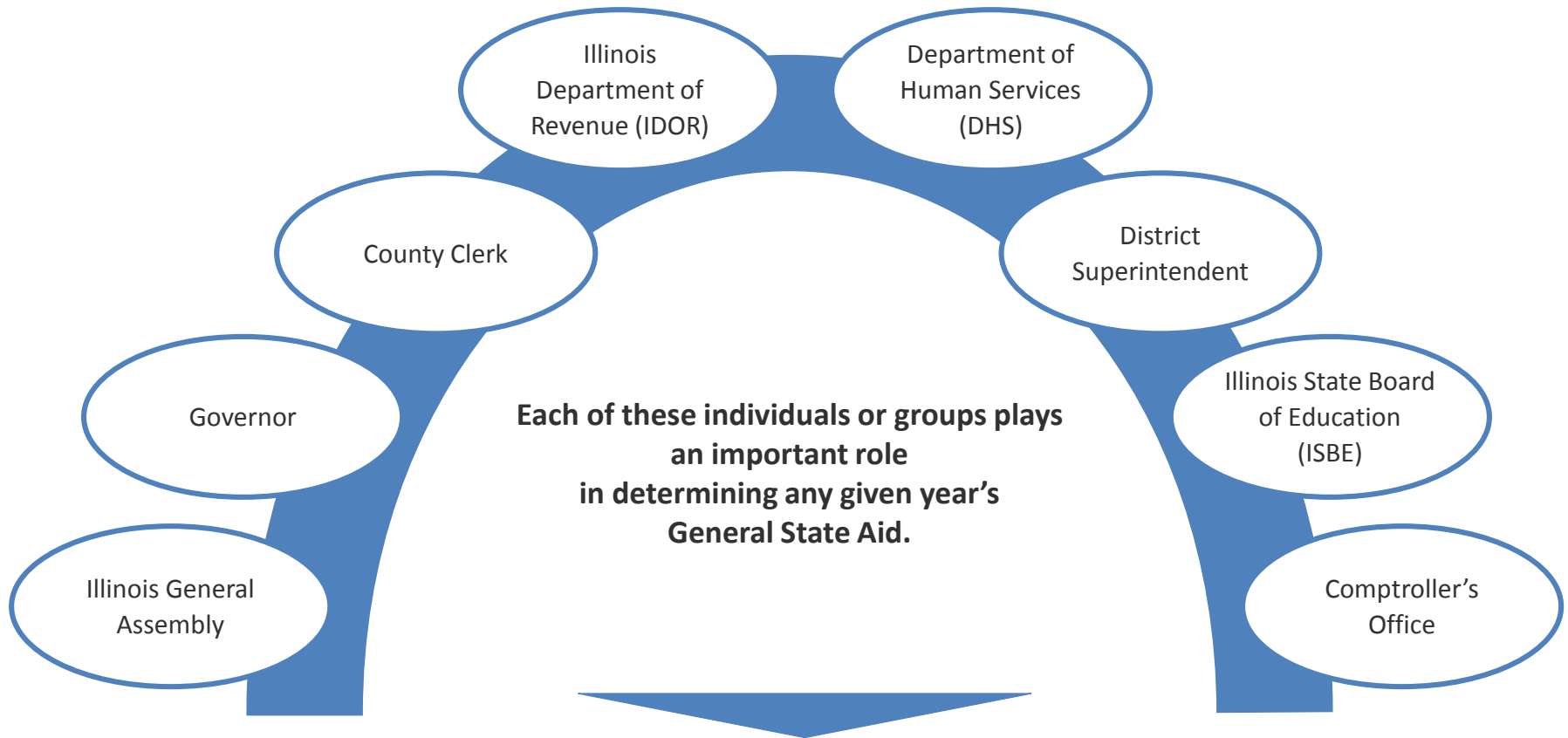
1. Formula Grant
2. Supplemental Low-Income Grant

To learn more about GSA you can review the

[General State Aid Basics](#)



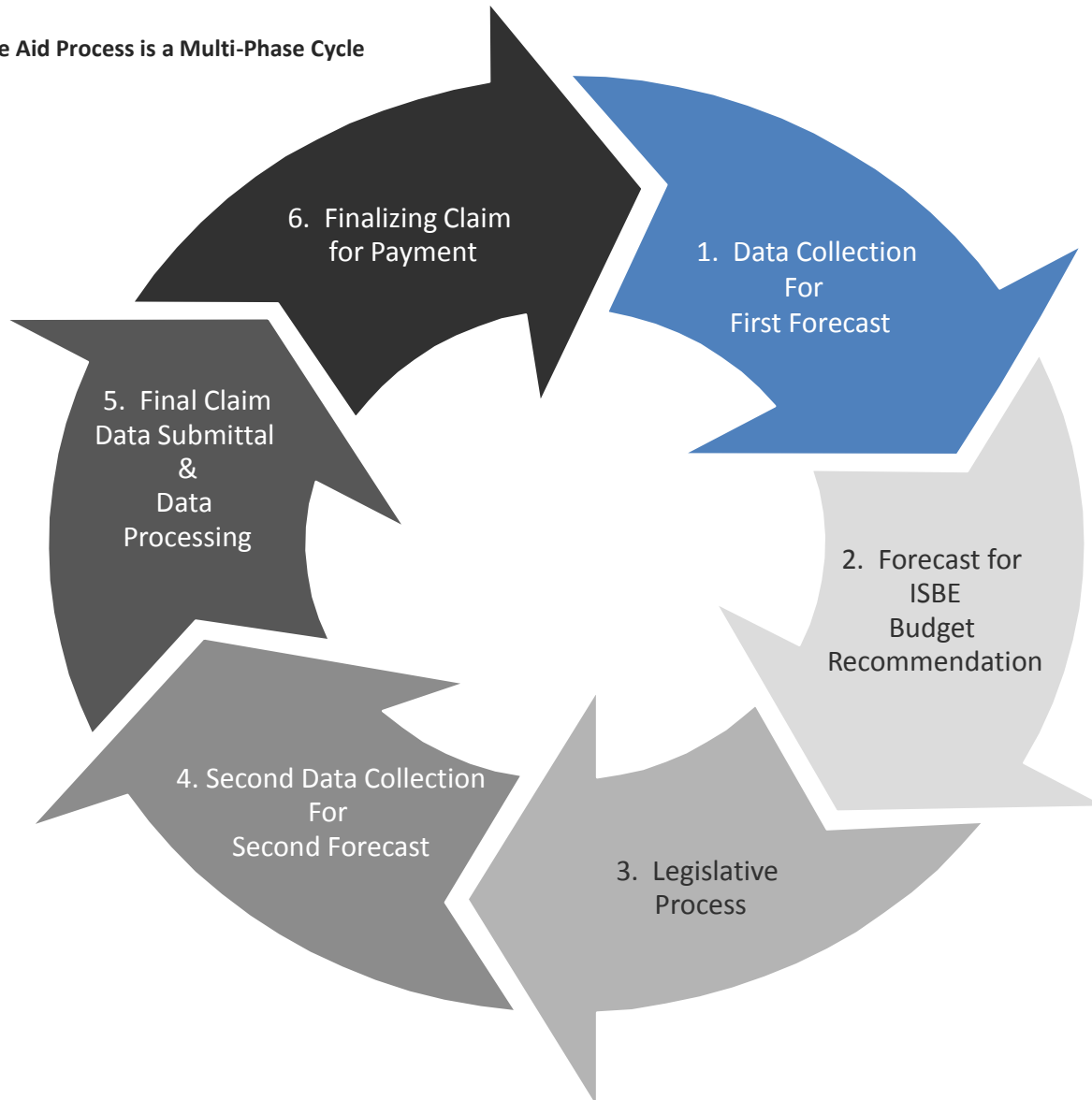
Understanding the Key Players in the General State Aid Process



The result of a year-long collaboration between the key players is the ultimate payment of General State Aid to Illinois school districts in fulfillment of the State's constitutional obligation.

General State Aid Process

The Annual General State Aid Process is a Multi-Phase Cycle



General State Aid Process Details

Phase 1: Data Collection For First Forecast

August – January

During this phase ISBE works with various data sources to collect needed information, processes data, and reverts back to the data source if there are any questions on the information reported that may be erroneous.

Data	Source	Timing
Limiting Rates for Districts Subject to PTELL	County Clerks IDOR	August – October November – December
CPPRT Receipts	IDOR	December – January
EAV	IDOR	November – December
Extensions & Tax Rates by Fund	IDOR	November – December
Enterprise Zone Abatements	IDOR	November - December

General State Aid Process Details

Phase 2: Preparing the Forecast for the ISBE Budget Recommendation November - January

During this phase ISBE staff prepares the first GSA forecast for the Superintendent and Board of Education's review. Staff inform the Superintendent and Board of Education of the cost of fully funding the next year's claim given current statutory language. Staff may also model other requested scenarios to assist the Board in arriving at their budget recommendation.



General State Aid Process Details

Phase 3: The Legislative Process

February - June

During this phase of the GSA Process, Legislators will consider both the ISBE budget recommendations and also recommendations presented by the Governor's office. Several hearings will be held where ISBE, the Governor's Office and other education stakeholders will present their recommendations.

Throughout the Legislative Process ISBE staff will be asked to run various budget scenarios as requested by Legislative Staff to assist Legislators with their decision making and reaching compromises.

Based on their review, Legislators will draft an appropriation bill for General State Aid that will go through both the Senate and the House before being sent to the Governor for signature.

The Governor can then sign the bill or veto and send back to the Legislature for changes.



General State Aid Process Details

Phase 4: Second Data Collection For Second Forecast

February - May

During this phase ISBE works with remaining data sources to collect needed information, processes data, and reverts back to the data source if there are any questions on the information reported that may be erroneous.

Data	Source	Timing
Low – Income Count	DHS	November - February
ADA Best Estimates	District Superintendents	January - February
EAV Adjustments	IDOR	January - May

During this phase ISBE staff also posts source files for data collected during Phase 1 listing preliminary values for EAV, tax rates, and CPPRT. Districts are asked to review the information and notify ISBE staff of any discrepancies they identify.

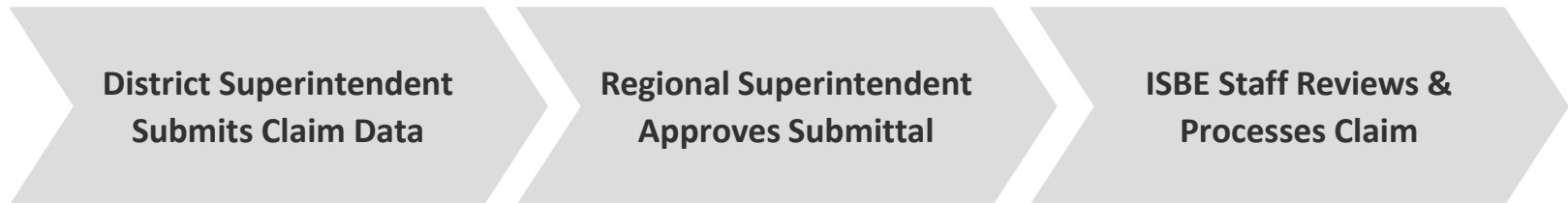
General State Aid Process Details

Phase 5: Final Claim Data Submittal & Final Claim Data Processing

June - August

During this phase District Superintendents or their authorized agents complete and submit their final claim in the IWAS system.

The Regional Superintendent will review and approve claims by July 1st for districts with end dates before June 15th and by July 15th for districts whose school calendar ends on June 15th or later.



ISBE staff will review final claim submittals in IWAS. Staff will revert back to District Superintendents should there be any discrepancies or large variances from prior year submittals to ensure accuracy in final claim.

ISBE will complete processing any lingering EAV adjustments and process prior year adjustments due to audits or settlements.

ISBE finalizes the claim in July and sends payment vouchers to the Comptroller in August.

General State Aid Process Details

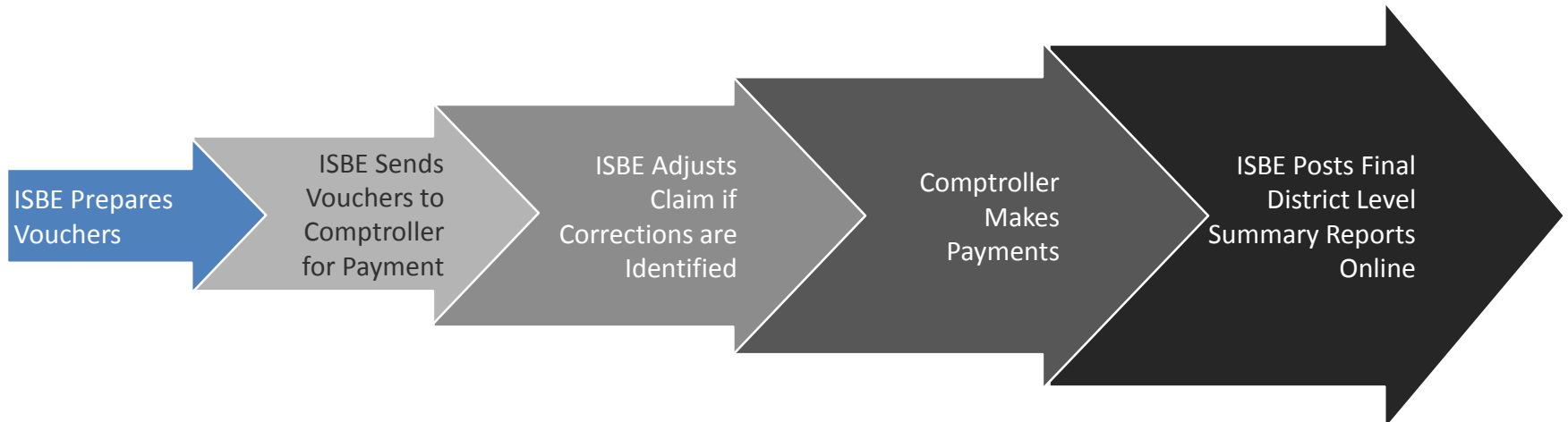
Phase 6: Finalizing Claim for Payment

August - September

During this phase ISBE is diligently working to ensure the timeliness and accuracy of claim payments that are made to Districts.

ISBE works with not only the Comptroller's office to process payments, but is also in contact with District offices should there be late information that impacts the district's claim.

The Comptroller issues payments to Districts from June – August on the 10th and 20th of each month.



To access reports visit the
[General State Aid Home Page](#)

Summary of General State Aid

Putting it All Together

