Tenure carries both privileges and responsibilities

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Illinois schools still lack state funds

CHICAGO (AP) — Schools in Illinois could start classes in a few weeks without receiving federal funding to pay for special education and to buy textbooks for poor children.

Lawmakers at the state Capitol are expected to extend a deadline for the federal government to fund those programs by a few days, said State Superintendent for Public Education Tonya Gant. She said the extension would give lawmakers more time to work out an agreement with the Trump administration.

Illinois — one of the state's largest — will run a $250 million block grant. Rauner called lawmakers into special session this month to vote on a $2.3 billion spending plan that include a $1.1 billion grant for K-12 education.

Democrats have accused the Republican governor of using the special session to get publicity for his re-election campaign. Rauner has said the session was necessary to pass the budget.

Democrats want the governor to act out of anger. He said he wants the session to be a way for lawmakers to consider the budget without considering the state budget.