

NEWS

For Immediate Release

June 27, 2008

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Illinois State Board of Education calls special meeting

State Board of Education Chairman Jesse Ruiz hereby calls a special meeting under the Open Meetings Act. The purpose of the meeting is reflected in the agenda below.

ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Special Board Meeting via video conference

June 30, 2008

2:30 p.m.

Chicago Location: ISBE Video Conference Room, James R. Thompson Center
14th Floor, 100 W. Randolph, Chicago, IL

Springfield Location: ISBE Video Conference Room, 3rd Floor
100 N. First Street, Springfield, IL

Conference Call Phone Number: 1-800-640-0097 (Listen only)
Confirmation #: 2 2 1 1 6 0 8 6

SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

- A. Call Meeting to Order/Roll Call
- B. Public Participation
- C. Board approval of legislative grants/initiatives
- D. Adjourn

All State Board of Education meetings listed on this agenda will be accessible to persons with disabilities. Persons planning to attend who need special accommodations should contact the Board office no later than the date prior to the meeting. Contact the Superintendent's office at the State Board of Education, Phone: 217-782-2221; TTY/TDD: 217-782-1900; Fax: 217-785-3972.

ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
June 30, 2008

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Christopher A. Koch, Ed.D., State Superintendent of Education 
Linda Riley Mitchell, Chief Financial Officer 

Agenda Topic: Legislative Grants

Materials: Schedule of Proposed Legislative Grants
Summary of Grant Applications

Staff Contact(s): Ronny Wickenhauser, Division Administrator, Budget and Financial Management

Purpose of Agenda Item

The Board will consider these legislative grants for funding.

Relationship to/Implications for the State Board's Strategic Plan

None

Expected Outcome(s) of Agenda Item

The Board will approve funding for these grants.

Background Information

The Board has approved three lists of legislative grants this fiscal year – in January, February, and at its meeting in June. The process followed for presenting legislative grants to the Board changed in June as the Board now requires all applications to have been received by the agency prior to Board consideration, with a summary of the applications given to the Board for its review.

Analysis and Implications for Policy, Budget, Legislative Action and Communications

Policy Implications: The process being followed with this memo and attached materials fulfill the informal policy guidance given by the Committee at its May meeting. All future legislative grants and other special initiatives will be presented to the Board in a similar fashion.

Budget Implications: See "Schedule of Proposed Legislative Grants"

Legislative Action: None

Communication: Grantees will be notified of any action taken by the Board.

Pros and Cons of Various Actions

Pros:

Legislative grants are projects submitted by members of the General Assembly to fulfill needs they have outlined in their respective districts. The General Assembly included funds in the

agency's budget to fund such initiatives, though in most cases the funding was not specifically earmarked for an organization. Committee and Board approval of these initiatives carry out the intentions of the General Assembly.

Cons:

While the agency has increased accountability for legislative grants through such measures as independent audits for amounts over \$25,000, such grants are difficult to administer and monitor given staff shortages.

Superintendent's Recommendation

The State Superintendent recommends that the State Board adopt the following motion:

Based on its review of the attached documents dated June 30, 2008, which demonstrate the benefits these legislative grants can offer to their respective communities, the State Board hereby approves such grants and, due to the late issuance of these grants, directs that the grants be given an extended end date to June 30, 2009.

Further the State Board instructs the State Superintendent to carefully review the forthcoming recommendations of the After School Task Force so that agency staff can improve both the determination of who receives grants from the After School line item and the accountability for those that do.

Next Steps

If final approval is given by the Board for any of the projects, staff will take the necessary steps to execute final grant agreements. It should be noted that all grant agreements and budgets must be signed and executed by the grantees TODAY. All funds must be distributed to grantees by the end of the fiscal year 2008 lapse period. Under provisions of the Grant Funds Recovery Act grantees are being approved for an extension of their grant programs through June 30, 2009.

ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Legislative Grants

June 30, 2008 - Special Board Meeting

Grantee	City	Amount	Line Item	Rec'd Funding Before
Chicago Principals and Administrators Association	Chicago	\$736,000	Not-for-Profit/Community Org	X
Concerned Organization Who Cares	Chicago	\$15,000	Not-for-Profit/Community Org	
Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics - Reach Out and Read Program	Chicago	\$20,000	Not-for-Profit/Community Org	
National Heritage Foundation - Youth Advancement	Chicago	\$15,000	After School	X
Science and Arts Academy	Des Plaines	\$20,000	Not-for-Profit/Community Org	
Southwest Youth Collaborative	Chicago	\$100,000	After School	X
Urban Solutions	Chicago	\$10,000	Not-for-Profit/Community Org	X
TOTAL		\$916,000		

ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Legislative Grants Summary of Grant Applications

Org. Name:	Chicago Principals and Administrators Association
Amount:	\$736,000
Line Item:	Not-for-Profit/Community Org
Use of Funds:	Operational expenses.
Org. Name:	Concerned Organization Who Cares
Amount:	\$15,000
Line Item:	Not-for-Profit/Community Org
Use of Funds:	Funding for "Back to School" program to purchase book bags, pens, pencils, notebooks, folders, crayons, glue, calculators and other school items. Also funds a "Back to School" party.
Org. Name:	Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics - Reach Out and Read Program
Amount:	\$20,000
Line Item:	Not-for-Profit/Community Org
Use of Funds:	Purchase 6,250 books, provide literacy materials to parents, and provide training to staff at Reach Out and Read sites.
Org. Name:	National Heritage Foundation - Youth Advancement
Amount:	\$15,000
Line Item:	After School
Use of Funds:	Provide services to school age youth including field trips to museums, anger management training, communication skills training, conflict resolution skills, and community service activities.
Org. Name:	Science and Arts Academy
Amount:	\$20,000
Line Item:	Not-for-Profit/Community Org
Use of Funds:	Purchase and installation of playground equipment.
Org. Name:	Southwest Youth Collaborative
Amount:	\$100,000
Line Item:	After School
Use of Funds:	Provides funding for educational training, life skills training, parental involvement activities, and recreational activities for youth ages 12-19 at the 6400 S. Kedzie Avenue site in Chicago. Education activities include tutoring, SAT/ACT test prep, and college and career prep. Life skills training includes education in personal responsibility, communication and interpersonal skills, resource management skills, and decision-making skills. Parental involvement activities include meetings with parents on the progress of their children and family nights. Recreational activities include sports, art, and other recreational activities.
Org. Name:	Urban Solutions
Amount:	\$10,000
Line Item:	Not-for-Profit/Community Org
Use of Funds:	Funding for the 21st Century Pathways to Excellence Program at Dyett High School in Chicago. Program focuses on increasing math and reading performance and on providing life skills training.