

Dear Colleagues in Education:

This e-broadcast covers four important topics covered in the Superintendent's Bulletin found at: http://www.isbe.net/board/archivemessages/message_030606.pdf

Please call us for additional assistance at 312-814-3850.

Archived copies of this and other e-broadcasts can be found at: <http://www.isbe.net/bilingual/htmls/ebroadcasts.htm>

ISBE Will Convene Bilingual Parent Summit: May 20, 2006

In collaboration with state and educational leaders, the Illinois State Board of Education's Division of English Language Learning will convene a summit for bilingual parents on Saturday, May 20, 2006 at the Oak Brook Hills Marriott Resort, in Oakbrook, Illinois. Among other topics, summit participants will hear presentations from educational leaders and have an opportunity to:

- discuss the roles and responsibilities of Bilingual Parent Advisory Councils.
- learn about the laws and rights of bilingual/ESL programs.
- learn how parents can support their children outside school.
- learn how schools and districts are organized
- develop partnerships among schools, parents, and neighborhood organizations
- learn about effective parent and school communication
- learn how to communicate with and influence school boards

For emerging details, see HOT TOPICS at <http://www.isbe.net/bilingual>
To register for the summit, see <http://www.thecenterweb.org> .

FY07 Consolidated Bilingual Program Application Workshops Scheduled

The Division of English Language Learning is pleased to announce the annual series of consolidated application workshops expressly designed for directors of Transitional Programs of Instruction (TPI) and Transitional Bilingual Education (TBE) programs. These workshops are **mandatory for new directors** and appropriate for central office administrators in charge of completing and submitting the district's consolidated application for State bilingual, Title III LIPLEPS or Title III Immigrant Education funds for the FY07 school year. There is no cost to attend but pre-registration is necessary.

See the HOT TOPICS section at <http://www.isbe.net/bilingual> to view the calendar of regional workshops and additional details.

To register, go to <http://www.thecenterweb.org> to access the registration form. Completed forms are to be mailed to the Illinois Resource Center.

Spanish Language Arts Standards Are Now Available Online

The Illinois State Board of Education adopted Spanish Language Arts Standards for the state. The Spanish Language Arts Standards, developed through the WIDA Consortium of states, are the product of teachers and educators from Illinois and other states, the Illinois Resource Center, and George Washington University Center's for Equity & Excellence in Education. The standards are significant because they

- establish rigorous and comprehensive standards that are comparable to and align with existing state English language arts standards
- fulfill the accountability needs of teachers and administrators
- serve as a framework for instruction and assessment.
- acknowledge the growing numbers of programs serving school-age Spanish speakers in US schools
- foster the development of bilingual/biliterate individuals in an increasingly diverse workforce and global society
- offer educators practical ways to translate the body of research that supports the cognitive and academic advantages of being bilingual into their teaching practices.

To view the standards and make this important instructional connection, see the "HOT TOPICS" section at <http://www.isbe.net/bilingual> .

Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs Announces Art Contest

To celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Children's Drawing Contest "Este es mi México", the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through the Institute of Mexicans Abroad, has extended an invitation to all children (between 7 and 11 years old) to participate in this contest. Invited participants include children from the US, Canada, and worldwide. The purpose of this contest is to promote children's artistic abilities and imagination by drawing what Mexico means to them. The contest guidelines and the registration forms can be found at <http://www.consulmexchicago.com> .

The deadline to send the drawings is May 31st, 2006. The winners will be announced on July 20th 2006, through Institute's website at: www.sre.gob.mx/ime and <http://www.consulmexchicago.com> ..

Illinois residents are directed to send the drawings to:

Consulate General of Mexico
Education Department
204 S. Ashland Ave.
Chicago, IL 60607

Interested educators may call Karina Tamez at (312) 738-2383 ext. 124.