Message from State Superintendent Randy J. Dunn

Good afternoon.

In a recent letter from U.S. Education Secretary Margaret Spellings to the state chiefs and others, she indicated that next week (November 14-18) marks a week-long celebration of the sixth annual International Education Week. This is a joint effort of the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education to promote programs that prepare Americans for a global environment and attract future leaders from abroad to study, learn, and exchange experiences in the United States.

This year’s theme is “International Education: Improving Student Achievement Around the World.”

I encourage you to experience the world around you by celebrating International Education Week. In the past, schools have held cultural fairs, invited American or international residents to share personal experiences, and incorporated information on a country or culture into daily lesson plans. Your school can participate by obtaining information and a list of suggested activities from the U.S. Department of State and Education’s website at http://iew.state.gov/. Schools can also post their events on this website if they wish.

One of the services we have had to back-burner here at ISBE has centered on these types of international initiatives. Dr. Anne Sustik at the Agency, who many of you know for her work in reading, had put forth much effort in coordinating these programs in past years—but we have had to put Anne on other grants and projects over the past year in the Division of Curriculum and Instruction to get our core work accomplished there.

This is, of course, unfortunate for the Agency and the state. I had the opportunity when I was at SIUC to be co-director for a time on a Russian-American exchange program—and I spent part of a summer doing professional development in Russian schools—so I know there is much to be gained from these kinds of activities for everyone involved. A number of schools around our state have similar programs and they are enriching for students—all of whom will be entering a global society and economy.

One of my hopes is that as we are able to gain some financial and human resource support for the State Board’s Strategic Plan, we can begin to restore some of the national prominence ISBE had received for its success in this arena. Indeed, it should be part of what we all do to mold our students into future “citizens of the world.”

Next week, I’ll talk some about another important celebration—American Education Week which is celebrated nearly concurrently, on November 13 – 19. Have a great week.

Randy Dunn
Federal Grants and Programs

**Illinois e-Plans**

ISBE and Northern Illinois University (NIU) are proud to announce the launch of **Illinois e-Plans** on November 9, 2005. The **Illinois e-Plans** toolkit significantly streamlines the process of submitting required plans to local boards and ISBE. Beginning November 9 the **Illinois e-Plans** toolkit will be available through the Interactive Illinois Report Card (IIRC) website for schools and districts. The toolkit includes a **School Improvement Plan Template** and an accompanying **Guide and Peer Review Tool** to assist districts and schools in revising and submitting school improvement and restructuring plans. A **District Improvement Plan Template** and an accompanying **Guide** will follow in the next few weeks.

The **Illinois e-Plans School Improvement Template** may be used by Illinois schools in school improvement status and academic watch status to incorporate the contents of a revised school plan as required by Public Law 107-110, the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, 20 USC 6301 et seq., (NCLB) and Section 2-3.25d of the School Code, 105 ILCS 5/2-3.25d. The **Template** may also be used for schools that must submit a restructuring plan.

The use of the **Template** is not required. Schools and districts may continue to use a format that complies with the statutes cited above. To that end, schools and districts using other formats should attach Section I and Section II of the template to plans they submit to the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE).

The **Template** and this accompanying guide are to be used together to ensure that users include all requirements of state and federal law for revised school improvement plans and restructuring plans.

The **Illinois e-Plans** system is designed to be user friendly and a welcome addition to Illinois’ system of support to schools and districts. Districts and schools will have multiple years (including 2005) of School Report Card data and information at their fingertips automatically populating the screens at the IIRC web site.

District superintendents will need a password to use **Illinois e-Plans**. These passwords are available by calling **Gail Buoy**, Federal Grants and Programs, 217-524-4832. NIU will email passwords by November 18 to district superintendents.

### School Business and Support Services

**Reminder on limitation of administrative costs worksheet due date**

In accordance with Section 17-1.5 of the School Code, the Limitation of Administrative Costs Worksheet must be completed and submitted to the School Business and Support Services Division by November 15, 2005. A copy of the worksheet is available online at: [http://www.isbe.net/sfms/AdminCaps/AdminCaps.htm](http://www.isbe.net/sfms/AdminCaps/AdminCaps.htm).

The Limitation of Administrative Costs Worksheet is also included in the Illinois School District Annual Financial Report--June 30, 2005 (ISBE 50-35). If you have questions please contact **Michelle Heninger** at 217-785-8779 or mheninge@isbe.net.

### Special Education Services

**Annual Immigrant Education Program data report**

The 2005-06 Immigrant Education Program Data Report will be available on Wednesday, November 9, at [http://www.isbe.net/bilingual/htmls/immigrant.htm](http://www.isbe.net/bilingual/htmls/immigrant.htm). The immigrant student count submitted by districts will be used to determine FY 2007 Immigrant Education Program funding eligibility and the award amount for each district.

The completed report is to be submitted to the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) by December 15, 2005. This program is authorized by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) (Public Law 107-110). For school year 2005-2006, Illinois’ share for Immigrant Education Programs was $3,709,812.
Legal

Notice of Completed Rulemaking

Two companion rulemaking items recently adopted by the State Board of Education are now in effect. The new set of rules has been posted on the agency’s web site at http://www.isbe.net/rules/, choose “Rules Currently in Effect” and scroll to the relevant Part number.

Procurement by the State Board of Education (Parts 1100 and 1105)

These changes result from the comprehensive review of the Agency’s rules. When the Procurement Code was adopted in 1998, the State Board of Education was directed by the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR) to adopt administrative rules implementing the new Code. JCAR’s Executive Director outlined two options for ISBE: (i) adopt rules naming the Chief Procurement Officer for the Board, or naming the CMS CPO as ISBE’s Chief Procurement Officer, and then cross-reference CMS rules in their entirety; or (ii) develop totally separate rules. ISBE chose to develop totally separate rules, although these rules do not substantively differ from the procurement rules adopted by CMS. As a result, ISBE staff and Board time must be spent adopting amendments to ISBE’s procurement rules to reflect changes in law to the Procurement Code. Consequently we have repealed the detailed rules in Part 1100 and replaced them with a new Part that cross-references the rules of CMS.

Affected Sections: All
Effective Date: October 19, 2005

Nutrition Programs

New local wellness policy resources for Illinois schools coming soon

Several new local wellness policy resources are planned for release soon. A model local wellness policy developed by a consensus committee as part of a USDA Team Nutrition grant will be uploaded shortly. Schools can use as the model template to develop their own wellness policy. A complimentary tool kit will also be available to schools to provide a step-by-step guide to policy development and implementation.

Visit the website at http://www.kidseatwell.org/ for more information.

The following resources are also available to schools at the same website under the What’s New Section:

- related links for building a healthy school environment and local wellness policy
- a bibliography of web site resources for policy development
- free local wellness policy training for Illinois school staff by calling 800-466-7998; and
- a new web-based training program to help educators meet nutrition education goals to be available in December 2005.

Last chance to apply for Federal School Breakfast Program start-up incentive grants!

Up to $2,700 per school available

Did you begin a School Breakfast Program this year at any school with 40 percent free and reduced-eligible students? Are you planning to start a School Breakfast Program before December 1, 2005?

November 20 is the due date to submit a Federal School Breakfast Program Start-Up Incentive Grant for these eligible schools. The application is online at http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/. Click on School Breakfast Program, and then select School Breakfast Program Start-Up Incentive Grants.

If you have any questions, please contact Nutrition Programs at 800-545-7892. FAX applications to 217-524-6124.

The Outlook newsletter online

Check out this month’s issue of The Outlook for updates on school meals programs, grant opportunities, and nutrition news at http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/.
Professional Development

Teacher workshop at Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library will host a teachers’ workshop entitled Abraham Lincoln: Young Lawyer at the Bar on Wednesday, November 9, from 7 to 8 p.m. The presentation will introduce teachers, home-schooling parents and community members to an integrated, thematic curriculum for grades four through nine on Lincoln’s pre-presidential life. **Peggy Dunn**, an instructor at the University of Illinois at Springfield will lead the discussion. The event is part of the “Together We Read” program, co-sponsored by several Central Illinois libraries. The curriculum was developed with support from the Illinois State Bar Association ILEARN grant. The event is free and open to the public.

For more information or to register for the event, contact the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Reference Desk at 217-524-6358.

Master of Education or Advanced Certificate program available

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Department of Educational Organization and Leadership is offering a new cohort-based program in Oak Brook, IL, beginning the summer 2006. Prospective students can pursue either the Master of Education or Advanced Certificate degree. The Oak Brook-based Educational Administration Program is designed to meet both the degree requirements of the College of Education and the certification requirements for the State of Illinois General Administrative Endorsement (Type 75). Admitted students will enter the cohort program together and continue through their course work as a group.

Applications for admission to the fall cohort must be submitted by March 1, 2006. An informational meeting is scheduled at the Multi-University Center in Oak Brook from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on November 30, 2005. For more information please visit: [http://www.ed.uiuc.edu/col/edadmin/home.html](http://www.ed.uiuc.edu/col/edadmin/home.html).

Recognition

18 high school student semi-finalists selected

Committees at Regional Offices of Education have selected 18 high school seniors and juniors from six regions of the state as semi-finalists in the William Randolph Hearst/United States Senate Youth Program. These semi-finalists will appear before a panel of three judges in Springfield on November 17 and 18, 2005. The panel will select two finalists who will receive an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., this March and a $5000.00 Hearst Scholarship for college next fall.

The semi-finalists are:

- **Benjamin Backsmeier**, Normal Community West High School
- **Barret Von Behren**, Martinsville High School
- **Clair Elizabeth Joseph**, East Richland High School, Olney
- **Brandon Edwin Copp**, Lawrenceville High School
- **James Higgins**, Reavis High School, Burbank
- **Kathryn Holihan**, Glenbrook South High School, Glenview
- **Ross Jacobs**, New Trier High School, Winnetka
- **Michael Jacobson**, John Hersey High School, Arlington Heights
- **Elaine Liu**, Whitney Young Magnet, Chicago
- **Jared Marchiando**, Aurora East High School
- **Siddhoshwar Salvi**, Naperville North High School
- **Elizabeth Grace**, Montini High School, Lombard
- **Andrew Ostendorf**, Okawville High School
- **Edward Dumoulin**, Triad Community Unit High School, Troy
- **Troy Abney**, Annawan High School
- **Viola Woolums**, Prophetstown High School
- **Lowell Dickerson**, Morton High School
- **Yusuf Siddiquee**, Springfield High School

State Board Recognition Program

The State Board of Education has become more proactive in its efforts to recognize the exemplary achievements of students, teachers, school administrators and local board members in Illinois.

Upon review and acceptance, the State Board of Education will pass a resolution describing the
particulars of the achievement. The signed resolution would be presented in one of the following three ways:

- mailed to the recipient(s);
- personally awarded to the individual(s) at their respective school(s); or
- presented to recipient(s) during the State Board meeting at which their resolution is approved.

If you would like to nominate an individual or a group for this recognition, please use the Recognizing Achievement form available online in the Resources box at [http://www.isbe.net/board/Default.htm](http://www.isbe.net/board/Default.htm).

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**School Hurricane Relief Efforts**

We continue our recognition of the students, teachers, principals, parents and school staff members around the state have organized fundraisers, bake sales, walk-a-thons and many other events to raise funds to help the areas damaged by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. We applaud the spirit of giving and compassion that Illinois schools have demonstrated!

We will continue to highlight schools each week until all submissions have appeared. To submit more great news of relief efforts, email Becky Watts at rwatts@isbe.net.

- Three sixth grade students at Currier Elementary School in West Chicago District 33 asked permission to put containers in all classrooms to collect money for the Red Cross to help with the hurricane relief. Other students in their class helped them count the money that was donated. Students in preschool through 6th grade collected $831.11.

- The Ames Middle School Student Government held a fundraiser for the survivors of Hurricane Katrina. Their motto was "Show the World Ames Cares." In two weeks, their seventh and eighth grade students and staff raised over $4000. On Friday, September 30, students paid one dollar to come to school out of uniform. The top classroom raised over $500. The top three classrooms received rewards for their efforts. The monies were donated to the Red Cross, animal rescue organizations and church organizations helping the families of Hurricane Katrina.

- Yearbook students at Benton Consolidated High School initiated a fundraising campaign to aid those in the Gulf Coast. Their goal was to raise enough money to print 300 t-shirts. Sponsors purchased space on the back of the t-shirt with a $20 donation. Teachers, individuals, local businesses, students, civic and student organizations along with school administrators gave generously. Once the printing costs were covered, the t-shirts were sold for ten dollars, raising a total of $3000. The money will be donated to the American Red Cross.

- In Giant City, Mrs. Windings’ fifth grade class and Mrs. Thomas, the Reading Specialist, spearheaded the relief effort and organized it with school-wide participation. Classrooms, parents and staff were urged to make a donation to the relief effort. On Friday, they organized a hat day where students were allowed to wear a hat to school for one dollar. They could wear as many hats as they wanted for one dollar each. In one short week, Giant City School collected $2600.86, with several children giving their entire allowances. Julie Aue, a representative from the American Red Cross, collected the money from the fifth grade students in Mrs. Windings’ class.

- Northbrook Glenview District 30 students and staff members have been actively involved in numerous Hurricane Relief Campaigns since early September. Wescott School’s Helping Hands Committee and the Girl Scouts held a “Change Drive”, which resulted in over $2,500 in cash, as well as backpacks and school supplies for victims of Hurricane Katrina. These items were donated to the Heartland Alliance, the city’s coordinator for Katrina survivors who have relocated to Chicago. Willowbrook School kindergartners and the Kid Connection Preschool hosted two bake sales to raise money for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. They raised over $2,600 which was donated to the American Red Cross on behalf of Willowbrook School.

- Third through sixth grade students at Ideal School in Countryside were invited to participate in raising funds to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina during their sixth annual
Wheel-a-Thon that took place on September 30. A total of $1858.05 was raised during the event with proceeds sent to the American Red Cross.

- **Thompson Elementary School** held a coin drive. Students and staff alike were very generous. They collected over $5,000! They are very proud of the monetary donation that they were able to make to the American Red Cross.

- Teachers and students at **Grant Park Schools** chose to work with Heart to Heart International, an organization with a long history of disaster relief. Based in Kansas City, Heart to Heart responded rapidly to the relief effort by establishing a distribution center in Jefferson Parish, Louisiana. From there, Heart to Heart was able to distribute aid, including food, water and personal hygiene kits, to those displaced by Hurricane Katrina. With the incentive of pizza or ice cream sundae parties, classes at **Grant Park** competed vigorously to collect the most amounts of Crisis Care Kits and monetary donations. Care Kits included personal hygiene items such as towels, toothbrushes, soap and shampoo. Teachers responded by making their own contributions and encouraging their students to participate. At the final count, the winners of each building were: Mr. Bailey in the High School with 20 Care Kits and $75, **Mrs. Locke** in the Middle School with 28 Care Kits and $170 and **Mrs. Carlson** in the Elementary School with 30 Care Kits and $355! Including community donations, **Grant Park** will be sending 720 Care Kits and $1,550 to Heart to Heart International!

- At the annual Institute Day in October, **Regional Office of Education #11** organized a book fair to benefit the victims of Gulf Coast Hurricanes, Katrina and Rita. All proceeds were taken in books that will be sent to schools to assist in rebuilding school libraries. Over $1200 in books will be sent due to the generosity of educators in Clark, Coles, Cumberland, Douglas, Edgar, Moultrie and Shelby Counties.

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**External Vacancy List**

Please visit [http://www.isbe.net/hr/pdf/positions.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/hr/pdf/positions.pdf) to view a list of vacancies at the Illinois State Board of Education. Please note that at the end of this list there is also a link to our ongoing vacancy list.

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**In the News**

**Weekly news clips**