5 February 2010

Mr. Brett Gayer, Superintendent
Dongola School District #66
1000 High Street
Dongola, Illinois 62926

Dear Mr. Gayer:

A compliance visit was conducted at Dongola School District 66 on Tuesday, January 12, 2010 following the completion of your state McKinney-Vento grant which ended December 31, 2009. In attendance were the following, Mr. Brett Gayer, Superintendent, Mrs. Wanda Snell, District Homeless Liaison, Ms. Mickey Sullivan, Area 6 Lead Homeless Liaison, Mrs. Johna Schullian, Budget Director, ROE 21 Franklin/Williamson counties, Ms. Vicki J. Hodges and Ms. Sharon A. Neely, Principal Consultants, Illinois State Board of Education.

The positive findings at Dongola School District include the following:

- Other local liaison designation and duties documentation were provided.
- Other identification and enrollment documentation were provided.
- Dispute resolution procedures for homeless students were provided in the District’s Policy manual.
- Transportation for homeless students’ documentation was provided.
- Unaccompanied youth documentation was provided.
- Documentation of assistance with enrollment of homeless pre-school aged children was provided.
- Comparable services and academic standards documentation were provided.
- School selection documentation was provided.
- Enrollment records of homeless students were provided.
- Documentation of Title I and set-asides were provided.
- Coordination with LEA’s and other agencies documentation were provided.

The areas of concern include the following:
Policy on homeless students is weak and needs better clarification. The words “after appropriate investigation” should be stricken from the Policy manual. All homeless students must be enrolled immediately.

- No documentation of meeting minutes.
- Website is not operational.
- No documentation of local liaison/district representation on any committees.
- No copy of evaluation by guidance staff included in homeless students with disabilities file.
- Segregation of homeless students/programs needs clarification in Policy manual.
- Support staff could use additional training.

The staff at Dongola School District 66 is a critical component to the success of identifying and assisting homeless children receive the quality education they deserve. On behalf of the Illinois State Board of Education, I would like to thank you and your staff for your dedication.

Sincerely,

Ms. Sharon A. Neely    Vicki J. Hodges
Principal Consultant    Principal Consultant
Homeless Education    Homeless Education

cc:  Ms. Mickey Sullivan, Area 6 Homeless Education
     Mrs. Johna Schullian, Budget Director, ROE 21
     Franklin/Williamson
     Mrs. Wanda Snell, District Homeless Liaison