Do you know the answer to the question below?

From: Larkin, Julia  
Sent: Monday, January 09, 2012 11:51 AM  
To: Bowman, Gwen  
Subject: Beiser question on early childhood grant

Hi Gwen,

Southwestern Illinois College applied for a early childhood education grant, and they were wondering who would be the best person to call to ask about the status of their application. Any thoughts?

Thanks,

Julia
Hello,

Could you let me know if Educare of West DuPage received an ECBG grant in FY11 and if so, for how much?

Thanks, Kristin
Leslie,

Thanks for your response yesterday. I know you are looking into this. I'm continuing to get questions from legislators and staff and wanted to share an additional correspondence from Superintendent Brooks in South Pekin (see below).

Cynthia Riseman  
Legislative Liaison  
Illinois State Board of Education  
217-782-6510

From: Andy Brooks [mailto: abrooks@sps9.net]  
Sent: Monday, January 09, 2012 9:26 AM

Dear Legislators,

Last week I sent out a note regarding School Maintenance Grant funds which were a component of the Public Act 096-0035:

**Public Act 096-0035**  
**HB0312 Enrolled LR096 03361 RCE 13384 b**

Section 85. The sum of $100,000,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated from the School Infrastructure Fund to the Capital Development Board for grants to the Illinois State Board of Education for school districts for maintenance projects authorized by the School Construction Law.
Here is the Language from the CDB regarding school maintenance grants

4. SCHOOL MAINTENANCE PROJECT GRANTS

Currently: The ISBE awards grants to school districts for maintenance projects.

Proposed: CDB will award grants to school districts for maintenance projects.

- The school maintenance project grant will fund much needed deferred maintenance, including roofing, air conditioning, boilers, security systems, technology infrastructure, energy efficiency projects, etc.
- These projects assist in reducing the ongoing burden to the operations and maintenance funds of the local school districts.
- The Bill will provide $50 million annually over the next four years for $50 thousand dollar matching grants for the maintenance of educational facilities for every school district.

I am told that the reason these funds are not being released in a timely fashion is due to the issue of forced consolidation. If the State Legislature and the Governor signed this Public Act with the intent for all school districts to receive these funds for maintenance, it is unacceptable to not allow districts access to them. Schools are a local control issue and have always been.

Due to the deterioration of our café-gyma-torium constructed circa 1949, this district was forced to pass a referendum this past April to address these concerns and construct a new gymnasium. This was a local issue, a local project, and achieved without State funding. The people of South Pekin took on the additional tax burden, because they wanted to provide a safe environment for their kids to eat, to learn, and to promote healthy lifestyles. All I am asking for is the release of the State funds to address the maintenance issues needed to keep all schools safe, clean, functioning buildings well into the future.

Please do what is right for our kids,

Dr. Andrew Brooks, Superintendent
South Pekin District #137
309-348-3695 work
[Redacted] cell
[Redacted] home

"We learn more by looking for the answer to a question and not finding it than we do from learning the answer itself" -- Lloyd Alexander.

From: RISEMAN CYNTHIA
Sent: Monday, January 09, 2012 11:09 AM
To: 'leslie.sgro@illinois.gov'; 'kathryn.martin@illinois.gov'
Cc: 'julie.obrien@illinois.gov'; VESPA DEBBIE; SHOUP KAREN; WEITEKAMP SUSAN
Subject: FW: School Maintenance Grants

Leslie and Kathryn,

I was forwarded the following email by a Senator and am seeking information on the status of School Maintenance Grants. My understanding is that the appropriation and the authority exist we were just waiting on a bond sale (which may be taking place this week?). Any information you can provide would be appreciated so I can respond to the legislator.
Thank you!

Cynthia Riseman
Legislative Liaison
Illinois State Board of Education
217-782-6510
criseman@isbe.net

From: Andy Brooks [mailto:abrooks@spgs.net]
Sent: Friday, January 06, 2012 9:37 AM
To: Pamela Althoff; senatobrivins@grics.net; senatorbomke@yahoo.com; billbrady@senatorbillbrady.org; jclayborne@senatedem.ilga.gov; senatorcollins@sbcglobal.net; mcrotty@senatedem.ilga.gov; john@senatorcullerton.com; shanecultra53@yahoo.com; delgado@senatedem.ilga.gov; senator@kdillard.com; dan@senatorduffy.com; senatorforby@yahoo.com; mike@mikefrerichs.com; ilsenate29@sbcglobal.net; senhaine@cnri.com; whaine@senatedem.ilga.gov; dharmon@senatedem.ilga.gov; hendon@senatedem.ilga.gov; senatorholmes42@sbcglobal.net; mhunter@senatedem.ilga.gov; thutchinson@senatedem.ilga.gov; senatorjacobs@sbcglobal.net; senatorjtomjohnson@gmail.com; ejones3@senatedem.ilga.gov; johnjones@sbcglobal.net; dkoehler@senatedem.ilga.gov; dan@senatorgkowski.com; senatoriahood@att.net; info@senatoriandek.com; admin@izuen.com; lightford@senatedem.ilga.gov; seantor@link30.org; sendave1@midwest.net; emaloney@senatedem.ilga.gov; imartinez@senatedem.ilga.gov; senatorsame@frontier.com; senatormccarter51@att.net; jmeeks@senatedem.ilga.gov; johnmillner@aol.com; senatormulroe@att.net; amunoz@senatedem.ilga.gov; senatormattmawhoo@gmail.com; mnoland@senatedem.ilga.gov; carole@pankau.org; cradogno@sbcglobal.net; senatorraoujii@sbcglobal.net; senatorreizin@gmail.com; dright@consolidated.net; senatorsandack@gmail.com; msandovai@senatedem.ilga.gov; statesenatorschmidt@gmail.com; senator@ischoenberg.org; slsilverstein@senatedem.ilga.gov; hsjeans@senatedem.ilga.gov; jsullivan@senatedem.ilga.gov; info@senatoordavesverson.com; trotter@senatedem.ilga.gov; senatorjwilhelm@sbcglobal.net

Subject: School Maintenance Grants

Good Morning,

I wanted to ask members of the State legislature what their thoughts are on the following issue, so that I can gauge how I can best address this issue:

What are your thoughts on the School Maintenance Grant Funds that are currently being held hostage by the State? These funds are available for use from the additional tax on soda and other items a few years ago, and were due to be dispersed in October. Each district was to receive $50,000 for repairs and maintenance on their buildings, yet the funds have not been disbursed. As the school buildings across the State of Illinois continue to deteriorate and crumble, it amazes me that these funds are not released to address corrective and/or preventative maintenance. What can I do to assist in seeing that these funds are released and received by the schools for their intended purposes?

Thank you for your assistance,

Dr. Andrew Brooks, Superintendent
South Pekin District #137

"We learn more by looking for the answer to a question and not finding it than we do from learning the answer itself"—Lloyd Alexander.
Good morning Michael,

Of the programs listed, the only one that, to our knowledge, specifically states Charter Schools are eligible is Math Science Partnerships. But, below is the info we have.

Math Science Partnerships provide funding to develop partnerships to improve mathematics and science teaching in elementary and secondary schools and increase the academic achievement of students in mathematics and science by enhancing the content knowledge and teaching skills of classroom teachers. The funds are distributed to eligible partnerships based on a competitive external and internal review process. Eligible local education agency partners must meet federally-set criteria based on poverty rate, student achievement and teacher quality issues. Eligible applicants are partnerships that include an engineering, mathematics, or science department of an institution of higher education and a high-need school district. Other partners may include state education agencies, public charter schools or other public schools, businesses and not-for-profit or for-profit organizations concerned with mathematics and science education.

Charter Schools provides grants via federal Public Charter Schools Program to eligible applicants to increase the number of high-quality charter schools in Illinois. These funds will serve to assist new charter schools during the critical detailed planning stages and initial start-up of operations through pre-charter planning, program design, and implementation grants. Grants are time-limited and intended to have the most impact in the crucial beginning years of the charter school. As schools are initially chartered for 5 to 10 years, it is essential that the start-up be as smooth as possible to assure that instruction occurs from the first day and that the school can meet the accountability measures noted in the charter proposal. Competitive grant funds are distributed through a request-for-proposals process. Pre-Charter Planning grants go to not-for-profit charter school developers while Program Design and Implementation grants go to charter schools. Charters may receive planning and implementation grants in the same year.

Enhancing Education Through Technology improves student literacy in technology and encourage the effective integration of technology resources and systems into curriculum and professional development. Their purpose is to assist every student in crossing the digital divide by ensuring that every student is technologically literate by the time the student finishes the eighth grade, and to encourage the effective integration of technology resources and systems with teacher training and curriculum development to establish research-based instructional methods that can be widely implemented as best practices by State Educational Agencies (SEA) and Local Educational Agencies (LEA).

Recipients of competitive grants must use at least 25 percent of funds to provide quality professional development for school staff.

In June 2009, a request for proposals (RFP) was issued for competitive grants under this program. The competitive grants were awarded for a three-year period. The applications were required to be consistent with the statewide plan and provide children enrolled in private schools, as well as their teachers and other educational personnel, with an opportunity to participate in the program. There are currently 17 funded programs in Illinois.
An eligible applicant is either a high-need LEA or an eligible local partnership. A “high-need LEA” is a school district that:

- Has at least one school in which 40 percent or more of the children are from low-income families; and
- Serves one or more schools identified for improvement or corrective action under Section 1116 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), or has a substantial need for assistance in acquiring and using technology.

An “eligible local partnership” is a partnership that includes at least one high-need LEA and at least one of the following:

- A school district that can demonstrate that teachers in its schools are effectively integrating technology and proven teaching practices into instruction, based on a review of relevant research, and that the integration results in improvement in classroom instruction and in helping students meet challenging academic standards; or
- An institution of higher education that is in full compliance with the reporting requirements of section 207(f) of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, and that has not been identified by the state as low-performing under that Act; or
- A for-profit business or organization that develops, designs, manufactures, or produces technology products or services or has substantial expertise in the application of technology in instruction; or
- A public or private nonprofit organization with demonstrated expertise in the application of educational technology in instruction.

The partnership may also include other school districts, Regional Offices of Education, libraries, or other educational entities appropriate to provide local programs.

**Advanced Placement under College and Career Readiness** is designed to increase the number of low-income students benefiting from pre-Advanced and/or Advanced Placement courses and highly trained teachers, and to increase the availability and range of schools serving students in grades six through 12 that offer pre-Advanced and/or Advanced Placement courses. The purpose of the program is to encourage school districts with a high percentage of low-income students to establish or expand programs designed to offer the rigorous coursework necessary for students to succeed in postsecondary education or in the workplace. Funding also is available to provide training for teachers and administrators in the necessary content knowledge and instructional skills needed to prepare students for success in pre-Advanced Placement and Advanced Placement courses and examinations. Funds are awarded through a request-for-proposals process for eligible school districts, (those serving grades six through 12 where 40 percent or more of the students are from low-income families) to establish programs designed to:

- Start new or expand existing Advanced Placement and/or pre-Advanced Placement programs, such as teacher training, promotional materials for students and parents, and student assistance efforts to prepare students to enroll in Advanced Placement courses; and/or
- Ensure students currently enrolled in Advanced Placement courses successfully complete those courses and take the examination following completion of those courses.

Funds may be used for teacher stipends, for training or curriculum planning, classroom materials, online materials, test preparation activities as well as materials to promote programs with parents, students and counselors. At least half of the grant is to be used for professional development and staff support services from the College Board.

**Arts and Foreign Language** funds two types of grant programs to assist Illinois public schools in either 1) planning or 2) implementing quality programming in arts and/or foreign language study. Based on criteria established by Illinois State Board of Education, in conjunction with the Illinois Arts Council, grants are awarded on a competitive basis through a request-for-proposal process. Planning grants are available for a one-year grant period to provide resources to Illinois public school districts in developing comprehensive action plans aimed at enhancing or expanding the quality of arts and/or foreign language programs in their schools. Implementation grants are available for a three-year period. These grants provide outside supports for districts in their efforts to expand course offerings and experiences for students in
the arts and/or foreign language areas. Grants in these programs have a matching fund requirement. Eligible applicants are school districts that need assistance in providing fine arts and foreign language programming that is currently unavailable or diminishing due to budgetary or programmatic reductions. Each fiscal year, new grant funds are awarded to eligible school districts through a competitive process.

The **Growth Model** is to pay for Growth Model Assessments which measure growth over a period of time rather than using a single threshold of acceptable academic progress at a certain point in time. It is paid through contractual service to Assessment vendors.

The **American Diploma Project** was to develop Common Core Standards. Now that they have been developed, we have a line called Standards, Assessments, Materials and Training which will be used to train districts on how to implement the Common Core in their curricula.

**Special Purpose Trust Fund** is essentially spending authority ISBE seeks to spend cash which we may receive from unusual sources. It depends on the purpose of the cash we receive as to whether it could specifically be allocated to Charter Schools. This is also true of the **Special Congressional Projects**. To our knowledge, none of the cash available for expenditure under either of these appropriations is available specifically to Charter Schools.


Cynthia Riesman
Legislative Liaison
Illinois State Board of Education
217-782-6510

**From:** Michael Weir [mailto:mweir@thomsonweir.com]
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 15, 2012 8:12 AM
**To:** RIEMAN CYNTHIA; SABA JENNIFER
**Cc:** Michael S. Thomson
**Subject:** Six ISBE Budget Line Items of Interest

Hello, Cynthia and Jen.

Hope that this message finds you well.

I write to you, again, on behalf of Noble, which is understandably eager to explore any and all means to garner additional funds for its campuses and students. Having reviewed the ISBE proposed budget, a few line items caught their eyes and they asked if we would explore with you the possibility that a charter operator might be able to apply directly to ISBE to access them.

It would not surprise us to learn that such monies are sent directly to districts and districts make the decisions about how they are used for their schools, but any insights or direction you would be willing to provide for these items would be truly appreciated.

**ISBE budget- line items of note**

a. Standards and Assessments – “Growth Model” and “American Diploma Project”
b. Academic Improvement- “Arts & Foreign Language”
c. College and Career Readiness- “Advanced Placement classes”
d. Grants- other states funds: “State Board of Education Special Purpose Trust Fund”
e. NCLB- “Title II, Math/Science Partnerships”, “Title II- Enhancing Education Through Technology”,

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“Title V, Charter Schools”
   f. Other Grants- “Congressional Special Projects”, “Race to the Top”

Thank you, as always, for any guidance you can provide.

Best regards,

Michael

______________________________
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