

# Illinois SCHOOL BOARD Newsbulletin

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## Changes in local demographics put stress on some Illinois schools

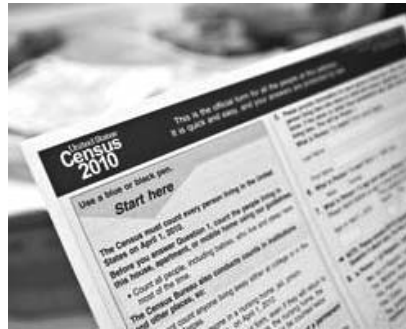
Illinois' population now totals more than 12.8 million, an increase of 3.3 percent since 2000, according to 2010 decennial census numbers released by the U.S. Census Bureau on Feb. 15.

The 2010 Census saw the most massive participation ever in the nation, with 74 percent of households voluntarily returning their census forms by mail. Illinois had a 76 percent participation rate. The state's final headcount rose by 411,339 over the decade to 12,830,632.

But half of the state's 102 counties lost population in the past 10 years. (See specifics by visiting this census link and clicking on Illinois. Scrolling over the state map will reveal changes by county: <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/data/>)

The shift in population, especially households with school-aged children, within the state will have a significant impact for many local school districts.

In 2000, fully 881,770 state residents (7.1 percent of the state population) were under age five. As of last year, the count had risen to 885,314 residents under age five, but the percentage of pre-K residents had dropped



The 2010 census form was returned by 76 percent of Illinois households and showed 3.3% growth in population

to 6.9 percent. An even greater drop, percentage wise, was seen in the population segment under age 18. In 2000, they totaled 29.4 percent of the population. By 2010, the under age 18 segment had dropped to 24.6 percent, according to the general demographic characteristics released from the U.S. Census Bureau. Looking at total numbers, the state went from having 3,614,014 youths under age 18 in 2000 to 3,156,335 youths under age 18 in 2010, a decrease of 457,679.

Illinois public schools had 2,115,483 students enrolled in Fiscal Year 2010, compared to 2,018,316 students in 2000, according to the Illinois State Board of Education. Esti-

See **DEMOGRAPHICS** on page 4

## Many school leaders actively track local census changes, plan well for future needs

All school districts need to cope with shifting demographics, especially those with communities undergoing rapid change. Fast-paced changes in a community's economic and social makeup and population distribution can challenge school officials striving to stay in touch with their constituents' needs.

Population loss is often mirrored by a decline in student enrollment and attendance. That in turn can translate into lower state aid funding. But population losses also affect property taxes and tax rates. As the Estimated Assessed Value of a community declines, tax rates go up, including those levied by the local school district.

On the other hand, growing communities create their own challenges for local schools as district leaders sometimes have to race to update or expand facilities and increase staff to keep up with demand.

How can school leaders use Census demographics as a tool to help

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## ISBE schedule revised

The Illinois State Board of Education has changed its meetings schedule for 2011. Staff presentations and detailed board discussion typically take place during committee meetings prior to the state board taking action in the plenary session. Some committee meetings will begin at the conclusion of the previous meeting. The state board of education plenary session is always the morning of the second day of meetings. Meetings held in Springfield are always located in the 4th Floor Board Room at 100 N. First Street. The ISBE Web site (<http://www.isbe.net/calendar>) contains the final meeting postings. The next meeting is June 15-16 in Springfield.

## Principal mentors available

By law, school districts are charged with the responsibility of ensuring that each first-year principal in Illinois is mentored by a qualified, highly-trained mentor. To guarantee this happens, districts may contract for mentoring services with an ISBE-certified mentoring provider suited to meet their needs. A complete listing of certified mentoring providers and information about the INPM Program can be found at <http://www.ilprincipalmentoring.org>. Note that mentoring is for those who will be in their first year as a building principal, not for experienced principals new to a school district. By June 30, each district superintendent must report to the state, the name(s) of first-year principal(s) expected to be working in the district next year, plus administrative certificate numbers, and assigned schools. Administrators should e-mail the information about any of their first year principal(s) new to the profession to Lynne Woodrum at [lynne@ilprincipals.org](mailto:lynne@ilprincipals.org) as soon as possible.

## Regional Superintendents' pay can't be cut, court rules as governor cuts pay of ROEs

Gov. Pat Quinn has proposed eliminating state money for the regional offices of education (ROEs) in his fiscal year 2012 budget. Quinn has said he aims to cut the state's 44 ROE offices to save \$13 million in the state budget. But a lawsuit that tests the governor's power to cut the pay of regional superintendents recently led Sangamon County Circuit Judge John Schmidt to bar Gov. Quinn from slashing their pay by 9.2 percent.

Two regional superintendents and two assistant regional superintendents filed suit on April 13 asking the court to stop Quinn from holding back a portion of their salaries and to reinstate raises they were supposed to receive in the current fiscal year.

The judge issued the temporary restraining order blocking the move on April 26.

Under the emergency budget act approved by lawmakers last year, Quinn has authority to withhold some appropriations in a contingency fund.

In August 2010, Quinn asked then-Comptroller Dan Hynes to hold back \$837,200 of the \$9.1 million appropriated for the salaries of regional superintendents and assistant regional superintendents.

State school Superintendent Christopher Koch wrote the regional superintendents in March to tell them their salaries would be reduced by 9.2 percent, either by spreading the reduction out among pay periods in April, May and June or withholding the June paycheck.

But the lawsuit said the emergency budget act, as it pertains to the superintendents, is unconstitutional for several reasons, including the fact that the Illinois Constitution prohibits the pay of elected officials, such as the regional superintendents, from being raised or reduced during their terms of office.

The plaintiffs are McHenry County Regional Superintendent Eugene Goeglein; Mark Drone, the regional superintendent for Bond, Effingham and Fayette counties; and two other ROE officials.

## High School Challenge Conference aims to boost student success at school

High school leaders are being reminded to make reservations now to attend the sixth annual High School Challenge, "Improving Student Learning," featuring Mike Schmoker, June 13 and 14, at the Doubletree Hotel in Bloomington.

Schmoker is the author of FOCUS: Elevating the Essentials to Radically Improve Student Learning, a former school administrator, English teacher and football coach.

The event is designed for all those involved with and interested in the work of Illinois high schools. Its pur-

See CHALLENGE on page 6

*Illinois*  
**SCHOOL BOARD**  
*Newsbulletin*

**Illinois Association  
of School Boards**

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**ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION  
OF SCHOOL BOARDS**

# ICSA suggests amendments to regs on Illinois School Student Records Act privacy

**A**mendments to the rules implementing the Illinois School Student Records Act were recently suggested by the Illinois Council of School Attorneys.

The Council and the attorneys who worked on this document said the rules need to be updated as soon as possible in order to resolve “conflicting, outdated and needlessly cumbersome provisions in laws that govern the handling of student records.”

Detailed requirements in Illinois and federal law protect the privacy of student records. (Ill. School Student Records Act, 105 ILCS 10/, and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. §1232g.) The federal law, often referred to as FERPA, is implemented by regulations adopted by the U.S. Department of Education.

The release of confidential information given by a student to a therapist, such as a school counselor or psychologist, is governed by the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Confidentiality Act, 740 ILCS 110/1.

The rules are written by the authority of Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and must also comply with the other laws mentioned. The school attorneys acknowledge that keeping all these rules workable, practical and understandable becomes a significant challenge considering the variety of records and information created by schools, plus advances in technology.

But school officials who work with student records say they frequently find ISBE’s rules confusing and burdensome, according to school attorneys, who believe the suggestions would cure some of these problems. For example, the school attorneys suggest adding important definitions to explain frequently used terms. School officials have difficulty determining the information that should be treated as a student record. ICSA suggestions would add specificity to

help school officials with this important determination.

Another common problem concerns directory information. The list of items currently designated as directory information does not include basic contact information. ICSA attorneys claim it is odd to have directory information defined to not include the “basic contact information that is routinely included in school directories,” and they say its addition would align with the provisions of FERPA regulations.

Attorneys suggest that parents’ email addresses and telephone numbers should be designated directory information.

ICSA suggestions also would clarify the handling of photographs and videos of students participating in school or school-sponsored activities, organizations and athletics. The rationale states:

The proposed amendment would enable school districts to use photographs/videos of students on websites and other publications without having to obtain prior written consent from parents each school year. The purpose of this insertion is to remedy the confusion and conflicting interpretations regarding how to treat photographs and video images that identify and concern a student (and thus meet the definition of school student record). FERPA expressly includes photographs in its definition of directory information, and its definition is non-exclusive. Thus, Illinois could include video images in its definition of directory information, as well as photographs, and still remain in compliance with FERPA...]

In addition, repetitive notification provisions are identified for deletion, which clearly would lessen the burdens on school officials. These are some examples of the many suggestions made by ICSA.

Approximately 16 attorneys who regularly advise school administrators regarding student records worked on these suggestions.

See **RECORDS** on page 6



Anthony G. Scariano (rt.) received the lifetime award from NSBA’s Council of School Attorneys.

## School attorney gets Life Achievement Award at NSBA

**A**nthony G. Scariano, an equity partner with Scariano, Himes and Petrarca in Chicago, was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award for his contributions to public schools at a meeting of the National School Boards Association Council of School Attorneys (COSA) in San Francisco.

“Schools play a vital role in our society and I have been honored to provide counsel to districts and educational leaders over the years,” he said in accepting the award. “Their work is increasingly complex as they deal with an escalating array of issues that affect students’ lives.”

Also honored with the award was Benjamin J. Ferrara of Syracuse, N.Y., a managing partner with the firm of Ferrara, Fiorenza, Larrison, Barrett & Reetz.

“Both of our honorees are giants in the field of education law and have made significant contributions to the profession through their expertise and support for public education,” said Thomas E. Wheeler II, COSA chair.

Scariano has been a member of COSA for more than three decades and has served as its chair and presented at numerous Illinois Council of School Attorneys events. He also has served as a mentor for many attorneys who have been actively involved with COSA, as well as the Illinois Council of School Attorneys and other state councils.

## DEMOGRAPHICS *from page 1*

mates from the ISBE's last report on the subject, "Illinois Public School Enrollment Projections: 2004-05—2012-13," projected total enrollment to remain relatively flat from now through Fiscal Year 2013.

The 2010 Census shows the top five counties in population in Illinois to be Cook, DuPage, Lake, Will, and Kane. Cook County continues to boast the largest population in the state with 5,194,675 residents, but it decreased by 3.4 percent since 2000. The other four largest are suburban counties and all marked increases in the past 10 years (DuPage, at 916,924, up 1.4 percent; Lake, at 703,462, up 9.2 percent; Will, at 677,560, up 34.9 percent; and Kane, at 515,269, up 27.5 percent).

Conversely, the state's five smallest county populations are Hardin, at 4,320 residents, down 10 percent; Pope, at 4,470, up 1.3 percent; Calhoun, at 5,089, up 0.1 percent; Scott, at 5,355, down 3.3 percent; and Galatin, at 5,589, down 13.3 percent.

Cook, the state's most populous county, has the most school districts at 143; Hardin, the state's least populous county, has just one district.

Since the 2000-01 school year, the number of public school districts has dropped by 26 from 895 to 869. The decline is the result of voluntary consolidations, annexations (the addition of territory to a school district), deactivations (a district deactivating an elementary or high school and paying tuition to send its students to another district), district conversion (of one kind of school district to another); formation of a cooperative high school, and formation of a so-called hybrid district. Each of these types of district reorganization is proscribed by law.

Recent legislative proposals have been floated that would have mandated school consolidation without local input. The state has formed a School District Realignment and Consolidation Commission but specific legislation to force consolidation has been removed from consideration for now.

Population and enrollment is one

of the main factors used by local districts when considering consolidation options. Others include financial health; the ability of the districts affected to meet statutory standards of recognition from the state; a consideration of what is best for the pupils in the area, as well as for students in the school districts affected; and any harm that might result to communities or to educational or financial resources.

In addition to a changing intrastate population, the state has seen a significant increase in minorities over the past decade. Asians posted the largest gain, 163,331 residents since 2000, or a 38.6 percent increase. People reporting Hispanic or Latino ori-

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**"For the first time, individuals 45 and older comprise the majority of the voting-age population..."**

**— U.S. Census officials**

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gin increased by nearly 500,000 residents, or 32.5 percent. The number of Illinois residents reporting two or more races on their census form increased by 54,966 persons or 23.4 percent.

Conversely, there was a decline in the number of people identifying themselves as Black or African American; the total was down by 10,461 (-0.6%) to 1,866,414. Individuals reporting Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander origin also decreased by 560 since 2000, for a 12.1 percent decline.

Illinois has seen a significant increase in the number of English Language Learners (ELL) and Limited English Proficiency (LEP). Illinois public schools enrolled 195,516 ELL/LEP students in 2009, with the majority (57.4 percent) enrolled in Cook County school districts. School districts enrolled 6,000 more LEP students in 2009 than in 2008. The impact of this surge is felt in many districts that have to provide services such as:

content-area tutoring in English language arts, math, science and social studies; content-based English as a Second Language (ESL) instruction in math, science, English language arts, and social studies; developmental bilingual education in the student's native language for an extended duration, accompanied by education in English; pull-out individual support for ESL, where the student is pulled out of the general classroom for special instruction in ESL, content-based ESL or in a content-area instruction in the native language (this may only be done by an appropriately certified teacher); structured English immersion programs, in which ESL teachers provide linguistic and academic support to ELLs; and Transitional Bilingual Education (TBE) programs (mandated if there are 20 or more students of the same language in the same attendance center), with a goal to help transition students into an English-only classroom as quickly as possible.

School officials will have to wait for the planned release of local school district data from the 2010 Census. The initial data released from the "Profile of General Population and Housing Characteristics: 2010" included information for 13 states. National data is scheduled to be released at the end of the month. This will show population data and detail broken down by each local school district. The local and state report card data released in February only details municipal and county-level data.

A national trend that may have some bearing for school district leaders involves the country's aging demographic. For the first time, officials said, individuals 45 and older comprise the majority of the voting-age population, giving older people wider influence in elections. Projections also suggest that in about 10 years, for the first time in our nation's history, the senior group age 62 and older is expected to outnumber the school-age group age 18 and under.

For more information on the 2010 Census, visit <http://Census.Illinois.gov>.

local planning? Experts such as educational consulting firms RSP, and Cropper GIS, and professional school demographers such as Chicago District 299's James Dispensa, suggest starting by examining local birth rates, social conditions and migration patterns. The birth rate of a specific area can be predicted, according to demographers, by simply looking up the number of women of child-bearing age, the community patterns of family size and the past history of birth rates.

Comparing enrollment by grade level over the years can also help a district to determine local migration percentages.

At the same time, larger trends should also be considered. The latest 10-year Census numbers show a population shift from urban areas to more rural settings near population centers. While many of Illinois' small and medium-sized cities experienced a decline in population among those younger than age 18, others have been getting younger, according to recently released 2010 U.S. Census results.

Declining population centers as shown by the Census include: Cicero, at 83,891, down 1,725 residents since 2000 (-2.0%); Decatur, at 76,122 down 5,738 (-7.0%); Arlington Heights, at 75,101, down 930 people (-1.2%); Schaumburg, at 74,227, down 1,159 people (-1.5%); and Des Plaines, at 58,364, down 356 (-0.6%).

Some examples of growing population centers are as follows: Champaign, 81,055 people, up 13,537 (20.0%); Bloomington, at 76,610 people, up 11,802 (18.2%); Evanston, at 74,486 people, up 247 (0.3%); Bolingbrook, at 73,366 people, up 17,045 (30.3%); Palatine, at 68,557 people, up 3,078 (4.7%).

Officials believe the trend is not simply that families are fleeing Illinois' urban centers for small-town life. Some believe that families are motivated to moving into school districts they perceive as "high performing."

"A lot of it . . . has to do with perception," Mayor Norm Durlinger of

Morton, recently told the *Peoria Journal-Star*. "When people, particularly those with kids, move to a new area, they look at two things: (school) test scores and parks," he told the news-

## Demographic changes can be tracked online

One starting place for school districts that have not had the resources to track demographic changes is the federal School District Demographics System (SDDS), which provides access to school district demographic and related geographic data.

The site, which has information about demographics, social characteristics and economics of children and school districts from the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) of the U.S. Department of Education, also provides tools to help district planners understand school district demographic characteristics, patterns and changes taking place, and applications to facilitate effective use of these information resources.

Components of SDDS include data tables, snapshot reports, a map viewer, data downloads, profiles, and map downloads. The site can be found at: <http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/sdds/index.aspx>.

paper.

Durlinger, who is also co-director for the Center for the Study of Education Policy at Illinois State University, says local changes in population are tied to new housing.

The 2010 Census results were anticipated by Chad Allaman, superintendent of **Central School District 51**, Washington. Enrollment in the rural grade school district 10 miles east of Peoria has almost doubled to nearly 1,100 students in the past 10 years. As the growth continued, the district built a 12-classroom addition

in 2004 and a second building in 2009.

Allaman said that projections next year are for another 70 students, which would leave only one vacant classroom in the two-building district.

Washington's under-18 population jumped 46 percent, from 2,821 children in 2000 to 4,122 in 2010 – by far the largest increase in the Peoria area in terms of raw numbers. Allaman said about 450 homes have gone up the past five years, with nearly 380 of them in District 51's boundaries. They are being filled primarily by young families, he said.

A similar pattern can be seen in Champaign County; the smaller towns surrounding Champaign-Urbana such as Savoy, Mahomet and St. Joseph were the count's fastest-growing communities percentage-wise, according to the 2010 Census.

While the city of Champaign has grown by 20 percent over the decade, Champaign County is now among the state's top 10 counties in terms of population. A lot of that growth also occurred away from the metropolitan center.

Savoy recorded the largest percentage of growth, increasing by 63 percent to 7,280, according to Census data. And Mahomet's population jumped by 49 percent, to 7,258 people. Village Administrator Mell Smigiel-ski said the town gained 61 new single-family homes in 2008, 51 in 2009 and 35 in 2010.

"The school district is a good pull for us, and people like to live away from the bigger cities," he told the *Champaign News-Gazette* on Feb. 15.

Further east of Champaign, St. Joseph's population increased 36 percent to 3,967 people. Mayor B. J. Hackler said people are moving into town because of the school system, its central location between Champaign-Urbana and Danville and lower crime rate.

What does this kind of growth pattern mean for schools?

See **CENSUS** on page 6

**CHALLENGE** *from page 2*

pose is to provide educators with tools they need to prepare students for the world in which they will live and work.

Conference breakout session strands will include:

- Parent/Family/Community Engagement
- Strategies Used by Successful Illinois High Schools
- Tips for Leading Schools Through Difficult Times

The fee is \$200 per participant for two days or \$125 for a single day. This includes two continental breakfasts, two buffet lunches, sponsored social hour and materials. Overnight accommodations are available from Doubletree Hotel at 1-309/664-6446. This event is sponsored by the member organizations in the Coalition for Illinois High Schools.

For questions, call Laura Sutton at 309/663-6377.

**CENSUS** *from page 5*

Joseph Alesandrini, president of **Pekin High School District 303** and president of the Illinois Association of School Boards, said such population shifts have the potential to affect education programs.

“Some districts could see larger classroom sizes (as a result of cuts), while smaller communities may be looking for more classroom space,” Alesandrini said.

But Alesandrini also questioned how much some population shifts could have to do simply with family size. “Instead of having four kids, I wonder how many families are having two or three,” he said.

Looking at such factors, district leaders will update their schools’ predicted enrollment for future years, basing projections in part on the latest census data. Such information can also help districts to adjust their financial plan to complement the academic goals of their district’s long-range strategic plan.

# IASB site posts attorney volunteers’ answers on responding to a subpoena

The Illinois Council of School Attorneys (ICSA) has published a new document, “Answers to FAQs Responding to a Subpoena,” that is available on the IASB website at: [www.iasb.com/law/subpoena.cfm](http://www.iasb.com/law/subpoena.cfm).

The publication discusses best practices and offers tips for school officials and leaders to consider when responding to a subpoena. Its five sections discuss general background information and responses, managing requests for personnel and student records, what is and is not a “court order,” and some general exceptions to the confidentiality of student records.

The ICSA volunteers’ work is greatly appreciated, according to IASB General Counsel Melinda Selbee. “The response, as with most ICSA publications, has been well received,” Selbee stated.

One of the most frequent frustrations of school officials is addressed within the section titled “Court Orders.” This issue happens when a school official receives a phone call from an attorney. The attorney tells the school official that his or her subpoena is a “court order,” and that the school official must release the requested records. However, the school official is sure

that the requested records require a more formal court order before release.

The answer explains that a court order is considered a document signed by a judge but explains that some attorneys hold the opinion that a subpoena issued under the title “clerk of court,” not always signed by a judge, is also a court order. The ultimate tip provided to the school official is to look at the statute which governs the release of the requested record. Often, that statute will outline what type of court order is required for the school district to properly release the record.

Of course, examining statutes can become very complex. Therefore, the most important point throughout the document is that complying with subpoenas is full of legal distinctions. Those distinctions often require statutory interpretation, which oftentimes requires interpretation of multiple statutes. Therefore, the best person to address them is a lawyer. While this document is helpful to answer basic questions, legal advice or a legal opinion for a specific question, requires a phone call to the school district’s lawyer.

See the website for a list of the attorneys who participated in this project, online at: <http://iasb.com/bulletin/nb0511.cfm>.

**SCHOOL RECORDS** *from page 3*

“When divergent viewpoints arose, we either attempted to reconcile them or noted a difference of opinion in the document,” explained IASB General Counsel Melinda Selbee.

Recommended changes were underscored with the applicable rationale in red and in brackets. Comments requesting additional guidance, identifying a continuing problem, or explaining an unresolved difference of opinion were separated into text boxes and also shown in red.

“We appreciate the opportunity to provide suggestions. The Council and/or the attorneys who worked on the suggestions will provide comment when ISBE publishes its notice of proposed amendments,” Selbee said. “Of course, we remain available to provide feedback on request,” she added.

The list of school attorneys who worked on this ICSA project can be found online at: <http://iasb.com/bulletin/nb0511.cfm>.

# Internal controls the key to protecting a school district's assets

A memo has been sent to Illinois superintendents and school business managers that may be of equal interest to school board members. The memo details those internal controls a school should implement to minimize the risk of financial crimes occurring in its business office.

Internal controls are mechanisms designed to provide reasonable assurance that the organization will achieve its objectives and mission. That is especially true for the policies and procedures in school business office operations, i.e., payroll, purchasing, bank reconciliation, disbursements, input and maintenance of financial data, etc.

To safeguard district assets, the Workers' Compensation Self-Insurance Trust and Illinois School District Agency (WCSIT-ISDA) recommend implementing the following internal controls:

- Segregating the duties of record keeping, reconciling bank accounts and disbursements among several different individuals; and
- Limiting user access rights to the school's financial software.

The insurance pool agencies report that use of these internal controls will enable school districts to potentially prevent and otherwise detect and correct errors, irregularities or fraud in a timely manner.

In addition, a district's use of internal controls, or lack thereof, is a significant factor when firms that issue treasurer's bonds scrutinize a school's financial management to determine the level of risk being assumed.

"The top 10 school districts in Illinois control more than \$7 billion in operating funds, therefore the consequence of any fraud would be significant," the WCSIT-ISDA memo states.

"All levels of government are increasing their monitoring of school boards and their financial dealings to ensure the schools' solvency and financial transparency. Moreover, the Illi-

nois School Code requires that school boards have their school treasurers bonded to help protect the school from fraud."

Although the school treasurer is ultimately responsible for the district's assets, he or she should not be the only person controlling all phases of any school transaction. That's why the memo from the IASB-sponsored insurance pools suggests that districts apply the "Rule of Three":

- The business manager (or equivalent) approves invoices;
- The treasurer authorizes the disbursement of funds; and
- A third official reconciles accounts

While this should be easy to implement in larger districts, it can be more challenging in smaller districts. In those situations, the memo provides that a school district official or other trusted party outside the business office review bank statements for unusual activity prior to reconciliation.

The memo also discusses controlling user access rights to the school's financial software. The use of financial software to forecast, track and monitor financial transactions is widespread and very helpful for managing day-to-day business operations. However, unauthorized access may result

in changes to critical data and increase in the risk of fraud.

WCSIT-ISDA officials suggest several ways to limit access rights. First, business office users' access should be restricted to only those financial functions necessary for their specific area of responsibility. Second, the person who maintains the system software must not be allowed to be involved in any other business function. Third, the financial software should provide an "audit trail" to track access, activity and transactions. Reviews of this trail should be done regularly by someone familiar with business operations but not involved in them.

"These internal controls operate as preventative measures in the first instance and empower schools to take quick, effective action when fraud is suspected," the memo states.

Using the suggested methods, districts can "go a long way in controlling the risk of financial impropriety and protecting the scarce resources required to operate successfully."

Both WCSIT and ISDA are sponsored programs of the Illinois Association of School Boards. More information about these insurance pools is available online at:

<http://iasb.com/sponsored/insurance.cfm>.



"Everyone is willing to give 110% except the physics department. It's a 'math thing' with them."

# New Board Member workshops scheduled throughout summer

If you or someone you know recently won election to a school board seat for the first time, there are many options and materials available to help learn how to become a more effective board member, starting with new board member workshops this spring and summer.

New members may wish to consider taking one of the following courses that are offered after the school board elections. The workshops include:

## ***The Basics of Governance (one day)***

**June 18,**

Marriott Hotel & Conference Center  
201 Broadway Avenue  
Bloomington-Normal • 309/862-9000  
Room Rate: \$109

**July 9,**

Grizzly Jack's Grand Bear Resort  
2643 N. IL Rt. 178  
North Utica • 866/399-3866  
Room Rate: \$139

**July 23,**

Holiday Inn – Tinley Park  
18451 Convention Center Drive  
Tinley Park • 708/444-1100  
Room Rate: \$95

The workshops listed above are one-day events. The Basics of Governance workshop will focus participants on board and board member roles and responsibilities and what effective school district governance looks like. Topics will include: the role and work of the school board and how to distinguish it from the role and work of the superintendent and staff, the school board's relationship to the community, how each member relates to the full board, some practical tips and pitfalls to avoid.

Participants will also have an opportunity to try out some tools and processes that make a school board effective and to sharpen their own decision-making skills, organizers say, plus a great deal more.

Registration for this one-day session, which includes meals and the IASB publication, *Coming to Order: A Guide to Successful School Board Meetings*, is \$175.

## ***Basics of School District Finance (one day)***

**August 6,**

NIU Naperville  
1120 E. Diehl Road  
Naperville

**September 10,**

IASB Office  
2921 Baker Drive  
Springfield • 217/528-9688

**September 24,**

Holiday Inn Carbondale  
2300 Reed Station Parkway  
Carbondale • 618/546-2600  
Room Rate: \$109

This one-day workshop offered at three different locations will cover the basic knowledge that board members typically need for informed decision making in the important areas of school finance. Topics covered will include: budgeting, revenue, expenditures, borrowing and investing, internal controls and district audits, monitoring and communicating the districts' fiscal health, important finance policies, and fiscal responsibility and choices.

The cost of this one-day session, which includes meals and a copy of Jim Fritts' book *Essentials of Illinois School Finance*, Fifth Edition, is \$175.

## ***The Basics of Law on Board Meetings and Practices (Evening):***

**September 12,**

IASB Springfield  
2921 Baker Drive  
Springfield • 217/528-9688

**September 13,**

Holiday Inn Carbondale  
2300 Reed Station Parkway  
Carbondale • 618/546-2600  
Room Rate: \$109

**September 15,**

NIU Naperville  
1120 E. Diehl Road  
Naperville

This workshop will focus on legal requirements related to board work and is designed to help school leaders understand the legalities that govern school boards. The cost is \$125 per person, which includes materials

and meals and a copy of IASB's publication, *Illinois School Law Survey* by Brian A. Braun.

The workshop will present the meeting requirements contained in the Open Meetings Act and the *School Code*. It will also cover meeting types, reasons for closed sessions, voting, e-mail use, remote participation, committees, agendas, and minutes. The key legal duties of the school board as well as the legal considerations regarding records, conflict of interest, gift ban, district take-over, etc., will also be reviewed.

Organizers say participants may register for all three workshops and save \$75: One may register for all three workshops or get all three individual workshops in a single "Bootcamp" weekend for a total tuition of \$400, as follows:

## ***Basics of Governance & Law on Board Meetings and Practices and Basics of School District Finance (3 days)***

**June 16-18,**

**Boot Camp #1**

DoubleTree Hotel  
1909 Spring Road  
Oak Brook • 630/472-6000

**July 14-16,**

**Boot Camp #2**

Rend Lake Resort  
Conference Center  
11712 East Windy Lane  
Whittington • 800/633-3341  
Room Rate: \$93

**August 11-13,**

**Boot Camp #3**

Crowne Plaza  
3000 South Dirksen Parkway  
Springfield • 217/529-7777  
Room Rate: \$115

Tuition for this combination workshop is \$400 per person, which includes materials, meals and the books *Coming to Order*, *Essentials of Illinois School Finance*, and *Illinois School Law Survey*.

IASB encourages school board members and their superintendent to attend these workshops together

See **WORKSHOPS** on page 12



## 2011 Conference panels will cover the spectrum; 33 top proposals chosen to 'Share the Success'

A total of 33 proposals were chosen from nearly 100 panel topic suggestions submitted by school districts for presentations at the 2011 Joint Annual Conference. (See the accompanying list, at right, of panels chosen to be presented at the 2011 conference.)

These school districts and organizations have been invited by mail to present 90-minute "Share the Success" panel sessions at the IASB/IASA/IASBO conference, to be held Nov. 18-20 in Chicago.

Panel proposals were evaluated on several key points, including: 1) interest or relevance for today's leaders; 2) clarity and conciseness of proposed presentation; 3) clarity of objectives and whether they are realistic in a 90-minute session; 4) evidence regarding whether the presentation will address the appropriate school board role on the chosen topic; and 5) evidence of creativity and an innovative approach to the issue or topic.

Those who offered proposals not selected for presentations in panel sessions may still be offered an opportunity to present on their chosen topic during the conference. IASB will again be featuring many such sessions in a Carousel of Panels on Nov. 19, 2011.

The Carousel of Panels allows presenters a chance to make three, one-half-hour presentations on their chosen topic in less than two hours, enabling attendees to gather a wide variety of information in a short time.



### 2011 PANEL PROPOSAL

District/Organization	Title
Aurora West USD 129	Working Together to Help control the Rising cost of Health Care
Bethalto CUSD 8	1:1 Computing: From Funding to Student Engagement
Canton Union SD 66	Building a Freshman Academy from Scratch
Carrollton CUSD 1	Meaningful Technology Integration Through Inquiry
Champaign CUSD 4	Saving Energy on a Tight Budget—Strategies and How to Pay for It
Cook County SD 130	The One Stop Communications Shop
Decatur Public SD 61	Successfully Pass a Sales Tax Referendum
Des Plaines CCSD 62	Charting the Path - A Community Brings the Future to Life
DuPage Regional Office of Education	Building a More Civil Society: DuPage County Anti-Bullying Initiative
Eastland CUSD 308	Eastland CUSD 308 Referendum Planning Committee
Eldorado CUSD 4	Educating to Educate: A Pathway for Success
Erie CUSD 1	The 1:1 Evolution of Learning
Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service	Collaborative Bargaining -An Effective Resource for Educational Reform
Forest Park SD 91	Orienting New Board Members: Keeping the Flywheel Turning
Frankfort CCSD 157C	Do it Right or The District Loses
Fremont SD 79	Developing an Effective Administrator Performance Evaluation Tool
Galesburg CUSD 205	Making Student Attendance Matter
Gurnee SD 56	Energize Operation Cost Savings
Hoover Schrum Memorial SD 157	Achieving a High Tech Learning Environment on a Zero Dollar Budget
Illinois Virtual School	What Boards Should Know About Online Learning
Kildeer Countryside CCSD 96	Integrating Student Performance Data Into Administrative Compensation
Lake Villa CCSD 41	You may be surprised! Detecting the Public's Voice and Taking Action!
Lincoln Elementary SD 156	How Google Apps Made a Positive Impact at Lincoln SD 156
McLean County Unit SD 5	A Promise to Help Schools Help Kids Student Discipline: Navigating Suspensions and Expulsions for Special Education Students
Pinckneyville CHSD 101	Implementing 1:1 Computing and Transformative Changes!
Roanoke-Benson CUSD 60	Board Packets Fast and Easy with the iPad
Skokie SD 69	Challenges and Consequences - ELL, Bi-Lingual, Title III
Streator THSD 40	Creating an In-House Alternative Program
Wabash CUSD 348	Leveraging District Spending Through Intergovernmental Cooperation
West Chicago SD 33/Community HSD 94	Situational Poverty: Steps to Ease the Pain
Western Illinois University	A Powerful Tool for Disciplining Cyber Bullies
Will County SD 92	A District's Journey: From Libraries to Media Centers

# Referendum results less than favorable in April 5 balloting

Voters approved fewer school finance referenda than usual in the April 5 consolidated election. Four of 14 school tax increase referendums (29 percent) and seven of 17 school bond issues (41 percent) passed.

The 33 percent success rate for school tax increase propositions ranks slightly below average (36 percent) for all such propositions advanced since 1989. It also fell short of the success rate seen at the most recent election during April of an odd-numbered year, which was 100 percent in April 2009.

The following is a list of districts winning tax increases in April for educational purposes: **North Pekin-Marquette Heights District 102**, Marquette Heights (a 35 cent increase per \$100 of assessed valuation); **Oak Park ESD 97** (a 37 cent increase per \$100 of assessed valuation); **Orangeville CUSD 203** (a 50 cent increase per \$100 of assessed valuation); and **Wilmette District 39** (a 58.8 cent increase per \$100 of assessed valuation). All of these successful tax propositions were approved by comfortable vote margins.

Bond propositions also were met with an uncommonly low success rate. The 41 percent bond passage rate in the April 5 election is far below the 58 percent passage rate for all bond issues (building bonds and working cash propositions combined) since November 1989.

The list of bond issues winning

voter approval in April included five of 12 building bond proposals, and one of four working cash propositions. Voters also approved a miscellaneous bond proposition aiming to increase the debt service extension base, to increase the bond rate of existing bonds in **Mundelein CHSD 120**. It was the only such proposal on the ballot.

Building bond issues were approved by voters in: **Gardner-South Wilmington THSD 73**, Gardner, in Grundy County (\$670,000 for repairs); **Mt. Vernon THSD 201**, in Jefferson County (\$19.8 million to build a new high school); both **Paris CUSD 4** and **Paris Union SD 95**, in Edgar County (a \$6 million joint bond issue to share in the costs of building a cooperative high school); **Rochelle CCSD 231**, in Lee and Ogle Counties (\$4.8 million to build a new school); and **South Pekin SD 137**, in Tazewell County (\$1 million to build a new gym).

Voters approved only one of four working cash bond issues on the ballot, however, namely the proposal in **Homewood SD 153**, in Cook County (\$7.5 million).

Building bond issues passed in April ranged from a \$19.8 million proposition in Mt. Vernon THSD 201, to a \$670,000 proposition in Gardner-South Wilmington THSD 73. The Mt. Vernon bond issue will be used to build a new high school. The Gardner bond issue will be used to pay for modest repairs to the high school there,

including work on pipes, windows and a roof.

## Other ballot issues

Of seven countywide sales tax increase proposals earmarked for school facility purposes, voters approved two; Franklin and Logan County. Both of those county sales tax proposals passed by wide margins. But voters said no to countywide sales taxes in Carroll, Fayette, Madison, Mercer, and Shelby counties.

Three of five school district consolidation proposals were approved, including the consolidation of **Lowington CUSD 303** with **Arthur CUSD 305**, in Douglas County; **Neponset CCSD 307** of Bureau County with **Kewanee CUSD 229** of Henry County; and **Odin ESD 122** with **Odin CHSD 700** in Marion County.

A miscellaneous referendum to reactivate a high school in **Rossville-Alvin CUSD 7**, Vermillion County, was approved. Two other miscellaneous proposals were adopted to elect school board members at large instead of by area of residence within their school district: **Meredosia-Chambersburg CUSD 11**, Morgan County; and **Paw-Paw CUSD 271**, DeKalb and Lee Counties.

The deadline for placing public policy questions before voters at the next regular election is Jan. 2, 2012. That is for balloting at the general primary election to be held on March 20, 2012.

## Education reform package approved on teacher tenure, dismissal, seniority, etc.

Lawmakers gave final approval to a significant package of education reform legislation on a 102-12 vote in the House on May 12; the Senate had passed the bill unanimously in April. SB 7 (Lightford, D-Maywood) contains education reform provisions regarding teacher tenure, teacher dismissal, teacher seniority, teacher strikes, and mandatory school board member training. A comprehensive summary of the bill can be

found at: <http://www.iasb.com/gov-rel/sb7analysis.pdf>.

Since the passage of the bill in the Senate, a rift has occurred among some of the participants of the heavily negotiated bill. Though all stakeholders supported the legislation in the Senate, upon discussions in the House the Chicago Teachers' Union and the Illinois Federation of Teachers opposed the bill.

"The discrepancy reportedly cen-

ters around a couple of provisions regarding collective bargaining practices and teacher strike processes for Chicago Public Schools added to the final legislative draft without being vetted by all negotiators, according to the teachers' unions in Chicago. Follow-up legislation may address these issues and possibly some other technical mis-cues in the bill," said Ben Schwarm, IASB's associate executive director of governmental relations.

# Conference registration forms, housing forms only online

The 2011 Joint Annual Conference will be headquartered at the Hyatt Regency Chicago and Sheraton Chicago hotels. This year's event will be the 97th annual conference of IASB and the 79th joint annual conference with IASA and Illinois ASBO.

Conference registration and housing forms will be available for access and printout through the IASB website beginning on June 6. The forms will not be mailed out this year. This change has been made to more equitably provide conference registration and housing forms to all local school districts, conference organizers say.

To access the forms go to the IASB website, <http://www.iasb.com>, click on the Annual Conference link and then on the conference housing/registration link and:

- Carefully read the registration/housing information
- Print out both the registration and housing forms
- Complete credit card information or include a check to cover the \$360 registration fee for each registered board member or admin-

istrator and a \$200 room deposit for each requested hotel room

To obtain housing, both the completed registration and housing form with a check or credit card to cover the registration fee (\$360 per registrant) and the nonrefundable \$200 room deposit fee for each individual listed on each of these forms must be forwarded to IASB Meetings Management, 2921 Baker Drive, Springfield, Illinois 62703. Housing will not be processed without the required fees/deposits, and conference registration is a requirement for housing placement.

Conference block hotels for 2011, and their conference room rates, are as follows:

Hyatt Regency Chicago.....	\$166
Sheraton Chicago Hotel and Towers.....	\$166
Chicago Marriott.....	\$159
Doubletree.....	\$156
Embassy Suites,.....	\$177
Fairmont Hotel .....	\$159
Intercontinental Hotel .....	\$159
Palmer House .....	\$154
Swissotel.....	\$161
Westin Chicago River North..	\$164

Hotel rooms will be assigned daily on a first-received, first-assigned basis. A copy of both the submitted registration and housing form, indicating the hotel assignment will be mailed to the superintendent.

Housing requests not accompanied with a completed, official registration form and required deposits/fees will be held and not processed until all forms/fees are received in the IASB Springfield Office.

The Hyatt Regency Chicago and the Sheraton Chicago Hotel and Towers no longer require a two-night, Friday-Saturday stay.

For questions regarding any phase of this process, call 217/528-9688, ext. 1115, and speak directly with a Meetings Management staff person.

Faxed copies will not be accepted.

Once IASB has forwarded the housing form to the placement hotel all further communication regarding the placed guestrooms must be directed to the placement hotel. Questions concerning registration procedures for this year's conference should be directed to IASB Meetings Management at ext. 1115 or 1102.

## EEE award entries sought for best school designs in IASB-juried competition

Award entries are being sought for the 2011 Exhibit of Educational Environments as part of the 2011 Joint Annual Conference.

The juried competition is open to firms engaged in any aspect of designing public school facilities. The facilities may be intended for instructional, recreational, administrative or other use, but construction must be completed in time for occupancy with the start of school in the fall of 2011.

Entries are due in IASB offices by July 22, and must be made by or with the written permission of the author/owner of the project design

documents. Each entrant is limited to no more than two project entries per year, and no project may be entered more than once. There is a \$250 fee for each entry (maximum of two entries).

Eighteen projects were chosen for the competition last year and were placed on display in the exhibit hall during the Joint Annual Conference. Chosen entries will be on display all three days of the conference, Nov. 18-20. A list of the 2010 winners can be viewed at: <https://www.iasb.com/jac10/eee.cfm>.

Plans call for preliminary materials to be submitted by Sep. 12 and

evaluated on Sep. 15. The judging will be done in Springfield on a blind basis by a jury of three school board members or administrators and three architects, all appointed by IASB and experienced in school facilities or design.

Sponsored by IASB Service Associates, the annual EEE awards program is intended to encourage top design professional competition through peer recognition. Service Associates is a special arm of the Association comprising private firms that have demonstrated an exemplary record of providing quality products and services to schools.

## New Board Member Packets offered to help novices 'hit ground running'

IASB mailed out a letter to district superintendents on March 25 reminding them that the Association routinely provides a packet of helpful information to newly elected school board members.

It also gives IASB the chance to remind districts to provide the names, addresses, phone numbers, and e-mails of new board members.

The packets contain:

- Memo from IASB Executive Director Emeritus Michael D. Johnson
- A memo to the family of the new board member
- New Board Member Workshops
- "The Effective School Board

- Member" brochure
- Division meetings information
- IASB Members-Only website
- Field Services Division map
- Joint Annual Conference
- IASB's Publications list
- Article: "Protect Your Good Name"
- The Basics of Governance
- IASB services guide
- Sample issue: *The Illinois School Board Journal*, and *Illinois School Board Newsbulletin*

For more information about submitting the forms containing needed names and contact information, phone IASB's Janice Kidd at ext. 1142.

### WORKSHOPS *from page 8*

as a governance team, so much so that the Association has arranged for reduced prices: Superintendents attending with their board members may register for The Basics of Governance and The Basics of School District Finance for only \$60 each to cover the cost of materials and meals; or they may register for The Basics of Law on Board Meetings and Practices for \$30. Superintendents attending all three workshops or the three-day combined session with

their board members may register for \$150. Organizers say this is a real opportunity to work and learn as a team.

Advance registration is required for any or all of the workshops.

Information on all of the workshops can be found online at: <http://www.iasb.com/calendar/nbm-workshopbrochure.pdf>. Registration can be done online as well. Links to each event by date can be found at: <http://iasb.com/calendar/calendar.cfm>.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**June 21 – Three Rivers Governing Board Meeting**, 4 Rivers Environmental Education Center, Bourbonnais

**June 28 – West Cook Governing Board Meeting**, Mannheim SD 83, Franklin Park

**July 9 – Basics of Governance Workshop**, Grizzly Jack's Grand Bear Resort, Utica

**July 9 – Comprehensive Workshop for Board Presidents**, Grizzly Jack's Grand Bear Resort, Utica

**July 14-16 – Boot Camp 2 - Basics of Governance, Law & Finance**, Rend Lake Resort and Conference Center, Whittington

**July 16 – Comprehensive Workshop for Board Presidents**, Rend Lake Resort and Conference Center, Whittington

**July 23 – Basics of Governance Workshop**, Holiday Inn Tinley Park

**July 23 – Comprehensive Workshop for Board Presidents**, Holiday Inn Tinley Park

For more information about coming events, see the IASB web site at [www.iasb.com/calendar/](http://www.iasb.com/calendar/)