



Schoolhouse News



December 17, 2010

Happy Holidays from everyone at IASP! The next issue of SchoolHouse News will arrive January 7, 2011

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Edleaders Network:** The launch of the Edleaders Network is coming in February, 2011. Hear Executive Director Gerald Mohr describe the great benefits IASP members can receive by subscribing to this timely online professional development resource. Current Webinar topics include Leadership, Management, Behavior Management, Teaching and Learning, Data, Legal, Climate and Culture, and Technology, with many more to come. Save Time, Save Money, and Collaborate with your colleagues and teachers all from your school.



<http://www.iasp.org/edleaders.aspx> (click here)

- **Indianagram:** The result of the past two years of surveys of our membership told us the majority of those responding wished to have an electronic format of the Indianagram. Reviewing our 2011 budget and looking at efficiencies we should implement, we need your response before the Christmas break on your wish for the format you would like to receive your Indianagram. If you have an individual membership, please let us know if you want a mailed printed copy to continue to arrive at your address. If you are content to read the copy on our website and download portions you want to take with you for other use then you need to do nothing at this time.
Please email Penny at pmoss@iasp.org and state you want to be on the "mailing list" for all Indianagrams. She will create a new database for those who wish receive the print version in 2011. If you make no response email we will assume you are interested in going green and help us cut cost in printing and mailing by not receiving the print version in 2011.
Thanks for your help and quick response. Gerald
- **2011 NEH Seminar for School Teachers: The Dutch Republic and Britian: The Making of Modern Society and a European World Economy.** London and the Netherlands, June 26 to July 29, 2011. The seminar will meet at the Institute for Historical Research at the University of London for the first week and at the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Studies in Wassenaar (near The Hague) for four weeks. NEH will provide a stipend of \$3900 toward expenses. For an application and a full explanation of the seminar, go to:
http://www.umassd.edu/euro/neh_prosp_app.cfm For a mailed copy, contact Sue Foley, sfoley@umassd.edu or call 508-999-8301. For further information, write Gerard Koot gkoot@umassd.edu or call 508 994 3145.

➤ **Accountability Model Update:**

- The State Board heard an update to the Elementary/Middle School and the High School Accountability Models at the December 1 meeting. The Elementary/Middle School model has modified how growth is factored into the final grade and also includes a “floor” to protect high performing schools. IASP appreciates the comments that were directed to the DOE which have helped shape this new approach which provides for greater consideration of growth. We also appreciate the DOE considering your suggestions and then communicating with us on this important change. To see this new model, please click here [Elementary/Middle School Accountability Model](#). **This is a new file that contains the benchmarks you must achieve to gain bonus points (or lose points) under the new model. See pages 7, 9, 11, and 13 for this new information.** This file is exactly what was used on December 9 in Terre Haute so it also contains the High School Model information.

- The High School Model has been modified slightly and the DOE has now clarified how improvement is considered when calculating the final school grade. To see the High School model, please click here: [High School Accountability Model](#). The committee met on Wednesday 12/15 to provide further input, especially on the issue of non-diploma track students. It also appears now that Junior/Senior High Schools will receive two grades: 1 for the 7th and 8th grade (based on the Elem/MS model) and a second grade for the high school. Please review the model and send your comments to Todd Bess, tbess@iasp.org or Steve Baker, sbaker@bhmsd.k12.in.us. Public comment will probably be sought in January.

- The Indiana DOE has also done a data simulation for both models if they had been applied this year. For the Elementary/MS model, the comparative data shows a large drop at the highest category (an A), but a substantial increase at the second level (a B). Also, using the revised approach to growth, this data simulation has increased the number of schools who would receive an A when compared to the model presented at the November 22 State Board Meeting (29% vs 17%). High Schools would see a large increase for letter grades B and C and a large decrease for the letter grades of D and F. Click here for the [Data Simulation](#).

- The State Board delayed the adoption process for both models. This will appear again at the January Board Meeting. We have voiced several suggestions to the IDOE even after seeing the revised model and you should continue to send your comments to stboard@doe.in.gov. Included in our comments were expanding the A range (possibly 3.75 – 4.00) and also providing a factor for SES in the High School model.

➤ **Sign Up Now For GEF National Green Week, 2011!** Calling all educators! National Green Week 2011 is right around the corner (Feb. 7-11)! Over two million students participated during last year’s event, effectively saving over 100,000 lbs of trash and tens of thousands in school utility bills. The objective is to spotlight sustainability education (SE) for at least one week, empowering students to be leaders of their own SE campaigns at their schools. GEF provides all of the program and curricula support including how to participate in the largest school based waste reduction program where kids pledge to bring their snacks and drinks in reusable containers for one week. Participation is free and schools can compete for a multitude of prizes and cash awards—results are posted on Earth Day 2011. To learn more visit: www.nationalgreenweek.com. ***Schools that enroll will be entered into a raffle to win a GEF Eco-Kit valued at over \$5,000! Sign up now!***

➤ **CIESC and PATINS Project Information:** We are pleased to announce the launch of **ReadHear™ software by gh** for RFB&D DAISY-formatted audiobooks. This software is available to registered DRMs within the state of

Indiana. This software is available to registered DRMs within the state. For more information on the ReadHear software by gh, please go to <http://www.rfbid.org/indiana>.

- The Asian Learning Center of Indiana (ALCI), an incubated initiative of the International Center of Indianapolis, is reaching out to the state's K-12 schools, colleges, universities and other educational organizations to identify schools' current Asian Studies resources and their levels of interest in conducting related programs. Educators in Indiana are invited to complete a short needs assessment survey at www.surveymonkey.com/s/ALCI.
- **Bullying Prevention Resource:** The FBI has a free internet safety and cyber citizenship program for students in 3rd through 8th grades. Here is the website: <http://www.fbi-sos.org/>
- **generationOn Resources:** Utilize generationOn and their resources to help your kids as they head into their spring service learning and philanthropy projects. Coming in January there will be an opportunity to apply for twenty \$250 mini grants to help schools or a teacher with a service project. Applications will be mailed to those schools registered on the generationOn web site at the beginning of January. Visit www.generationOn.org to register and to search through all of the tremendous resources. These documents will help you learn more about the resources and generationOn. Please forward this information to your classroom teachers. [Summary of generationOn](#), [School Information Sheet](#), [Contact Information](#), and [January Ideas](#).
- **Elementary Grading Practices:** Are there any IASP members that have looked at the weighting of grades at the Elementary Level or what is considered best practice? For instance, how much percentage of a final grade should be assigned to tests, homework, etc. in a given subject?

Please contact Principal Dave Ennis at dennis@nhj.k12.in.us or at 317-878-2160

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- **Indiana Academic All-Star Nominations:** Now is the time to nominate your high-performing senior as an Indiana Academic All-Star. Nomination forms and information is at <http://www.iasp.org/dspallstars.aspx>. This is an honor for your senior to be nominated and is a crowning award for their hard work over 4 years of high school. This selection process will also assist the student when they apply for additional scholarship opportunities. Up to 90 students are recognized as regional winners and 40 of these students are chosen as an All-Star. Winners are recognized at the awards ceremony at the Indiana Roof Ballroom. **The deadline is February 4, 2011.**
- **Principals Advisory Meeting:** The principal's advisory committee which includes IASP President Steve Baker met with Dr. Bennett and members of his staff on December 8. Much of the time was devoted to discussion of the Legislative Agenda and the 3 Pillars. You can read the summary [here](#). The IASP Superintendents Advisory Group also met with Dr. Bennett on December 15 and discussed the DOE Legislative priorities, PL 221 Plans, Early Student Graduation, and Administrative Flexibility. We appreciate all of those involved in the meetings and the time you have given.
- **IDOE State Budget Committee Hearing:** Thanks to John Ellis with IAPSS for providing us with a summary of this committee meeting. Please take time to read this 2-page document to keep abreast of IDOE priorities.
- **Education Roundtable:** IASP President Steve Baker was named to serve on the Education Roundtable at their meeting on December 8. His [report](#) can be read here. We appreciate Steve's comments at his first meeting and know his presence will further enhance our ability to be heard at the state level.
- **IASP Student Programs Update:** Please click on this link to see all of the upcoming events and contests for Indiana students. These opportunities are valuable ways for your students to participate and gain recognition.

The first Student Day at the Legislature is February 24th and is a great way to help your students understand the legislative process and a way for you to connect with your area legislators. The IASP Board will be meeting with legislators that morning from 8-9 am and students will be present from 9 – 2:30 pm. Let your voice be heard at the State House on this day. More information and registration forms are available at <http://www.iasp.org/dsa/PDFs/Day%20at%20the%20Legislature%20Reg%20Form.pdf>

- **SUPER BOWL ENTRY DEADLINE:** The entry deadline for both Junior Division and Senior Division Academic Super Bowl contests is February 16. You do NOT need to pay the competition entry fee in advance. In fact it is to everyone's benefit to send a Membership-Participation Form (available on our web site at <http://www.iasp.org/dspforms.aspx>) right away, so we can have a better idea of WHO will be involved in the contest. We can send an invoice later.
- **FREE OPTIONS FOR YOUR STUDENTS:** All Department of Student Programs schools (which includes all Academic Competitions participants) have access to other free programs. Your students may win scholarships and awards by participating in the Riley Hospital Art Contest <http://www.iasp.org/dspArtContest.aspx> (**deadline January 24, 2011**), each school may recognize one Senior student in the Indiana Academic All-Star program <http://www.iasp.org/dspallstars.aspx> (**deadline February 4, 2011**) and the 2011 Martin Luther King Jr. Essay Contest: <http://www.iasp.org/dspMLKessay.html> (**deadline February 28, 2011**). Please pass this information along to others in your school - we would love to increase participation in each... and you can't beat the FREE entry fee!



- **“Going the Distance: Chlorine for a Cause”** Wabash River Sponsors hope to make a big splash for Riley Hospital. Starting at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, December 27, 2010, swim team members from Attica, Fountain Central, North Vermillion and Seeger junior-senior high schools will swim the distance from the host pool at Attica High School to Riley Hospital in Indianapolis as one continuous relay. Organizers expect the effort, which equals 76 miles and more than 5,350 lengths of the pool, to take 24 hours.

Swimmers are seeking support to help them go the distance for Riley. Donations can be made online at www.FirstGiving.com/RacetoRiley. The group is also looking for in-kind sponsors to provide t-shirts and other incentives for swimmers and volunteers. Interested companies can contact Attica Swim Coach Brian Duncan at bduncan@attica.k12.in.us or 765-585-7730 for information.

“Riley Hospital has touched so many of our lives,” added Duncan. “In my family alone there are four Riley kids, including my wife, daughter and brother. We wanted to give back to the place that has given us so much. We urge people to join us and support Riley Children's Foundation.”

IASP LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

- **IASP Legislative Agenda:** The IASP Board met on Friday, December 3rd and adopted the 2011 IASP Legislative Platform. You can read the [Full Platform](#) here. IASP has also prepared [Talking Points](#) which summarize the key elements of the agenda. These are designed to enable you to summarize for stakeholders the IASP position on education issues. Please contact us if we can help clarify an issue for you, or if you would like our help as you prepare to speak with your area legislator.
- **Indiana Survey:** Attendees at the recent Bingham-McHale Legislative Conference heard the results of the Ball State Bowen Center Hoosier Survey. The link is below for the full text. There are many helpful statistics in this survey when speaking with your community members and with legislators.

<http://cms.bsu.edu/Academics/CentersandInstitutes/BowenCenter/PolicyResearch/HoosierSurvey2010.aspx>

- **[State Legislator Contact Information:](#)** Here is a flier that provides basic contact information for the Indiana General Assembly. It is helpful as it also lists the counties represented by each legislator. Be sure to keep this handy when it comes time to send an email or make a phone call. Your contact with each member helps position IASP to shape legislative priorities.

INDIANA NEWS

- **Summer 2011 Trip to China:** An amazing opportunity for travel to China awaits you! Global Indiana, with board member Becky Burton as your experienced and enthusiastic leader, will travel to China June 4th-16th, 2011. Your final cost will be just \$2160 and professional development credit and/or college credit is available, too. For questions and applications, email or phone Becky Burton at bburton@orchard.org or 317-713-5776.
- **Students are encouraged to serve as Statehouse pages**
Middle and high school students are invited to make the Indiana Statehouse their "classroom for a day" by serving as Statehouse pages during the 2011 Indiana General Assembly. Interested students should submit page requests as soon as possible in a letter or e-mail to their representative. Click here to find the contact info for your state legislators - <http://district.iga.in.gov/DistrictLookup/> Participating as a page is an excused absence from school. Pages must arrive at the Statehouse by 8:30 a.m. to begin their day in orientation.
- **Lugar's New Child Nutrition :** On December 13, an important piece of national legislation which extends and improves programs associated with the health, wellbeing, and education of Indiana children was signed into law. As a co-sponsor of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, it passed earlier this year without a single dissenting vote in the United States Senate. [Read the full release here.](#)

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- **[Final GQE testing window approaching:](#)** Indiana students who entered grade nine prior to the 2007-2008 school year have one final opportunity to participate in the Graduation Qualifying Exam (GQE) retest. The window for this GQE retest is March 8-10, 2011. These students must meet the graduation requirement by passing the English/Language Arts and Mathematics portions of the GQE Retest or qualifying for a GQE waiver. [Read the full media release here.](#)

➤ **IDOE Announces Legislative Agenda**

The 2011 Legislative agenda was presented today at the meeting of the Education Roundtable. The priorities fall under three headings:

- **Identify and Reward Great Teachers and Principals: Give Local Leaders Flexibility to Promote Excellence.**
- **Real Accountability and Flexibility: Empower School Leaders. Bring Success to Failing Schools.**
- **High Quality Options for Families: Offer Equal Educational Opportunities to All Children. Give Parents a Voice.**

It is important that you read and understand the agenda as it certainly emphasizes many options and programs that negatively impact public schools. Begin contacting your legislator soon to begin discussions on how the legislative priorities impact their schools and communities. [Access the Agenda Here.](#)

➤ **Education Roundtable Endorses Key Pieces of 2011 Education Agenda**

Indiana's Education Roundtable passed measures in support of rigorous teacher and administrator evaluation systems and accelerated graduation opportunities for high school students at today's quarterly meeting. Both items are central pieces of Indiana's 2011 Education Agenda and support the Roundtable's long-term objective to prepare all Hoosier students for college and career success. "School communities must have freedom and flexibility to implement a fair system of annual evaluations that considers multiple factors—including student performance data," State Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Tony Bennett said. "I hope the Roundtable's endorsement is a call to action for those seeking to identify and reward Indiana's great teachers and leaders who are driving student success." Click here for the full [Memo](#).

➤ **Top National Education Stories**

➤ **Genetic Trait Linked to Young Athletes' Deaths:** When 15-year-old Olivier Louis collapsed on the field during football practice at his Florida high school Sept. 7, excessive heat or undiagnosed heart problems were among the factors blamed for the seemingly healthy freshman's death. But an autopsy released after the teenager's death revealed another cause that is starting to become better known in school athletics: exertional sickling, a complication of sickle cell trait that turns oxygen-carrying red blood cells into sickle-shaped cells that clog blood vessels and restrict blood flow.

<http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2010/12/16/15sickle.h30.html?tkn=SSSFAYNTn14Y3wkTQv5HL1wkdmGd7GkakKq3&cmp=clp-edweek>

➤ **Changes for TIF, School Improvement Grants in Spending Bill:** The [Teacher Incentive Fund](#), which U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan called one of his predecessor's greatest achievements, would get a makeover—and less money—under the giant spending bill under consideration in the U.S. Senate.

The TIF, as it's called, doles out grants to districts to create pay-for-performance programs. It would get \$300 million under the Senate bill, which finances pretty much the entire federal government, including the Education Department. Last year, the TIF was financed at \$400 million.

The administration had been hoping Congress would build on the program to create a [bigger "Teacher and Leader Innovation" fund](#) financed at \$950 million. But that didn't happen, in part because reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act wasn't completed.

Perhaps more important, the bill includes new language on the TIF program. It says that 60 percent of teachers that would be affected by a new performance-pay plan must sign off on it in order for the program to get a grant. That's a big deal, because there was never such an explicit requirement for a certain level of buy-in before. And the bill says that TIF grantees must create compensation systems that a) consider gain in student achievement, b) look at multiple classroom evaluations, and c) offer incentives for taking on leadership roles.

The money could also be used to help create new teacher evaluation systems.

http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/campaign-k-12/2010/12/changes_for_teacher_incentive.html?cmp=clp-edweek



\$\$ GRANT TIPS OF THE WEEK \$\$

➤ **The Big Read**

National Endowment for the Arts and Arts Midwest offer grants of \$2.5K to \$20K for communities to read a single book or poem. http://www.neabigread.org/application_process.php Deadline: 2/1/11

➤ **PEYTON WANTS TO PASS A GRANT TO YOU!**

Applications are being accepted by the **charitable foundation** hosted by Colts superstar quarterback **Peyton Manning**.

The **PeyBack Foundation** funds nonprofits that promote a **wide range of youth development activities** including positive relationships between at-risk youth and adults, life skills development, physical activity and community involvement.



Grant range: **\$1,500 - \$15,000**

Deadline: **February 1, 2011**

More info >>>>

➤ **Laura Bush Foundation**

Offers up to \$6K grants for books and materials for schools with at least 50% free or reduced lunch. Deadline: 12/31/10 More info [here](#).

➤ **Unsung Heroes 2011 Awards**

The ING Unsung Heroes program annually provides grants to K-12 educators utilizing new teaching methods and techniques that improve learning. Each year, educators submit applications for an ING Unsung Heroes grant by describing projects they have initiated or would like to pursue. 100 educators will be selected to receive \$2,000. Deadline: April 30. More info at: <http://ing.us/about-ing/citizenship/childrens-education/ing-unsung-heroes>

➤ **Grants available to fund education-technology conferences**

Twenty-five school districts each will receive \$3,500 through a grant program launched by education technology and services provider eInstruction. The grants can be used to organize regional training and professional development for educators on using new technology in the classroom. [T.H.E. Journal](#) (11/30)

➤ **Indiana Youth Institute Professional Development Grants**

Grants of up to \$750 are awarded monthly by Indiana Youth Institute for youth-serving nonprofit leaders wishing to attend a conference, training, college course or other educational opportunity that will help you meet your mission. IYI also has services to help you with grant writing, including free prospect research. [Learn more»](#)

We hope Santa brings you a peaceful vacation and a great start to 2011.

Gerald and Todd