



# Schoolhouse News



December 3, 2010

We hope you enjoyed your Thanksgiving Break and family gatherings. Thanks to everyone for attending and making the Fall Conference a success.



## POSITIONS OPEN

- **Indiana Urban School Association:** Half-time assistant to the Executive Director. Duties include: assist Executive Director; represent IUPUI & IUSA in planning annual summer conference; teach 1 course as requested; advise graduate students; coordinate IUPUI & IUSA publications, projects and services; track legislation, monitor State Board of Education; serve as a contact person for IU School of Education & IUSA members, gather urban data. Click here for the [flier](#).



## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Middle Grades Reading Network Update, December 2010.** Website: <http://mgrn.evansville.edu>  
Twelfth grade reading scores are higher on the National Assessment of Educational Progress. Students who said they read a lot in school scored far higher than those who said they read little. Students who reported reading 20 or more pages for school every day scored 25 points higher on average than students who reported reading five or fewer pages. See <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/11/19/education/19education.html? r=1>.
- **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](#).
  - The High School Model has remained intact from the earlier concepts 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 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](mailto: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.

- **Global Indiana China Trip:** Global Indiana: A Consortium for International Exchange is proud to announce its eighth Key Leaders' Trip to the People's Republic of China. This trip will be led by our president-elect, Dr. Mary Ann Dewan, and is scheduled for March 30--April 10, 2011. The enrollment deadline is December 20th. Travelers and/or school delegations will receive a \$100 discount per person if the full cost of the tour is paid by January 10, 2011. For the first time with this trip, travelers may pay their deposit and their entire trip cost online by using their credit cards. See the [Brochure](#) for more details or contact Phil Boley at 765-652-5300 or [globalindiana@ciesc.k12.in.us](mailto:globalindiana@ciesc.k12.in.us)
- **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](mailto:dennis@nhj.k12.in.us) or at 317-878-2160

- **generationOn Holiday Pledge:** generationOn is calling all caring kids to pledge to volunteer and help spread holiday cheer. With each pledge you make, Hasbro will donate a toy to a child in need through the **generationOn Toys for Tots** Holiday Gift Campaign. Click here to make a pledge to volunteer and to help a child in need. Their goal is 100,000 volunteer pledges by December 10. Teachers will help make the pledge for their students at <https://www.signup4.net/Public/ap.aspx?EID=GENE602E&TID=Rj4Oz42W2XKQm3xpuxm9RA%3d%3d%20>

## IASP NEWS

- **Thank you for your attendance at the annual IASP Fall Conference. We heard many positive comments and look forward to your ideas on the survey sent to you on Tuesday. Please take time to fill out the short survey to give next year's committee ideas for change, improvement, speakers, and session topics to meet your needs for success as a grade "A" principal.**
- **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.
- **[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.

- **Growth Model Workshops:** IASP is offering regional workshops across Indiana to allow elementary and middle school principals to work directly with their school data with assistance from the DOE. Further details will come next week, but make plans now to attend and bring a teacher from your building. **Additional dates and locations in the Indianapolis area will be added in January, 2011.** To see the details for each site and to register, click this link: <http://www.iasp.org/Student%20Growth%20Model.aspx>
  - **December 6: Wea Ridge MS, Lafayette and Klondike Middle School, West Lafayette**
  - **December 6: Twin Lakes HS, Monticello**
  - **December 8: Lebanon Middle School and Area 30 Career Center, Greencastle**
  - **December 9: Owen Valley High School, Spencer and ISU College of Ed, Terre Haute**
  - **December 10: Washington Woods Elementary, Westfield and IASP Office, Indianapolis**



## 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](mailto:bburton@orchard.org) or 317-713-5776.
- **Indiana Superintendent of the Year:** Congratulations to Tom Hunter from the Greensburg Community Schools on his selection as the IAPSS Superintendent of the Year. Tom and his family were honored on December 2 at the IAPSS Banquet and he will represent Indiana at the National level at AASA in Denver in February, 2011.
- **Indiana Youth Institute: "Learning Language: Increasing Hoosier Children's English Literacy"**  
The number of English Language Learner students in Indiana schools has more than doubled during the past nine years and will continue to grow. In some counties the rate is 1 in 12 students (over 8%). Learn which counties have a higher concentration of English Language Learner students and what can be done to meet their academic needs. More info [here](#).
- **"Leveraging Afterschool for English Learner Success"**  
Resource that explores collaborative alignment as an opportunity for supporting English learner success in school and beyond. Containing more than 25 research articles, this new CD and online resource helps school and afterschool leaders, teachers, and staff maximize afterschool time. For more information, click [here](#).
- **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.

## IDOE NEWS

### ➤ **IDOE releases state and federal accountability results**

"We have really seen some schools make big leaps in improvement for both PL 221 and AYP," Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Tony Bennett said. "Some schools still have a long way to go, but I am pleased to see a number of schools improved their status this year. These results show educators and parents, especially for elementary and middle schools, are setting high expectations for all students, and students are achieving to those expectations." The full report can be found at [iasp-101123-AYPPL221PR.pdf](#)

### ➤ **Dr. Bennet and Apangea Learning to launch Hoosier Math Cup:** The Hoosier Math Cup is a month-long online math skills competition for students in grades 5 – 12. Classes will log-on to Apangea's online math intervention tutoring program to compete for the Hoosier Math cup trophy. The contest also awards regional class champions and individual student winners. Further details can be found by contacting Becky Reich at [breich@apangealearning.com](mailto:breich@apangealearning.com).

## Top National Education Stories

### ➤ **Five Ed Chiefs Undertake 'Aggressive' Reforms in New Group**

The education leaders of five states announced today that they have created a new education-chiefs group to press a policy agenda topped by school choice and performance-driven evaluations for teachers and principals. Unveiling the new group, "Chiefs for Change," were its founding members: Tony Bennett, of Indiana; Deborah Gist, of Rhode Island; Paul Pastorek, of Louisiana; Gerard Robinson, of Virginia; and Eric Smith, of Florida. They were gathered here in Washington for the [national summit](#) of the [Foundation for Excellence in Education](#), the reform group headed by former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush. The new chiefs group came together in conversation with Gov. Bush, who has agreed to provide it with financial and staffing support.

The five chiefs said that even though they work on important policy issues through the [Council of Chief State School Officers](#), they felt the need to push a subset of policies through a separate group. Pastorek said the five want to "set ourselves apart and pursue a much more aggressive path toward success." It's not a partisan agenda, he said, but a "cutting-edge, pushing-the-envelope way of putting children at the top of all of our decisions." Bennett said the five have "kind of started our own union, a children's union," in which the interests of students trump those of adults. How does that translate into a list of policy bullet points? The five education leaders put these at the top of their list: "value-added" ways of evaluating teachers and principals; more rigorous accountability systems based not on inputs but results; raising academic standards; and expanding school choice. The chiefs don't walk in lock step on the choice issue, though. They said they all agree that students should have more charter and virtual school options, but some of the chiefs "may not go as far as others" on other forms of choice—an apparent reference to vouchers.

The chiefs said they are talking with other commissioners and state superintendents about joining their group, but declined to name names. It isn't the first time that some chiefs within the CCSSO have formed their own group. The [Education Leaders Council](#) formed in 1995 to pursue a more conservative education policy agenda, which includes, in

a deja vu, one of the themes repeated here today: that education should focus on the needs of children, not adults. The ELC ran into some rocky turf, had trouble gaining traction, and morphed into a school-improvement program a few years ago.



## \$\$ 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](http://www.neabigread.org/application_process.php) Deadline: 2/1/11

### ➤ **The Stephen Sondheim Inspirational Teacher**

Kennedy Center offers awards of \$10K each. Nominate an inspirational teacher. More info: <http://www.kennedy-center.org/programs/awards/sondheim/> Deadline: 12/15/10

### ➤ **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»](#)

Stay tuned for more information on the Accountability Models and be sure to provide your feedback.

From Will Rogers, consider these leadership lessons as we make our way to the Christmas Holiday.



If you're riding' ahead of the herd, take a look back every now and then to make sure it's still there.



If you don't learn to laugh at trouble, you won't have anything to laugh at when you are old.