



Schoolhouse News

March 4, 2011

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Global Grant Announcement and Opportunity:** The Indiana Association of School Principals (IASP) and the Center for the Study of Global Change at Indiana University Bloomington (Global Center) will award grants to six Indiana principals for the purpose of extending their overseas travel experiences or domestic experiences of international significance into their schools. Funding for each grant will be up to \$1,000 and any Indiana School Principal is eligible to apply. Three grants will be awarded at-large, with one grant being awarded at each of the elementary, middle and high school levels. **The application deadline is Monday, April 11 and the application should be emailed to tbess@iasp.org.** The application can be accessed at www.iasp.org/SchoolhouseNews/March2011/GlobalGrantApplicationFinal3.11.11.doc. It can also be found by visiting www.iasp.org/globalgrant. For questions or more information, please contact Todd Bess at tbess@iasp.org or by phone, 317-891-9900 ext 210.
- **Cell Phone Policy Change:** We are currently looking to change our cell phone policy. Are there any schools that currently allow the usage of cell phones, for educational purposes, in the classroom? Please help with your policies and ideas. Contact Kelly Murphy at Southridge High School: murphyk@swdubois.k12.in.us (812) 683-2272 ext. 2012
- **generationOn Disaster Relief Resources:** Resources at generationOn can help children and young adults better understand how to be a part of the disaster relief, even when the disaster is far away, through lessons of philanthropy. Resources can be found at: <http://generationon.org/global/big-happenings/operation-kids-help> or http://learningtogive.org/lessons/disaster_relief/ Both of these will take you to the LTG classroom lessons and service projects on the topic of disaster relief. Like all LTG lessons, they are coded to state academic standards. I'm attaching the LTG resource page mentioned, so you can see all the possibilities to help support this effort. Just log onto the generationOn website: www.generationOn.org and you will find an index page with disaster relief lessons and project ideas for grades K-12 from the Learning to Give link.
- **Math Teacher Vacancy:** North Decatur Jr/Sr High School needs a secondary math teacher. AP Cal certification preferred and other certifications would be beneficial. Varsity VB available. Contract begins in August, 2011. Please fill out an online application form that can be found at the following website www.decaturoco.k12.in.us. Please forward application, cover letter, resume, transcript, references to:
Gary Cook, Principal, North Decatur Jr/Sr High School, 31274 North State Road 3, Greensburg, IN 47240
Application deadline is May 1, 2011.
- **Classroom Walkthrough Software:** We are looking for opinions on classroom walkthrough software. We would like to know which CWT software they might be using, pricing and whether they have any pros or cons on the software they are using. Please respond to: Richard A. Healy Principal - Milan High School at rich.healy@milan.k12.in.us or by phone: 812.654.3096.

- **Hazelden Foundation: Conference on Bullying:** Date/Time: Tuesday, April 12, 2011, 3 p.m. Eastern Standard Time
 This Webinar will provide an overview of the issue of bullying, what research shows us works in bullying prevention, and practical strategies schools can use to address the issue. Participants will also be introduced to the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program, the most researched and best-known bullying prevention program available today.
 Participants will be able to:
 1. Describe what bullying is and its consequences for students and schools.
 2. Explain what research shows are strategies that effectively reduce bullying in schools.
 3. Evaluate whether their school is ready to address the issue of bullying.
 4. Describe the components of the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program, the leading program to address the issue of bullying.
 Presenter: Dr. Marlene Snyder, Ph.D., Clemson University--leading researcher in the field of bullying prevention and co-author of the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program (OBPP)
 To Register: Visit www.olweus.org and look for the Upcoming Webinars section on the homepage.

- **Global Indiana:** If you are interested in taking participating in the Global Indiana trip to China in October, view the following two links: [Enrollment Form](#) and [Itinerary](#)
Global Indiana: If you want to offer Mandarin to Middle or High School students, [click here](#) for a session you won't want to miss!

- **Speakers on Differentiation:** John Glenn School Corporation is looking for speakers on Differentiation. If you know of any good, LOCAL, speakers, please contact Tim Davis at tdavis@jgsc.k12.in.us.

- **CollegeChoice529:** As a leader in education, you can help your employees and community learn more about the CollegeChoice529 direct Savings Plan. [Click here](#) for a letter and more information from State Treasurer, Richard Mourdock.

- **Language Curriculum Needed:** Lakeland High School (LaGrange) is looking for someone who would be willing to share French and/or German levels 4 and 5 and Sign Language levels 1 and 2 through video conferencing. They are willing to reciprocate with something they might have that you do not. Lakeland runs on a five period trimester. Please contact Eva G. Merkel at emerkel@lakeland.k12.in.us or at 260-499-2476.

- **Textbooks Needed:** Columbia City High School needs about 30 additional copies of Geography and History of the World from Glencoe. The books would be needed only for about 12 weeks. If anyone can creatively assist please contact lagonicj@wccs.k12.in.us.
GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY OF THE WORLD {IN}
 Grade(s): 06-12 Publisher: GLENCOE Copyright: 2010
 ISBN: 0078799899 EAN: 9780078799891

- **SWIS Info Needed:** Whitko High School is looking for information regarding the web-based discipline information system SWIS (School-wide Information System). If you are currently using the program and would like to help provide information or opinion, please contact Assistant Principal Dave Parker at david.parker@whitko.org or by phone at 260.723.5146 x7002.

- **English/Language Arts Teacher Vacancy:** Cascade High School is seeking a licensed candidate to begin immediately. Please contact: Todd Gowen, Principal: tgowen@mccsc.k12.in.us, or at 317.539.9315 x711

- **Summer Institute Opportunity:** C.L.A.S.S. will again hold their annual summer institute in Indianapolis that is entitled “Great Teaching, Global Thinking.” Dr. Young Zhao, a bestselling author and staunch supporter of America’s public schools is the featured speaker. [Click here](#) to view the brochure.
- **Lugar Academy Days:** U.S Senator Dick Lugar invites you to the 10th annual Academy Days taking place on multiple days throughout the month of May. Please [click here](#) to view the flyer.
- **Purdue Leadership Development Program (LDP)** is sponsoring a workshop entitled, “Work Smarter, Not Harder with Technology” on Thursday and Friday, April 21st and 22nd, 2011. There is no registration fee to attend, participants must register by completing and returning the registration form [here](#), no later than Monday April 18th, 2011. [Click here](#) to view the agenda.
- **Edleaders Network:** Visit the Ed Leaders Network now by going to www.edleadersnetwork.org. Watch the [free webinar](#) and [subscribe today](#). IASP members can subscribe for only \$99; use the Discount Code “eln-earlybird” when you are ready to check out online. You can also subscribe through the IASP website and use a school or corporation PO or check. Go to <https://www.formstack.com/forms/?1033437-G7r8QEduUt> and submit your form to IASP, we will take care of all the rest!

Take a look at the wide array of webinar topics and individual webinars available to all subscribers to ELN.

Behavior Management: Cooling Down Your Classroom: Simple Strategies

[How to talk to Millennials](#)

[Solving the People Puzzle](#)

Climate and Culture: [Creating a Positive School Climate through Recognition, Appreciation, and Celebration](#)
[Effective Faculty Meetings](#)

[Herding Cats: 10 Steps to Meaningful Change](#)

Data: [Classroom Walkthrough for School Systems: An Audit for Quality Improvement](#)

[Systemic Approaches to Problem Solving](#)

Leadership: [21st Century Skills: Overview of the 21st Century Partnership](#)

[21st Century Skills: Practical Implications](#)

[Building Distributed Instructional Leadership in High Schools](#)

Legal: [Top 5 Occupational Hazards of Being a Teacher](#)

Management: [Hurt People Hurt People: Surviving Toxic Relationships](#)

[Managing Student Activity Accounts](#)

[Working with Difficult Employees](#)

Teaching and Learning: [How Do Students Really Learn Vocabulary?](#)

[Strong Core Instruction: Vocabulary](#)

Technology: [Conquering Info Clutter for Educators](#)

[Power Point Tips and Tricks](#)

[Skype for Educators](#)

[Twittering for Educators](#)

These webinars were just added last week: [How Do Students Really Learn Vocabulary?](#) presented by Gretchen Courtney and [Solving the People Puzzle](#) presented by Mark and Karen Wagnon.

Featured ELN Presenter: Meet Meg Ormiston



For over twenty five years Meg Ormiston has been involved in professional development activities focused on changing instructional practice in the classroom. Meg marries her passion for technology with a deep curriculum background and over twelve years as a classroom teacher. Meg has served as a curriculum coach, school board member, keynote speaker, professional development specialist and grant facilitation specialist. Meg has also authored four books, written numerous articles, collaborated on professional videos and participates in many personal learning communities. Meg's webinars include Conquering InfoClutter for Educators, Google Calendar, Skype and Twittering for Educators.

I watched the "Skype for Educators" and enjoyed the overview and also learned of good classroom resources for connecting with other classrooms. You can also learn how to connect with book authors who are willing to come in to

your classroom for 10-15 minutes via Skype. Please contact Teri Hoke anytime at thoke@iasp.org or 317-891-9900 if you have questions about the Ed Leaders Network. We encourage you to subscribe today.



- **Apply now to earn an Educational Administration Master's Degree:** Purdue University-Calumet announces the opportunity for teachers to access our high-quality, fully online Master's Degree Program in Educational Administration. This graduate level degree, offered through Purdue University – Calumet, demonstrates our commitment to helping you develop the practical skills, knowledge, and experience necessary to become effective academic leaders and administrators.

- Same Professors who teach on campus and Complete in 18 months, \$390 per credit hour
- Cohort model supports small class sizes and Student Coordinators ensure successful transition to online learning

To learn more about Purdue University- Cal and to get more information on Federal funding resources, or to take advantage of the preferred tuition rate of \$14,430, visit <http://degree.purduecal.edu/jg>

- **Hazelden Job Opportunity:** Due to the success of Hazelden's violence prevention programming, they are looking to hire another staff person to help reach more schools. This will help them build on partnerships such as the one developed with IASP. [Click here](#) to view more information regarding a full-time position in Hazelden's Center City, Minnesota offices.
- **Patriot Club Resources:** Constituting America's newest initiative, Patriot Clubs offer a wonderful opportunity for intergenerational learning, as Americans aged 3 to 103 come together to learn about the Constitution in innovative ways. Visit <http://www.constitutingamerica.org/patriotstart.php> for step-by-step instructions on starting your own Patriot Club, including suggested activities for participants of all ages. Constituting America was created with an ambitious goal: To get America's citizens and youth engaged in learning about the U.S. Constitution and America's founding principles. As part of this mission, Constituting America has developed the above educational programs and resources to complement your classroom lesson plans and help get students excited about learning.

- **Fall Conference Update:** Assistant Principals Conference is Saturday, November 19 and Sunday November 20. The Keynote Speaker to open the conference will be V.J. Smith who will be sure to give you an uplifting charge to start the conference when he talks of [“Life’s Great Moments.”](#) The Fall Principals Conference is Sunday November 20 through Tuesday November 22. The opening keynote (which will also close the AP conference) will be [Yong Zhao](#). His message of education reform and what is right with the American system will be welcomed by all. Monday’s opening session will have a national presence with [Bill Daggett](#), a recent keynoter at NASSP. His topics and energy will kick off a great day of professional development **Save the Dates!!**



IASP NEWS

- **From the School House to the State House:** The Department of Student Programs held our annual Student Day at the Legislature on Wednesday, March 16. This program affords students a vehicle for experiencing first-hand the legislative intricacies of policy and decision-making within our state government. Our goal is that the students leave with a better understanding of the correlation between policies at the school level with those at the state level. They were afforded the opportunity to hear from all three branches of our state government with speakers such as - Judge Cale J. Bradford from the Appeals Court of Indiana, State Representative Mike Karickhoff, State Auditor Tim Berry, and Superintendent of Public Instruction, Dr. Tony Bennett. By taking part in a “Mock Bill in the Making,” the students were also able to take a hands-on approach to and get a glimpse into how a bill becomes law. We rounded out our day by taking a tour of the Statehouse. If you are interested in getting your school involved next year, you can visit the student programs page of our website at <http://www.iasp.org/dspother.aspx>.
- **generationOn:** To Teachers and Administrators from generationOn, We know there are a lot of young people watching the stories from Japan and wondering how they can help, and also a lot of teachers wondering how to answer students' questions and how to empower students to make a difference in light of this unbelievable disaster. On the generationOn website, www.generationOn.org, Learning to Give has an index page with disaster relief lessons – one lesson for each grade span - and in addition, a multi-lesson unit for 9-12th grade. If you think these resources might be helpful to teachers in helping provide guidance and support to their students, please log onto the following link: http://learningtogive.org/lessons/disaster_relief/ Learning to Give directors, Barbara Dillbeck and Betsy Flikkema, will be updating the page for the next few days. If you have any suggestions about what else we can add, please let us know.
- **Effective Leadership Practices to Transform Schools:** Save the Date – May 10, 2011. A full-day conference designed to help school leaders in Indiana connect the research on turnaround schools and leadership to practice. This event will engage school and district leaders in a conversation about research on school leadership practices and the connection between that research and the recommendations in the IES Practice Guide *Turning Around Chronically Low-Performing Schools*. Sponsored by Great Lakes East Comprehensive Center and the Indiana Association of School Principals
- **Aspiring Principals Conference:** Send us your great teachers and promising leaders who are interested in becoming an administrator. The conference is **April 17-18 at the IASP Conference Center**. Now is the time to recruit our next leaders! The sessions include Mock Interviews, Resume Building, Special Education Updates, Administrative Licensing and Contracts, and Q & A with first year administrators. Register now at <http://www.iasp.org/dppAspiring%20Principals%20Conference2011.html> and lets build our profession now! The cutoff for the reserved room rate at the Marriott East is Friday, March 18 so register now.

- **We have made a special arrangement with Educational Research Service (ERS) for you to get a 50% discount on all ERS publications.** Go to www.ers.org and use the code "WD50" when you place your order to get the 1/2 price special. ERS has provided quality publications to educators for over 35 years and this discount code will save you money.

Publications Include:

- *Crucial Conversations About America's Schools*--excellent book study for your administrative team. Shares the truth about the research on charter schools, pay for performance, graduation rate, achievement gap, and turn-around schools.
- *The Principal's Playbook*--workbook that summarizes 20 of the best research-based practices for Increasing Student Engagement, Improving Teacher Effectiveness, Implementing Effective School Practices and Providing Effective Principal Leadership; perfect for an administrator writing a Professional Development Plan for a school or district.
- *ERS Focus On*--targeted research and implementation guides on 25+ topics including *Bullying Prevention*, *Identifying and Motivating Underachievers*, and *Educating Boys*. Each is only 15-25 pages long, sold in packets of 15 copies, and designed to feed your professional learning communities.

This special arrangement is limited to existing ERS inventory from www.ers.org and provided for members only. Don't forget to use the code "WD50". Call 800-791-9308 for more information.



NATIONAL NEWS

- **Helping students understand Japan's nuclear crisis:** Read this article with helpful tips, questions, resources, and links for your classroom discussions. The writers of this blog post offer suggestions for teaching students about the nuclear crisis in Japan. Students can explore the pros and cons of nuclear energy and research the ongoing situation at the Japanese reactors. They can then work in groups to write news bulletins that explain aspects of the events as part of an exercise that is aligned with national academic standards. <http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/03/16/crisis-in-japan-understanding-nuclear-energy-and-reactors/?ref=education>
- **Budget Cuts Raise Questions About Federal Commitment to Literacy:** The elimination of most federal aid for literacy programs at the U.S. Department of Education is raising new questions about the future of the federal commitment to promoting literacy, a role that's had a bumpy ride in recent years. Even though some of the more than \$350 million in cuts to those programs this month could be reversed, as Congress and the White House wrangle over the budget, some education advocates say the Obama administration doesn't seem to treat the issue as a high priority. The president himself has devoted far more public attention to the so-called STEM subjects of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, as he did once again when visiting a Boston public school last week. http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2011/03/16/24literacy_ep.h30.html?tkn=ZYVFcFL8Kb7OqGI8mdZO62bPexfdKTjYDffb&cmp=clp-sb-ascd
- **Federal House Votes to Cut Ed. Programs, From STEM to Literacy:** Federal aid for programs that support literacy, as well as the teaching of STEM education, foreign languages, and American history, are among many to be cut or zeroed out altogether under legislation approved this weekend by the new Republican majority in the U.S. House of Representatives. In all, the sweeping spending cuts proposed for the federal government include more than \$5 billion at the U.S. Department of Education. Click on the headline to read the full story.

- **NASSP Offers Federal Budget Breakdown:** [Click here](#) to learn about the specifics of the FY11 and FY12 federal budgets currently being worked by the US House of Representatives and the President
- **NYC Innovation Zone Tests Customized Digital Learning: The iZone is trying new and different ways for educating students and managing schools, with a heavy emphasis on customized digital learning.** PS 154 Harriet Tubman, an elementary school in Harlem, is piloting a personalized digital-learning system that tailors language arts and math lessons to students' individual progress. At the East Bronx Academy for the Future, a 1-to-1 computing initiative is infusing technology into learning and giving students more opportunities to work at their own pace. And the Washington Heights Expeditionary Learning School in Manhattan has structured classes so that students can roam from one grade level to the next for certain subjects depending on how quickly they are progressing. Welcome to the New York City school system's [Innovation Zone](#), a three-year initiative launched by the 1.1 million-student district last fall that aims to test new and different ways for educating students and managing schools, with a heavy emphasis on using digital tools to customize learning geared to students' strengths and weaknesses.

Still, educators working in the iZone emphasize that the initiative is a work in progress that often blends conventional and new approaches. On an icy February day in the Big Apple, East Bronx Academy teacher Catherine Mitchell clicks a keyboard, glances toward an electronic whiteboard, and calls on her Advanced Placement English students to fill in the blanks shown on the screen. Students swivel their focus between their laptops and handwritten notes, before slowly but surely sounding out the answers—"jux-ta-po-SI-tion," "ad-MON-i-shes," "SA-tir-ize."

<http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2011/03/17/25innovationzone.h30.html?tkn=PSDCXL%2F2yIDssVD%2FPLPAevGKZ%2Fj40OZB8o%2B4&cmp=clp-sb-ascd>

IASP LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

- **Bosma to Democrats: We're done talking: Senate Republicans say they'll look for ways to get budget, other key bills passed.** The Indiana Senate took control of the floundering legislative session Thursday, saying it will step up to salvage bills caught in the nearly monthlong walkout by House Democrats. ... Republicans ratcheted up the pressure by increasing fines on the missing Democrats to \$350 per day from \$250 and gave Bosma the power to collect the fines by garnisheeing lawmakers' public and private paychecks.

Neither the stiffer penalty nor the Senate's decision to start holding hearings on bills that are languishing in the House worked. House Minority Leader B. Patrick Bauer said Democrats won't be back Monday.

"We don't see the welcome mat there," said Bauer, D-South Bend. ... And, Long said, Republicans will identify their priorities in the bills that already have passed the Senate and are awaiting action in the House. They will do the same with bills that have not made it out of the House. The Senate, he said, will find bills into which it can insert those issues and, with input from House Republicans and Senate Democrats, try to come up with a result both chambers can support. <http://www.indystar.com/article/20110318/NEWS05/103180348/-1/7daysarchives/Bosma-Indiana-House-Democrats-We-re-done-talking>

- [Click here for an analysis of Education Bills and their impact.](#) Thanks to Vic Smith and Libby Cierniak for their help with this document. IASP has also update the website to remove the "dead" Senate Bills. Go to <http://www.iasp.org/dppLegislative.html> and click on Bill Track for complete information.
- **Legislative Resources:** Click here for [State Legislator Contact Information](#). The 2011 IASP Legislative Platform was adopted by the IASP Board and you can read the [Full Platform](#) here. IASP has also prepared [Talking Points](#) which summarize the key elements of the agenda. The bills that are being tracked by IASP and our comments can be found at <http://www.iasp.org/dppLegislative.html>

- **House Bill 1369: Pay to performance program for school administrators. This bill will be heard in the Senate Education Committee on Wednesday, March 23 at 1:30. Now is the time to contact those serving on the Education Committee and let them know of the difficulties this language presents:**

- Dennis K. Kruse (**CHAIR**) (R) Auburn: s14@in.gov. State House: 317-232-9443
- Earline S. Rogers (**RMM**) (D) Gary: s3@in.gov. State House: 317-232-9491
- Carlin Yoder (**RM**) (R) Middlebury: s12@in.gov or cyoder@ccsgoshen.org. State House: 317-232-9984
- Jim Banks (R) Columbia City: s17@in.gov or jim@jimbanks.us. State House: 317-232-9808
- James Buck (R) Kokomo: s21@in.gov. State House: 317-232-9466
- Howard "Luke" Kenley (R) Noblesville: s20@in.gov. State House: 317-232-9453
- Jean Leising (R) Oldenburg: s42@in.gov. State House: 317-234-9054
- Frank Mrvan, Jr. (D) Hammond: s1@in.gov. State House: 317-232-9432
- Scott Schneider (R) Indianapolis: s30@in.gov. State House: 317-232-9808
- Timothy D. Skinner (D) Terre Haute: s38@in.gov. State House: 317-232-9849

You can double check which senator represents you by going to <http://district.iga.in.gov/DistrictLookup/> and enter your home or school address. Click search and your state senator and representative will be selected.

- This bill passed out of the House before the walkout. Requires the department of education and school corporations to work together to set performance goals for improvement in: (1) standardized testing; (2) retention of students and graduation rates; (3) budgeting and fiscal performance; and (4) school administrator professional development. Creates the performance incentive grant to award school corporations that develop a state board approved pay to performance program and that meet the performance goals established by the department for school administrators. Allows for reduction in state tuition support to schools that do not meet the performance goals established by the department for school administrators.

This bill also could enable metropolitan school districts over 8000 students to hire superintendents who do not hold a license. It would also allow a school corporation to establish a policy to require administrators hired after July 1, 2011 to be residents of the school corporation.

IASP testified against this bill. Your current contract can already be structured to include performance goals.

The categories stated in the bill are not well thought given the variety of testing structures we have in place and the variety of school configurations. Superintendents need an educational background and requiring administrators to live in the district will limit good administrators from working in districts, just due to a personal decision of where to live and care for their family.

Begin contacting your Senator to discuss this bill. The full bill text can be read at

<http://www.in.gov/legislative/bills/2011/PDF/HB/HB1369.3.pdf>

- **The Senate Education Committee passed HB 1002 (Charter Schools) on to the full Senate.** Amendments to this bill include: the transportation onus to school districts was deleted from the bill, charter schools would not receive part of your transportation distribution; second class city mayors could not charter; the requirement for the number of charter school teachers holding at least a bachelor's degree was increased from 51% to 75%; a process was refined for closing an unsuccessful charter; charters placed under the same PL 221 regulations; and the superintendents' contact limitation to a "severance not in excess of one year's annual compensation" was deleted completely from the bill; the student expulsion process is to be the same as in other public schools; the 51% parent trigger (51% of parents in a school could vote to declare it a charter) was changed to "51% of parents and staff." **This bill will now be heard on the Senate floor. Contact your Senator with your thoughts for this bill.** <http://www.in.gov/apps/lisa/session/billwatch/billinfo?year=2011&request=getBill&docno=1002>

- **The Senate Ed Committee also heard HB 1429:** Textbooks and other curricular material. Summary: Expands the definition of "textbook" to include certain hardware, software, and digital content. Adds a definition of "curricular materials". Removes the authority of the state board of education to adopt a list of approved textbooks, and requires the governing body of each school corporation to adopt textbooks for the school corporation. Requires the department of education to review curricular materials, evaluate the curricular materials alignment to state academic standards, and publish the reviews, which governing bodies may use in making textbook adoption decisions. Repeals references to the state textbook advisory committee and the state board adoption of textbooks, and makes corresponding changes to related sections.

This bill will be up for amend and/or vote in the Senate Education Committee on Wednesday, March 23.

<http://www.in.gov/apps/lisa/session/billwatch/billinfo?year=2011&request=getBill&docno=1429>

- **House Bill 1479: School Performance and Turnaround Academies:** School performance and turnaround academies. Provides that a school that remains in either of the two lowest performance categories for a fifth year, or, in certain circumstances after a third or fourth year, becomes a turnaround academy. Requires the state board of education to set specific goals for a turnaround academy, and allows the turnaround academy to be operated by a special management team. Provides that a turnaround academy that meets the goals set for it becomes an independent school corporation.

This bill passed out of the House Education Committee 8-3. It has had one reading on the House Floor and could be heard again when the House reconvenes. **Conversation with Dr. Bennett indicated that the DOE does not desire for this volume of schools to be in this designation. He also indicated, however, that the focus on schools who consistently are in the bottom two categories will become greater and that is the intent of this legislation. Also impacting this language will be the timing and the decisions of the state board on the new accountability models.**

This is especially true at the high school level given the increase in cut scores on the ECA tests and the dramatically different proposed rule for high school accountability. Continue to contact your House Representatives. The full text of the bill can be read at

<http://www.in.gov/legislative/bills/2011/IN/IN1479.1.html>.

<http://www.in.gov/apps/lisa/session/billwatch/billinfo?year=2011&request=getBill&docno=1002>

- **Senate Bill 575 Collective Bargaining:** The Senate passed this bill 30-19 and it would limit unions to bargaining only on wages and wage related benefits. The full story from the Indianapolis Star can be read at <http://www.indystar.com/article/20110223/NEWS05/102230328/Senate-passes-bill-limit-teacher-collective-bargaining>. This is a bill to read so we can be ready when the House debates this beginning next week. Read the last printing of the bill at:

<http://www.in.gov/apps/lisa/session/billwatch/billinfo?year=2011&request=getBill&docno=575>. We anticipate that some of the language from the House version of this bill, HB 1337, will appear in SB 575 when it is heard in the House Ed committee. John Ellis (IAPSS) and Frank Bush (ISBA) have also helped with this language as it will go to the House and IASP appreciates their assistance.

- **Senate Bill 1 Teacher Evaluations:** The Senate passed this bill 29-20 and it requires school districts to develop and implement multi-faceted evaluations for teachers and principals. It also requires districts to rebuild their salary scales so educators receive pay increases based on performance and responsibilities. The full text of the bill can be found at

<http://www.in.gov/apps/lisa/session/billwatch/billinfo?year=2011&request=getBill&docno=1>. This bill has plenty of amendments too so I typically read the "latest printing".

- **Nine Indiana districts make College Board's AP District Honor Roll:** Nine Indiana school districts were named to College Board's AP District Honor Roll for their increased AP participation and performance. The AP District Honor Roll is a roster of districts that have simultaneously expanded AP opportunities and improved student performance. The recognition is based on three years of AP data (2008-2010), and districts are eligible if they have increased AP access by at least four percent in large districts, seven percent in medium districts and 11 percent in small districts. AP exam performance levels must be maintained or improved when comparing the percentage of exams with a score of three or higher from 2008 to 2010. In addition, districts must maintain or increase the percentage of minority students taking AP exams.

"The students, teachers and administrators in each of these districts have worked extremely hard to earn this impressive distinction," Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Tony Bennett said. "I commend them for their commitment to college and career readiness and congratulate them on their success."

The following Indiana districts made the AP District Honor Roll:

- Carmel Clay Schools
- New Albany-Floyd County Consolidated School Corporation
- School City of Hammond*
- School Town of Munster
- Tri-Central Community Schools
- Warsaw Community Schools
- Western Boone County Community School District
- Yorktown Community Schools
- Zionsville Community Schools

*The School City of Hammond's AP student population was composed of at least 50 percent minority and/or low-income students. For more information, visit <http://press.collegeboard.org/releases/2011/college-board-honors-4-districts-advanced-placement-district-year-awards>.

- **Teacher's Retirement Fund:** The TRF member counseling staff relocated to the lower level of One North Capitol Ave. in Indianapolis in late January. All member counseling appointments will be held in the new location. [Read More...](#)
- **PBL Brings B-I-G Possibilities to IND:** What do you get when you combine the three R's - Reading, wRiting, and aRithmetic - with the three C's - Critical thinking, Collaboration, and Communication? The answer is project-based learning or PBL. Though only three little letters, PBL has made a big impact in classrooms across Indiana prompting the development of a middle school PBL network, expansion of Indiana's Project-Based Learning Institute, and the creation of the PBL Coaching Cadre for K-12 schools. [Read More](#)
- **Talking TAP: Teacher-Centered Reform for Student-Focused Achievement:** TAP™: The System for Teacher and Student Advancement keeps highly effective teachers in the classroom and provides ongoing professional support designed to increase long-term student academic growth. Questions surround this innovative professional development system as 44 Indiana schools and more than 1,500 teachers prepare to implement TAP™ during the 2011-12 school year. What is TAP? How does it work? How are teachers compensated? Indiana TAP Director Jennifer Oliver and Regional Coordinator Christy Martino addressed these questions and others to help TAP™ dance into Indiana. [Watch the Video](#)
- **Global Indiana:** To read the newsletter from the Consortium for International Exchange, [click here](#).

- **Deadline for Healthy Hoosier School Award Applications is April 1, 2011!** Healthy schools produce healthy students – and healthy students are better able to learn and achieve their true potential. If your school places a high priority on teaching students life-long healthy habits, be sure to submit an application for the **2010-2011 Healthy Hoosier School Award**. All applications must be submitted online by April 1, 2011. To prepare for this process, we encourage you to go to the PAPER application first so you can organize your answers. The link for the paper application is http://take.actionforhealthykids.org/site/DocServer/2010-2011_HHSA_Application_Final_Without_Scoring_Protect.doc?docID=861

Please disregard the instructions link under step 3 in this document. For questions about navigating the application, please contact Beth Foland at efoland@doe.in.gov . When you have all the information prepared, you must **access and submit your application ONLINE**. That link is here <http://www.a4hk.org/KID/awards/hoosier/registration.php>.

In 2009-2010, one hundred ten elementary, middle and high schools received the 2009-2010, Healthy Hoosier School Award. Now in its seventh year, the Healthy Hoosier School Award is sponsored by the Indianapolis Colts, Dairy & Nutrition Council, Inc. of Indiana, Indiana Department of Education, Indiana University Health and Indiana School Health Network.

- **Summer Food Service Program:** The SFSP is a federally funded program operated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and administered by the State of Indiana. Local organizations that sponsor the program provide nutritious meals to eligible children and are reimbursed for their efforts. Potential sponsors include schools, summer camps, community centers, and other organizations that offer exercise, education, or guidance to children. With the help of more than 234 sponsors last year, the SFSP provided 1.74 million free meals and snacks last summer to more than 45,000 low-income Hoosier children aged 18 and under. Unfortunately, more than 500,000 school-age remain eligible and un-served. Read the letter from [Senator Lugar](#) and the [Sponsor Memo](#) for more information.
- **National Learning Forward Conference:** Indiana School Administrators and Teacher Leaders, if you are interested in gathering strategic plans and effective practices for your students and teachers, then plan to attend a great summer conference planned with that successful end in mind. Indianapolis will be the host city for the National Learning Forward conference on July 17-20, 2011 at the new Marriott Hotel. Save \$50.00 on registration for a 3 or 4 day registration when you register by April, 30th, 2011. Learning Forward was formerly the National Staff Development Council. Detailed information can be found at their national web site, www.learningforward.org.

IDOE NEWS

- **ISTEP+ Security Breach:** The Indiana Department of Education's (IDOE) Chief of Staff, Heather Neal, sent a memo to all Superintendents and Principals this morning following a security breach during the state's high stakes assessment, the ISTEP+. On Tuesday, March 1, educators notified IDOE that an actual 8th grade English/Language Arts essay question had been posted on a public social networking site and circulated via email. This memo outlines IDOE's efforts during the past week to both mitigate the affect this security breach may have on students and also take action against the adults whose thoughtless actions put over 83,000 student test scores at risk. Please contact the IDOE Communications Office should you have further questions. [Click here](#) to read the memo.

➤ **Schools Across the State Given Four Stars:** The Indiana Department of Education released the list of 2009-10 Four Star Schools today, following the creation of a new, easy to understand method of qualifying for the statewide honor. Out of 1,808 public schools, 188 were given this distinction. Thirteen of 261 private schools also received the honor this year.

“Today I offer sincere congratulations to Indiana’s 2009-10 Four Star Schools as we celebrate their dedication to academics,” Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Tony Bennett said. “These schools set high expectations for their students on a daily basis, and as a result, students work hard and exceed those expectations. The students and teachers in these schools should be extremely proud of this honor, and I am confident they will continue down this path of success.”

Following numerous inquiries and recommendations from educators regarding what were confusing calculations for the Four Star Schools program, the IDOE’s Office of Accreditation created new benchmarks for the program. These new requirements, which were used to determine the 2009-10 honorees, establish the 25th percentile cut score for combined passing percentages for English/Language Arts and Mathematics as well as the percent of students passing both for all grades tested. Schools that rank in the top 25th percentile for each grade tested and each of these categories and have made AYP qualify for the Four Star School Award. Additionally, the attendance rate is addressed through AYP verification.

For the first time, IDOE reviewed data for non-public schools and included the top non-public schools as honorees. It is, however, important to note that both public schools and non-public schools had their own cut scores and were compared only to like schools—meaning public schools were only compared to other public schools, and non-publics only to non-publics. The calculations were completely independent of one another.

For a list of all the 2009-10 Four Star Schools, go to:

http://www.doe.in.gov/accreditation/docs/2009-2010_4_Star_School_List.pdf.

For a full breakdown of the new Four Star School methodology, go to:

<http://www.doe.in.gov/accreditation/fourstar.html>.

➤ **Curriculum and Waiver Update:** Please read an update from the DOE on [2011 Curriculum Requirements](#), and also [Waivers](#) and the rulemaking for school operations.

➤ **New Resources to Assist Schools and Districts in the Development of School Discipline Plans:** Under HEA 1419, school corporations in the state of Indiana are required to submit a school discipline plan to IDOE by July 1, 2011. Beginning this week, PBIS Indiana has posted a set of web-based modules providing information and resources on the various components to be addressed in those discipline plans. These web-based modules can be found at <http://www.indiana.edu/~pbisin/HEA1419/>.

Currently, modules are available on; Reforming School Discipline (zero tolerance and alternatives), Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports, and Using Data to Inform School Discipline Practices. In the coming weeks, additional modules and resources will become available on School-Based Mental Health Services, Family Engagement, and Collaboration with Other Agencies. For those who are interested, Professional Growth Plan points can be received for completion of each module.

PBIS Indiana is one of six statewide centers in the Indiana Resource Network, a collaboration with the Indiana Department of Education to provide support for improved services for students with and without disabilities.

➤ **High School Mathematics:** The State Board heard an update on math courses and requirements. They are considering increasing the requirements of the Core 40 diploma to include a “math experience” to insure students build their math proficiency in their senior year. This is related to the belief that all students should complete Algebra I by the end of their freshman year. This would impact the Pre-Algebra course many students take. The DOE is considering combining Math Lab and Pre-Algebra into a new course: Algebra I Enrichment. [The information provided to the State Board can be read here.](#)

➤ **Model Evaluation Rubrics:** As you may know, the Senate Education Committee will soon be hearing [SB 0001](#) that would require local school corporations to develop and put to use annual evaluations based on multiple measures, including some type of student performance or growth data. In anticipation of the discussion, the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) is offering Indiana’s teachers and school leaders an opportunity to review drafts of model teacher and principal evaluation rubrics. The state plans to offer these rubrics to local school corporations next year.

I hope you will take time to review the Principal Effectiveness Rubric draft at

http://www.doe.in.gov/puttingstudentsfirst/docs/2011-01-28_principal_effectiveness_rubric_draft.pdf and the Teacher Effectiveness Rubric draft at http://www.doe.in.gov/puttingstudentsfirst/docs/2011-01-28_teacher_effectiveness_rubric_draft.pdf.

These draft rubrics will also be distributed to statewide media along with a press release from IDOE with additional details on how the rubrics were developed. If you have any questions regarding the rubrics, please email IDOE at superintendent@doe.in.gov

➤ **Elementary/Middle School Accountability:** The State Board of Education met on Wednesday, January 5 and approved moving forward with the accountability models for elementary/middle school and the high school. A revised version of the elementary/MS model was discussed which uses letter grades for performance instead of a grade point number.

The final version looks like this:

- Using a 90-80-70-60 grading scale for each subject, give yourself a letter grade for each subject tested.
- From this letter grade, you can go up a letter grade if a high percentage of your students had high growth in the subject area. This is looking at all the students who were tested for your school and who are included for accountability purposes.
- Or, from the original letter grade, you could go down a letter grade if a high percentage of your students had low growth in the subject area. This is looking at all the students who were tested for your school and who are included for accountability purposes.
- You can now earn a (+) on your current letter grade if a high percentage of your bottom 25% kids have high growth.

The details of this plan can be viewed in this [file](#) provided by Jeff Zaring. The proposed [Rule Language](#) is now available. Begin forming your comments and look for the date for Public Testimony.



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

ESA Foundation

The ESA Foundation funds nonprofits that utilize technology and/or computer and video games to educate children and youth. [More info >>>>](#) Grant range: \$50,000. Deadline: May 15, 2011.

Autism Speaks

Autism Speaks offers Family Services Community Grants to community organizations providing recreation, education and other community activities to people, including youth, with autism spectrum disorders. The grant range is \$5,000 - \$25,000. Deadline (letter of intent): April 8, 2011. Visit the web for more information - [More info >>>>](#)

Questbridge: College Prep Summer Program

Questbridge, a nonprofit organization dedicated to giving high-achieving low-income students resources during the college application process, is accepting applications for its College Prep Program for high school juniors. Maximum award: full scholarship to summer program, college admissions counseling, and attendance at college preparatory conferences. Eligibility: qualified low-income high school juniors. Deadline: March 29, 2011.

<http://www.questbridge.org/access/collegepreptext/>

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>

NAGC: Passow Classroom Teacher Scholarship

The National Association for Gifted Children annually awards the A. Harry Passow Classroom Teacher Scholarship to teachers of grades K-12 who have shown excellence in teaching gifted students, the ability to meet the needs of gifted students, and commitment to furthering the development of their teaching skills. The scholarship is designed to reimburse/defray the costs of continuing education for up to two eligible teachers currently teaching gifted students in a variety of educational settings ranging from a homogeneous or full-day special class to a heterogeneous classroom. Maximum award: \$2,000. Eligibility: teachers K-12 who have been members of NAGC for at least one year. Deadline: April 18, 2011. <http://www.nagc.org/index.aspx?id=1255>

Do Something: Seed Grants: Do Something Seed Grants can be used towards project ideas and programs that are just getting started, or to jump-start programs and realize ideas for the first time. These grants can also be used towards projects that are already developed and sustainable, towards the next steps of the project and organization to help as the project expands. Maximum award: \$500. Eligibility: U.S. or Canadian citizens aged 25 or under. Deadline: rolling. <http://www.dosomething.org/grants/faq>

Toyota: International Teacher Program

The Toyota International Teacher Program for Costa Rica Study will send teachers to eastern Costa Rica from November 19 to December 3, 2011 to study the country's environmental and cultural preservation efforts. Maximum award: a fully funded (transportation, lodging, meals, and all program activities) ten-day trip to Costa Rica. Eligibility: U.S. teachers grades 7-12 with at least three years of full-time teaching experience. Deadline: May 4, 2011. <http://www.iie.org/en/Programs/Toyota-International-Teacher-Program>

Enjoy your spring break, or hold on till your break happens for you!
Gerald and Todd