



# Schoolhouse News

A Publication of the Indiana Association of School Principals

11025 East 25th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46229 www.iasp.org Sep 30, 2011

## Announcements

- **A Senate Resolution, cosponsored by Senator Luger, now recognizes October as National Principals month.**

### RESOLUTION

Recognizing the month of October 2011 as “National Principals Month”.

Whereas the National Association of Secondary School Principals and the National Association of Elementary School Principals have declared the month of October 2011 as “National Principals Month”;

Whereas principals are educational visionaries, instructional and assessment leaders, disciplinarians, community builders, budget analysts, facilities managers, and administrators of legal and contractual obligations;

Whereas principals work collaboratively with teachers and parents to develop and implement a clear mission, high curriculum standards, and performance goals;

Whereas principals create school environments that facilitate great teaching and learning and continuous school improvement; Whereas the vision, actions, and dedication of principals provide the mobilizing force behind any school reform effort;

and

Whereas the celebration of “National Principals Month” would honor elementary school, middle school, and high school principals, and recognize the importance of principals in ensuring that every child has access to a highquality education: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

- (1) recognizes the month of October 2011 as “National Principals Month”; and
- (2) honors the contribution of principals in the elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools of our Nation by supporting the goals and ideals of “National Principals Month

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- **Proposed Math Credit and Diploma Changes:** IASP presented testimony at the September 29 Public Hearing for the proposed changes to math credits and diploma changes. The link to the proposed rule changes is <http://www.in.gov/legislative/iac/20110907-IR-511110327PHA.xml.pdf>. After reviewing the language contained in the proposed rule language, Zach Foughty from the DOE provided a [clarifying memo](#) regarding the requirements to earn an Academic Honors Diploma.  
Steve Baker, IASP Past-President and Todd Bess, IASP Associate Executive Director gave prepared remarks and urged the DOE to slow down the implementation of the proposed changes. We recognize the concern that many students graduate from high school and are not college and career ready. However, simply putting additional math requirements upon students is not the blanket answer that should be applied. You can read the full text of the testimony provided by [Steve Baker](#) and [Todd Bess](#) by clicking the links. Thanks to the principals who provided feedback to IASP and to those in attendance at the public hearing.
- **Urge Congress to restore FLAP funding:** Last week, the Senate Appropriations Committee zeroed out all funding for the Foreign Language Assistance Program. This means that for the next fiscal year, there will be no funding for new FLAP programs and possibly none for current FLAP grantees. FLAP is the only existing K-12 national program for language learning. [Contact your member of Congress](#) and tell them this decision must be reversed.
- **NMSA2011** • November 10–12, 2011  
Kentucky International Convention Center, Louisville, Kentucky  
Come with questions, leave with answers!  
No matter the grade configuration of your school, or your role, if you work with young adolescents with grades 5–9, this conference is designed for you! IMLEA will have a booth there and many of our members are presenting and one of our schools is a host site. For questions ,contact [imlea@iasp.org](mailto:imlea@iasp.org).  
For questions about alternative funding  
[http://www.amle.org/portals/6/pdf/NMSA2011\\_FundingIdeas.pdf](http://www.amle.org/portals/6/pdf/NMSA2011_FundingIdeas.pdf)  
For an overall promo video  
[http://www.amle.org/Portals/6/media/nmsa2011\\_hb.htm](http://www.amle.org/Portals/6/media/nmsa2011_hb.htm)  
For Early Bird registration rates  
<http://www.amle.org/annual/RegistrationInformation/tabid/1332/Default.aspx>  
For Total Conference Info  
<http://www.amle.org/blitz/annual090811.htm>
- **The 2011 Fall Support Team Day** is designed as a study trip to Clinton Central Elementary School, a C.L.A.S.S. school recognized by the IDOE as a top 10 school in student growth. You will see and hear from the students, teachers and administrative staff on how they implement the C.L.A.S.S. Model and use it to create a climate and culture conducive for optimum learning.  
Day Includes:  
Classroom Observations  
Debriefing with the C.L.A.S.S. Staff  
Q&A Sessions with the Clinton Central Staff  
Direct Instruction on the C.L.A.S.S. Model  
A Visit with the Student Ambassadors  
[Click here to view the flyer!](#)

- **Middle School Restructuring, Advice Needed:** The School Town of Highland has established a committee to study restructuring the Middle School (currently a 7th/8th configuration) to a 6th-8th building. This possibility is being discussed in a committee of parents, teachers, and administrators with a decision due in March. Are there any schools that have recently undergone this restructuring process? Your experiences, both positive and negative, would be helpful. Contact me at Terry Mucha at [tmucha@highland.k12.in.us](mailto:tmucha@highland.k12.in.us).
- **Advice Needed:** Edison Jr/Sr High School operates a “Friday Class” for 2 hours each Friday for minor student infractions. If the offending student does not attend the assigned Friday Class, they are given an In School Suspension. Edison is experiencing a number of students who are either intentionally not attending the Friday Class, or blatantly insisting they will not go and would prefer ISS. If you have advice on ways to insure that the students are compliant in attending the Friday Class in a positive manner, please contact Bruce Bush at 219.962.8531 x2004 or [bbush@lakes.k12.in.us](mailto:bbush@lakes.k12.in.us).
- **The Indiana Youth Institute** invites you to take part in their educator professional development survey for a chance to win an Amazon gift card! We are interested in hearing from all types of school professionals, including administrators, teachers, counselors, and support staff. The results of the survey will be used to create resources for educator professional development throughout Indiana. Please click the following link to take the survey: [Professional Development Survey](#)  
The Indiana Youth Institute promotes the healthy development of Indiana children and youth by serving the people, institutions and communities that impact their well-being.
- **Indiana State Board of Accounts Workshop 2011 ECA Workshop: Featuring Tammy Baker and Ryan Preston, Supervisors of School Audits for the Indiana State Board of Accounts.**  
November 3, 2011  
9-11am repeating at 1-3pm EST  
IASP Conference Center  
11025 East 25th Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46229  
This workshop, geared to new ECA treasurers, presents role pertinent information and includes a manual from the Indiana State Board of Accounts. (Veterans bringing their experience are always welcome!) Workshop covers the State of Indiana statutes concerning school accounting. Registration is required for participation. Registration is \$60 per participant. [Click here to Register online](#)

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- **Graduate Program:** Applications are being accepted for 2012 summer/fall graduate field courses and our Global Field Program Master's degree offering international studies in 11 countries throughout Africa, Asia, Australia and the Americas.

Offered by Miami University's Project Dragonfly, the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden and partners worldwide, the GFP Master's degree brings together graduate students, scientists, educators and community leaders at critical conservation field sites across the planet. Sites for 2012 include the Amazon, Australia, Baja, Belize, Borneo, Costa Rica, Guyana, Kenya, Mongolia, Namibia, and Thailand.

Tuition for seven graduate credits and all basic in-country expenses are covered in the \$1,290 course costs. Accepted students are responsible for airfare.

Earth Expeditions and the GFP master's, which can be completed part-time from anywhere in the United States or abroad, are open to educators and other professionals from all disciplines and settings. For information and to apply, please view [this flyer](#) and visit:

Earth Expeditions: <http://www.earthexpeditions.org/>

Global Field Program: <http://www.projectdragonfly.org/gfp/index.php>

Project Dragonfly reaches millions of people each year through inquiry-driven learning media, public exhibits and graduate programs worldwide.

Dragonfly is housed at Miami University, a state university in Oxford, Ohio, established in 1809 and listed as one of the eight original Public Ivies.

- **Hands in Autism Summit:** [This flyer](#) outline 2nd annual summit to be conducted on October 19 at the Campus Center on the IUPUI campus in Indianapolis. This summit focuses on the very important field of implementation and systems change. There are many leaders in our state who have successfully initiated novel efforts and have influenced lasting systems change in Indiana. We seek to learn from these successes in healthcare, public health, and education as well as through the example of the Local Community Cadres in learning the key components of sustainable change efforts. Register at: [www.HANDSinAutism.org/summitinfo.html](http://www.HANDSinAutism.org/summitinfo.html)

- **Classroom Walkthroughs: A Tool in the Improvement of Teaching & Learning**

Presenter - Don Kachur

Date – Wednesday, October 5, 2011

Location – Wabash Valley Education Center, 3061 Benton St, WL, IN 47906 Time - 9am-3pm (lunch on your own)

COST: \$90 (includes handouts and 6 PGP's)

[REGISTER HERE!](#)

This workshop will introduce school leaders to the "classroom walk-through" as a tool in the improvement of student achievement in their schools. School leaders will learn how to design and use this tool as a means of engaging teachers in professional dialogue and reflection.

QUESTIONS? Contact Tami Hicks at [thicks@esc5.k12.in.us](mailto:thicks@esc5.k12.in.us)

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- **Global Indiana** is proud to make its ninth Key Leader trip available to Indiana administrators and teachers. Superintendents and principals are encouraged to take a team to China as a preliminary step toward creating a school-to-school partnership. Teams may also be led by assistant principals or other school leaders, including school board members.  
If it is your first trip to China, it will be a life-changing experience. If you have been there before, you know you want to go back. Talk with any of our veterans to hear about the quality of their experience.  
The cost to travelers has gone up over the years, but if you compare this trip to any you can obtain individually, it is a huge savings. Eleven days for \$2,600! Even though the China departure fee has risen by more than \$400, we have absorbed most of that cost and only raising the fee by \$100.  
AND, you can save that \$100 if you pay your \$500 deposit by November 1, because of our early payment discount.  
[View the Itinerary](#)  
[Download the Trip Application](#)  
[Read the October Newsletter](#)
- **Trimester Schedule and PARCC:** If the PARCC Assessments are being created in line with traditional semester schedules and that as of now, no consideration has been given to offering modified test windows, are schools operating on a Trimester Schedule giving consideration to changing from trimester to a semester format? If so, when would this occur for your school? Please contact Jim Condon at Plymouth High School with feedback: [jcondon@plymouth.k12.in.us](mailto:jcondon@plymouth.k12.in.us)
- **Indiana Dropout Prevention Summit:** The second Dropout summit was held this week with over six hundred in attendance from communities interested in keeping the work going to help kids. Many successful projects were shared and ideas were advanced to help teams start new plans upon their return to their home county.  
Senator Lugar welcomed the audience in video. Dr. Tony Bennett brought greetings from the Department of Education.  
Dr. Debbie Silver was the keynote speaker. A world wide presenter with thirty years teaching experience, staff development instructor, professor, author, and mother of five sons with two of them not graduating from high school. She was exciting to listen to and affordable to bring in to your community. She can be found at [www.debbiesilver.com](http://www.debbiesilver.com) password: iamateacher.  
County teams were given the opportunity to discuss the gains from the day in a network session.  
Former First Lady of Indiana, Mrs. Judy O'Bannon spoke to the group to challenge them to find new ways to engage the entire family as well as community to save all children. Understanding is half the battle in creating programs that will work for many at risk children. It is difficult work and takes great heart. Mrs. O'Bannon's humor and grace imbedded the ideas in the audience to challenge others to join in the quest to end this problem.  
Notes and ideas from the summit will be posted on the website next week.  
Locate this and other useful information at [www.IndianaDropoutPrevention.org](http://www.IndianaDropoutPrevention.org).

# Positions Open

- **Brownstown Central High School** has two math maternity positions available. Candidates should be licensed in math (9-12). Positions are from December 12th - March 2nd. Interested candidates should contact Joe Sheffer at 812-358-3453 or e-mail [jsheffer@btownccs.k12.in.us](mailto:jsheffer@btownccs.k12.in.us)
- **Garrett HS**  
6 week Geometry opening, Dec. 14 – Feb. 10  
Contact Matt Smith at:  
260 – 357 – 4114  
[msmith@gkb.k12.in.us](mailto:msmith@gkb.k12.in.us)
- **Mt. Vernon Junior High School** (Posey County) is in need of a long term sub (approx. 8 weeks) in middle school science. Must be highly qualified in science. Interested applicants should contact Joyce Allbright at (812) 838-4471 or [allbrightja@msdmv.k12.in.us](mailto:allbrightja@msdmv.k12.in.us) or Jerry Funkhouser at (812) 833-2077 or [funkhouserjw@msdmv.k12.in.us](mailto:funkhouserjw@msdmv.k12.in.us).
- **NorthWood High School** is looking for an Industrial Arts teacher beginning November 14, 2011. The application can be found on the school website or contact David L. Mangel, Principal at 574.773.4127.
- **Superintendent, Hawthorn C.C.S.D. 73, Vernon Hills, IL**  
The Board of Education is seeking a superintendent to lead its preK-8, 7 school system of 3,900 students. The superintendent will assume duties on July 1, 2012. To learn more or to apply on-line, visit: [www.schoolexecconnect.com](http://www.schoolexecconnect.com)
- **Asst Superintendent for Eled, School District of the City of York, Pennsylvania**  
This district consists of ten schools and 5500 students in a K-12 educational system. They are seeking applicants for the 2011-2012 school year.  
Applicants:  
Must possess or be eligible to possess a Pennsylvania administrative II certificate and a Pennsylvania Letter of Eligibility to serve as an Assistant Superintendent and/or Superintendent.  
Must have at least 5 years administrative/supervisory experience at the elementary level.  
Interested applicants should forward their Letter of Interest, PA Standard Application, Resume, Act 34,151, FBI Clearances, and Credentials to:  
Dr. Eric B. Holmes, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources  
31 North Pershing Avenue, York, PA 17401  
Email: [bortnron@yca.k12.pa.us](mailto:bortnron@yca.k12.pa.us)  
Phone: 717.849.1433  
Applications must be submitted by October 3, 2011
- **Dual District Superintendent of Schools**  
A unique opportunity exists for an outstanding person to assume the leadership of two school districts, the Lake Forest School Districts, situated in an historic community thirty miles north of Chicago. The K-8 District's 2,000 students are educated in four schools that feed into the high school district of approximately 1,800 students. The new superintendent will assume duties on July 1, 2012. To learn more or to apply on-line visit: [www.schoolexecconnect.com](http://www.schoolexecconnect.com).

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# IASP

- **IASP Membership:**
  - Professional Development
  - Advocacy with the General Assembly and the DOE
  - Service and Support to Members

All of our member benefits fall under these three headings. Belonging to your professional organization keeps you informed on changes and initiatives from the state (like the recent notice of public hearings for mathematics and diploma changes). IASP Conferences and Workshops bring you nationally recognized keynote speakers and state leaders to inform you of education trends and programs. IASP publications and networks provide members with news, updates, and connections with an email or phone call.

Thank you for being an IASP Member!

**Renew now for the 2011-2012 school year. All 2010-2011 memberships will end on September 30, 2011** and those non-renewals will miss out on being a part of the professional membership that exists to serve school administrators and those seeking an administrative role.

The IASP Membership page is <http://www.iasp.org/dppmembership.aspx> and you can click on the membership application to submit this online. Renew now so you continue to receive all of your member benefits for the 2011-2012 school year.

We look forward to serving you this school year.

- **October District Meetings**
  - IASP District 8 Meeting
  - October 4, 2011 5:00 p.m.
  - Putnam Inn 400 N Jackson St, Greencastle, IN
  - Meeting followed by a buffet dinner
  - Dinner will be \$9.95 plus tax
  - Speaker will be Dr. Todd Whitaker
- **generationOn** – This new “youth service-learning and philanthropy education” organization is a tremendous resource for K-12 schools. Join us at [www.generationOn.org](http://www.generationOn.org) to start your service-learning journey to inspire, equip, and mobilize youth to take action that helps them “Make Their Mark on the World”. Check out the Welcome Back to School letter with many of the generationOn opportunities in the Archived Section. Becoming a generationOn School, Mini-grant opportunities, and the School Information Form are available on the IASP website. Just click on the generationOn logo to find out more!!!

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- **State Superintendent Advisory Committee Meeting:** Thanks to Superintendent Advisory Committee member David Maugel for the detailed notes he took at our meeting this week. [Share this at your district meetings this week.](#)
- **Middle Grades ( 5 – 9) Administrators – Looking for support in improving your school’s best practices and instructional strategies to better meet the needs of your staff and students?** The Indiana Middle Level Education Association (IMLEA) – [www.imlea.org](http://www.imlea.org), facilitates the Schools to Watch program in Indiana. This is a program designed to identify exemplary middle schools to both recognize their achievement as well as to identify them as mentor schools. Trained Schools to Watch administrators and teachers are available to work with other Indiana colleagues to help implement proven successful programs and practices. IMLEA has developed the “Theory of Action” process, based on the Schools to Watch criteria and recently approved by the IDOE as a resource for middle grades school improvement. For more information, click on <http://imlea.schoolfusion.us/modules/cms/pages.phtml?pageid=86227&sessionid=8686609cfd1d5384d5fa93e68ce81f0a> or email [imlea@iasp.org](mailto:imlea@iasp.org) or call 317-894-2937.

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# Department of Student Programs

**JR/SR ACADEMIC COACHES CONFERENCE:** The annual Jr/Sr Academic Coaches Conference will be held on Tuesday, October 4, 2011 in the Indiana Convention Center in downtown Indianapolis. Sessions will be offered for Spell Bowl and Academic Super Bowl Coaches, and can be extremely helpful to both rookie and experienced coaches. Choose from a variety of options including meetings with the Academic Super Bowl question writers explaining how to approach the study guides, and from other coaches sharing their tips for success. **Time is running out, register today!**

<http://www.iasp.org/dspconferences.aspx>

**ACADEMIC COACH OF THE YEAR FINALISTS:** The IASP Department of Student Programs is excited to announce the finalists for the 8th Annual Academic Coach Of The Year Award. Each of these outstanding educators will be recognized at a luncheon ceremony during the Jr/Sr Academic Coach Conference on October 4. If you have the opportunity, congratulate them for their many achievements!

**2011 Junior Division Finalists:**

Laura Bloom-Johnson & Laurie Rosine– Kahler Middle School, Dyer

Joan Ross – Woodside Middle School, Fort Wayne

Leesa Scales – Thompkins Middle School, Evansville

**2011 Senior Division Finalists:**

Mary Lou Dixon – Wawasee High School, Wawasee

Paul Hernandez – John Glenn High School, Walkerton

Jill Jenkins - Greenfield Central High School, Greenfield

Kristina Hole & Leah Morgan – Orleans Jr/Sr High School, Orleans

More Information is available online at: <http://www.iasp.org/dspcoty.aspx>

**ELEMENTARY SPELL BOWL ENTRY DEADLINE TODAY!:** Friday, September 30 is the entry deadline for the Elementary Spell Bowl Competition for 4th – 6th Graders. Each year, over 5,500 students participate in this event at 35 locations across the state. This year’s competition will take place on November 17. To enter a team from your school, fax a Membership-Participation Form (available online at <http://www.iasp.org/dspforms.aspx>) to IASP. Student Rosters will be collected October 14 – 27. A list of entered schools is available at <http://www.iasp.org/iace/Confirm%20Spell%20Elem.html> For more information, visit the Spell Bowl page at

<http://www.iasp.org/dspspellbowl.aspx>

**CHEERLEADER COACH OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS:** Strong cheer coaches are an essential part of providing a positive experience for Indiana’s cheerleaders, and IASP is excited to recognize the contributions of devoted coaches across the state. Coaches who participated in the 2010 Indiana Cheer Competition as a cheer coach are eligible for this award, and can be nominated by their principal, athletic director, another coach, parent or volunteer. Please consider nominating a deserving Cheerleader Coach by the October 3 deadline. The nomination form is available online at <http://www.iasp.org/DSP/Cheer/Coach%20of%20Year%20Nomination%20Form.pdf>

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**Bennett Announces 2012 Teacher of the Year Finalists**

Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Tony Bennett today announced ten distinguished finalists for the 2012 Indiana Teacher of the Year program, one of whom will be named the 2012 Teacher of the Year in October.

“The talent exhibited from this year’s candidates is impressive,” Bennett said.

“Their students are fortunate to learn from such dedicated, caring and effective professionals, and I wish them all continued success.”

The following teachers were selected as Indiana’s ten Teacher of the Year finalists:

Laurie Bandos, Grade 4  
Pine Tree Elem School  
Avon Comm School Corp

Robin Keerns, Grades 7-8, Math  
Fishers Junior High School  
Hamilton Southeastern Schools

Carolyn Bookmyer, Grades 6-8, ESL  
Shawnee Middle School  
Fort Wayne Community Schools

Melanie Park, Reading Remediation  
Riverview Middle School  
Huntington County CSC

Debbie DeLaurelle, Grades 2-3  
Northpoint Elem School  
Penn Harris Madison School Corp

Thomas Rice, Grade 8, Math  
East Tippecanoe Middle School  
Tippecanoe School Corp

Suzanne Dolemba, High School Math  
Mishawaka High School  
School City of Mishawaka

Lisa Sarjeant, Grades 7-8, ELA  
Sheridan Middle School  
Sheridan Comm Schools

Brienne Irely, Grade 5, SpEd Inclusion  
Navarre Intermediate Center  
South Bend Comm School Corp

Lisa Steele, Grade 8, ELA  
Eastwood Middle School  
MSD Washington Township

Thirty two public and non-public educators applied for the 2012 Indiana Teacher of the Year. All candidates will be honored at a banquet November 14, 2011.

The winner will be Indiana’s candidate for National Teacher of the Year and will be recognized in Washington D.C. this spring.

**IDOE and Cummins Host Training Aimed at Saving School Districts Money**

Today, the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) will partner with Cummins to host a training session to help Indiana school corporations identify efficiencies and cost savings. This free training was offered on a first come first served basis, and Cummins has committed to offering ongoing support as superintendents work to apply these important lessons and implement cost-saving measures at their school corporations.

“At a time when Indiana’s school leaders are asking how to get more education with Hoosier tax dollars, we are thrilled to have companies like Cummins offer their expertise,” Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Tony Bennett said.

“Moving forward, I believe robust public-private partnerships like this one will be a critical component driving the long-term financial health of our school districts.

I greatly appreciate the companies that have already indicated their interest in assisting our schools, and I encourage superintendents to work with the IDOE to immediately identify private partners best suited to address their districts’ needs.”

[For the full story and a list of participating schools, click here.](#)

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# Ed Leaders Network

**We recently polled ELN subscribers on their use.** These principals are finding unique ways to incorporate and utilize ELN within their buildings. Read on and learn more of how you can make your membership work for you. For a full description of ELN, membership info, and webinar summaries, click on the Ed Leaders Network link below.

*I was looking for a student survey and saw a discussion thread on ELN. I contacted a principal in Minnesota and he emailed his survey to me within 30 minutes.*

-Al Remaly, Principal - Northwestern High School

*I am using for staff development/discussion. Last week I met with all Elementary teachers and we watched 3 different webinars. These led into some interesting discussions. (Webinars were on change).*

*I also talked with all present about using these webinars (and a write up) for PGP points for license renewal.*

-Tim Davis, Principal - Walkerton Elementary School, Walkerton

*I have used webinars on ELN for professional development activities for myself and our teaching staff. We are going to be viewing the blood borne pathogens webinar next Wednesday for compliance and reinforcement.*

-Jim Diagostino, Principal - Tri-West Hendricks Senior High School, Lizton

The Ed Leaders Network ([www.edleadersnetwork.org](http://www.edleadersnetwork.org)) provides a wide array of webinars you can use to inform yourself and your staff on current topics in education. IASP members may join for just \$99 and this membership allows total access to the over 70 current webinars with more being produced each day. Visit the IASP website at <https://www.formstack.com/forms/?1033437-G7r8QEduUt> to submit your information online. All of this online training qualifies for Professional Growth Points (PGPs) and you will print a certificate for yourself following completion of the webinar. You can also provide this to the teachers who watch the webinar. Like to watch this at home on your iPad- no problem. All of the ELN webinars are mobile ready and can be viewed on your iPhone, iPad or other mobile device

## Meet Gretchen Courtney

Gretchen Courtney, a catalyst in the field of literacy instruction, has taught in rural, suburban and urban school districts as well as being an experienced Title 1 reading specialist. She has received a Master's degree in reading and is pursuing her doctorate in curriculum and instruction. Her lifelong passion for exceptional literacy instruction resulted in establishing her own literacy engineering firm. For more than twenty-five years Gretchen Courtney and Associates, Ltd., has led presentations, workshops, and staff development projects resulting in improved student achievement. Gretchen Courtney is the author of a groundbreaking six-part series for reading comprehension instruction entitled, Comprehension Keystones. Prior to these publications, Gretchen authored four additional books encompassing a wide range of literacy interests from nonfiction literacy to a literature instruction for all levels.

## ELN Webinar

The ELA Common Core standards do not have to be a mystery. This webinar uncovers the essentials of these specific standards providing an overview for all staff and administrators. Listen and learn what the standards are, where they come from, and how to provide support for their implementation without interruption in the classroom.

Schoolhouse News, IASP, 11025 East 25th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46229 [www.iasp.org](http://www.iasp.org)

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# Indiana News

## **Keeping kids in school: Summit offers ideas to stem state's dropout rate**

Two factors provide young people the keys to earning a high school diploma: adults who care and productive ways to spend time after school. The advice was courtesy of Tamika Riggs, who was among hundreds of educators, parents and community leaders from across the state who gathered Wednesday for the Indiana Dropout Prevention Summit.

Last year, 84.5 percent of the state's high school seniors graduated on time, according to Indiana Department of Education figures. That's 7.8 percentage points higher than the rate five years earlier.

"In Indiana, we have a goal to see 90 percent of students graduate from high school, and we're getting closer to achieving that," State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Bennett said in opening remarks to the group. "Still, that's not enough. We need 100 percent of our children to graduate. We'll get there by focusing on every student, meeting them wherever they are and providing many pathways for students to be successful."

Riggs got involved in the issue 10 years ago as a concerned parent in the Indianapolis Public Schools. Her passion was such that George Washington Community High School eventually hired her to manage after-hours programs. She helped to lead one of the 30 small-group summit sessions.

Wednesday's summit mostly was to allow educators and other interested community members to exchange ideas, said Gerald Mohr, executive director of the Indiana Association of School Principals. "We need to bring the models that are working to everybody's attention," said Mohr, a former teacher and principal in Rush County. "That's our greatest hope -- that somebody sees something that's working for someone else and takes it back to their community and tailors it to fit their needs. We understand that one size does not fit all."

State education officials did press for one concrete action at the conference, said Chelsie Mann, a college and career readiness specialist at the Department of Education. They asked educators to form county-level dropout prevention teams.

To read the full article from the Indianapolis Star, go to <http://www.indystar.com/article/20110929/LOCAL/109290352/Summit-offers-ideas-keeping-kids-school?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|IndyStar.com>

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## **A better No Child Left Behind law? President allows states to opt out of federal rules; critics argue he is injecting politics into education**

Nearly everyone agrees the fix needs fixing. The No Child Left Behind law that was supposed to improve American education has left schools grumbling at being labeled “failures,” state officials fuming and complaints everywhere about required testing. But President Barack Obama’s response on Friday -- he’s allowing states to opt out -- is starting a new round of heated arguments. There are questions about whether letting states bypass unpopular proficiency standards will help the nation’s schoolchildren. And, even as states clamor to use the new waiver option, some lawmakers say Obama is inserting politics in what had been a bipartisan approach to education.

At the White House, the president said he was acting only because Congress wouldn’t. He decried the state of U.S. education and called the “No Child” law -- a signature legacy of President George W. Bush’s presidency -- an admirable but flawed effort that ended up hurting students instead of helping them. Obama’s announcement could fundamentally affect the education of tens of millions of children. It will allow states to scrap a key requirement that all children show they are proficient in reading and math by 2014 -- if those states meet conditions such as imposing their own standards to prepare students for college and careers and setting evaluation standards for teachers and principals.

Kids still will have to take yearly tests in math and reading, although the administration said the emphasis will be more on measuring growth over time. State officials have long complained that if they had more flexibility, they could implement positive changes. Now, they will have to step up and prove it. “This is really going to change things because it really does put responsibility squarely on the states,” said Amy Wilkins, a vice president at Education Trust, a nonprofit that seeks to raise achievement standards in schools.

Indiana requested a waiver from the U.S. Department of Education more than a year ago so it could make changes to incorporate a measure of growth in test scores into its accountability system.

“We appreciate the administration’s flexibility for data collection, rewarding progress and supporting teacher-effectiveness policies,” state Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Bennett said. “Waivers like the ones the administration laid out today, which do not weaken the rigor or accountability in No Child Left Behind, will help states improve student achievement.”

From the Indianapolis Star on September 24:

<http://www.indystar.com/article/20110924/NEWS04/109240349/Obama-lets-states-opt-out-No-Child-Left-Behind-rules-Indiana-had-already-sought-waiver>

# National News

## Whither merit pay?

Two competing pressures - decreased finances and rising policy interest - have left the future of performance-based teacher compensation uncertain, Education Week reports. A poor fiscal climate and research that shows little impact have led states and districts to scale back, abandon, or change fledgling merit-pay programs. Texas officials have squelched funding for the country's largest merit-pay program, and New York City wiped out its \$56 million school-wide program. Yet new examples are also springing up, largely due to increased federal funding for performance pay and state and federal legislation encouraging, and in some cases requiring, alternative-compensation schemes. A number of states and districts are still moving forward with plans or pilots for new merit-pay systems, and others have maintained them in the face of limited finances and scant proof of significant statistical impact. Places with a prior history of ineffective merit-pay models are also trying to put new systems in place. According to Kathy Christie of the ECS, many earlier state and district programs were unsuccessful because the incentives were too small or the models were untested. The new systems may have different effects, she said, because many have tried to increase incentives and strengthen criteria and evaluation practices. [Read more: http://tinyurl.com/4xogph5](http://tinyurl.com/4xogph5)

## Student Test Scores Should Be Used To Rate Teachers In Teams: Study

Standardized tests should rank students by percentile and rate teachers in teams, according to a new policy brief by Derek Neal, an economics professor at the University of Chicago.

"I'm very opposed to ever using this [data] to give individual scores for teachers," said Neal, speaking at a Tuesday conference hosted by the Brookings Institution's Hamilton Project.

Educational research like Neal's is appearing as standardized tests have become more important to school funding decisions and play a larger role in the evaluation, hiring and firing of teachers. At least 26 states now mandate teacher reviews that take standardized testing into account. Many education reformers stress the use of data to rate teachers -- but, as Neal noted, these exams are often imperfect. Critics of this development argue that increased focus on tests won't improve student learning if the tests aren't measuring the right things.

Neal's dissatisfaction with standardized exams derives from their dual use. "You have a test that's being used to measure how the students are performing in a system over time," Neal said. "At the same time, you're taking those test scores and creating performance metrics for the educators."

"If you try to set targets, those targets can be manipulated," said Neal, advocating instead for relative performance rankings.

To read the full article, go to:

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/09/27/student-test-scores-rate-teachers-brookings-study\\_n\\_984063.html?ref=mostpopular](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/09/27/student-test-scores-rate-teachers-brookings-study_n_984063.html?ref=mostpopular)

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## News from NAESP

Elementary and middle-level principals have won a hard-fought battle in Washington, D.C.!

NAESP's long-held position to protect principals from automatic dismissal as part of federal school improvement models has been incorporated into the Obama administration's package to ease some sanctions of No Child Left Behind.

Instead of the ill-advised "ready, fire, aim" approach—which we've been fighting for more than a year—the administration has agreed with NAESP that the first step in implementing one of the models should be a mandatory but fair review of the current principal, not the drastic step of his or her automatic dismissal.

NAESP applauds the administration's policy shift and welcomes this important change to support sustainable school improvement and acknowledge the vital instructional leadership of principals. Read our entire statement: [www.naesp.org](http://www.naesp.org). So, as we stay watchful on your behalf, please let us know your thoughts. Contact [advocacy@naesp.org](mailto:advocacy@naesp.org) and lend your voice to the Power of the Principal! As always, our thanks for all you do and for your steadfast support of NAESP.

## Courthouses Rife With Education Policy Battles

After suffering legislative defeats, unions, others sue over new laws. State-level battles over changes in education policy have shifted in many places from legislative chambers to courthouses, as unions and other critics of new laws challenge them on the grounds that they violate state constitutions and worker contracts.

Republican governors and lawmakers—their ranks bolstered by the 2010 elections—won passage this year of ambitious measures in many states that often drew strong opposition from teachers' unions. Points of dispute include changes in how teachers are evaluated and compensated and expansions of private school vouchers.

The strategy of challenging such laws in court, while not new, comes as GOP elected officials pursue agendas loaded with policies reviled by many unions. "We've seen an uptick in [legal] activity because more programs are being passed all of a sudden," said Dick Komer, a senior attorney at the Institute for Justice, a law firm in Arlington, Va., that has defended voucher programs. "We've had a small explosion of school choice programs," he said, including those in "states that haven't had much action in the past."

In addition to legal actions challenging voucher programs, lawsuits filed in Florida and New Jersey seek to block the adoption of new laws that require teachers and other public employees to contribute more toward their pensions. A second suit in Florida attempts to block a new, far-reaching law that phases out tenure and implements merit pay for teachers. A legal action in Idaho takes aim at a similar law that phases out tenure and ties teacher evaluation to student performance.

[http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2011/09/28/05teachsuit\\_ep.h31.html?tkn=NU5Fph6Cqn%2BD0dO%2BkfYSHSB4KWMFxF5LAH5Qr&cmp=clp-sb-ascd](http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2011/09/28/05teachsuit_ep.h31.html?tkn=NU5Fph6Cqn%2BD0dO%2BkfYSHSB4KWMFxF5LAH5Qr&cmp=clp-sb-ascd)

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# Legislative

- **IASP Legislative Committee:** The IASP Legislative Committee met on September 20 at the IASP Conference Center to discuss the Legislative Platform for 2012. This committee is made up of District members and they reviewed the priorities and wording for the 2012 Legislative Platform. This platform will then be reviewed by the IASP Executive Committee and the IASP Board of Directors for approval. Thanks to those in attendance for their discussion and input that day.

The [2011 Legislative Platform](#) is available for review by clicking the link.

Members of the IASP Legislative Committee include:

James Boylan Warren Elementary School [jboylan@highland.k12.in.us](mailto:jboylan@highland.k12.in.us)  
Dan Cunningham Concord High School [dcunning@concord.k12.in.us](mailto:dcunning@concord.k12.in.us)  
Micah Thomas Huntington North High School [micahj65@mchsi.com](mailto:micahj65@mchsi.com)  
Mark Pearl Burnett Creek Elementary School [mpearl@tsc.k12.in.us](mailto:mpearl@tsc.k12.in.us)  
William Doering C.R. Richardson School [billd@rcs.k12.in.us](mailto:billd@rcs.k12.in.us)  
Charles Willis Shenandoah High School [cwillis@shenandoah.k12.in.us](mailto:cwillis@shenandoah.k12.in.us)  
Carey Dahncke Christel House Academy [cdahncke@chacademy.org](mailto:cdahncke@chacademy.org)  
Tim McRoberts Speedway High School [tmcroberts@speedway.k12.in.us](mailto:tmcroberts@speedway.k12.in.us)  
Robert Pychinka [rpychinka@aol.com](mailto:rpychinka@aol.com)  
Laura Penman Central Elementary School [lpnman@plainfield.k12.in.us](mailto:lpnman@plainfield.k12.in.us)  
Michael Swank Avon High School [mlswank@avon-schools.org](mailto:mlswank@avon-schools.org)  
Eric Bowlen Martinsville East Middle School [bowlenev@msdmail.net](mailto:bowlenev@msdmail.net)  
Krista Nelson Templeton Elementary School [knelson@mccsc.edu](mailto:knelson@mccsc.edu)  
James Voelz Doe Creek Middle School [jvoelz@newpal.k12.in.us](mailto:jvoelz@newpal.k12.in.us)  
Michael Woods Owensville Comm. School [mike.woods@sgibson.k12.in.us](mailto:mike.woods@sgibson.k12.in.us)  
Mark Laughner Parkview Middle School [mclaughner@gcs.k12.in.us](mailto:mclaughner@gcs.k12.in.us)  
David Milburn Jeffersonville High School [dmilburn@gcs.k12.in.us](mailto:dmilburn@gcs.k12.in.us)

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# Grants

## **Visual Learning TechGrants from Monarch Teaching Technologies (MTT):**

Eight school districts will win access for up to 25 teachers to VizZle, a web-based authoring tool that offers interactive, visually-supported curriculum for children with autism and other learning challenges. Apply by Oct. 5 at [www.monarchtt.com/press-room](http://www.monarchtt.com/press-room).

## **STUDENT ALL-STAR GRANTS**

For six consecutive seasons, the Indianapolis Colts and Grange Insurance have teamed up to present the Student All Star Grant program. Through this initiative, Indiana students, ages 13 and under, will have the opportunity to be awarded individual grants up to \$500 to complete a community service project in their neighborhood.

The Student All Star Grant seeks to inspire and enable children to give back to their communities at a young age. The students are provided an opportunity to make a positive difference in their communities while strengthening their skill sets in a variety of areas, from helping to plan a fundraiser to building homes, and engaging their interest in helping others. [Learn more here](#).

## **New Leaders for New Schools: Aspiring Principals Program**

New Leaders for New Schools is currently accepting applications for candidates who meet their 10 selection criteria (see website) and want to lead change for children in low-income communities by becoming urban public school principals. Candidates should have a record of success in leading adults, an expertise in K-12 teaching and learning, a relentless drive to lead an excellent urban school, and most importantly, an unyielding belief in the potential of every child to achieve academically at high levels. Eligibility: a minimum of 2-3 years of successful K-12 instruction experience; a teaching certificate preferred. This application is for candidates who are not currently in a school-based instructional or instructional leadership role and do not work in a district, charter management organization (CMO), or city that is offering the Emerging Leaders Program. Mini-deadlines: October 13 and December 1, 2011. Final Deadline: February 7, 2012. <http://www.nlms.org/Admissions.jsp>

## **USGA/Alliance: Grants for the Good of the Game**

The National Alliance for Accessible Golf (Alliance) and the United States Golf Association (USGA) believe that golf should be open to everyone and supports a wide variety of programs that create opportunities for individuals with disabilities to participate in the sport. They especially encourage inclusive programming- opportunities that allow participants with disabilities and participants without disabilities to learn and play the game side by side. Maximum award: \$20,000. Eligibility: tax-exempt, nonprofit organizations as defined under Section 501(c)3 of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code or government entities such as public schools or municipalities. Deadline: rolling.

[http://www.accessgolf.org/grants/alliance\\_grants.cfm](http://www.accessgolf.org/grants/alliance_grants.cfm)

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### **CVS Caremark: Community Grants**

CVS Caremark Community Grants give funds to nonprofit organizations for programs targeting children with disabilities, programs focusing on health and rehabilitation services, public schools promoting a greater level of inclusion in student activities and extracurricular programs, and initiatives that give greater access to physical movement and play. Additionally, some contributions are made to organizations that provide uninsured individuals with needed care, in particular programs where the care received is of higher quality and delivered by providers who participate in accountable community health care programs. Maximum award: \$5,000. Eligibility: nonprofit organizations with programs targeting children with disabilities; public schools with programs for children under age 18 with disabilities. Deadline: October 31, 2011.

<http://info.cvscaremark.com/community/our-impact/community-grants>

### **Freedom Foundation: Leavey Awards**

The Leavey Awards for Excellence in Private Enterprise Education honor outstanding educators who excite a commitment in their students to the free enterprise system and unleash the entrepreneurial skills of their students at the elementary, junior high school, high school, and college level. Maximum award: \$15,000. Eligibility: U.S. citizens or permanent residents employed full-time as an educator at an accredited American school (grades K-12), college, or university. Deadline: November 1, 2011.

<http://www.freedomsfoundation.org/Leavy-Awards.cfm>

### **AAPT: High School Physics Teachers Grants**

American Association of Physics Teachers High School Physics Teachers Grants enable high school physics teachers to compete for small grants that will support innovative physics programs or activities that seek to increase student enrollment or to enhance student achievement in physics. Maximum award: \$500. Eligibility: high school physics teachers who are AAPT members. Deadline: December 1, 2011. <http://www.aapt.org/Programs/grants/hsgrant.cfm>

### **NGA/Home Depot: Youth Garden Grants**

National Gardening Association Youth Garden Grants provide support to schools and community organizations with child-centered garden programs. In evaluating grant applications, priority will be given to programs that emphasize one or more of these elements: educational focus or curricular/program integration; nutrition or plant-to-food connections; environmental awareness/education; entrepreneurship; and social aspects of gardening such as leadership development, team building, community support, or service-learning. Maximum award: a \$500 gift card to The Home Depot and a \$500 gift card to the Gardening with Kids catalog and educational materials from NGA. Eligibility: schools, youth groups, community centers, camps, clubs, treatment facilities, and intergenerational groups throughout the United States. Deadline: November 28, 2011.

<http://www.kidsgardening.org/grants/2012-youth-garden-grants-1>

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## **National Inclusion Project**

Submit a playful proposal! The National Inclusion Project funds recreation programs for children with special needs.

Grant range: \$20,000. Deadline: October 31, 2011. [More info >>>>](#)

## **NCTM: Professional Development Grants for Grades PreK-5 Teachers**

The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Professional Development Grants for Grades PreK-5 Teachers support professional development to improve the competence in the teaching of mathematics of one or more classroom teachers. Maximum award: \$3,000. Eligibility: current (as of October 14, 2011) Full Individual or E-Members of NCTM or teachers at a school with a current (as of October 14, 2011) NCTM PreK-8 school membership currently teaching at the grades PreK-5 level and with three or more years teaching experience. Deadline: November 11, 2011.

<http://www.nctm.org/resources/content.aspx?id=1312>

## **IRA: Teacher as Researcher Grant**

International Reading Association Teacher as Researcher grants support classroom teachers who undertake action research inquiries about literacy and instruction. Maximum award: \$4,000. Eligibility: All applicants must be members of the International Reading Association (IRA) and practicing PreK-12 teachers with full time or permanent half time teaching responsibilities (includes librarians, Title I teachers, classroom teachers, and resource teachers). Classroom teachers will be given preference. Applicants may apply as a collaborative group or individually. Deadline: November 1, 2011.

[http://www.reading.org/Resources/AwardsandGrants/research\\_teacher\\_as\\_researcher.aspx](http://www.reading.org/Resources/AwardsandGrants/research_teacher_as_researcher.aspx)

## **NEA Foundation: Learning & Leadership Grants:** NEA Foundation

Learning & Leadership Grants support public school teachers, public education support professionals, and/or faculty and staff in public institutions of higher education for one of two purposes. Grants to individuals fund participation in high-quality professional development experiences, such as summer institutes or action research; grants to groups fund collegial study, including study groups, action research, lesson study, or mentoring experiences for faculty or staff new to an assignment. Maximum award: \$2,000 for individuals and \$5,000 for groups engaged in collegial study. Eligibility: public school teachers grades K-12; public school education support professionals; or faculty and staff at public higher education institutions. Deadline: October 15, 2011.

[http://www.neafoundation.org/programs/Learning&Leadership\\_Guidelines.htm](http://www.neafoundation.org/programs/Learning&Leadership_Guidelines.htm)

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**NEA Foundation: Student Achievement Grants:** The NEA Foundation Student Achievement Grants provide funds to improve the academic achievement of students by engaging in critical thinking and problem-solving that deepen knowledge of standards-based subject matter. The work should also improve students' habits of inquiry, self-directed learning, and critical reflection. Maximum award: \$5,000. Eligibility: practicing U.S. public school teachers, public school education support professionals, or faculty or staff at public higher education institutions. Deadline: October 15, 2011.

[http://www.neafoundation.org/programs/StudentAchievement\\_Guidelines.htm](http://www.neafoundation.org/programs/StudentAchievement_Guidelines.htm)

### **CVS: Caremark Community Grants**

The CVS Caremark Community Grants Program is currently accepting proposals for programs targeting children with disabilities that address: health and rehabilitation services; a greater level of inclusion in student activities and extracurricular programs; opportunities or facilities that give greater access to physical movement and play; provision to uninsured individuals with needed care, in particular programs where the care received is of higher quality and delivered by providers who participate in accountable community health care programs.

Maximum award: \$5,000. Eligibility: nonprofit organizations. Deadline: October 31, 2011. <http://info.cvscaremark.com/community/ways-we-give>

### **State Farm/NYLC: Project Ignition**

State Farm and the National Youth Leadership Council are sponsoring Project Ignition, which funds programs that give high school students and their teachers the chance to work together to address the issue of teen driver safety. Maximum award: \$2,000. Eligibility: students grades 9-12. Deadline: November 15, 2011.

<http://www.sfprojectignition.com/>

### **American School Board/ Sodexo: Magna Awards**

The American School Board/ Sodexo Magna Awards honor outstanding programs developed or supported by school boards that showcase school district leadership, creativity, and commitment to student achievement. Maximum award: \$4,000.

Eligibility: local school boards. Deadline: October 31, 2011.

<http://www.asbj.com/magna/>

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- **The John Glenn School Corporation** is looking for KINDERGARTEN report cards that more closely follow the Common Core Standards. We would appreciate any samples [tdavis@jgsc.k12.in.us](mailto:tdavis@jgsc.k12.in.us).

- **OBAMA ADMINISTRATION SETS HIGH BAR FOR FLEXIBILITY FROM NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND IN ORDER TO ADVANCE EQUITY AND SUPPORT REFORM**

WASHINGTON – In an effort to support local and state education reform across America, the White House today outlined how states can get relief from provisions of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act – or No Child Left Behind (NCLB) – in exchange for serious state-led efforts to close achievement gaps, promote rigorous accountability, and ensure that all students are on track to graduate college- and career-ready.

States can request flexibility from specific NCLB mandates that are stifling reform, but only if they are transitioning students, teachers, and schools to a system aligned with college- and career-ready standards for all students, developing differentiated accountability systems, and undertaking reforms to support effective classroom instruction and school leadership.

“To help states, districts and schools that are ready to move forward with education reform, our administration will provide flexibility from the law in exchange for a real commitment to undertake change. The purpose is not to give states and districts a reprieve from accountability, but rather to unleash energy to improve our schools at the local level,” President Obama said.

For a fact sheet on the details of the flexibility announcement click go to [http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/fact\\_sheet\\_bringing\\_flexibility\\_and\\_focus\\_to\\_education\\_law\\_0.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/fact_sheet_bringing_flexibility_and_focus_to_education_law_0.pdf)>

The six points contained in the fact sheet are:

- Flexibility Regarding the 2013–2014 Timeline for Achieving 100 Percent Proficiency
- Flexibility Regarding District and School Improvement and Accountability Requirements
- Flexibility Related to the Use of Federal Education Funds
- Transitioning to College- and Career-Ready Standards and Assessments
- Developing Systems of Differentiated Recognition, Accountability, and Support. Important Note on this item: A focus will be on the State’s lowest-performing schools (bottom 5%) and an additional 10% of the State’s lowest-performing schools.
- Evaluating and Supporting Teacher and Principal Effectiveness

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• **IASP Assistant Principals Conference**

The benefits of attending this conference are many:

- Two great Keynote Speakers: [V.J. Smith](#) (The Richest Man in Town) and [Yong Zhao](#) (Catching up or Leading the Way)
- Over 20 Breakout Sessions allowing you to gain the knowledge you desire
- A full session on Legal Updates with ISBA Attorney [Dave Emmert](#)
- Networking with Assistant Principals, and also Principals who will join the conference for the closing Keynote session (Yong Zhao)
- Visiting 100 education exhibitors to see the new products and programs that benefit your students
- Relaxing Saturday evening with a Reception at the Marriott, and then dinner in Indianapolis, both supported by Jostens
- No extra attendance or discipline referrals waiting for you upon your return to school!

All of the details for the conference can be found at <http://www.iasp.org/dppassistantprincipal2011.html>, including registration information and the agenda. Since you are an IASP member, registration is only \$189, and the Marriott has reserved a block of rooms for this conference at a great rate of \$139 (refer to IASP as you make your reservation).

Saturday, November 19 & Sunday November 20.

Indianapolis Downtown Marriott

Click here for the [FULL AGENDA](#) & [ONLINE](#) registration

[Register Now](#) and join your colleagues for a weekend full of Professional Development and relaxation in beautiful downtown Indianapolis.

Register by October 7, 2011 to get the reduced rate.

• **IASP Fall Professional Conference**

Register now for a great Professional Development opportunity for Indiana Principals. Sunday November 20 thru Tuesday, November 22. Keynote Speakers will be [Yong Zhao](#), [Bill Daggett](#), and [Dave Emmert](#). Expanded Breakout Sessions on Monday and Tuesday designed to bring you the best information. [ONLINE REGISTRATION](#) is available now and you can click here for the [FULL AGENDA](#).

**School Law – Communication – Networking Opportunities**

**Sunday Night Principal of the Year Banquet**

**Monday Night Celebration**

- Where: Downtown Indianapolis Marriott, 350 West Maryland Street, Phone: 1-800-266-9432. <http://www.indymarriott.com/>
- When: Sunday, November 20 through Tuesday November 22.
- Cost: \$249.00 for IASP members when registering by October 7, 2011
- Conference Lodging: Indianapolis Downtown Marriott East 350 West Maryland Street. Phone: 1-800-266-9432. <http://www.indymarriott.com/>
- Room Rates: Single or Double occupancy \$139.00 + tax, reserve by October 18.
- Room Payment: Guests will be responsible for their own room reservations directly with the Marriott. Please identify yourself as attending the Indiana Association of School Principals Conference.

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- **Counties Work:** This fall, students in schools across the country will be able to learn about county government through an online game and curriculum that NACo created in partnership with iCivics, Inc. The game, “Counties Work,” will educate students, grades 6 through 12, about the important role and functions of county government by letting them run their own county. A curriculum and webquest has also been developed to assist teachers with preparing lessons on county government. While playing the game, a student will be a county official responsible for providing services, dealing with citizen requests, setting and raising revenues, and working within a budget. Along the way, students will learn about the various services provided by county departments while having to make tough decisions. Immediate Past President of NACo, Glen Whitley, stated “We need to get students to play the game. I encourage county officials and county staff to contact teachers, principals and school superintendents in your county to let them know the game is available at [www.naco.org/CountiesWork](http://www.naco.org/CountiesWork).” For more information, please email Bill Cramer, marketing director or Tom Goodman, public affairs director or by phone at 888-407-NACo. Game on!
- **The seventh annual Indiana Education Transformation Conference,** “Indiana’s Future: Navigating New Demands & New Directions,” hosted by the Center of Excellence in Leadership of Learning (CELL), will take place on November 14–15, 2011, at the Indiana Convention Center. The event features nearly 80 presentations from national and local experts to strategize what’s best and what’s next to improve education across Indiana. Session topics include teacher quality and effectiveness; school accountability; 21st-century skills; promising instructional strategies; college access and attainment; global competitiveness; school models; education and economic partnerships; and much more. The conference also will feature keynote presentations from Will Richardson of Powerful Learning Practice on 21st-century learning, and Charlotte Danielson of the Danielson Group on assessing teacher effectiveness. To register, visit <http://cell.uindy.edu/indianasfuture2011>.
- **Riley Children’s Hospital Halloween Howl:** It will be a ghoulishly good time, and we hope you are able to attend! Proceeds from this year’s event will benefit the Riley Cancer Center prom, research, and the cancer survivorship program. If you do not receive an invitation in the mail and are not already committed to “Trunk or Treating” in your school’s parking lot, please consider joining in the fun for a good cause. Individual tickets are \$75.00. Click the links to view the [invitation](#) (and [silent auction card](#) information) for the Halloween Howl on Friday, October 14th. [RSPV](#) before October 7th.

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*GenerationOn*

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- **A Welcome Letter from GenerationOn:** Thanks for “Making a Difference” in children’s lives!!! I am hoping that when thinking about a service project that you may want to do with your students that you log onto the generationOn website [www.generationOn.org](http://www.generationOn.org) , Register, and see the TREMENDOUS FREE resources at your fingertips and make it a service-learning project!!!  
IASP (Indiana Assoc. of School Principals) and IMLEA (Indiana Middle Level Education Assoc.) are helping facilitate this NEW K-12 national “youth service-learning organization” here in Indiana. (More information about generationOn is on their websites). And with the support of the Lilly Endowment we are able to help you in Indiana with the website and locating resources to support your school’s service-learning projects.  
[Click here for opportunities](#) to keep in mind this school year when thinking about service-learning projects at your schools, so your students can also “Make a Difference.” Let me know if you have any questions or would like additional training about the website for your schools. Contact: Joan Belschwender, Co-Coordinator of generationOn Indiana, email: [generationOn@iasp.org](mailto:generationOn@iasp.org) Phone: 317-891-9900 ext. 201 Thanks for helping your students “Make Their Mark on the World”.
- **Help for Vermont:** Hurricane Irene may be gone but Vermont is the latest state to deal with her fury, as a dozen towns have been cut off from the outside world because of flooding that has knocked out bridges and destroyed roadways. IASP has reached out to gain information as how you can assist schools in that area. [Click here for more information and a list of schools who are in the greatest need of assistance.](#)
- **Help for Bastrop:** The 34,000-acre Bastrop County Complex fire, which has forced the evacuation of about 5,000 people in the rural community in Bastrop County, Texas is the largest wildfire in Texas history. Bastrop has been overwhelmed with the generosity of people across the country. IASP has reached out to gain information as how you can assist schools in that area. As of 9:30 am Thursday, September 8, 2011, there were 1346 homes confirmed as a total loss. 5,000 plus people remain displaced. The fire is only 30% contained and continues to burn. Please click this link for a [list of those schools in the greatest need of assistance and for more information on ways your school can help.](#)

Click the link to view the [September 23rd](#) addition of Schoolhouse News  
Click the link to view the [September 16th](#) addition of Schoolhouse News