



# Jesse White

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## SECRETARY OF STATE

# NEWS

### ILLINOIS SECRETARY OF STATE

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

- **April 04, 2000**
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### **White Awards More Than \$1.3 Million to Public School Districts**

**SPRINGFIELD** – Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White today announced his office is awarding a total of \$1,376,981 to 770 Illinois public school districts enabling them to purchase needed hardware, software, print and video materials for their individual school libraries. The figure means more than 1.8 million students in Pre-K through 12th grade will benefit from this program. The award is based on 75 cents per student. Regardless of enrollment, no school receives less than \$100.

This grant program is designed to improve, expand and update current school library materials and technology, and is offered in an effort to help ensure that Illinois school libraries are able to stay current and meet the ever- expanding technology and information needs of schoolchildren.

"Students today will soon enter a job market no one envisioned only a few years ago," said White. "High school seniors began their school careers just as America was leaving the Industrial Age and entering the Information Age. I want them to be ready for the changes that have occurred in the short span of their lives.

"In some school districts, this grant determines whether or not students have access to the World Wide Web and the ability to go online," added White. "In other schools, it means additional hours of operation for the school library so students can more easily access information, enabling them to complete assignments and class projects in a timely manner."

The program is funded from two sources. Two-thirds of the money comes from the state's "Live & Learn" Program and about one-third comes from the state's General Revenue Fund.