

# ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



**Dr. Randy J. Dunn**  
State Superintendent of  
Education

The mission of the Illinois State Board of Education is to provide leadership, advocacy and support for school districts, policymakers and citizens toward making Illinois education second to none. The board's vision is to enable students in Illinois public schools to succeed in post-secondary education and career opportunities, to be effective lifelong learners and to participate actively in our democracy.

The 1970 Illinois Constitution directed that the responsibilities for elementary and secondary education in Illinois be transferred from an elected superintendent to an appointed board of citizens. Through a nine-member board, the agency sets state educational policies and guidelines for public schools — preschool through grade 12 — as well as for career and technical education. The board analyzes the aims,

needs and requirements of education, and recommends legislation to the General Assembly for the benefit of more than 2 million students in Illinois schools. The agency also is responsible for ensuring that schools meet minimum standards for educational programs, personnel and business management practices.

Reconstituted in 2004, members of the State Board are appointed by the Governor with the consent of the Senate. With passage of Public Act 93-1036, upon taking office, each new Governor will appoint five new members to the board with the advice and consent of the Senate.

Members of the State Board of Education as of October 2005 are: Jesse Ruiz, Chicago; Dr. Christopher Ward, Lockport; Dr. Vinni Hall, Chicago; Dr. Andrea Brown, Goreville; Dean Clark, Glen Ellyn; Dr. David Fields, Danville; Edward Geppert, Jr., Belleville; Brenda Holmes, Springfield; and Joyce Karon, Barrington.

The Governor appoints the State Board chair and board members elect their officers. Current officers are: Jesse Ruiz, *chair*; Dr. Christopher Ward, *vice chair*; and Dr. Vinni Hall, *secretary*.

The board appoints the State Superintendent of Education, who may be recommended by the Governor, and serves at the pleasure of the board. A State Superintendent is appointed at the beginning of each gubernatorial term after board appointments have been made.

In September 2004, the board appointed Dr. Randy Dunn as interim State Superintendent, and in August 2005 he was named State Superintendent to serve through January 2007. Prior to his service on the State Board, Dunn served as chair of the Department of Educational Administration and Higher Education at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale (SIUC) for four years. He joined the SIUC faculty in 1995, after having served as a public school administrator and teacher in Illinois since 1980. Dr. Dunn completed his undergraduate studies in education at Illinois State University and received his doctorate in educational administration from the University of Illinois. He has served as a consultant to school districts throughout Illinois on issues such as strategic planning, financial analysis and administrative restructuring.

## Strategic Plan for Elementary and Secondary Education

In 2005, the State Board of Education developed and approved a five-year Comprehensive Strategic Plan for Elementary and Secondary Education. The plan reflects input from education constituents as well as from members and staff of the board. The plan focuses on three primary goal areas:

- **Enhancing Literacy** — Fostering 21st-century literacy skills, including reading fluency, numeracy, scientific literacy and global awareness, by providing support for effective instruction and broad approaches to impact all students.

- **Improving Educator Quality for All Children** — Expanding and improving the pool of highly qualified educators by supporting the preparation, recruitment and retention of educators with expertise in subject areas as well as child development.

- **Expanding Data-Driven Management and School Support Practices** — Supporting the utilization of data to assist school districts in providing more effective operational practices, opportunities to pool shared services and flexibility in balancing their budgets.

The goals of the Strategic Plan, in conjunction with the Illinois Learning Standards, Assessment Frameworks and Performance Descriptors, are intended to assist in ultimately achieving optimal student-learning outcomes.

### Illinois Teacher of the Year

The Illinois State Board of Education's "Those Who Excel" program annually recognizes persons who have made outstanding contributions to public and nonpublic elementary and secondary education. The Illinois Teacher of the Year travels throughout the state conducting workshops and speaking to education and civic organizations, and serves as an advisor to the State Board and State Superintendent. Illinois Teachers of the Year receive one year of paid leave for graduate studies and a lifetime tuition waiver at any state university. In addition, the Illinois Teacher of the Year competes in the National Teacher of the Year program.



**Illinois 2004-2005  
Teacher of the Year**

**Deborah Perryman**  
Science Teacher  
Elgin High School  
Elgin



**Illinois 2005-2006  
Teacher of the Year**

**Jacqueline Bolger**  
French Teacher  
Hononegah High School  
Rockton

# ILLINOIS EDUCATION STATISTICS

2003-2004

Number of students (public schools) .....	2,029,852
Elementary .....	1,423,183
Secondary .....	606,669
Number of certified staff.....	153,728*
Elementary teachers .....	70,329
Secondary teachers .....	32,054
Special education teachers .....	22,139
Number of public school districts .....	889
Number of students (non-public schools) .....	259,734
Elementary .....	201,768
Secondary .....	57,966
Percent of students in non-public schools .....	11.3

\*Represents a full-time equivalent number (FTE).

## ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL

Dr. Randy J. Dunn.....	<i>State Superintendent of Education</i>
Jonathan Furr .....	<i>General Counsel</i>
Dr. Ginger Reynolds .....	<i>Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning</i>
Dr. Christopher Koch .....	<i>Assistant Superintendent for Special Education</i>
Mark Kolaz .....	<i>Assistant Superintendent for Operations</i>
Linda Riley Mitchell .....	<i>Chief Financial Officer</i>
Donald Evans .....	<i>Director of Human Resources</i>