

“Project Next Generation helps teach our kids how to use state-of-the-art technology while providing mentors to offer guidance, encouragement and friendship.”

— Secretary of State Jesse White

Project Next Generation has sites at public libraries throughout the state. To learn about student projects that have resulted from this initiative, visit www.finditillinois.org/nextgen/.

Comments from students:

“I have learned that computers are more than just fun, they can help you a lot in school.”

“I have a lot of fun here. I learn a lot about computers and many other things.”

“PNG is my connection to technology.”

“I feel more advanced than other kids at school now.”

Comments from mentors:

“We feel that we have come a long way in working together and have accomplished academically also.”

“What I really like about Project Next Generation is really being able to help the kids.”

For more information about Project Next Generation:

Illinois State Library
Gwendolyn Brooks Building
300 S. Second St.
Springfield, IL 62701-1796
800-665-5576, ext. 2

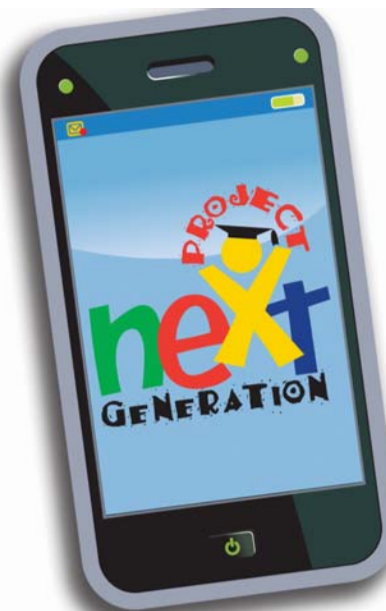


Project Next Generation mentor Ahren Sievers provides guidance to participants at Elmwood Park Public Library.

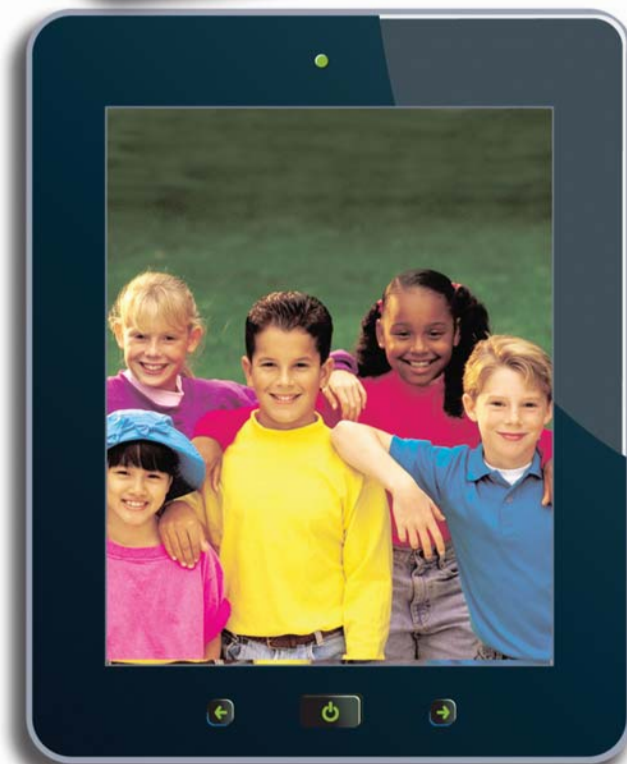


WWW.CYBERDRIVEILLINOIS.COM

Printed by the authority of the State of Illinois.
January 2015 — 1 — LD A-80.3



*it's
all
about
kids!*



JESSE WHITE
SECRETARY OF STATE
AND STATE LIBRARIAN



As a former school teacher and founder of the Jesse White Tumbling Team, I have had the privilege of working closely with young people for more than 50 years. Through these experiences, I have learned that children need mentors — older children and adults to serve as helpers, advisers and friends.

That's what Project Next Generation is all about — today's heroes shaping tomorrow's leaders.

Today's youth face challenges unique to their generation. The use of technology has become a necessity for educational and professional success. Through Illinois public libraries, Project Next Generation helps teach our kids how to use state-of-the-art technology while providing mentors to offer guidance, encouragement and friendship.

I am confident that Project Next Generation will help equip our children with the necessary tools for lifelong success.

Jesse White

Jesse White
Secretary of State
& State Librarian



it's all about kids...

...technology, mentoring and their futures.



Mission/Goal

To encourage greater success in all aspects of young people's lives by enhancing their skills to effectively deal with the future. By empowering students with technological and interpersonal skills, Illinois libraries are bridging the traditional with the innovative to influence the next generation.

Overview

Project Next Generation is the first-ever statewide mentoring program to be administered through Illinois public libraries. Project mentors work with junior-high age students at public libraries to develop technological skills and guide them as they explore life skills such as effective communication, goal-setting and conflict resolution.

How it works

Participants at Project Next Generation sites across Illinois work with project mentors and volunteers, who provide a mix of technological experiences and life skills vital for lifelong success. Students learn how to use computers, the Internet, digital cameras and other technologies, while practicing problem-solving and communication skills. A basic statewide curriculum is provided, but each site has the flexibility to individualize its curriculum to meet the needs of its students.

Grants for Public Libraries

Secretary of State Jesse White appropriates \$325,000 annually for Illinois public libraries hosting Project Next Generation programs. For grant information, visit www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/grants/png.html.



Secretary of State Jesse White hosts an annual Illinois State Fair picnic for Project Next Generation participants at the Illinois State Library.