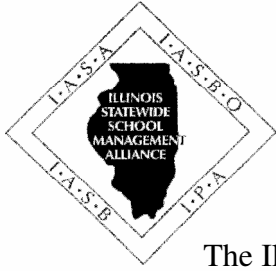


August 18, 2008



ALLIANCE LEGISLATIVE REPORT (95-75)

SENATE TO TAKE UP VETOED BILLS TUESDAY

The Illinois Senate is scheduled to take action tomorrow (Tuesday, August 19) on bills that were changed dramatically by Governor Rod Blagojevich via amendatory veto. Earlier this month, the Governor announced his "Rewrite to Do Right" campaign in which he would use his amendatory veto powers to revise legislation and "make it better." Dozens of bills could be affected by this procedure.

The Illinois Constitution grants the Governor the authority to use an amendatory veto to make changes to legislation which has been sent to him by the legislature. Though the language in the Constitution is somewhat vague, since 1970 most political and scholarly observers have narrowly interpreted the provision as allowing a Governor to make minor clarifications or technical changes to legislation. Governor Blagojevich's changes, making wholesale changes to legislation by introducing new provisions which were not a part of the underlying bill as passed by the General Assembly, may be inviting a constitutional legal challenge.

In one case, the Governor took a bill to extend the life of a Tax Increment Financing District in a downstate town and created a brand new property tax homestead exemption for disabled veterans (see below).

The House of Representatives approved the Governor's changes to these bills last week. The Senate is coming in on Tuesday to consider the legislation. If the Senate also accepts the Governor's vetoes, the bills will become law with the Governor's changes.

Action is necessary on the following bills which will have a direct impact on local school districts.

PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR ALL DISABLED VETERANS

The Illinois Senate is due to take up the Gubernatorial Amendatory Veto of **House Bill 4201 (Sommer, R-Morton)**. The legislation as sent to the Governor extended to 35 years the Tax Increment Financing District for Downs, Illinois. The Governor's Amendatory Veto adds a property tax exemption for Disabled Veterans. The bill now contains the following provision:

Beginning in taxable year 2008, disabled veterans with at least a 50% service-connected disability will be eligible for a standard veterans' property tax homestead exemption of up to \$1,000,000 (\$3,000,000 in fair market value of the property). If the disabled veteran is granted the homestead exemption and becomes a resident of a nursing home, the exemption continues so long as the veteran's spouse occupies the home or until the veteran or veteran's spouse is not the owner of record.

The Alliance opposes this measure and asks that you contact your Senator to voice your opposition.

The provision could have a dramatic affect on local taxing district property taxes. If implemented, the program would either reduce the amount of the property tax receipts to the taxing body (if the

body reduced its extension and levy to reflect this tax abatement); or would shift the property tax burden to all other property tax payers in the district. There could also be an impact on the school State aid funding formula with such a change in property tax valuations.

MANDATE TO EXPAND DEPENDENT HEALTH COVERAGE

The Illinois Senate is also due to take up the Gubernatorial Amendatory Veto of **House Bill 5285 (Jefferson, D-Rockford)** tomorrow. The legislation as sent to the Governor extended dependent health coverage to full-time students that, due to illness or injury, cannot continue their full-time student status and would lose their healthcare coverage.

The Governor's Amendatory Veto expands the scope of the bill to require employer health insurance plans to continue coverage – at the option of the employee – to unmarried, young adults up to the age of 26, and to unmarried veterans up to the age of 30.

Included in the Amendatory Veto is language that would eliminate creditable coverage, *which means pre-existing conditions would not be allowable*. The result would be to allow for the employee to place an adult dependent on the employer's health insurance plan after the individual was diagnosed with a health condition. The affect would be like a homeowner waiting until the house catches on fire before buying homeowners insurance.

Such a health insurance mandate upon insurers would certainly add to the cost of providing health insurance for all employers, including school districts.

OTHER ACTION BY THE GOVERNOR

The Governor signed into law the following bill:

SB 2042 (Bond, D-Grayslake) makes changes relating to the residency of students in residential facilities and the payment of educational costs in provisions concerning tuition for non-resident pupils, determining the resident district with respect to children with disabilities, and special education classes for children from orphanages, foster family homes, children's homes, or in-state housing units. It provides that for any student with a disability in a residential facility placement made or paid for by an Illinois public state agency or made by any court in this state, the school district of residence is responsible for the costs of educating the child. The district shall be reimbursed for those costs in accordance with the School Code, with payments made by the resident district to the entity providing the educational services, whether the entity is the residential facility or the school district wherein the facility is located, no less than once per quarter unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the parties.

**The legislative report is written and edited by the lobbyists of the Illinois Association of School Boards to provide information to the members of the organizations that comprise the Statewide School Management Alliance.*

Alliance Legislative Reports:
Bill Text/Status: Illinois General Assembly

www.iasb.com
www.ilga.gov

August 20, 2008



ALLIANCE LEGISLATIVE REPORT (95-76)

SENATE KILLS TAX EXEMPTION BILL

The Illinois Senate Tuesday defeated the bill that would have created a brand new property tax homestead exemption for disabled veterans. The motion to accept the Governor's amendatory veto of **HB 4201 (Sommer, R-Morton)** lost on a vote of 27-11-15.

Governor Rod Blagojevich used the amendatory veto procedure to change a TIF extension bill into a new property tax exemption for disabled Veterans. The bill would have made disabled veterans with at least a 50% service-connected disability eligible for a standard veterans' property tax homestead exemption of up to \$1,000,000 (\$3,000,000 in fair market value of the property).

Further details on the bill were presented in the last Alliance Legislative Report (www.iasb.com/govrel/alr9575.cfm)

SENATE APPROVES BILL ON HEALTH COVERAGE

The Illinois Senate did, however, accept the Governor's changes to **HB 5285 (Jefferson, D-Rockford)**. The legislation requires employer health insurance plans to continue coverage – at the option of the employee – to unmarried, young adults up to the age of 26, and to unmarried veterans up to the age of 30. New provisions eliminate creditable coverage, which means pre-existing conditions would not be allowable. The result would be to allow for the employee to place an adult dependent on the employer's health insurance plan after the individual was diagnosed with a health condition.

The Senate accepted the Governor's amendatory changes on a vote of 35-17. The House of Representatives has already approved the bill and it now becomes law.

Further details on the bill were presented in the last Alliance Legislative Report (www.iasb.com/govrel/alr9575.cfm)

OTHER ACTION BY THE GOVERNOR

The Governor signed into law the following bills:

HB 1054 (Verschoore, D-Milan) provides that the proceeds of a school facility occupation tax must be allocated based upon the number of each school district's resident pupils that reside within the county collecting the tax divided by the total number of resident students within the county (instead of the total number of students for all school districts within the county). The bill is now Public Act 95-0850 effective January 1, 2009.

HB 4522 (Pritchard, R-Hinckley) statutorily requires the last two school district state aid payments to be made in June (instead of July) so the funds are received in the proper fiscal year. The bill is now Public Act 95-0835, effective August 15, 2008.

HB 4646 (Pritchard) provides that a county, municipality, school district, or community college district may own and operate a wind generation turbine farm either individually or jointly with another unit of local government. It provides that the school district or unit of local government may ask for the assistance of the Illinois Power Agency in obtaining financing options for a wind generation turbine farm. The bill is now Public Act 95-0805, effective August 12, 2008.

SB 2387 (Collins, D-Chicago) adds homeownership, including the basic process of obtaining a mortgage and the concepts of fixed and adjustable rate mortgages, subprime loans, and predatory lending, as part of the financial literacy component of consumer education. The bill is now Public Act 95-0863, effective January 1, 2009.

**The legislative report is written and edited by the lobbyists of the Illinois Association of School Boards to provide information to the members of the organizations that comprise the Statewide School Management Alliance.*

Alliance Legislative Reports:
Bill Text/Status: Illinois General Assembly

www.iasb.com
www.ilga.gov

August 28, 2008



ALLIANCE LEGISLATIVE REPORT (95-77)

BILL SIGNED ON NEW REPORTING REQUIREMENT

On Tuesday, Governor Rod Blagojevich signed a bill that requires school district superintendents to disclose information about former employees who were reported to the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) regarding cases of an alleged abused or neglected child. **HB 4252 (Brady, R-Bloomington)** provides that if an employee of a school district has made a report to DCFS under the Mandated Reporters Act involving the conduct of a current or former employee of the school district, and a request is made by another school district to provide information concerning the job performance or qualifications of the current or former employee because he or she is an applicant for employment, the superintendent of the school district to which the request is being made must disclose to the requesting school district the fact that a report had been made.

The bill is now Public Act 95-0908, effective August 26, 2008.

The bill states that "Only the fact that an employee of the school district has made a report involving the conduct of the applicant" may be disclosed, and this fact may be disclosed "only in cases where the employee and the superintendent have not been informed by the Department that the allegations were unfounded."

The bill further states that the employee who has been the subject of the report must be informed by the school district that if he or she applies for employment with another school district, that it will be disclosed to that school district that the employee was the subject of the DCFS report.

Under current law, school personnel (including administrators and both certified and non-certified school employees) must report to DCFS if they have "reasonable cause to believe a child known to them in their official capacity" may be an abused or neglected child. The law also requires a school board member to direct the superintendent to report such abuse "if an allegation is raised to a school board member during the course of an open or closed school board meeting" regarding an abused child.

OTHER ACTION BY THE GOVERNOR

The Governor signed into law the following bills:

HB 5120 (Ryg, D-Vernon Hills) removes language that renders individuals over the age of 18 who are adjudged to be disabled persons under specified provisions of the Probate Act of 1975 and who are receiving specified benefits under the Illinois Public Aid Code ineligible to receive benefits under the Teachers' Retirement System. The bill is now Public Act 95-870, effective August 21, 2008.

SB 2487 (Forby, D-Benton) makes technical and "clean-up" changes to the school district reorganization bill from 2007. Changes occur with respect to voting on a bond issuance, information in the petition filing notice, the presentation of evidence at a hearing, approval or denial of an amended petition, supplementary State aid reimbursement after the deactivation of a school facility or following formation of a new unit district, and references to a school district conversion. It makes changes to the State aid formula provisions concerning the calculation of local property tax revenues per pupil for partial elementary unit districts. The bill also makes changes concerning free transportation for pupils in optional elementary unit districts, combined high school - unit districts, and newly created elementary or high

school districts resulting from a high school - unit conversion, a unit to dual conversion, or a multi-unit conversion and the calculation of State reimbursement for transportation costs for optional elementary unit districts and combined high school - unit districts. The bill is now Public Act 95-0903, effective August 25, 2008.

SB 2512 (Link, D-Vernon Hills) requires school districts to provide yearly instruction on Internet safety in grades 3-12. The school board shall determine the scope and duration of the unit of instruction and the instruction may be incorporated into the current courses of study regularly taught in the district's schools, as determined by the school board. The bill is now Public Act 95-0869, effective January 1, 2009.

The Governor exercised an amendatory veto on the following bills:

HB 824 (Fritchey, D-Chicago) contained the State ethics changes as agreed to by the General Assembly. The bill attempted to end the “pay to play” arrangement whereby companies that are bidding for State contracts make substantial contributions to the State Constitutional Officers. The Governor re-wrote the bill through the amendatory veto process to expand the scope of the legislation. It now prohibits members of the General Assembly from being employed by the State, a municipality, or a unit of local government and changes the process legislators use to receive a salary increase (it would require the General Assembly to approve or reduce a report for it *to take effect* instead of *to prevent it* from taking effect). Finally, the Governor expands the “pay to play” language to include the legislative branch.

HB 4527 (Lang, D-Skokie), as passed by the legislature, increases the amount of certain grants from the state to public and school libraries. The Governor attempts to amend the bill to require that libraries, in order to be eligible for specified State grants, must be members of a library system and remain open until 9:00 p.m. no less than 4 days each week.

SB 2685 (Delgado, D-Chicago), as passed by the legislature, requires teachers' institutes to include instruction on prevalent student chronic health conditions beginning with the 2009-2010 school year. The Governor's change adds the language from **HB 5338** which would require that the State Board of Education, in conjunction with the Department of Public Health, develop and make available to each school board guidelines for the management of students with life-threatening food allergies.

The General Assembly must meet to vote on either accepting or overriding the Governor's recommended changes on the bills with an amendatory veto.

**The legislative report is written and edited by the lobbyists of the Illinois Association of School Boards to provide information to the members of the organizations that comprise the Statewide School Management Alliance.*

SUMMER WORK LIST 2008
Geneseo CUSD #228

School/Location	Task/Comments	Completed by	Est. Cost	Completed
ATKINSON	Move classrooms to Millikin and Southwest	Maintenance Dept.	\$0	X
	Move useable items to other buildings in District	Maintenance Dept.	\$0	X
MILLIKIN	Room #6 - replace floor tile	Maintenance Dept.	\$1,000	X
	Room #1 - replace floor tile	Maintenance Dept.	\$1,000	X
	Room #20 - replace floor tile	Maintenance Dept.	\$1,000	X
	Gym - replace floor tile; time permitting	Maintenance Dept.	\$4,000	Repaired
	Music book room - replace carpet	Maintenance Dept.	\$500	X
	Office bathrooms - look at exhaust fans	Maintenance Dept.	\$100	X
	Gym - shades for windows	Maintenance Dept.	\$1,200	X
	New window blinds - Kim R.' Kind. Room	Maintenance Dept.	\$200	X
	Repair boiler pipe in kitchen closet	Maintenance Dept.	\$500	X
	Repair floor drain in kitchen closet	Maintenance Dept.	\$300	X
	Caulk around windows	Maintenance Dept.	\$100	50% done
	Move Ladders to SW and maybe Northside - See Jack before move	Maintenance Dept.	\$0	X
NORTHSIDE	Roof - north end - replace skylight cover	Outside Vendor	\$700	Doing in 2010
	Outside - reattached strips along window (Bill F. has strips)	Maintenance Dept.	\$0	X
	Repair sidewalk along southwest corner of building - by Kind. Doors	Maintenance Dept.	\$500	X
	Barricades - rebuild and repaint - possibly buy new ones	Maintenance Dept.	\$500	X
	Gym - west wall - replace broken floor tiles	Maintenance Dept.	\$200	
	Room #2 - replace baseboard under light switch	Maintenance Dept.	\$50	X
	Room #2 - new blind	Maintenance Dept.	\$200	X
	Room #6 - Replace floor tiles in restroom	Maintenance Dept.	\$100	
	Room #13 - Window cracked on right side	Maintenance Dept.	\$100	X
	Room #23 - move the movie screen to the south wall above the blackboard	Maintenance Dept.	\$0	X
	Room #8 and #15 - sharpen paper cutter blades	Outside Vendor	\$100	X
	Room #8 - bolt down tables legs	Maintenance Dept.	\$0	X
	Caulk around windows	Maintenance Dept.	\$100	X

SUMMER WORK LIST 2008
Geneseo CUSD #228

[illegible]

SUMMER WORK LIST 2008
Geneseo CUSD #228

School/Location	Task/Comments	Completed by	Est. Cost	Completed
HIGH SCHOOL	New skylight on roof	Outside Contractor	\$700	Doing in 2010
	Water line out to soccer concession stand	Maintenance Dept.	\$400	X
	Concrete slab for the ambulance to park at for FB games (20' x 30')	Maintenance Dept.	\$600	X
	Kitchen - clean grease traps	Maintenance Dept.	\$150	X
	Room #38 - replace broken pegboard walls in two practice rooms	Maintenance Dept.	\$100	X
	Room #31 - some of the cabinet fronts need to be repaired/replaced	Maintenance Dept.	\$150	Ordered
	Replace broken concrete sections behind H.S.	Maintenance Dept.	\$5,000	X
	Room #54 - replaster corner of wall - southwest - do before it gets painted	Maintenance Dept.	\$50	X
	Art room - clean sink traps	Maintenance Dept.	\$0	X
	Art room - new faucets on sinks	Maintenance Dept.	\$200	Replaced
	Art room - tighten legs on tables; level tables	Maintenance Dept.	\$0	X
	Art room - fire alarm sensors - clean - do we do this or does S/G	Maintenance Dept.	\$0	X
	New floor tile in rooms - over 8,900 sq. ft.	Maintenance Dept.	\$10,000	X
	Room #53 - build wall shelves - place high on south walls - 2 levels with large space between them - See Sharon Neumann for details - this would remove large cabinets and make more space in her room	Maintenance Dept.	\$500	X
	P.E. Office - upstairs locker room - replace damaged ceiling tiles	Maintenance Dept.	\$200	X
	P.E. office - Jan Z.'s replace broken floor tiles	Maintenance Dept.	\$200	X
	Room #39 - complete drywall project in the unfinished room	Maintenance Dept.	\$0	
	Hallway by room #39 - replace broken/missing locker handles	Maintenance Dept.	\$100	X
	Whiteboards - Rooms #52, 7, and E6	Maintenance Dept.	\$1,500	X
	New washer for laundry room	Outside Vendor	\$8,500	Ordered

SUMMER WORK LIST 2008
Geneseo CUSD #228

[illegible]

2008 SUMMER PAINT LIST
GENESEO CUSD #228

BUILDING	ROOM/LOCATION	DESCRIPTION
ATKINSON	No rooms need to be painted	
ATKINSON	Wooden Playground Equip.	Wolmanize
MILLIKIN	Room #13	All of the walls
MILLIKIN	Room #5	Ceiling and bathroom walls
MILLIKIN	Teachers' Workroom	All of the walls
MILLIKIN	Art Room	Ceiling
MILLIKIN	Room #18	Ceiling
MILLIKIN	Wooden Playground Equip.	Wolmanize
MILLIKIN	Kitchen bathroom	Paint floor - brown
NORTHSIDE	Exterior doors and frames	Entire building
NORTHSIDE	Car drop-off and pick-up area	Repaint yellow line on blacktop by gate; and line going down sidewalk
NORTHSIDE	All hallways and upper half of walls	Paint hallways ceilings and upper wall parts
NORTHSIDE	Room #3	Fill holes on north wall; paint all walls
NORTHSIDE	Room #2	Touchup wall along southwest corner
NORTHSIDE	Room #4	Paint entire room and book ledge on east wall
NORTHSIDE	Room #7 - Library	Paint heater on south side of room
NORTHSIDE	Room #19	Ceiling
NORTHSIDE	Wooden Playground Equip.	Wolmanize
NORTHSIDE	Nurse's office	The Maint. Dept. is going to remove a bulletin board in there, see if this wall needs to be painted after it is down.
M.S.	Gym	Touch up scuffed areas on green walls
M.S.	Locker rooms	Paint boys' and girls' locker rooms; the white walls; and the stalls in restrooms
M.S.	8th Grade Hall	Paint the whit walls and the stalls in the boys' and girls' restrooms.

2008 SUMMER PAINT LIST
GENESEO CUSD #228

BUILDING	ROOM/LOCATION	DESCRIPTION
M.S.	7th Grade Hall	Paint the whit walls and the stalls in the boys' and girls' restrooms.
M.S.	6th Grade Hall	Paint the whit walls and the stalls in the boys' and girls' restrooms.
M.S.	Room #610	Southwest corner of the room - white walls need putty and paint); also paint east wall between the white board and the door below the bulletin board.
M.S.	Room #629	Patch and paint the room
M.S.	Computer Labs	Paint under the computer tables in all of the lab rooms (606, 706, 719, 820)
M.S.	Art Room #632	Touch up, patch and paint back wall under windows.
M.S.	Cafeteria	Patch and paint west wall
M.S.	Cafeteria - Head cook's office	Patch and paint mauve wall in office
M.S.	Cafeteria - dish room	Paint wall behind spray washer in dish room (behind garbage disposal)
H.S.	Overhang on H.S. roof	Paint concrete parts
H.S.	Various locations	Pressure wash and seal brick - see Randy
H.S.	Front tan panels	Paint
H.S.	All rainspouts	Paint
H.S.	Zone #3 - Blue area on attached map	See notes on page - DO NOT paint rooms 57, 28, or 30. In room #56, paint south and east walls
H.S.	Room #39	ONLY paint if all other painting is finished - this is in Zone #4 - paint 2 posts also
ALL ELEM. SCHOOLS	Playgrounds	Check four square, hopscotch, etc. lines

2008 SUMMER PAINT LIST
GENESEO CUSD #228

BUILDING	ROOM/LOCATION	DESCRIPTION
SOUTHWEST	Principal's Office	Paint all walls and ceiling; new carpet is going to be installed also.
SOUTHWEST	Wooden Playground Equip.	Wolmanize
SOUTHWEST	ROOM #15	paint 3 walls and bathroom - do not paint mural
SOUTHWEST	Pod A	Wall outside Room #1- paint
SOUTHWEST	Pod B - Michelle Craig's 4th Gr. Room	Entire classroom
ROCK RIVER	South exterior doors	Paint
UNIT OFFICE	Rooms upstairs	Joni's office

Mr. Scott Kuffel, Superintendent
C. U. S. D. #228
209 South College
Geneseo, IL 61254

September 2, 2008

Mr. Kuffel,

I was quite surprised to find out that a junior or senior in our school district could not get a PE exemption unless the student participated in the sport the prior year.

Our daughter, Claire, has decided to go out for cross country her senior year, her first time. In addition, Claire has participated in basketball and soccer the last three years. When I requested a PE exemption, I was told of this policy. It was explained this was to "prevent students from going out for a sport, just to get out of PE. " I also could not find this policy in writing.

I also understand that a PE exemption would not be given if this would give the student a second study hall. Again, I find this a little surprising. In Claire's case, she is currently taking five courses, PE and a study hall and will be participating in three sports. If she had a PE exemption, she would still be taking five courses, including two AP courses, and two study halls. I have no problem with her having extra time during the day to study since much of her time after school and evenings are spent participating in sports.

In my opinion, I do not think a student would make a decision to participate in a sport just to get out of PE. Why would he or she sacrifice every night after school and many evenings just to get out of a class during the day? And if that was the reason, the student would be participating in the sport, thus getting physical activity every day. Also, if a student has fulfilled all of their graduation requirements, or is on target to fulfill those requirements, why should the student have to take six courses and participate in a sport just to get out of PE? I'm curious how our school district's policy compares to others in Illinois and curious if our policy is in line with the spirit of the regulations. Feel free to share my opinions with the school board.

Again, these are just my opinions on the policy. The main purpose of this letter is to determine if an exception can be made to the policy. I am requesting that Claire be granted a PE exemption for first and second semester.

Thanks for your attention to this matter. I would be happy to discuss this in person or via telephone.



Julie Wiese
Phone: (309) 269-8802
E mail: mjwiese@geneseo.net



ILLINOIS
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

August 20, 2008

Michael Haugse
Geneseo High School
700 N. State St
Geneseo, IL 61254

RE: **A Commendation on behalf of ICLCS Fellow Jon Obrecht**

Dear Michael Haugse:

On behalf of the leadership team for the *Institute for Chemistry Literacy through Computational Science* (ICLCS) we would like to congratulate ICLCS Fellow, **Jon Obrecht**, one of only 100 high school chemistry teachers representing 93 rural school districts, who completed two intensive weeks of professional development on the campus of the University of Illinois. In addition, all Fellows complete a rigorous, online, two-semester course to earn 3 hours of graduate credit in chemistry. This commitment by your teacher for long-term professional development to improve student achievement in chemistry is commended. In addition, we commend you for your continued support of the ICLCS Fellow with release time, access to tech support, a LCD projector and computer, and opportunities for leadership in your school and district. These keys factors help make the ICLCS project a success. Please note that this opportunity has only been extended to **select** high school chemistry teachers from **rural** communities.

Through intensive multi-year summer Institutes, beginning in June 2007, the ICLCS began its statewide effort to strengthen rural high school teachers' understanding of the principles of chemistry while building leadership capacity to promote and sustain change. The use of **computational tools for 21st Century science** is the context in which we deliver the curriculum. Through these Institutes and the academic year activities, we have created a community of learning among research faculty at the University of Illinois and rural Illinois high school teachers working together as **colleagues** to improve student achievement. Through the virtual community, and by engaging Illinois' faculty in teaching and mentoring, ICLCS has the long-term benefit of an established sustainable learning community.

The success of the project in reaching teachers and, through them, their students can be seen in the results experienced **after only one year of professional development**. Our research and evaluation design initially randomly divided our participating teachers into two cohorts. One group is the "treatment" group, with its members starting professional development in the first year. The second group serves as the "control" group for the first group, with a year's delay in starting its involvement in the project. This arrangement allowed for a rigorous examination of the project's effect on the teachers **through gains in student scores on a standardized high school general chemistry test**, based on a pre/post test delivery.

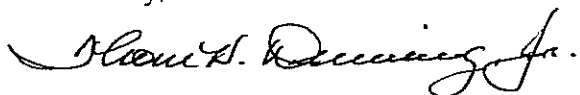
The results showed that students of teachers in their first year of professional development had significantly greater gains ($p < .001$) than the teachers who had not yet started the project. In other words, there is a 1 in 1,000 chance that the increase in achievement was due to factors outside of the ICLCS (and we consider that fairly unlikely). In addition, while students in both cohorts began at nearly the same level, the first group's student gains were 45% higher than the control. These results on *students* after only one year of teacher professional development is dramatic and underscores the potential benefits of participation in ICLCS*.

On September 23, 2008, we holding a workshop at the National Center for Supercomputing Applications on the University of Illinois campus from 10:00 am to 2:00 PM to share our program's successes and reacquaint you with the Institute and the outstanding work the Fellows are doing. At this time, we will share with you the program components, some of the activities Fellows are participating in, and the results from our first year in the program. On the same day, we will host your technical coordinator in a similar workshop with information on how they can support the program with installation of our communication and computational tools. We hope that you and your tech coordinator are able to attend, as we will also hold optional tours of our new facility and demonstrate some of the work we are doing at NCSA and on campus.

Please RSVP by September 12, 2008 by sending an email to Pam Joop at pjoop@ncsa.uiuc.edu or by calling her at (217)-244-0409.

Again, it is a privilege working with the fellows and your district as we transform the high school chemistry curriculum for the 21st Century, create advocates for science education among our rural colleagues, and prepare our students for the 21st Century workforce.

Sincerely,



Thom Dunning
Director, National Center for Supercomputing Applications
Professor & Distinguished Chair for Research Excellence, Dept of Chemistry – University of Illinois

cc: Jon Obrecht, ICLCS Fellow
Scott Kuffel, Superintendent

* The Institutional Review Board permissions and confidentiality assurances prevent the release of information by individual school or teacher.