

Illinois State Board of Education



Christopher A. Koch
State Superintendent
of Education

The mission of the Illinois State Board of Education is to provide leadership, assistance, resources and advocacy so every student is prepared to succeed in post-secondary education and career opportunities, and to share accountability for doing so with districts and schools.

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

than 2 million students in Illinois schools.

Members of the State Board of Education are appointed by the Governor with the consent of the Senate. Upon taking office, a new Governor will appoint five new members to the board with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Governor appoints the State Board chair, and board members elect their officers.

The board appoints the State Superintendent of Education, who may be recommended by the Governor. A state superintendent is appointed at the beginning of each gubernatorial term after board appointments have been made. In December 2006, the board appointed Christopher A. Koch, Ed.D., as State Superintendent of Education.

The board revised its Comprehensive Strategic Plan for Elementary and Secondary Education in 2008 to better align its goals with the changing educational demands of preparing students for success in careers and college in the 21st century. To support its mission, the board agreed upon three broad goals:

- Every student will demonstrate academic achievement and be prepared for success after high school.
- Every student will be supported by highly prepared and effective teachers and school leaders.
- Every school will offer a safe and healthy learning environment for all students.

Illinois Teacher of the Year

The State Board of Education annually recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to elementary and secondary education with the Those Who Excel awards program. The top award is for the Illinois Teacher of the Year.

Pam Reilly, a second-grade teacher at Woodbury Elementary School in Sandwich, was chosen the 2014 Illinois Teacher of the Year. The 2013 Illinois Teacher of the Year was Brian W. Curtin, an English teacher at Schaumburg High School.



**2013 Illinois
Teacher of the Year
Brian W. Curtin
Schaumburg
High School**



**2014 Illinois
Teacher of the Year
Pam Reilly
Woodbury Elementary
Sandwich**

Board Members: Gery J. Chico, *chair*; Steven R. Gilford, *vice chair*; Dr. Vinni M. Hall, *secretary*; James W. Baumann, Dr. Andrea S. Brown, Dr. David L. Fields, Lanita J. Koster and Melinda A. LaBarre.

Administrative Personnel

Christopher A. Koch, Ed.D.....	<i>State Superintendent of Education</i>
Susan C. Morrison.....	<i>Deputy Superintendent; Chief Education Officer</i>
Matthew Vanover	<i>Deputy Superintendent; Director of Public Information</i>
Reyna Hernandez	<i>Assistant Superintendent, Center for Language & Early Child Development</i>
Beth Hanselman	<i>Assistant Superintendent, Specialized Instruction, Nutrition & Wellness</i>
Donald W. Evans.....	<i>Chief Operating Officer; Director of Human Relations & Labor Relations</i>
Nicki Bazer	<i>General Counsel</i>
Robert Wolfe	<i>Chief Financial Officer</i>
Peter Godard	<i>Chief Performance Officer</i>
Melissa Oller.....	<i>Chief Internal Auditor</i>
Dr. Mary O'Brian	<i>Acting Director of Assessment</i>

2011-2012 Illinois Education Statistics

Public school enrollment	2,087,628
Elementary (Pre-K–8)	1,445,660
Secondary (9–12)	631,968
Number of certified staff *	151,243
Elementary teachers	66,691
Secondary teachers	34,367
Special education teachers	20,354
Number of public school districts	867
Non-public school enrollment	233,825
Elementary.....	177,884
Secondary.....	55,941
Percent of students in non-public schools	10%

* Number represented is a full-time equivalent (FTE).