

## 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 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 December 2006, the board appointed Christopher A. Koch, Ed.D., as State Superintendent of Education. Dr. Koch has served in various capacities on the board since 1994.

In August 2008, the board revised its Comprehensive Strategic Plan for Elementary and Secondary Education 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. 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. Teachers of the Year receive one year of paid leave for graduate studies and a lifetime tuition waiver at any state university. The Illinois Teacher of the Year also competes in the National Teacher of the Year Program.



**2008-2009 Illinois  
Teacher of the Year  
Linda Smerge**

The 2008-2009 Illinois Teacher of the Year was Linda Smerge, a second-grade teacher at Woodrow Wilson Elementary School in Cicero.

**Board Members:** Jesse Ruiz, *chair*; Dr. Christopher Ward, *vice chair*; Dr. Vinni Hall, *secretary*; James W. Baumann, Dr. Andrea Brown, Dr. David Fields, Steven R. Gilford, 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 of Staff</i>
Darren Reisberg .....	<i>General Counsel/Deputy Superintendent</i>
Connie Wise, Ph.D.....	<i>Assistant Superintendent for Standards &amp; Assessments</i>
Beth Hanselman .....	<i>Assistant Superintendent for Special Education &amp; Support Services</i>
Linda Tomlinson, Ph.D. ....	<i>Assistant Superintendent for School Support Services for All Schools</i>
Linda Riley Mitchell .....	<i>Chief Financial Officer</i>
Lisa LaBonte .....	<i>Chief Internal Auditor</i>
Donald Evans .....	<i>Director of Human Resources</i>
Matthew Vanover.....	<i>Director of Public Information</i>
Jean Ladage.....	<i>Board Services Coordinator</i>

**2007-2008 Illinois Education Statistics**

Number of students (public schools).....	2,112,805
Elementary .....	1,472,909
Secondary .....	639,896
Number of certified staff.....	*166,597
Elementary teachers .....	78,903
Secondary teachers .....	35,347
Special education teachers.....	20,317
Number of public school districts .....	870
Number of students (non-public schools).....	257,194
Elementary.....	200,022
Secondary.....	57,172
Percent of students in non-public schools .....	10.9

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