



Illinois State Board of Education

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Jesse H. Ruiz
Chairman

Christopher A. Koch, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Education

NEWS

For Immediate Release

Thursday, February 26, 2009

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Matt Vanover
217-782-4648

Illinois State Board of Education announces special meeting on Monday, March 2

State Board of Education Chairman Jesse Ruiz hereby calls a special meeting under the Open Meetings Act. The purpose of the meeting is reflected in the agenda below.

Special Board Meeting via video conference Monday, March 2, 2009 4:00 p.m.

Chicago Location: ISBE Video Conference Room,
James R. Thompson Center
14th Floor, 100 W. Randolph, Chicago, IL

Springfield Location: ISBE Video Conference Room, 3rd Floor
100 N. First Street, Springfield, IL

This meeting will also be audio cast on the Internet at: www.isbe.net



SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

- A. Call Meeting to Order/Roll Call
- B. Public Participation
- C. Approval of Contract for Scoring 2009 ISAT Writing Assessment
- D. Update on American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009
- E. Adjourn

All State Board of Education meetings are accessible to persons with disabilities. Persons planning to attend who need special accommodations should contact the Board office no later than the date prior to the meeting. Contact the Superintendent's office at the State Board of Education, Phone: 217-782-2221; TTY/TDD: 217-782-1900; Fax: 217-785-3972.

ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
March 2, 2009

TO: Illinois State Board of Education

FROM: Christopher A. Koch, Ed. D., State Superintendent of Education 
Connie Wise, Ph.D., Assistant Superintendent 

Agenda Topic: Approval of Contract Exceeding \$1 Million Dollars for Measurement Incorporated, Writing Contractor

Staff Contact(s): Connie Wise, Ph.D., Assistant Superintendent
Joyce Zurkowski, Division Administrator

Purpose of Agenda Item

To obtain approval to contract with Measurement Incorporated, for the provision of scoring services for the Spring 2009 Illinois Standards Achievement Test for Writing, to a maximum of \$3,100,000.

Relationship to/Implications for the State Board's Strategic Plan

GOAL 1: Every student will demonstrate academic achievement and be prepared for success after high school.

Expected Outcome(s) of Agenda Item

This agenda item will be discussed in an emergency session of the Finance and Audit Committee and then be called for a vote.

Background Information

In the Spring 2005 legislative session, Section 2-3.64 of the School Code (105 ILCS 5/2-3.64) was changed to restore writing to the Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT). The legislation called for incremental inclusion of writing over a three-year period. Grades 5 and 8 were assessed in the 2006-07 year, grades 5, 6 and 8 in the 2007-08 year and grades 3, 5, 6 and 8 will be assessed in the 2008-09 year and beyond.

Measurement Incorporated won a competitive bid to administer the ISAT Writing in fiscal years 2007 and 2008, and has done so successfully over the first two years of this assessment. The regular testing window for the ISAT Spring 2009 assessment begins March 2, 2009. Critical scoring services are urgently needed to ensure that reporting of Writing aligns with the other assessment test subjects, and that this assessment is scored in a manner that meets Illinois state testing standards.

The late receipt of Writing scores creates a serious disruption of State services, because school districts will not be able to make the timely strategic decisions that are based on these assessment scores. In addition, if the hard copy reports of ISAT scores have to be bifurcated because of late Writing scores, the State will incur significant increase in production, printing and shipping costs. Measurement Inc. has the necessary tools in place to help ensure that the writing scores are delivered on time.

Financial Background

The amount requested for Fiscal Year 2009 is \$3,100,000.00.

Implications for Policy, Budget, Legislative Action and Communications

Policy Implications: Approval of this amendment will allow Assessment to expeditiously have access to the critical scoring services provided by Measurement Incorporated.

Budget Implications: These amounts will be paid from State of Illinois funds.

Legislative Action: None required.

Communication: None required

Pros and Cons of Various Actions

Awarding the contract:

Pros: The contractor will be able to begin immediately preparing for scoring activities. This contract will help to ensure that statutory requirements are met.

Cons: The contract will be awarded on an emergency basis.

Superintendent's Recommendation

I recommend that the following motion be adopted at the Emergency Board Meeting:

The State Board hereby authorizes agency staff to approve an emergency procurement contract for ISAT Writing scoring services for fiscal year 2009 with Measurement Incorporated, for an amount not to exceed \$3,100,000. The contract will run from the date of execution through June 30, 2009.

Next Steps

Agency staff will commence the process of contracting for the required services in accordance with the approved motion.