

2008 CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION REPORT

In compliance with Illinois School Code 105 ILCS 435/2e the following duty shall be exercised: a report, in writing, to the Governor annually on or before the fourteenth day of January. The annual report shall contain:

(1) A statement to the extent to which Career and Technical Education (CTE) has been established in Illinois

Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs in Illinois assist students to meet Illinois Learning Standards and close achievement gaps. These programs support local districts to ensure student success, and promote continuous improvement of Illinois education. CTE programs support these content areas: Agricultural Education; Business, Marketing and Computer Education; Family and Consumer Sciences; Health Science Technology; and Technology and Engineering Education.

The CTE system is designed to comply with the Illinois State Board of Education's Education for Employment policy of 1984. The system is currently delivered in programs at the secondary and post secondary levels through the Education for Employment (EFE) systems. The EFE systems are comprised of the high school, unit districts and area career centers within the system boundaries. The boundary lines conform to either the Regional Office of Education or the community college boundaries.

The EFE system's primary function is to facilitate the cooperative planning and delivery of quality career and technical education to students within the system. The EFE systems efficiently maintain continuity and accessibility of secondary CTE instruction as well as accountability for the use of both state and federal CTE funds. The systems work collaboratively with postsecondary institutions to create programs to enhance the skill and academic development of students and articulate transitions to post-secondary training programs, employment or both.

The Illinois State Board of Education will provide leadership, assistance, resources and advocacy so that every student is prepared to succeed in careers and postsecondary education, and share accountability for doing so with districts and schools.

Goals for Strategic Plan:

- GOAL 1: Every student will demonstrate academic achievement and be prepared for success after high school.
- GOAL 2: Every student will be supported by highly prepared and effective teachers and school leaders.
- GOAL 3: Every school will offer a safe and healthy learning environment for all students.

Career and technical education (CTE) provides instruction for careers in high-wage, high-skill, or high-demand occupations. The secondary CTE instructional programs are grouped into 5 broad areas based on the related content. These content areas are: Agriculture Education; Business, Marketing and Computer Education; Family and Consumer Sciences; Health Science Technology, and Technology and Engineering Education.

CTE student organizations are co-curricular entities that provide secondary students with activities that expand classroom instruction. Competitive events develop leadership and state and national conferences foster self-confidence in students. The Illinois Coordinating Council for Career and Technical Student Organizations (ICCCTSO) is comprised of the state advisors, executive directors and presidents of each of the secondary career and technical student organizations (CTSO). The list of organizations includes:

- Business Professionals of America Illinois Association (BPA)
- Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)
- Family Career and Community Leaders Association (FCCLA)
- Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA)
- Illinois Association FFA (FFA)
- Illinois Association of DECA (DECA)
- Illinois Association of SkillsUSA
- Phi Beta Lamda (PBL) - postsecondary
- Technology Student Association (TSA)

Illinois Coordinating Council for Career and Technical Student Organizations coordinated the activities of the individual career and technical student organizations. A 3-day workshop was held that provided leadership training for Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSO) officers and advisors and year long direction in various career and technical education initiatives.

Special Programs

The Work Experience and Career Exploration Program (WECEP) is a one or two year school-to-work transition program designed for students, ages 14 and 15, who have had difficulties with their previous school experiences and who are at-risk of dropping out of school. The goal of the program is to provide intensive intervention strategies to encourage at-risk students to improve their academic growth, develop a career plan that guides their transition from school-to-work, demonstrate a positive work ethic, and remain in school after the age of 16. To accomplish this, the program:

- Offers intensive, small-group, academic instruction and intervention;
- Exposes each student to a range of available educational and/or vocational opportunities;
- Involves the school, the community, businesses, and parents in partnership to ensure students' progress in their career plan; and
- Emphasizes the value of work to students and arranges paid work experiences that comply with child labor laws established by the U.S. Department of Labor for WECEP.

Delivery of Career and Technical Education

In compliance with the Illinois State Board of Education's Education for Employment policy (1984), career and technical education programs are organized through regional delivery systems. The Education for Employment (EFE) systems are comprised of the high school, unit districts and area career centers within the system boundaries. The boundary lines conform to either the Regional Office of Education or the community college boundaries. The system's primary function is to facilitate the cooperative planning and delivery of quality career and technical education to students within the system. The EFE systems efficiently maintain continuity and accessibility of secondary CTE instruction as well as accountability for the use of both state and federal CTE funds.

Role of the State Board of Education

The State Board of Education provides state leadership and direction for the specific instructional programs through occupational consultant support. These instructional programs consists of curriculum guidance, state and federal grant administration, data collection and accountability, professional teacher, student and teacher educator association advisement, and intra and inter-agency liaisons, including instructional and agency articulation.

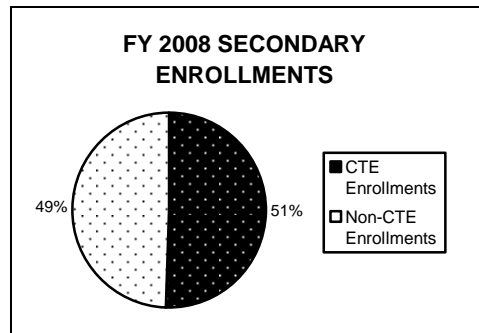
(2) A statement of the existing condition of Career and Technical Education in Illinois

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) serves as the eligible agency responsible for the administration, operation, and supervision of career and technical education programs under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006. ISBE distributes Perkins funds to unit and high school districts through the Illinois Education for Employment (EFE) Regional

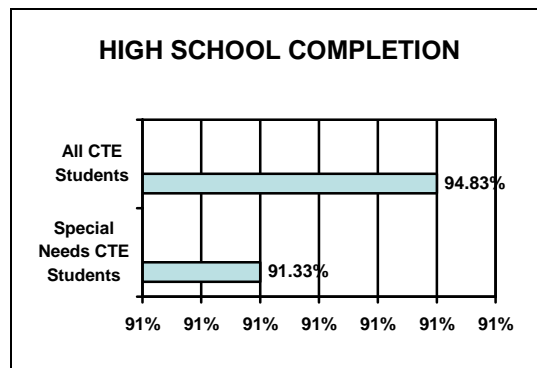
Delivery System, consisting of 57 EFE system directors. Under a Memorandum of Understanding between ISBE and the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB), administrative leadership for postsecondary Perkins was transferred to ICCB, effective July 2002, and Tech-Prep Education was transferred to ICCB, effective July 2003. ICCB distributes Perkins funds to the 39 Illinois community college districts, as well as to the secondary and postsecondary members of the 39 Illinois Partnership for College and Career Success (PCCS) Consortia.

There are fifty-seven (57) Education for Employment (EFE) systems operating in the state including three systems organized by the state agencies that serve secondary students in their responsibilities: IL Department of Juvenile Justice (IDJJ) and IL Dept. of Human Services (IDHS) - the Office of Mental Health Services and the Office of Rehabilitation Services. All high schools and area career centers are members of an EFE system.

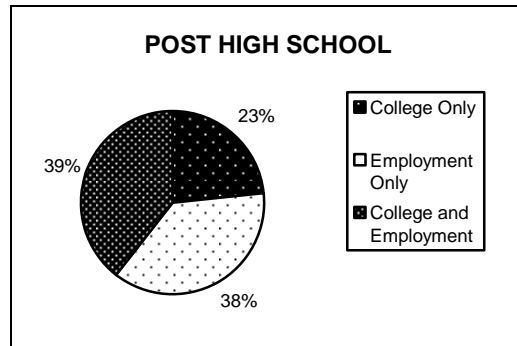
In FY 2008, of the population enrolled in public secondary schools (grades 9-12), 329,467 students were enrolled in career and technical education. This is 51.4% of the total student population. Secondary CTE programs also served 7,717 adults. Also, the EFE systems made career development activities available to 1,477,679 elementary (grades kindergarten-grade 8) students.



The success of a program can be gauged by the number of students that graduate from high school. Of the students that completed career and technical education training level programs, 94.83% graduated from high school. Of the students with special needs, 91.33% graduated from high school. This includes students with disabilities, economically disadvantaged students, academically disadvantaged students and limited English proficient students.



These students proceed to additional education and/or employment: 63% of the CTE students enrolled in college and 77% of the CTE students were employed.



(3) A statement of suggestions and recommendations with reference to the development of Vocational/Career and Technical Education in the State

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) have developed and supported a Performance Management Information System (PMIS) that provides state government, local schools, and colleges with the ability to examine student progress aggregated into a wide variety of configurations. It uses locally entered student records and state matching to administrative databases to identify student results for each Perkins sub-indicator for a variety of demographic and programmatic subpopulations, including each special population. It is a powerful tool for assessing the needs and outcomes of these groups.

Recommendations and Activities for FY 2008
Continue and Expand Current Innovative Pilot Projects

Project Lead The Way (PLTW) - Activities have expanded to fifty-five (55) high schools, colleges, career centers and six (6) middle schools in 2007-2008. The project brings early exposure of engineering concepts to students smoothing the path to a more formal preparation in engineering and technology within institutions of higher education or the path to technologically oriented jobs. An additional eighteen (18) Education for Employment (EFE) agencies were key players to assist cooperative efforts for course offerings at various locations. Approximately one hundred twenty-six (126) teachers across the state have had professional development training in order to support implementation of the pre-engineering curriculum which continues to grow.

In FY 2009 PLTW will expand their curriculum into Biomedical Sciences to engage students in rigorous, and relevant hands-on problems related to the human body, cell biology, genetics, disease, and other biomedical science topics. Illinois had one school piloted Biomedical in 2008-2009 and anticipates more to follow.

The High Schools That Work (HSTW) initiative provides funding to seventeen (17) high school districts to assist in integrating and upgrading the rigor of academic and CTE studies students receive in their coursework. There are thirteen (13) sites that contract directly with the national HSTW consortium and thirty (30) high schools that are implementing the HSTW model for school improvement. This project has much potential to foster high school reform and improvement.

Health Career Cluster Initiative - In coordination with the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), ISBE supports the Health Career Cluster Initiative, part of the Governor's Critical Skills Shortage Initiative. The goal of the project is to expand career development opportunities for K-12 students by developing and marketing a curricular framework complete with instructional strategies.

Recommendations for Future ISBE Initiatives

Align Pathways to the National Career Cluster Initiative-

A career cluster is a grouping of occupations and broad industries based on commonalities. The sixteen career clusters provide an organizing tool for schools, small learning communities, academies and magnet schools. The National Career Cluster Initiative is instituted by the National Association of State Directors of Career and Technical Education Consortium (NASDCTEc) with several states adopting the model for academic and career curricula.

Pursue curriculum revitalization-

The Curriculum Revitalization Initiative partners composed of ISBE, the Illinois Office of Educational Services (IOES), Facilitating Coordination in Agriculture Education (FCAE), and Center for Agricultural and Environmental Research and Training, Inc. (CAERT) develops and disseminates revitalized CTE curriculum in all content areas similar to the efforts currently under way in agriculture.

(4) A statement of recommendations on programs and policies to overcome sex bias and sex stereotyping in vocational/Career and Technical education programming and an assessment of the State's progress in achieving such goals prepared by the state vocational education sex equity coordinator pursuant to the Federal Vocational Education Law [20 U.S.C. 11 et.seq.];

The Gender Equity Advisory Council advises and consults with ISBE on ensuring that all students have equal educational opportunities to pursue high-wage, high-skill occupations leading to economic self-sufficiency. The Illinois Center for Specialized Professional Support and the Illinois Office of Educational Services, projects of ISBE, continue to update and develop gender equity and nontraditional resources for CTE programs and the educational community.

Sex Equity/Nontraditional Projects

The Gender Equity/Nontraditional Resource Center expanded the electronic nontraditional Gender Equity Toolkit for educators, "Climbing the Ladder to Nontraditional Career & Gender Equity Toolkit". This online handbook has been designed to assist educators, counselors, parents and students to identify and develop a plan to make student career decisions based on skills and talents regardless of the traditional assignment of such choices by gender or other societal restrictions. The tool is available at:

<http://www.ioes.org/media/documents/genderequity/NontraditionalCareerToolkit.pdf>

The New Look Project is a flexible, locally-driven, research-based program improvement project designed to improve recruitment, retention, and employment placement of learners preparing for nontraditional occupations. Twelve (12) Secondary and twenty-five (25) Postsecondary educational entities have assessed their current services, set goals and methods of evaluating goals, and designed and completed activities to achieve those goals. New Look Online Self-Study is designed to enable educational organizations to identify strengths and challenges in recruiting and retaining learners preparing for nontraditional occupations. The Self-Study is flexibly designed because each CTE program interacts with local educational organizations in a unique way. These online tools are available at

http://www.icspis.ilstu.edu/projects/index_newlook.html.

Civil Rights Self Assessment: A tool for the Illinois Education Community is an online tool that can be used for self-assessment of policies and practices to prepare for a civil rights review and/or for a better understanding and interpretation of the laws. This tool is available at http://www.icspis.ilstu.edu/projects/index_ocr.html.

Gender Equity Advisory Committee

Public Act 91-304 was enacted to establish the Gender Equity Advisory Committee (GEAC) and expand the membership and purpose. The committee's task is to advise and consult with the Illinois State Board of Education on ensuring that all students have equal educational

opportunities to pursue high-wage, high-skill occupations leading to economic self-sufficiency.

GEAC met four times in 2008. Dedicated professionals shared knowledge and information regarding initiatives in equity work across the state. The GEAC approved the work of the Sex Equity Committee and recommended it be submitted for consideration in the Review of the Rules of the State Board of Education, Part 200.

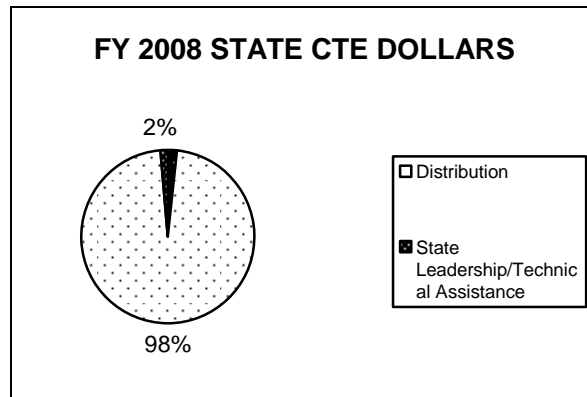
(5) An itemized statement of the amounts of money received from Federal and State sources, and of the objects and purposes to which the respective items of these several amounts have been devoted

	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Administration</u>	<u>Distribution</u>	<u>State Leadership/ Technical Assistance</u>
<u>Federal</u>	<u>\$27,051,349</u>	<u>\$694,727</u>	<u>\$24,005,225</u>	<u>\$2,351,397</u>
<u>State</u>	<u>\$38,562,100</u>	<u>\$694,727</u>	<u>\$37,721,100</u>	<u>\$841,000</u>

State Career and Technical Education Funds

The state appropriation for secondary career and technical education for FY 2008 was \$38,562,100. \$37,721,100 was distributed to local and regional agencies for the support of career and technical education programs and activities. This total also includes support for the Elementary Career Development Program: \$1,404,544, the Work Experience and Career Exploration Program (WECEP): \$2,093,523 and the student organizations: \$189,082.

ISBE \$841,000 supported state leadership projects for the improvement of CTE programs.



State Leadership Projects

Illinois State University - The Connections Project continues to assist the Illinois State Board of Education in implementing the High Schools That Work (HSTW) whole-school reform model. High Schools That Work Consortium, a framework for whole-school improvement major goals of the initiative are to:

- raise the mathematics, science, communications, problem-solving and technical achievement of more students to the national average and above;
- blend the essential content of traditional college-preparatory studies – mathematics, science and language arts – with high-quality career and technical studies by creating conditions that support school leaders, teachers and counselors to carry out key practices; and

- advance state and local policies and leadership initiatives necessary to sustain a continuous school improvement effort for both academic and career/technical studies.

This project facilitated the coordination of the initial HSTW sites in Illinois through the delivery of a state-wide conference, HSTW Forums, numerous technical review workshops and HSTW Site Visits. The gathering and dissemination of data related to sites, as well as the professional development of educators at all school levels, is a continuing effort.

The Connections Conference was held at the Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles, Illinois on March 5-6, 2008. The conference focused on new and exciting practices in all discipline areas. It featured teachers, counselors and other educators from Illinois sharing innovative programs and strategies that have been successful in their institutions. A special emphasis was placed on implementing the High Schools That Work model. Approximately 1,200 educators were in attendance including junior high, secondary and postsecondary educators. Overall evaluations were positive showing attendees were pleased with the sessions and speakers.

A series of High Schools That Work (HSTW) Forums, HSTW technical assistance in-service activities, site visits, and other professional development workshops/activities were conducted and included:

1. Three (3) HSTW site visits.
2. A HSTW Data Workshop for over 40 participants from the HSTW Sites.
3. An Illinois HSTW Forum for over 70 participants from the HSTW Sites.
4. A state meeting at the National HSTW Conference for over 125 participants was conducted in July 2008.

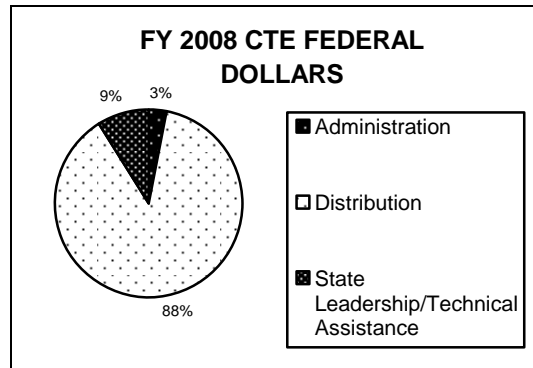
State Leadership grant funds were provided to Southern Illinois University and the Illinois Office of Educational Services (IOES) to enhance professional development opportunities available to career and technical educators in Illinois. Progress toward their objectives includes:

- *The Curriculum Revitalization Initiative (CRI)* developed and disseminated revitalized CTE curriculum in all content areas similar to the efforts underway for agriculture.
- Conducted curriculum research and planning in each of the approved content areas.
- Conducted curriculum dissemination and technical assistance in each of the content areas
- Provide technology-based curriculum resources to CTE educators and maintain up-to-date technology support in order to deliver innovative and effective resources for IOES and ISBE priorities.

Perkins Career and Technical Education Grant

The State of Illinois was appropriated \$44,113,401 from the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act. The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) serves as the eligible agency responsible for the administration, operation, and supervision of career and technical education programs under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006. The division administrator of the ISBE Career Development and Preparation Division is also the state director of Career and Technical Education. Under a Memorandum of Understanding between ISBE and the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB), administrative leadership for postsecondary Perkins was transferred to ICCB, effective July 2002.

The appropriation designated for secondary career and technical education and administered by ISBE was \$27,051,349. \$24,005,225 was distributed to local and regional agencies for the improvement of career and technical education programs. \$694,727 was used for administration and \$2,351,397 supported federal state leadership projects.



Federal Statewide Leadership Projects

Southern Illinois University – Federal State Leadership grant funds were utilized by the *Illinois Office of Educational Services (IOES)* as previously indicated above. They also provide technical support and training for the Illinois Student Information System (ISIS) and maintain the Gender Equity/Nontraditional Resource Center.

The *Illinois Association for Career and Technical Education* was funded to provide professional improvement activities for secondary and postsecondary teachers. These activities were conducted primarily at the annual Professional Development Institute held in June.

The *University Council on Career and Technical Education* worked to sustain and strengthen collaborative and cooperative working relationships between and among ISBE and all public institutions of higher education that prepare teachers and counselors in workforce development and/or career and technical education. The Council met three times during the year to work toward completing its activities. The Council also maintained a website to facilitate the dissemination of career and technical education information and a link of other pertinent sites and provide a place for a discussion forum. The Council awarded grants of Innovation to four (4) Career and Technical Teacher Education programs throughout the state.

University of Illinois – Project Lead the Way brings early exposure of engineering concepts to students in middle school and high school, smoothing the path to more formal preparation in engineering in institutions of higher education or the path to post-secondary technologically oriented jobs. The project provided training and professional development for the teachers who ultimately will teach a core group of engineering oriented courses in Illinois middle and high schools.

Special Populations

The Illinois Center for Specialized Professional Support (ICSPS) of Illinois State University received grant funds to implement activities, in collaboration with ISBE and ICCB, to expand the knowledge and skills of professionals working with special populations. The Illinois Center for Specialized Professional Support/Special Populations Professional Development and Assistance Project provided support in the following areas:

Technical Assistance

- The New Look Project is a flexible, locally-driven, research-based program improvement project designed to have a positive impact on the nontraditional program participation and completion core indicators for secondary and post-secondary CTE programs by improving recruitment, retention, and employment placement of learners preparing for nontraditional occupations

- New Look Awards were distributed to 12 secondary and 25 postsecondary programs to support activities/products that lead to the achievement of performance indicators.
- A combined secondary and postsecondary listserv to provide updates of professional development opportunities, available resources and grants, legislative items, and effective practices was maintained.
- The ICSPS website, which provides access to resources and has user-friendly opportunities for sharing information and requesting assistance, was maintained and expanded- <http://www.icspss.ilstu.edu>.
- ICSPS staff provided resources at regional meetings with Perkins administrators and special populations personnel.
- ICSPS staff provided information and resources in person, by telephone, and electronically, upon request.

Development of Materials

- The 2008 Illinois CTE Networking Directory was updated to be a data-base driven format to allow for more thorough online searches, integrated technical assistance to new coordinators, and allows for online updating of contact. Print-version modifications for 2008 included highlights of each section, the goal of each of the six types of CTE institutions in Illinois, a list of CTE acronyms, and overlay-maps outlining the boundaries of the CTE systems in Illinois. The directory is available online or in PDF form at: <http://www.icspss.ilstu.edu/services/directory/index.htm>
- The New Look Self-Study Guide was enhanced to New Look Online, an interactive online tool for schools and community colleges to use to identify strengths and challenges in the recruitment, retention and placement of students in nontraditional careers, to analyze the alignment of their services to students preparing for nontraditional careers, and setting goals for greater achievement of the Core Indicator for nontraditional careers.
- Civil Rights Self-Assessment: A Tool for Illinois Community Colleges and Civil Rights Self-Assessment: A Tool for the Illinois Education Community is available to Perkins personnel to be used in self-evaluation of community college and secondary policies and practices related to various civil rights laws. These web tools can be accessed at: http://www.icspss.ilstu.edu/projects/index_ocr.html

Professional Development

- ICSPS staff developed and conducted the New Look Launch and Showcase workshops. The workshop provided information about the recruitment and retention, assessment, goal-setting, research, and activity implementation of the New Look project for Special Populations.
- More than ten workshop sessions on supporting special populations for success were presented at conferences and regional meetings. Topics addressed by the workshops included: Could this be your Life?, Economically Disadvantaged Learners, Services for Single Parents, High Wage and High Skill Careers for Women, and Individuals with Cognitive Disabilities in Career and Technical Education.

The *Illinois Statewide Career Resource Network* at the Illinois Department of Employment Security received a grant to:

- Maintain, update and train users on the use of the *Career Information System (CIS)*.
- Maintain and update the *CIS Junior* career awareness portfolio application for middle school and high school students. (Formerly known as *Countdown 9, 8, 7*).
- Maintain and update the *Career Information System* and *Countdown 9, 8, 7...* available via the Internet to all Illinois elementary, middle/junior high, and high schools, and all Illinois students, parents, educators, and counselors.
- Promote Illinois Statewide Career Resource Network products and services to the Education for Employment (EFE) Systems, Regional Offices of Education (ROE), school districts, and other constituencies.
- Update, enhance, and distribute the *Illinois Job Outlook in Brief* brochure (English and Spanish versions), the *Guides to Career Choices* brochure, and *One Source* promotional bookmarks.

All career information systems were reviewed and updated. These systems were available to students, parents, counselors, educators, and schools via the Internet at www.ILWorkInfo.com and through PC-based versions on CD-ROM. Over 156,000 unique visitors generated hits to the website. This fiscal year, more than 12,500 One Source bookmarks were re-supplied to schools by request. A new supply of "Guides to Career Choices" was received and over 4,500 sets have been distributed to schools. In addition, more than 54,000 "Kids and Careers: How Families Can Help Youth Succeed" brochures have been delivered to middle and high schools and parents-teacher organizations throughout Illinois.