



OVER THE BACK FENCE

March 2008 Issue number 9 Robert G. Rogers, Executive Director
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Please duplicate and send to members in your district.

"Pursuing Excellence in Small and Rural Schools"

NEW LAWS FOR 2008

Each year the Illinois General Assembly passes new laws that effect school districts and 2007 was no exception. You can get a synopsis of the new legislation by going to the Illinois Association of School Boards website www.iasb.com. Click on new laws and you will get the 34 page digest. You can get the complete language of the bill by going to the General Assembly website www.ilga.gov.

Here are a few of the new laws:

HB18 – File Bullying Policy with ISBE.
HB425- Develop a Pest Management Program.
HB817- Special Ed Services continue to age 22.
HB895- Establish a Green Cleaning Policy.
HB943- Mercury products ban.
HB1347- Restrictions on non-instructional services.
HB1839- Limit for PE Waivers.
HB3327- Alcohol consumption instruction.
SB166- School bus inspection policy.
HB3624- Telephone number on school bus.
SB424- High school credit for proficiency.
SB538- Community use of facilities.
SB1428- Adds board members to Neglected Child Reporting Act.
SB1472- Internet safety education instruction.
SB1557- Include instruction on distracted driving.
HB1847- ESP during school reorganization.
SB397- Safety education for teachers.
SB122- New Sp. Ed. Professional definitions.
SB404- Immunity involving use of AED's.
HB258- Matching grants for CPR/AED training.
HB285- Renewable energy grants.
HB357- Extends interfund transfers to 2010.
HB1910- Early dismissal after 1 hr to count for full day if condition is beyond the control of the district.
SB441- Cross walk violation in school zone.
SB641- Vision Exam requirement.
SB84- Advanced Placement fees paid by ISBE if 40% of students qualify for free/reduced lunch.
SB853- GED at 17 yrs if class has graduated.
SB1702- Policy on Biometric pupil information.
SB665- Exempt from eavesdropping violation.
HB1647- School Personnel Certificates renewable every 5 years.

NEW LOCATION FOR NREA

The National Rural Education Association home office has moved from Norman, Oklahoma to West Lafayette, Indiana. Dr. John Hill is the new Executive Director. He replaces Dr. Bob Mooneyham who retired in December.

The new address and information for NREA is:

Dr. John Hill, Executive Director
National Rural Education Association
Purdue University
Beerling Hall Of Liberal Arts and Education
100 N. University Street
West Lafayette, Indiana 47907
Telephone: 765 494-0086
Fax: 765 496-1228
Email: jehill@purdue.edu

NREA ESSAY CONTEST

The NREA Essay Contest entries must be postmarked by March 4, 2008. Specific information, including the rubric, can be obtained from the AIRSS website www.airssedu.com. Send the essays to the NREA address in West Lafayette (above).

There are three divisions: 1) Elementary (Grades 3-5); 2) Middle School (Grades 6-8); and 3) High School (Grades 9-12). The elementary first place winner will receive \$250.00. The Runner Up will receive \$100.00. The middle school winner will receive \$400.00 and the runner up will get \$200.00. High school students will vie for the \$400.00 first place award while the runner up will receive \$200.00.

REAP INFORMATION

Our lobbying efforts have paid off. There will be no drastic changes in the Rural Education Achievement Program for next year. There will be a Low-Income Program and the same eligibility requirements will be in effect. So, if you are eligible this year, you could be considered next year. Good luck.

The U.S. Department of Education will use the new locale codes for the small school program next year.