

Announcement of Vacancy Superintendent of Schools

Chester CUSD 139

The Board of Education of Chester CUSD 139, Chester, Illinois, is seeking a Superintendent of Schools who will succeed Rebecca Keim who has served as superintendent of the district since July 1, 2005 and is retiring. It is anticipated that the new superintendent will be selected in January of 2011 and will be expected to assume the post on July 1, 2011. *The Chester CUSD 139 School District is an equal opportunity employer and the Illinois Association of School Boards is an equal opportunity employment search agency.*

POSITION:	Superintendent of Schools
DISTRICT ENROLLMENT:	Pre K-12 — 987 students
COMPENSATION PACKAGE:	It is anticipated that the base salary will be in the range of \$118,000 to \$125,000. The actual salary, fringe benefits, contractual terms and conditions will be negotiated with the final candidate. It is expected that the initial contract will be for a multi-year period, as authorized by Illinois statute.
QUALIFICATIONS:	Illinois Certification for Superintendent
APPLICATION DEADLINE:	September 3, 2010
INTERVIEWS:	Recommended finalists will be interviewed in October of 2010
STARTING DATE:	July 1, 2011

APPLICATIONS

All nominations, letters of application, inquiries, credentials and copies of legal proof of administrative qualifications should be addressed as follows:

Thomas Leahy, Consultant, Executive Searches
Illinois Association of School Boards
One Imperial Place
1 East 22nd Street, Suite 20
Lombard, Illinois 60148-6120
Phone: 630/629-3776 ext 1217
Fax: 630/629-3940

PLEASE MARK ANY CORRESPONDENCE AND/OR ENVELOPES “CHESTER CUSD 139”

To receive consideration, an applicant's file must be completed by September 3, 2010 and must contain:

1. **Formal letter of application** indicating desire to be a candidate for the position.
2. **Personal information sheet** (obtained from IASB office or Web site www.iasb.com to print and complete, or fill out online and print) completed in full.
3. **Set of up-to-date confidential credentials** sent from applicant's university.
4. **Legal proof or other evidence** showing qualifications to be a superintendent in the state of Illinois (copy of administrative certificate*).
5. **Resume that includes** a brief summary of achievements in administrative positions applicant has held, educational vision and goals, personal leadership philosophies and reasons for interest in the professional challenge presented by the District.

*Information on certification can be obtained by writing the Illinois State Board of Education, Division of Professional Preparation, 100 North First Street, Springfield, Illinois 62777: 1-800/845-8749 or visit the ISBE Web site at www.isbe.net.

APPLICANTS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO CONTACT BOARD MEMBERS UNLESS CALLED FOR AN INTERVIEW.

GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE DISTRICT AND THE AREA

TYPE — Pre K-12

SIZE — 121 square miles, 987 Students, two principals, one assistant principal, one dean of students, 74 teachers and 54 support personnel.

OFFICE — 1940 Swanwick Street, Chester, IL 62233

CENTRAL OFFICE PERSONNEL — one Superintendent; one secretary and one bookkeeper. One technology director and two half time curriculum assistants.

MISSION — The mission of Chester CUSD 139 is to provide an education for all students in a safe environment that develops the academic, social and critical thinking skills necessary to become responsible and contributing members of our changing society.

CURRICULUM — The curriculum for grades K-12 follows a district wide scope and sequence. There is a pre-kindergarten at-risk program and a full day kindergarten in place. Grades K-5 are self-contained with specialized math and reading rooms that differentiate instruction in small groups. Grades 6-8 are on a traditional junior high schedule. The high school program operates on an ‘8 block’ schedule and offers typical courses including advanced placement, dual credit, vocational, regular education and tech. prep. Special education services are available from early childhood through high school. Discovery Assessment is used district wide to monitor students’ academic progress in the areas of math and reading. Students participate in a full range of extracurricular activities including an extensive wellness program

TRANSPORTATION — Transportation is contracted with Southwestern Illinois Bus Company based out of Chester, IL. There are 12 regular routes, one vocational route, two special education routes, and parochial school transportation.

FOODSERVICE — The food service staff is hired by the school district and operates in the black. Breakfast is available for grade school students. Lunch is served to all students. Two head cooks, six regular cooks and three cafeteria aides are employed in the cafeteria.

FINANCIAL DATA – 2010

Assessed Valuation	\$	76,125,145
Bonds Outstanding	\$	6,519,588
Total Budget Revenue	\$	9,646,397

TAX RATE – 2009

Education	1.78647
Operations & Maintenance.....	0.47642
Transportation.....	0.19057
Working Cash	0.04421
I.M.R.F.....	0.11911
Tort Liability.....	0.10720
Bond & Interest.....	0.82515
Fire Prevention, Safety	0.00000
Social Security	0.11911
Special Education	0.03812
Other	0.00000
TOTAL	3.70636

FACILITIES — Chester Elementary – PreK through 8th grade; Chester High School – 9th-12th

MEMBER OF — Perandoe Special Education District, OKAW Regional Vocational System, Beck Area Vocational Center, Little Red Brick Alternative Education School, Illinois Association of School Boards.

LOCATION — the campuses are located in the City of Chester in Randolph County, “Where Illinois Began”. The community is located 60 miles from St. Louis and 40 miles from Carbondale and Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

SPECIAL SERVICES — There are medical, dental, and optometric services available locally. Chester Memorial Hospital operates in town and numerous major hospitals and medical clinics are available within a 60 mile radius.

RECREATION — The Chester Community Concert Association and the Chester Municipal Band provide musical entertainment. The Chester Park Board operates a wide range of City park services, including pool and tennis courts. Baseball leagues play at the Cohen Ball Diamond Complex. The Chester Country Club provides a local golf course. Driving ranges are available in the vicinity. Chester is also near many state historical and conservation sites including Fort Kaskaskia, Pierre Menard Home, Turkey Bluffs Park and Randolph County Conservation

Area. There are active Boy Scout and Girl Scout organizations.

PLACES OF WORSHIP — Fifteen churches in the Chester community house several denominations.

FRATERNAL AND PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS — Fraternal and Professional organizations in the area include Rotary, Elks, Knights of Columbus, Lions, Moose, Masonic Lodge, VFW, American Legion, Eagles and the Chester Women’s Club.

COLLEGES — There are numerous opportunities for higher education with Southwestern Illinois College in Belleville and Red Bud, Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville and Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau.

INDUSTRY IN THE DISTRICT — Major employers in the district include Menard State Prison, Chester Mental Health Center, and Gilster-Mary Lee (private brand food manufacturing).

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Name	*Years	Occupation
Vicky Beers, President	9	Retired-Chester Mental Health
Shane Rock, Vice President	7	Gilster-Mary Lee Corporation
Jess Cushman, Secretary	6	US Dept. of Agriculture
Troy Clendenin	9	Cora Coal Terminal
Mitchell Hammel	9	Amrent Contracting
Jarrold Peters	1	Randolph County Sheriff Depart.
Tammi Schroeder	1	Red Dot Construction

**Years served on the Chester CUSD 139 Board of Education.*

CANDIDATES AND THEIR QUALIFICATIONS

Candidates will be evaluated on their professional merits with emphasis on the following qualifications specified by the board of education:

- Have a thorough knowledge of and successful experience in school finance.
- Have a thorough knowledge of and successful experience in district management practices.
- Have a strong and continuing academic background with successful experience in curriculum.
- Be a “people person” with proven abilities in human relations and communications.
- Provide leadership in planning; develop with the board of education, both long and short-range district goals.
- Have experience and thorough knowledge of negotiations and the collective bargaining process.
- Appropriately delegate responsibilities to subordinates while remaining accountable to the board.
- Follow the educational philosophy established by the board which reflects the values of the community.

Residence in Chester CUSD 139 is preferred.

DISTRICT WEB SITE —www.chester139.com