
Significant Developments, 1999-2000

- The Midwest Truckers Association releases statistics showing a sharp downturn in the already low level of drug and alcohol abuse among school bus drivers and applicants for the job. Random testing of school bus drivers in Illinois reveals positive results have fallen from .10 percent in 1996 to .04 percent in 1998. (June 1999)
 - Governor George Ryan signs legislation changing the state aid formula for schools to partially offset the costly “double whammy” effect of tax caps on school funding. (July 1999)
 - IASB’s Lake Division launches its own website, becoming the first division of the Association to do so. (September 1999)
 - The Illinois State Board of Education announces that schools fully participating in the Baldrige Award process under auspices of the Lincoln Foundation for Business Excellence will meet all requirements of the state’s quality assurance system. The process thus becomes an alternate method of meeting the new Illinois Learning Standards. (October 1999)
 - IASB, in cooperation with eight other education organizations, files a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the Illinois education tax credit law. (November 1999)
 - Palatine Community Consolidated District 15 wins the highest level of distinction in the coveted Lincoln-Baldrige Awards, the Lincoln Award for Excellence, becoming the first school district to accomplish this rigorous undertaking. (December 1999)
 - Wayne Sampson, executive director of IASB since 1989, announces his retirement, effective August 31, 2000. (January 2000)
 - The ISBE budget proposal for FY 2001 includes a mandate for school districts to participate in the school breakfast program. (January 2000)
 - A dispute between ISBE and Chicago District 299 about whether Chicago public school students should be required to take the ISAT state achievement exam is resolved through compromise. ISBE agrees to delay the following year’s exams by roughly ten weeks, and District 299 agrees to encourage students to take the exam in the spring of 2000. (January 2000)
 - ISBE agrees to pay more than \$120,000 to hire the sixth-largest lobbying firm in Washington, D.C. in order to attempt to increase the state’s share of the federal education funding pie. (February 2000)
 - IASB announces that it will join with the Illinois Association of School Administrators in filing a court brief in support of Decatur District 61 in a much-publicized case involving the expulsion of seven students for fighting. (March 2000)
 - Lawmakers approve a \$327 million boost in school appropriations for FY 2001, once again fully funding the statutory levels established under HB 452. (May 2000)
 - Lawmakers approve \$1 million worth of incentives for school district participation in the federal school breakfast program, while keeping such participation voluntary, as urged by the Illinois Statewide School Management Alliance. (May 2000)
 - Following a nationwide search, IASB’s Board of Directors appoints a new Executive Director for the Association, Michael D. Johnson, Superintendent of Evergreen Park High School District 231. (May 2000)
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