

LEGAL UPDATES

September 2008

- A special legislative session was called in Illinois this month in order "to consider measures aimed at increasing school funding, improving the school funding structure and eliminating any current inequities." As a result, the legislature has scheduled five public hearing dates to "give tax payers, education professionals, business and labor organizations, and civic groups a chance to have their say" regarding education funding reform. The hearings are scheduled for:
 - 9/18/08, 1 p.m. Oak Park Village Hall, City Council Chambers, 123 Madison Street, Oak Park, IL
 - 8/30/08, 6 p.m. Thornwood High School, 17101 S. Park Avenue, South Holland, IL
 - 10/2/08, 6 p.m. Loyola University, 6525 N. Sheridan Road, Chicago, IL
 - 10/6/08, 7 p.m. Lincolnwood City Hall, City Council Chambers, 6900 N. Lincoln Avenue, Lincolnwood, IL
 - 10/9/08, 1 p.m. State Capitol, Room 118, Springfield, IL

August 2008

- President Bush signed in the Higher Education Opportunity Act, which includes provisions intended to improve the quality of K-12 teachers, increase financial aid access to low-income students, and raise accountability of higher education institutions. The bill also allows grants to improve the ability of general education teachers to teach students with disabilities and the establishment of a professional development task force for early childhood education program staff and administrators.
- HB 4252 was signed into law, requiring school district superintendents to disclose information about employees who were reported to DCFS regarding cases of an alleged abuse or neglected child to potential employers.

July 2008

- Illinois House Bill 4125 was signed by Governor Blagojevich, allowing for additional insurance coverage for related services for Autistic children. The bill mandates that both governmental and private insurance plans pay for an additional 20 speech therapy sessions per year for Developmentally Disabled and Autistic children, and goes into effect immediately.
- Illinois was named one of five states in the country to implement a new pilot program related to the No Child Left Behind Act which would allow school district's more flexibility in implementing the law. Under the current law, school populations are broken into groups based on race, ethnicity, language and special learning needs. If one of those groups failed to meet state and federal standards, then the whole school would face sanctions. Under the new pilot program, sanctions would be limited to the specific population which failed, allowing for schools to overhaul specific programs, instead of their entire curriculum. More information regarding this pilot program can be found at <http://www.isbe.state.il.us/news/2008/july1.htm>.

- The Illinois minimum wage increase takes effect July 1, 2008, increasing the minimum wage from \$7.50/hour to \$7.75/hour.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

TOP 5 BACK TO SCHOOL TIPS

UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS

Date	Title/Topic	Organization
10/27 – 10/29/08	Transition: A Bridge to the Future – Imagine the Possibilities	Illinois Interagency Coordinating Counsel
11/7/08	Keys to the Successful Inclusive Classroom	National Business Institute
2/6/09	Legal Aspects of Managing Autism Spectrum Disorders at School	National Business Institute

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