

ROE NEWSLETTER

Vol. 3 No. 3 April 2006 The Honorable Bonnie Harris

Message from the Superintendent

Happy Spring!! I think Spring is just around the corner. Spring brings with it rain, wind, flowers and new things, and the wonderful "March Madness".

The Harcourt snafu – I extend my sincere apology to all parties involved. Students seem to be taking this in stride. I am sure it has really helped when the adults show them how to react to a bad situation in a positive way. I know our students will do a great job on the ISAT Tests.

The ROE has been very busy in the office. We have new files and we are in the process of changing from the old standard files to the new lateral cabinets. We are well on our way to completing this process.

At the ROE Office, as you enter the reception area, there are now three pictures on the wall. One picture is of President George Washington and one of President Abraham Lincoln. The painting in the middle is a gift from Mr. Morris Katz. As you recall, he visited Abingdon schools in November. Mr Katz is known as the World's Fastest Painter and The World's Most Prolific Painter. He sent this framed picture back to me. I thought I should display it for all to see. This ROE was one of the first Regional Offices to begin the Health/Life/Safety visits using the Palm Program. It seems to be going well. We sincerely appreciate all of the great cooperation from every district helping us to break in this new program.

Next school year's Institute will be for Knox County Teachers. It will be October 16 at GHS from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The Professional Development Team has decided to offer three sessions. There will be online registration. We will have a beginning ceremony and then go to break-out sessions. Attached to this newsletter will be the call for presenters. If you would like to present, (remember you can earn CPDU's and HOUSSE points), please let me know as soon as possible. The Art Contest will be for students K-5th. The deadline will be May 25 to turn in to this office. The theme will be "For One, For All". I realize that this is a very busy time of the year but I also thought that this will help with the planning for the Institute. Thanks so much for your cooperation.

This will be the second year of accepting assurance statements from teachers whose certificates will expire on June 30, 2006. Teachers still have the option of submitting on paper or online. My goal is for every teacher to submit online; it is faster and much easier.

Always keep a copy in a binder in case you are audited.

RENEWING STANDARD OR MASTER CERTIFICATES

- ❖ If, during the last 5 years, you have earned a Master's Degree in an education-related field, you have met the requirements
- ❖ If you have earned 8 semester hours in education-related coursework – These two options are the easiest to record. If you use either of these two options, you do not need to record any other professional development.

Should you choose to use CPDU's, or a combination of CPDU's and credit hours, you will need 120 CPDU's with 20% (24 CPDU's) of those in the area of least restrictive environment---if you are in a regular classroom. If you teach Special Education, 50% of your CPDU's must be in the area of special education. If you have a Master's Degree, you may reduce the amount of professional development by one third (80 CPDU's or 6 semester hours). Please record a few extra CPDU's in case any are rejected. If you are audited, you will be expected to be able to prove all of your credit. Therefore, you need not submit more than 10% over the needed amount.

INITIAL CERTIFICATE HOLDERS

At the end of this school year, you will need 45 CPDU's or earned 12 semester hours or completed a Master's Degree in an education related field. There are no special education requirements. You must have completed four full years of teaching. You must submit to the ROE a letter on school district letterhead stating that you have completed four full years of teaching. The letter must be signed by your principal or superintendent. If you taught in more than one school district, letters with dates are required from each school district. You may submit a paper Statement of Assurance to the ROE or submit the online version.

ASSURANCE STATEMENTS ONLINE

Go to www.isbe.net and click on CeRTS at the top left on the screen. On the next screen, click on "teacher" and fill in the requested information. If this is your first time on CeRTS, click on "password help" to get started. On the next screen you will be able to develop your profile, access your records, review requirements, begin recording professional development activities, edit your activities and submit your assurance statement online. If you prefer the pen and paper version, that form is available at this site. Click on "What are the Requirements", from the left hand menu. The assurance form is ISBE Form 73-98. You will need to have submitted your Assurance Statement and have it approved before we can register your certificate (or issue a new one if you hold an Initial Certificate).

Please check the following schedule to know when I will be coming to your school. If you have not received a letter from us by the time I am scheduled to be at your school, please notify the office.

RECERTIFICATION SCHEDULE

May 4 - 8:30 a.m. - ROWVA - East, West, Central, Jr.Hi & High School
May 5 - 8:30 a.m. - Williamsfield School
May 8 - 8:30 a.m. - Abingdon - High School, Middle, Hedding
May 9 - 8:30 a.m. - Knoxville - High School, Jr. High, Mable Woolsey
May 10 - 8:30 a.m. - Cooke, Steele, Gale, Stone
May 11 - 8:30 a.m. - Lincoln, Nielson, King
May 12 - 8:30 a.m. - Lombard, Churchill
May 15 - 8:30 a.m. - GHS
May 16 - 8:30 a.m. - Costa and Galesburg Christian

EDUCATION IS NOT PREPARATION FOR LIFE, EDUCATION IS LIFE ITSELF.

John Dewey

HIGHLY QUALIFIED

The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001 requires that all teachers in the ten core academic subjects be highly qualified (HQ) to teach all of their assigned courses by the end of the 2005-2006 school year. Any teacher first hired after the first day of the 2002-2003 school year must already be highly qualified. The core academic subjects are Reading/Language Arts, English, Math, Science, Civics and Government, Economics, History, Geography, Foreign Language and the Arts (Music/Art).

It is also important to know that being Illinois-qualified to teach is not necessarily Federally highly qualified. The two are separate issues. According to NCLB, to be highly qualified, a teacher must 1) have a bachelor's degree 2) have full state certification, and 3) have demonstrated subject matter competence in all core academic courses assigned. For the purpose of stating the

requirements of “highly qualified”, NCLB divides teachers into two groups: new teachers – teachers with less than one year of teaching experience, and veteran teachers, those who have at least one full year of teaching experience.

New teachers must meet the following federal requirements:

1. Bachelor’s Degree, and
2. Full certificate, and
3. Have a Major, or Advanced Degree, or Advanced Certificate, or pass a State Exam, or use HOUSSE* to accumulate points in every core academic subject taught.

*HOUSSE is an acronym for High Objective Uniform State Standard of Evaluation. It is for use by teachers who may not have obtained a major, or were certified prior to state certification tests now required of all new teachers. HOUSSE is a point system whereby a teacher must accrue 100 points in each academic core subject area assigned, to be highly qualified to teach those subjects. After counting up to 50 points for experience, obtaining the rest of the points is much like collecting cpdu’s.

Special Education Teachers must meet the same core academic subject requirements, if they are the “teacher of record” or the teacher who assigns students’ grades. If a special ed teacher teaches in a self-contained classroom, he/she must be HQ in all core academic subjects taught. High school special ed teachers must be HQ at the grade level of their students. If a high school special ed teacher teaches math and science, but the grade level of the student is at the elementary level, that teacher must be HQ AT THE ELEMENTARY LEVEL. To do so, it may be necessary to take the elementary/middle grades test, which then makes you HQ in all ten core academic subjects.

To help you through the process of determining if you are highly qualified, IEA and ISBE have teamed up to produce an interactive worksheet for teachers. It is located at www.isbe.net. Click on “Certification” and you will find the link titled “Highly Qualified Interactive Worksheet”. You will be able to complete a worksheet for each subject area and print it for your records.

Being Highly Qualified is important for your school. RELAX and take it one step at a time. Get your certificate in hand and go to the website and do a worksheet. It is not as difficult to achieve as you may think. If you need help—just give us a call!!

**Congratulations to the U. S. History Grant winners from Knox County:
Three teachers from Knox County have received the U. S. History Grant.
Chris Campagna ROWVA High School
Chris Johnson ROWVA Jr. High School
Michael Brown Abingdon Jr. Hi School**

**Take the attitude of a student...never know too much to learn
something new. OG**

Professional Opportunities:

- Family Matters – March 30 – 5-8pm at the Knox County Academy
No Child Left Behind and Students with Disabilities. Limited Space.
Call 345-3828 to register by March 29. Free. Cpdu’s available
- All Reading Teachers – LETRS Workshop – Two Rivers – Module #3 - \$75.00
April 5 – #2880 Spellography for Teachers – How English Spelling Works 8:30 – 4:00
p.m. --- Cpdu’s available – 309-673-1040
- Family Matters at KCA – Sat. Apr. 22 – 9-12 – How to effectively participate in and IEP
Meeting—limited space—free—call to register – 345-3828
- Local Wellness Policy Training for District Teams – free training by ISBE and ROE #33
at Best Western Prairie Inn – April 28th - 8:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. and
12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. – Call 345-3828 to register
- CSC Cyber Camp 2006 – www.sandburg.net – June 15-16

Grant Opportunities for schools

- 3-A-Day of Dairy Nutrition Education Grant Program – www.3aday.org
- Carol M. White Physical Education Program (PEP) – due April 12 – www.pepgrant.info

Knox County Retired Teachers

The Retired Teachers will meet on the following upcoming dates:

May 22nd – Coldbrook Church

July 24 – Covenant Church

September 25 – Faith Lutheran in Wataga

December 4 – First Lutheran Church

Knox County Geography Bowl

The Annual Knox County Geography Bowl was held at Knoxville Jr. High School on Saturday, February 11, 2006. This year's contest featured nine elementary schools including; Cooke, Costa, Gale, Hedding, King, Lincoln, Nielson, Silas and Steele. Five middle/junior high schools competed in the Secondary Division including: Abingdon, Churchill, Costa, Knoxville and Lombard.

Lincoln School won first place in the Elementary Division followed by Steele and Gale. The Secondary Division winner was Abingdon Middle School with Lombard and Churchill finishing Second and Third respectively.

Knox County Spelling Bee

The Annual Knox County Spelling Bee was held on Tuesday, March 7, 2006 at the Galesburg Public Library. Twenty-two winners from the county schools, grades 4 - 8, competed for the Championship and the right to advance to the Central Illinois Grand Finals Spelling Bee on Friday, March 31st at WEEK-TV 25 in East Peoria, Illinois. The winner at Peoria will compete in the 79th Scripps Howard National Spelling Bee on May 29-June 2nd in Washington, D.C..

This year's winner is Henry Ward, a Fifth Grader at Gale Elementary School and the runner-up was Chomba Simuzoshya, a Sixth Grade Student at the Galesburg Christian School.

PROJECT ADEPT.

Project ADEPT recently attended the annual ICEARY Conference in Springfield, IL. The sessions held at the conference were intense. They showed a hands-on approach when dealing with our at-risk youth. All in all, the sessions provided an in-depth knowledge of how to reach and teach our youth.

Project ADEPT is still offering classroom discussions on Truancy. Any classes who may want to participate, please call the Truancy Office at 345-0157.

**TEACHER AND STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK
MAY 7-13, 2006**

**VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION WEEK
APRIL 23-29, 2006**

The next Home Schoolers Parent Meeting will be on Tuesday,
April 18th 4:00 – 5:30