



University of Illinois Illinois North Central NEWSLETTER



Fall 2006

Contact Us!

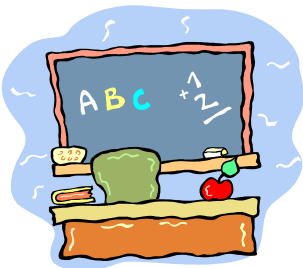
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Welcome Back!



Inside this edition:

- ⇒ Fall Professional Development
- ⇒ District Accreditation
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- ⇒ School Improvement Resources & Tools

It's Finally Fall!



From the Director's Desk...

The 2006-07 school year will be one of transition for Illinois NCA. As we continue to provide service and assistance to all member schools, we will also begin to gear up in preparation for the new standards and accreditation process that has resulted from our unification with the Southern Association CASI and the National Study of School Evaluation. AdvancED is the parent organization of NCA CASI, SACS CASI and NSSE and will serve 21,000 public and private schools and districts in 30 states and 65 countries, touching 15 million students. Through AdvancED, NCA CASI and SACS CASI will transition from setting standards for their respective regions to establishing unified quality standards for education in a global society. The transformation is from regional accreditation to a global system of accreditation, continuous improvement, and research.

The aspects schools value about NCA are not changing. All schools will continue to receive the NCA accreditation seal that is recognized around the world. Schools will continue to work with their state offices and local professional development will continue. Please visit the NCA website www.nca.uillinois.edu often for current information.

I am very excited about the unification—schools will not be asked to “undo” what they are doing but will respond to all aspects of continuous improvement, not just the planning and documenting.

I look forward to working with you as we transition to higher standards of quality.

I hope you will call 866-292-1781 or e-mail smorriso@uillinois.edu with questions or concerns.

Ready to Conclude Your School Improvement Plan?

If you have 2 or 3 years of data available, I strongly encourage you to host an external team review—during the 2006-07 school year. If you have questions or I can be of any assistance please don't hesitate to contact me at 866-292-1781.

Visit us on the web to register for an End of Cycle workshop designed just for those concluding a school improvement cycle.

www.nca.uillinois.edu

Professional Development Opportunities

www.nca.illinois.edu

Developing Your School Improvement Plan

September 26, 2006—Oak Brook
 October 3, 2006—Springfield
 October 24, 2006—Moline
 November 28, 2006—Oak Brook
 February 8, 2007—Springfield
 April 17, 2007—Oak Brook

Implementing & Monitoring Your School Improvement Plan

September 28, 2006—Oak Brook
 October 4, 2006—Springfield
 November 30, 2006—Moline
 February 13, 2007—Belleville
 April 18, 2007—Oak Brook

Everything You Are Expected to Know About Teaching...But Might Not Have Been Told (for 1st—5th year teachers)

October 19, 2006—Oak Brook
 October 23, 2006—Springfield

Improving Test Performance for Students with Disabilities

October 27, 2006—Bloomington
 December 1, 2006—Oak Brook
 January 23, 2007—Oak Brook
 February 9, 2007—Springfield

ISAT Math Workshop

March 6, 2007—Springfield
 March 8, 2007—Oak Brook
 May 15, 2007—Bloomington

The Truth, the Whole Truth and Nothing but the Truth about ISAT Reading and Writing

December 5, 2006—Springfield
 December 12, 2006—Oak Brook

Accreditation for the 21st Century: The AdvancED Process

February 15, 2007—Oak Brook
 February 16, 2007—Springfield
 March 29, 2007—Peoria
 April 26, 2007—Belleville
 May 8, 2007—Oak Brook
 May 10, 2007—Springfield

End of Cycle Team Visit

September 18, 2006—Macomb
 September 20, 2006—Rock Island
 September 22, 2006—Springfield
 September 27, 2006—Oak Brook
 November 13, 2006—Belleville
 December 14, 2006—Oak Brook

School Improvement Resources & Tools

The National Study of School Evaluation (NSSE) is the research and development arm of our parent organization, AdvancED. I encourage you to visit their website at www.nsse.org and take advantage of their many school improvement resources including surveys, inventories, web-based data tools and many school improvement support materials. NCA is fortunate to have NSSE as a member of our unified team!

Visit the high school website at
http://www.isbe.net/high_school/default.htm
 to access material and videos from the High School Challenge Conference.

District Accreditation — Is it right for you?

District Accreditation continues to gather momentum across the country. It is a systems approach to school improvement that helps district leaders focus their efforts, energies and resources to raise student achievement. Accreditation at the District level is specifically designed for administrators who are dedicated to district-wide success.

It's Question Time!

⇒ *How Does District Accreditation Work?*

High standards, continuous improvement and external review—the characteristics central to NCA CASI school—level accreditation—are also the characteristics of District Accreditation. District Accreditation assesses the ability of the central office to support, drive, and monitor a continuous improvement process for all of its schools.

⇒ *How is District Accreditation Granted?*

A district may earn term accreditation for all of its schools by demonstrating that it has met the criteria for District Accreditation.

⇒ *How Much Does District Accreditation Cost?*

District Accreditation can help district leaders streamline multiple improvement initiatives and focus resources on meeting the needs of all of their schools. The district pays the accreditation dues for each school as well as the costs of the external visits. Because district administrators manage the external school review process internally, the process can result in considerable cost savings.

⇒ *What Commitments Are REQUIRED From the District?*

All of the schools in the district must seek or hold NCA CASI accreditation. The district must designate one internal staff member to co-ordinate all improvement efforts.

⇒ *What Are the Benefits?*

- Earn NCA accreditation, a nationally-recognized mark of quality, for the system and all schools within the system.
- Focus the entire district on the primary goals of improving student achievement and creating lifelong learners.
- Meet and exceed local, state, and federal requirements through a unified and streamlined process.
- Reduce duplication of effort and costs across the system.
- Improve communications, articulation and the sharing of best practices.
- Enhance local control and district-wide management of the continuous improvement process
- Receive external validation and support of your improvement efforts
- Increase the district's capacity to assess its own needs and respond effectively.



I am personally excited about the potential and possibilities associated with District Accreditation. If you are interested in becoming one of the first Districts in Illinois to pursue accreditation and would like to discuss this further, please contact the Illinois NCA office.

State Advisory Committee Members

Dr. Fran Brady—East Leyden High School, Franklin Park
 Dr. Brian Brown—Brehm Preparatory School, Carbondale
 Dr. Steve Cordogan—Township High School Dist. 214, Arlington Heights
 Mr. Jerry Douglas—Chaddock School, Quincy
 Mr. Paul Maloney—Archdiocese of Chicago, Chicago
 Mr. Eric McLaren—Illinois Math & Science Academy, Aurora
 Ms. Elise Schwartz—Carlinville Primary School, Carlinville
 Dr. Susan Silvey—Bloomington Junior High School, Bloomington

THANK
YOU

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*“If you want to go fast, go
alone. But if you want to
go far, go with others”*

- African Proverb

On-Line Updates Requested From Members

In an effort to keep the Illinois database correct, we are asking all Illinois Member Schools to log onto www.nca.uillinois.edu and go to “Update Your School Info”.

We are trying to confirm phone and fax numbers; e-mail, mailing, and building (physical) addresses; and key people at the building and district level.

This information can be submitted on-line and should take only a few minutes to complete.

Thank you for taking the time to make sure we have the most accurate information for you and your school!

*“Accreditation is an activity, not a status. Schools are accredited
because of the way they move, not the way they stand.”*

John A. Stoops

Former Middle States Executive Director
