

STATE OF ILLINOIS
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

TEACHER QUALITY ENHANCEMENT STATE GRANT AWARD

The Illinois State Board of Education, the Illinois Community College Board, and the Illinois Board of Higher Education endorsed the creation of a P-16 Partnership Agreement in February 1999. Under the leadership of the Deputy Governor for Education and the Joint Education Committee, the chief executive officers of the education agencies and their staffs have worked together to improve student preparation, teacher preparation, and the implementation and integration of technology in all levels of instruction. One of the most tangible results of this sustained focus on joint educational priorities is the successful submission of a grant proposal to the federal Title II Teacher Quality Enhancement State Grant Program that resulted in a \$4.3 million grant over three years.

The key objective of the Title II State Grant Program is to make systemic change in state teacher recruitment, preparation, licensure, certification, and relevant support policies and practices. To do this, states are required to build and sustain broad partnerships across their education system in order to develop and implement major reforms in these areas. The major goals of the Illinois grant are the following:

- Develop a middle-grade teaching certificate;
- Improve the knowledge and skills of middle grade teachers, with initial priority on teacher preparation programs serving high-poverty urban and rural areas;
- Develop and implement statewide recruitment activities to increase the supply of effective teachers; and
- Expand and redesign, as necessary, a data system to identify teacher supply and demand imbalances.

On February 1, the Board was notified by the State Board of Education, the fiscal agent of record for the grant, that it is ready to issue a subgrant of \$1,010,864 to the Board of Higher Education to carry out the terms, activities, and deliverables delineated in the grant application work plan and budget for the first year of the grant. The grant will support the hiring of new staff to oversee the project and related activities as well as subgrants to four public universities: Chicago State University, Northeastern Illinois University, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, and Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville.

The staff recommends adoption of the following resolution:

The Board of Higher Education authorizes the Executive Director to oversee the activities and expenditures of the Title II Teacher Quality Enhancement State Program sub-grant in a manner consistent with state and federal regulations. In addition, the Board requests an annual summary report of grant progress and accomplishments.