



Springfield Day 2009



A day for gifted and talented children, their families,
and their teachers to gather in

Springfield, Illinois
April 29, 2009, Wednesday

Organizing Packet

For Families, Family Groups, Parent Organization Groups, & School Groups

(Please help us by sharing this packet with as many families and teachers as possible)

Table of Contents

Background on IL Gifted Education by Dr. Sally Walker, IAGC	1 - 2
Objective of this Packet, Contact Information, Resources for you	3
Why Participate in Springfield Day?	4
Plan for the Day	5
Organizing your Visit Checklist	6 - 7

Appendix I - Sample One-page Flyer _____ 8

Appendix II - Sample Flyer from a Parent Organization _____ 9 - 10

Appendix III - Information to get the Most out of Your Visit _____ 11

Appendix IV - What We Accomplished by Visiting in 2008 _____ 12

Appendix V - History of Gifted Education Funding in Illinois _____ 13

Appendix VI - Meeting the Needs of Gifted/Talented Learners _____ 14

Appendix VII - Springfield Maps & Springfield Attractions _____ 15

Appendix VIII - Thank You from Illinois Assoc. for Gifted Children _____ 16

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BACKGROUND ON ILLINOIS GIFTED EDUCATION FROM DR. SALLY WALKER

For over 30 years, Illinois was regarded as one of the leading states in serving the needs of gifted and talented children. This reputation ended in the 2003 Spring legislative session when an end-of-session budget deal **eliminated** the gifted education article of the School Code and folded the Gifted Education funding into the general state aid, removing any financial incentives for school districts to offer special services for gifted children.

Illinois went from \$19+ million to \$0 in one swoop of the pen. School districts are now responsible for all policies and funding related to gifted education.

Due to lack of funding from the state, many of the previously identified gifted and talented children in Illinois who benefited from gifted educational services no longer receive them. Many districts have cut back or eliminated their gifted programs. In order to comply with No Child Left Behind legislation, districts are frequently forced to focus their limited resources on children who do not meet grade level expectations.

Since the elimination of gifted education funding in 2003, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) is no longer collecting data on the number of gifted and talented students identified or served in the state. There is **no state monitoring or auditing of gifted programs** and professionals teaching in programs for the gifted and talented have no required course work, certification or endorsement. In Illinois **only two universities** offer a Master's Degree in gifted education, Northeastern and **none** offer a Doctoral degree.

Gifted students are as far from the mean as are the special needs students at the other end of the learning continuum. Their needs are just as different from the regular class as are special education students. There tends to be the misconception that gifted students will "make it on their own" or will fine because they can meet the grade level standards. In reality, gifted students, if not challenged, can become bored and may never develop the necessary skills and persistence to realize their potential. **All students deserve the right to learn something new every day, to be challenged with new information, and to learn good study skills.**

Gifted students learn faster than average students. It takes a gifted student 1-5 repetitions to learn new information while average students require up to 25 repetitions of the same material. Gifted students are being "left behind" when the depth, complexity, and pacing of the curriculum and instruction does not commensurate with their ability.

In 2005 gifted education language was restored to the Illinois school code, but there was no funding until 2008. Gifted education was allocated \$2 million this year, not enough to support services in every district. This small amount has been used to write and deliver professional development for educators so that they can recognize and meet the needs of gifted children. The only districts that still have gifted programs are supporting those programs with local funds.

Gifted and talented children represent all races, ethnic groups, and income levels. They are located in all school districts in this state. As advocates for gifted children, we must implore the state legislators and officials to allocate the funding needed to provided gifted programs and services.

Thank you for all the support you can give the gifted and talented students of Illinois.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sally Y. Walker

Executive Director, Illinois Association for Gifted Children



OBJECTIVE OF THIS PACKET

This packet will provide you with the information to organize your trip. Families, groups of families, parent organization groups, school groups, friends, and relatives will all participate. Last year, more than 1,000 people gathered in Springfield! This year we are hoping for even greater participation!!

If you are organizing for many families/students in your school district, you are a School District Organizer. If your district does not have a School District Organizer and you are bringing your family, you are a Family Organizer. This packet is for both types of Organizers. If we hear from 2 or more Family Organizers from the same school district, we will connect you together.

In addition to this packet, we will send you email updates leading up to the event, including information regarding lunch, parking, and final details. Please email Jill Ko at Springfield.day@sbcglobal.net so that she can add you to the email distribution list. In the meantime, please contact Jill with any questions. If you do not know your schedule until a later time, we still ask that you email Jill so that you can receive the updates.

Please help us spread the word by asking your school district to pass out/email the flyer on page 8 to all gifted and talented students and/or their parents in your district. We ask for your help!

WE – PARENTS, TEACHERS, AND CHILDREN – ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER!
WE HOPE YOU WILL ORGANIZE OR SUPPORT THIS IMPORTANT DAY FOR THE CHILDREN!



Contact Information

Please contact Jill Ko at Springfield.day@sbcglobal.net or (630) 978-2327 to be added to the email distribution list, to register, to ask questions, or to send suggestions.



Resources

Go to www.pace308.org or IAGC website, www.iagcgifted.org/advocacy/index.shtml, for information about this event and other Advocacy information.

We would like to thank everyone who participated in Springfield Day 2007 & 2008; Newenka DuMont, who organized the first *Springfield Day* in 2007; Terry Mohaupt, chairperson of IAGC Parent Affiliates; Cathy Greene and Susan Rhodes with IAGC Advocacy Committee; and the IAGC Board.



WHY PARTICIPATE IN SPRINGFIELD DAY

Dear parents and teachers, if we do not fight for our children and our students, who will?

On April 29th, we have an OPPORTUNITY to help our children and teachers **and** also to help thousands of teachers and hundred-thousands of the brightest minds of our state and our country. We have an OPPORTUNITY to speak up, to come together, and to have our legislators take notice. If we sit on the sidelines just hoping that our legislators will fund Gifted Education, what are the chances that the many districts, that eliminated or cut back their Gifted Programs, will restore them? What are the chances that other districts will not eliminate or cut back?

Last year, our elected officials did take notice with *Springfield Day 2008*. **Our persistence, passion, and caring made history when the state awarded \$2 million in gifted funding after 4 years of NO funding. During those 4 years, there were no state-wide trips to Springfield to meet with legislators.**

Why participate this year? Because our children and students need our help to get back the \$19 million we had in 2002-03 school year AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. More funding means more programs and services to more teachers and students. One year is a LONG time in the life of a child. The faster we fully restore gifted funding, the faster we can restore ALL gifted programs and services in our State. **\$19 million is LESS THAN 1 PERCENT of the \$9.5 BILLION state education budget.** If we do not keep advocating, we will never reach \$19 million and may receive NO amount for gifted funding this year.

There are more Reasons to Participate:

- **Meet with your local legislators IN Springfield** – It is vitally important that the **collective** body of legislators see that many constituents from across the state are concerned about gifted education and its need for funding. Going to meet them in Springfield leaves a lasting memory. The legislators spend so much time traveling back and forth to Springfield and some have other jobs as well. They appreciate their constituents visiting them in Springfield. All of us will undoubtedly get a greater appreciation for what legislators do by visiting them in the Capital.
- **See how laws are made, see our Capitol in action, and visit Springfield attractions**
This is a great **educational day** for the children and students. They will be in the middle of it all, seeing how our government works, and visiting museums or historical sites. Both House and Senate are scheduled to be in session on April 29th. We will be able to see them from the House and Senate balconies.
- **Show children THEY can shape the future of their education and the future of Gifted Education in Illinois.** This day will be a day our children and our students will never forget.
- **This opportunity to gather in Springfield happens once a year!**



PLAN FOR THE DAY

Our plan is to have Large Group common set of activities for all participants from **11:15 am – 12:15 pm**. Families and groups can set up their individual time before or after the Large Group common time.

SCHEDULE

- Morning** **WATCH LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS, MEET WITH YOUR LEGISLATORS, EAT LUNCH, OR TRAVEL TO SPRINGFIELD** - We recommend arriving in downtown Springfield by **10:45am** to allow time for parking and walking to the check-in area. See links to Springfield maps on page 15.
- 11:15 am** **CHECK-IN TIME**
Check in is at the lawn area between the Capitol and the Howlett Building. Howlett is just south of the Capitol.
***Map** of the Howlett, Capitol, Stratton building (some legislators' offices are there), and IL State Museum, are at www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/physical_services/pscomplex.html.
- 11:30am** **LARGE GROUP COMMON ACTIVITY FOR ALL GROUPS & FAMILIES**
LARGE GROUP PHOTO on the Lawn between the Capitol and Howlett,
INTRODUCTION of Families and Groups by School Districts
MEET & GREET each other.
- 12:15 pm** **INDIVIDUAL GROUP OR FAMILY TIME**
LUNCH – On your own - Have picnic lunch on the lawn or eat at Capitol cafeterias or nearby restaurants
MEET WITH YOUR LEGISLATORS – This is the reason we came to Springfield. Make sure you allow ample time to meet with them, for walking, and waiting.
WATCH LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS – Watch proceedings from the House and Senate balconies.
VISIT SPRINGFIELD ATTRACTIONS (after meeting with legislators) - We highly recommend visiting the Lincoln Presidential Museum in the afternoon. Museum information and other attraction information can be found on page 15.



ORGANIZING YOUR VISIT CHECKLIST

- _____ 1. **Contact Jill** at Springfield.day@sbcglobal.net or (630) 978-2327 so that she can register you or add you to the email list. Please provide the following -
 - **Contact information:** Name, email address and phone number
 - **Type of group:** (family, family group, parent organization group, school group)
 - **School district** you belong to and the city(cities) it serves
 - **Your plans and interest level** (are you definitely attending, or will know more later)

- _____ 2. **Share the event with others** – Email this packet or the 1-page flyer on page 8 to as many fellow parents & teachers as possible.

- _____ 3. **Busing** - See if your district can sponsor a bus for your group. If you are not able to participate without busing, please contact Jill right away. She can share with you the process for applying for a grant from IAGC.

- _____ 4. **Yellow t-shirts** – We are asking all children and interested adults to wear **yellow** t-shirts to show legislators our large number of participants and to increase our visibility. Michael's store and other stores have them for around \$6 or less. If you want to decorate shirts, suggestions are to include your school district name, parent organization name, and slogans like "I believe in gifted kids" or "Please don't leave gifted education behind." Lisa Leary is our Springfield Day shirt chairperson. She would be glad to provide you with information on purchasing/decorating your own shirts to ordering shirts from businesses. Please contact Lisa at lis1717@sbcglobal.net (preferred) or at 815-609-0615 with any questions.

- _____ 5. **Look up your legislators by typing in your address at** www.elections.il.gov/DistrictLocator/SelectSearchType.aspx. Then go to Illinois General Assembly website www.ilga.gov, click on "members," and look up your legislators' Springfield office phone number and address. Email this information to Jill at Springfield.day@sbcglobal.net.

- _____ 6. **Call your legislators' offices in Springfield** - Let the staff know you will be visiting Springfield on April 29th as part of IAGC's Springfield Day to ask legislators to support funding gifted education in the state's education budget. **Since the legislators will be very busy that day, ask the staff what is the best way to meet with the legislators.** Usually the best way is to pull them from the Senate or the House floor to meet with you or to have a scheduled meeting in their office. Most likely, the staff will not know the legislators' schedule until April 27 or 28, but please make the initial call to let them know you will be there on the 29th.

- _____ 7. **Plan activities you would like to do after 12:15** - After you talk to your legislators' offices, consider how much time it will take to meet with them and if you would like to try to get recognition from the floor (allow time for walking the hallways and waiting). Then consider how you would like to spend the rest of your time. Please refer to information on page 15.

8. Share with children and students page 11, INFORMATION TO BROWSE TO GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR VISIT

9. See if children and students can write letters or make cards for legislators

Children can write about how much they like their gifted classroom or pull-out program, their gifted teachers, how they wish they had a gifted classroom, ask or thank the legislators for supporting gifted funding, tell a personal story, etc. Please address each legislator by name. Please give these to the legislators when you meet in Springfield. They love reading children's writing.

10. Lunch & Dinner Arrangements

We recommend a sack lunch. If you prefer eating at local fast-food restaurants, go to www.visit-Springfieldillinois.com/hpartners/hplist.asp?RestType=Soup. Nearby restaurants are Subway's on 6th and Adams, (217) 522-8772, and Quizno's on 5th and Washington, (217) 744-1820. For large groups, preordering from Jimmy John's on 219 S. 6th Street for delivery may be a good option. To pre-order lunch, call them at (217) 525-8470 at least 2 days in advance. For their menu, go to <http://www.jimmyjohns.com/menu/menu.aspx>. (We would like to thank Lili Holland from GECO parent organization for this information.) For dinner options, go to www.visit-springfieldillinois.com/Visitor/RestaurantList.asp for a complete list of restaurants.

11. Make hotel arrangements, if needed – Most participants do not stay overnight in Springfield. However, if you are interested, see the list of hotels at <http://www.online-springfield.com/motels.html> or www.visit-springfieldillinois.com/Contact/documents/07-08studentregistrationform.pdf. When the legislature is in session, it can be difficult to get a hotel room in Springfield. If Springfield hotels are full, consider staying in nearby Bloomington/Normal or Decatur.



SPRINGFIELD DAY 2009

A day for gifted and talented children, their families, and their teachers to gather in Springfield, Illinois- Sponsored by the Illinois Assoc. for Gifted Children

APRIL 29, 2009

Mark your calendars and plan to join hundreds of gifted and talented children, their parents, and their teachers from across the state on a visit to our state capital. [Last year over 1,000 parents, students, and teachers participated, and for the first time in five years, the state provided some funding for Gifted Education.](#) Our collective voices were heard! With your participation this year, it is our goal that the level of funding will be increased.

The objectives of this event are twofold. First, we want to meet with legislators to share with them the needs of gifted and talented students and to show how many families and teachers from across the state support funding for Gifted Education. We want to make sure we continue to receive funding and to increase the funding level to help more teachers and students. Second, we want our children to experience democracy in action, see how laws are made, and visit Springfield attractions. Consider this event as an activity to complement the school curriculum.

Families, teachers, parent organization groups, and school groups will all participate. We - parents, teachers, and children - are all in this together. Show children they can shape the future of their education. It will be a day your family and your students will never forget! **Please register and join us!**

OVERALL PROGRAM FOR APRIL 29, 2009

11:15 am CHECK-IN time (If you have time, meet legislators or eat lunch before 11:15)

11:30 am LARGE GROUP COMMON ACTIVITY FOR ALL GROUPS AND FAMILIES

Large Group Photo by the State Capitol;

Introduction of Families and Groups by School Districts

Meet and Greet each other.

12:15 pm INDIVIDUAL GROUP TIME OR FAMILY TIME

Lunch – Picnic lunch on the lawn or at the Capitol cafeterias

Meet with your Legislators

Watch legislative proceedings and/or visit Springfield attractions

Contact Jill Ko, state Springfield Day organizer, at Springfield.day@sbcglobal.net or (630) 978-2327 to register or to receive more information. She can also share with you others from your school district who are participating.

Please share this flyer with your school district families, teachers, and administration! To view the Organizing Packet and for more information, visit www.pace308.org or IAGC website www.iagcgifted.org/advocacy/index.shtml.

JOIN US FOR THIS IMPORTANT DAY FOR OUR CHILDREN!

(Appendix II -SAMPLE FLYER - This is a flyer that PACE parent organization in Oswego, IL plans to give to students to take home. Their gifted program is an Academically Talented program. This will be on 1 sheet of paper, double-sided.)



SPRINGFIELD DAY 2009

A day for academically talented children, their families, and their teachers to gather in Springfield, Illinois- Sponsored by the Illinois Assoc. for Gifted Children

APRIL 29, 2009

Join hundreds of academically talented children, their parents, and their teachers from across the state on a **visit to Springfield**, our state capital. This is sponsored by Illinois Association for Gifted Children(IAGC). The objectives of this visit are twofold. First, we want to meet with legislators to make them aware of the needs of gifted students and to show how many families and teachers from across the state support funding for Gifted Education. Second, this is a great opportunity for children to experience democracy in action, see how laws are made, and visit Springfield attractions. Funding, not only helps our children, but also children throughout our state. Besides, meeting our legislators, watching legislative sessions from chamber balconies, visiting the Lincoln Presidential Museum, and meeting families just like us from all over the state, is an **experience children will never forget**.

Bring the family to Springfield on April 29, 2009! Families, parent groups, and school groups will all participate.

See back page for the planned activities for our families!

Please contact us with how many members of your family will be attending at (put in email address and phone number) or mail back below form postmarked by April 15, 2008. After April 15, call us to sign up, but we will not have t-shirts available. For children and adults who are interested, we are providing PACE t-shirts to wear at cost of only \$7.

For More Information: Visit www.pace308.org or IAGC website, www.iagcgifted.org/advocacy/index.shtml. Contact (put in Organizer's name, email address, and phone number).

----- please detach and mail below form postmarked by April 15, 2008 -----



RSVP & PACE T-shirt Order Form T-shirts will be yellow with the PACE logo shown on left. **Please indicate t-shirt size and quantity.** Cost is \$7 per shirt:

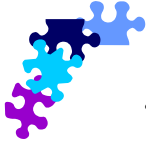
___ children size 6-8 ___ children 10-12 ___ children 12-14 ___ adult small ___ adult medium ___ adult large

Name of Parent(s) _____ Home phone _____

Address _____ Email Address _____

If you would like to also RSVP with this form, please indicate how many members from your family will be attending. # of Adults, # of Children

Please enclose check payable to PACE and return form to PACE Springfield Day, c/o (put in Organizer's name and address). Families will receive a confirmation email followed by more detailed information.



The TOTALLY COOL PROGRAM PLANNED FOR
APRIL 29, 2009!

**** Large group common activities with all families in Illinois ****

- 11:30 am** **Large Group photo** of everyone in front of the Capitol
Introduction of parent organization groups, school groups, families, and school groups by school district
Meet and Greet everyone

******* PACE family activities *******

- 12:15 pm** **Picnic lunch**

- 1:00 pm** **Meet with our legislators, visit their offices, and watch legislative proceedings.**

- 3:00 pm** **Visit Lincoln Presidential Museum,**
www.alplm.org/museum/museum.html, (217) 558-8844. Our state's Presidential museum is the pride of Illinois. It has state-of-the-art special effects, interactive displays, & multi-media programs, some of which are made by Disney. It is a Presidential museum like no other! To see the fascinating 9-minute video on the Making of the Museum, go to www.alplm.org/dvd/preview.html. This museum is highly recommended by everyone who has visited there.

- 5:15 pm** **Dinner** at local or fast-food restaurant.
-



Appendix III – INFORMATION TO BROWSE TO GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR VISIT

Share these kid-friendly websites with children and students! They will get a greater appreciation for what they will see and do in Springfield!

Springfield Information

For "probably more than you'd ever want to know about Springfield," go to www.online-springfield.com/facts.html. There, you can also browse Springfield sites and their photos at <http://www.online-springfield.com/sites/>

President Lincoln Websites

See this website, www.berwickacademy.org/lincoln/lincoln.htm, which has information about President Lincoln in both English and Spanish! Although much of the information is aimed at Elementary students, there are many links to other useful Lincoln websites.

Lincoln Presidential Museum

Its official website is www.alplm.org/museum/museum.html. For the 9-minute video on the Making of the Museum, go to <http://www.alplm.org/dvd/preview.html>.

Illinois General Assembly (House and Senate) Website

Check out this must-see official website of the Illinois General Assembly, <http://www.ilga.gov/>. See photos of your legislators, their background, and committees they serve on. This website is full of information including audio and video of sessions.

Capitol Building Information

For fascinating information about the Capitol building, see www.ilstatehouse.com/ and also check out their "Kid's Zone" page at www.ilstatehouse.com/kid_zone.htm.

How Legislative Branch of Government Works

For background information on how the legislative branch of our government works, the US House of Representatives has an informative website for children, http://clerkkids.house.gov/parent_teach/edu.html.

What Rules do Legislators follow in Legislative Proceedings?

Once in the balconies, what will the children see? After each election the legislative body must establish its rules as a first order of business. These rules are published on the internet for all to see (documents are long and are suited for older children). Senate rules are at <http://www.ilga.gov/senate/95thSenateRules.pdf>, and House rules are at <http://www.ilga.gov/house/95thHouseRules.pdf>.

Need to fund Gifted Education

Share with children and students the information on the following Appendices on what we accomplished last year and our need for funding.



Appendix IV – WHAT WE ACCOMPLISHED BY VISITING IN 2008

\$2 million was awarded to Gifted Education in the 2007-08 State Education Budget!

Funds will go to the ISBE (Illinois State Board of Education), which has a list of priorities for spending. These priorities include the following initiatives:

- **Professional development for teachers**
In order for educators to understand the characteristics and needs of gifted students, it is recommended that a statewide Gifted Education Institute course be updated, revised, and taught across the state.
- **On-line distance learning courses for teachers in gifted education**
Many districts in Illinois are isolated and unable to obtain college course work in gifted education. In order for educators to be knowledgeable about gifted students and best practices for the classroom, on-line classes would be made available state-wide.
- **Start up grants for model programs**
Programs for underserved gifted children will be encouraged as well as programs for their teachers and parents.
- **IAGC standards for gifted education teachers**
Since there is no state certification for gifted education, the IAGC Standards Committee has been working to develop standards and assessments based on what teachers of the gifted should know and be able to do to meet the needs of these students. A knowledge assessment component has been developed by this committee and is included in the new rules and regulations. This project needs to be finalized.

Below is the current state of gifted legislation in Illinois

LANGUAGE: Illinois Public Act P.A. 94-410 (2005) restored gifted education to the School Code. For a print-friendly version of the full text, go to <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=094-0410&print=true>

FUNDING: Illinois Public Act 95-348 (2007) lists gifted education with its own line item in the State Board of Education's budget.

RULES: For rules on how gifted funding will be handled, approved by ISBE Board (2006), go to <http://www.isbe.net/rules/archive/pdfs/227ARK.pdf>



Appendix V – HISTORY OF FUNDING FOR GIFTED EDUCATION IN ILLINOIS

2003-2004 All gifted funding of \$19 million was eliminated from the categorical grant and put into the general fund in the fiscal '03 budget, and all references to gifted education in the Illinois School Code were eliminated.

2005 Gifted language in the Illinois School Code was restored through hard work and advocacy.

2007-2008 \$2 million for Gifted Funding has been restored through everyone's hard work and advocacy, nowhere near the \$19 million allocated to gifted education in 2002-2003.

School Year	Gifted Funding Guaranteed	
91-92	\$10,059,600	
92-93	10,059,600	
93-94	17,445,800	
94-95	19,695,800	
95-96	19,695,800	
96-97	19,695,800	
97-98	19,695,800	
98-99	19,695,800	
99-00	19,695,800	
00-01	19,695,800	
01-02	19,695,800	
02-03	19,000,000	
03-04	0	
04-05	0	
05-06	0	
06-07	0	
07-08	2,000,000	

Please visit the **IAGC Advocacy website** for more details on the history of gifted education in Illinois: www.iagcgifted.org/advocacy/index.shtml.

NAGC – National Association for Gifted Children - has helpful information on what is happening in all the states, including Illinois. Go to www.nagc.org/ and click on "Gifted by State" on the left side. To see Illinois gifted education policies and information, click on the map, and then click on Illinois.



Appendix VI – MEETING THE NEEDS OF GIFTED AND TALENTED LEARNERS

We need the full \$19 million to adequately fund Gifted Education.

The table below is taken from the IAGC Advocacy website at:

<http://www.iagcgifted.org/advocacy/ChartonFundingAndNoFunding.htm>.

<i>With Statutory and Financial Provisions</i>	<i>Without Statutory and Financial Provisions</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ School districts identify students with gifts and talents whose needs require different programs and services. ▪ Professional development opportunities are provided to prepare teachers to address the needs of gifted/talented learners. This creates better teachers for ALL learners. ▪ School districts look for and address the needs of gifted/talented students from low-income and minority families. ▪ Schools provide specific programs and services to meet the needs of students with gifts and talents. ▪ Students whose advanced learning needs are met tend to score well on standardized tests, often exceeding expectations. ▪ Corporations and businesses consider the educational programs available to their employees who often require services to gifted/talented learners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ School districts no longer are required to identify and provide services to students whose needs are different. ▪ Educators must seek, on their own, appropriate curriculum and methods to meet the needs of gifted/talented learners – or decide not to address these needs. ▪ Low-income and minority gifted/talented students may go unrecognized in their classrooms. ▪ When schools do not meet the needs of gifted/talented students, families may seek private schools or decide to home school. ▪ Unchallenged students may develop poor attitudes toward school and may fail to perform well academically. ▪ Failure to support and acknowledge gifted education may cause corporations/individuals not to locate in Illinois.



Appendix VII – SPRINGFIELD MAPS & SPRINGFIELD ATTRACTIONS

Maps to Springfield and maps of Springfield are at www.visit-springfieldillinois.com/Visitor/Transportation.asp and <http://map.mapnetwork.com/destination/springfield/il/>

Springfield attractions from the Springfield Illinois Convention and Visitors Bureau website can be viewed at <http://www.visit-springfieldillinois.com/>. Photos and information on attractions can be found at <http://www.online-springfield.com/sites/>. You can receive a free copy of the Springfield Visitor's Guide at www.gammet.com/clients/springfield/visitors_guide.htm or by calling (800) 545-7300.

Below two attractions are available to us –

1. Lincoln Presidential Museum - We have been advised by the Museum to go in as individual families or school groups of 1 adult per 10 students because bookings for groups of 15 or more have been full since October, 2008. **TIP:** Meet legislators and watch the proceedings, before heading over to the Museum. It may be around 3pm when you are done visiting with the legislators.

www.alplm.org/museum/museum.html, (217) 558-8844, 212 North Sixth Street.

Our State's Presidential museum is the pride of Illinois and will definitely be worth your time. Plan to spend at least 1½ to 2 hours. To see the 9-minute video, *Making of the Museum*, go to <http://www.alplm.org/dvd/preview.html>. Museum has many state-of-the-art displays, interactive displays, multi-media programs, and even 1861 Reproduction of the White House. Cost is \$7.50 for adults and \$3.50 for children. Box office closes at 4pm, and museum closes at 5pm. Tickets are available over the internet, up until 3 days in advance. If you know you are going to visit, you can save time by buying in advance at <http://tickets.alplm.com/>.

2. Illinois State Museum – www.museum.state.il.us/, (217)782-7386, 502 South Spring Street, is next to the Howlett Building and is free and open until 5pm. 1 hour self-guided tour. Permanent and changing exhibits tell the story of Illinois land, life, people and art. It has interactive natural history exhibits and explores 500 million years of Illinois environments.

NOTE: April 29th is a very popular day for visitors. Sites, including Lincoln's Home and the Lincoln Presidential Museum (for large groups only), have been booked since October, 2008. If you would like to schedule a group tour for 15 or more people, tours are still available for some sites. You must book the tours through the Springfield Convention & Visitor's Bureau. Please download and mail the form on <http://www.visit-springfieldillinois.com/Tours/>. Please call Kim with Springfield Convention & Visitor's Bureau at (217) 789-2360 Ext:154 or (800) 545-7300 to find out which tours below are available.

- **Probably FULL - Illinois State Capitol** (30 min.) Tour of Capitol, and Watch House and Senate proceedings when Legislature is in session.
- **May be FULL - Old State Capitol State Historic Site** (30 min.) Lincoln delivered his famous "House Divided" speech here.
- **Lincoln-Herndon Law Office State Historic Site** (40 min.) Constructed in 1840, this is the only surviving structure in which Lincoln maintained working law offices.
- **Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site** (2hrs.) Reconstructed log cabin village. Lincoln lived here as a young man. Self-guided tour. For educational materials, see web site www.petersburgil.com/p_newsalem.html
- **Lincoln Depot** (30 min.) Lincoln's Farewell Address was delivered at this site, visit includes a/v program.
- **Illinois State Capitol Complex Visitors Center** (30 Min.) Provides information and exhibits about the Capitol Complex and Illinois.
- **Lincoln Tomb State Historic Site** (30 min.) The final resting place of Abraham Lincoln and his family. Guided tour.



Appendix VIII – THANK YOU FROM ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION FOR GIFTED CHILDREN

Dear Parents and Teachers,

We gratefully appreciate your efforts to organize, participate, and support *Springfield Day 2009*. The funding for Gifted Education by the state legislature may not be kept or increased without your commitment, dedication, and efforts. The children and teachers in Illinois and our organization owe you our deepest gratitude.

Sincerely,

Kris McElligatt
President, Illinois Association for Gifted Children

And

Illinois Association for Gifted Children's Board of Directors and Committee Chairs

Board of Directors –

Sally Walker, Executive Director	Bonnie Park, Chair of the Board
Kris McElligatt, President	Diane Beedy
Michele Kane, President Elect	Cathy Greene
Julie Luck Jensen, Past President	Mamon Gibson
Judy Hart Rhoads, Secretary	Susan Rhodes
Ken Indeck, Treasurer	Nancy Hertzog
Paula Olszewski-Kubilius	Lori Swan
Nancy Heaton	

Committee Chairs -

Parent Affiliates - Terry James Mohaupt

Advocacy - Cathy Greene, Susan Rhodes

Social Emotional - Michele Kane

Professional Development - Sally Walker

Communications:

The IAGC Courier Publication - Kris McElligatt, Donna Steckling (office)

Journal - Joan Franklin Smutny

Consultant - Terry James Mohaupt

Convention - Bonnie Park, Mary Ann Paradise (Consultant)

Executive – Bonnie Park

Finance – Ken Indeck

Scholarships & Awards – Nancy Heaton

ROE/ISC Liaison - Diane Beedy

Underserved Populations - Penny Choice, Rosina Gallagher

University Liaison - Paula Olszewski-Kubilius

Early Childhood - Nancy Hertzog, Laura Beltchenko

Membership - Lauren Marder Mastrud, Terry James Mohaupt (Consultant)

Policy – Julie Luck Jensen

Standards – Sally Walker

Springfield Day – Jill Ko

Independent/Private School Liaison – Marsha Hestad