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New Requirements for Administrative Certificate Renewal

Continued

administrators will receive a new administrative certificate in 2005, '06, or '07. Upon receipt of the new certificate, each administrator will need to prepare a five-year professional development plan that must be completed by the new certificate's expiration date.

Beginning in July 2003, and until administrative certificates are renewed (in '05, '06, or '07 for most), administrators must complete the new annual requirements but will not need to prepare a Professional Development Plan.

Some features of the Administrative Certificate Renewal System are similar to the Teacher Certification Renewal System. These are:

- **Valid and active/Valid and exempt status for certificates**
- **A proportionate reduction of requirements**

Phase IX Deadline Extended

As a result of the July 1, 2003 start of the new Administrative Certificate Renewal process, the deadline for Phase IX of the Illinois Administrators' Academy has been extended to June 30, 2003. Originally, Phase IX was scheduled to end September 30, 2002, but with the advent of a new system just nine months away, ISBE has extended Phase IX.

Under the new system there will be no Phases. Each administrator will be accountable for completion of required professional development activities during the period of validity of their administrative certificate.

for each year an administrator is not active

- **A five-year professional development plan**
- **An exemption of requirements for retirees who work 120 days or less per year.**

The new, streamlined, Administrative Certificate Renewal system is expected to minimize paperwork and to encourage and promote learning and professional

growth of all Illinois' school leaders. Rules and Regulations will be written this fall. The West 40 staff encourages you to follow the Administrative Certificate Renewal process, and ask questions, to help insure the system will serve your needs. For more information, call Kay Poyner Brown at West 40, 708/447-6070 or the ISBE Certificate Renewal Division at 1-800-238-2738. ■

New Programs in Fall Professional Development Catalog

It's back to school, and the Fall West 40 Professional Development Catalog is arriving in your district, with many programs specially created to meet your needs. Be sure to check out the catalog for many timely new programs, including:

Quality Mentoring:

The Key to New Teacher Success

is designed to support mentors of new teachers by sharpening skills, exploring research, gaining insight about their roles, and building a network of fellow mentors.

September 26, October 3, November 7, 2002 and January 21, 2003

Writing the Technology Plan Right!

It's time for many districts to update their three-year technology plans. Here's an opportunity to facilitate the process by reviewing submission requirements and procedures from state and federal programs.

October 10

No Child Left Behind:

Implications for Special Education Students and Other Special Populations

This program addresses the sweeping legislation of the ESEA Reauthoriza-

tion Act of 2002. Learn what this means for all school districts through both federal and Illinois State perspectives. September 18

Additional classes for special education teachers include "Making Data Collection Work for You," November 21, and "Making the Illinois Alternative Assessment (IAA) Manageable," October 16.

Creating Proficient Readers: The Standards, ISAT, and No Child Left Behind

Participants will learn how to directly teach and assess essential comprehension skills as well as set up a reading

program to meet the needs of all students. Grades K-3: December 5. Grades 4-8: October 10

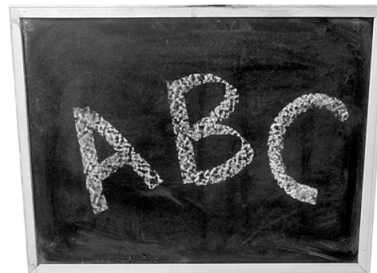
Other new ISAT related courses include "Reacting and Responding to Reading – The ISAT Extended Response," January 28, 2003, "Understanding the Mathematics ISAT," primary teachers, October 2; Intermediate, October 9; Middle School, October 11, and "Writing Skills for Success on ISAT," October 22.

For further information on West 40 Professional Development Courses, including registration information, call 708/447-6070, or visit the West 40 Web site: WWW.West40.K12.IL.US

Welcome, New Superintendents

West 40 cordially welcomes new superintendents, some of whom began serving during the last school year, to school districts in the West 40 service area: **Bruce A. Lane**, Mannheim School District 83; **Elizabeth Reynolds**, Maywood-Melrose Park School District 89; **Neil L. Pellicci**, Komarek School District 94; **Brian Barnhart** (interim), Western Springs School District 101; **James Ewing**, LaGrange School District 105; **Arleen Armanetti**, LaGrange Highlands School District 106; **Mark Fredisdorf**, Pleasantdale School District 107, and **James Surber**, LADSE.

All superintendents within the West 40 area had the opportunity to meet and mingle at a Superintendents' Breakfast hosted by West 40 on August 14.



West 40 Regional Safe Schools are Succeeding

A required annual study indicates that West 40's Regional Safe Schools are succeeding in their mission of improving outcomes for at-risk students. West 40 serves a variety of students through six programs: BEACONS Academy, Riverside | Brookfield Late School, West 40 Regional Safe School/ Middle School, MOMENTS, Morton Alternative and TALENTS. The report shows that these Regional Safe Schools are

creating environments in which students improve grades, behavior and attendance, earn academic credit, and graduate from high school.

During the 2001-2002 school year, 289 students in grades 7-12 were enrolled in the West 40 Regional Safe Schools Program (RSSP). Almost two-thirds of the students served were male (61%) and roughly one-third were female (39%).

Students enter the Regional Safe Schools

Program for any of three reasons: multiple suspensions, expelled or expulsion-eligible, or disengaged from school and likely to leave school before graduation.

In addition to school safety issues, students who enter West 40 Regional Safe Schools are identified with three types of concerns: academic, attendance and conduct. West 40 Regional Safe Schools offer students a variety of services to meet students' needs. In addition to academic instruction, students receive tutoring, mentoring, behavior modification training, community service opportunities, work-based learning opportunities, career counseling, life-skills training, counseling/therapy and referrals to social service agencies.

Congratulations to all of the West 40 Regional Safe Schools teachers and staff whose hard work on behalf of their students is making this program a success. For information on West 40's Regional Safe Schools Program, please call Maritza Guilamo, Regional Safe Schools Programs Coordinator at 708/447-6070, ext. 135. ■

2001-2002 End of Year RSSP Highlights

During the 2001-2002 school year, West 40 RSSPs provided:

- Services to 289 students at six sites
- All students (100%) with academic services (i.e., tutoring, academic instruction, mentoring)
- 85% of students with community service opportunities
- 92% of RSSP students with employment services, including work-based learning and education-to-careers activities
- 99% of students with wraparound social services.

On average, West 40 RSSP students have:

- Increased GPAs from a "D" to a "C"*
- Decreased percent of days absent by almost 50%
- Decreased conduct incidents from 5.4 incidents on average, to 0.3.

These measures have improved at a statistically significant level.

In addition:

- 79% who entered with academic concerns increased their GPAs**
- 77% who entered with attendance concerns decreased the percentage of days absent
- 91% who entered with conduct concerns decreased the number of conduct incidents
- 72% of all RSSP students received academic credit to-date
- 69 students graduated from high school and 3 students earned their GED
- 92% improved behavior
- 75% improved attendance.

* Means are calculated including only students with both baseline and follow-up values recorded.

** Improved figures calculated including only students with stated entry reasons AND both baseline and follow-up values recorded.

Educators' Accolades

Educators, let West 40 publish your accomplishments in WestWinds. If you've recently earned an advanced degree, presented, been published, won or were nominated for an award — tell us, and we'll tell the approximately 6,000 educators in the West 40 service area. Fax information — include your name, position, school, district and number where you can be reached — to Kay Poyner Brown at 708/447-6732 or e-mail kpbrown@west40.k12.il.us

Save The Dates

Mark your calendar for these West 40 Talent Searches and special events in 2003:

Math Olympiad – February 8

Speech and Drama Festival – March 1

School Citizen of the Year (SCOTY) Awards – March 19

Writing Talent Search Awards Assembly – TBA

Meet Mary Ann Coull, Administrative Assistant



As we all know, it is really the administrative assistants who keep the world running. At West 40, Administrative Assistant Mary Ann Coull (pronounced “cool”) is responsible for many details that contribute to the success of day-to-day operations. Although most of West

40’s clientele may not have contact with Mary Ann, her behind-the-scenes work in organizing information and coordinating events helps assure that everything runs smoothly.

Mary Ann came to West 40 fifteen years ago, after having served as secretary to the principal of East Leyden High School — her alma mater. Growing up in Franklin Park, she is one of two staff members who were raised in the West 40 service area.

“I really enjoy working here,” Mary Ann stated. “My co-workers are truly like a family. Most of them

have also worked here a long time. I really believe in what we do and strongly believe that our programs are the very best.”

She also enjoys the variety of work that comes her way. “It is never monotonous. There are always new challenges that make the job more interesting.” Mary Ann is not only the administrative assistant to the entire staff, but works closely with Administrators’ Academy Consultant Kay Poyner Brown to maintain the Administrators’ Academy database. She acts as office manager — ordering supplies and making sure that office equipment is maintained and repaired. She is the liaison between West 40 and Riverside |

Brookfield High School, seeing that all materials for programs (other than technology programs) held at RB are in place, that rooms are booked, breakfasts are ordered and delivered. Among many other duties, Mary Ann also keeps track of which professional development programs are in progress.

Although she enjoys change, it is also her biggest challenge. In 15 years she has seen West 40 grow in size and service. “When I began there were about six people on the staff. Since then there have been as many as 18. The variety and number of programs we offer has expanded tremendously.”

Outside of work Mary Ann enjoys a very active social life. She and her husband, Ian, also an East Leyden High School graduate, have been married for 28 years, raised three daughters, and have two granddaughters—the youngest born just a few weeks ago. They are her pride and joy. The Coulls live in St. Charles, which proves how much Mary Ann enjoys her job: She has nearly a three-and-one-half-hour roundtrip commute each day.

Ian is a third-generation Shriner who is the commander of the Medinah Black Horse Troop. (Yes, Ian rides their horse “Riser,” a black Morgan full-bred, in parades.) His volunteer work as a Shriner has taken the family to events all over the country — including to the Rose Bowl. Mary Ann enjoys this busy, but very enriching, work as well, attends all of the events and parades, and often acts as “social director.”

Next time you are in West 40’s offices, stop by and say hi to Mary Ann. If you’ve ever enjoyed a West 40 program you have benefited from her work. ■

In Focus: New Requirements for Administrative Certificate Renewal

The Certificate Renewal requirements for school administrators will change July 1, 2003. The new requirements will more closely align administrative certification and professional development, align administrators’ growth activities to the Illinois Professional Learning Standards, and in some ways mirror teachers’ Certificate Renewal Process.

Beginning next summer, administrators must document a district or school-based professional development activity — including the communication, application or dissemination of new knowledge — of approximately 20 hours, annu-

ally. Administrators will also be required to participate in one Illinois Administrators’ Academy Program per year. This means that over the five-year life of the certificate, completion of 100 hours of school- or district-based professional development activities — and five or more Administrators’ Academies totaling 36 hours — will be required for Administrative Certificate Renewal.

The expiration date of Administrative Certificates will align with the expiration date of an individual’s current teacher certificate. Most

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