



Springfield Day 2010

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

April 21, 2010, 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)

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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 ended in the 2003 when the Spring legislative session **eliminated** the gifted in 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. Gifted funding in **Illinois went from \$19+ million to \$0 in one swoop of the pen.** Local 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 those programs. Educators of 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 IL and Northwestern, and **none** offer a Doctoral degree in gifted education.

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 be 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 is not commensurate with their ability.

In 2005 gifted education language was restored to the Illinois school code, but there was no funding until 2007. Gifted education was allocated \$7 million in 2007, 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. This year \$0 have been allocated for gifted.

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

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 list. Also, please contact Jill with any questions. If you do not know your schedule until a later time, we still ask that you email us so that you can receive the updates.

Please help spread the word. Please consider forwarding the event information to other parents and teachers. Please consider asking your school district to pass out the flyer on page 8.

If you can not participate in the Springfield Day event, we ask you to consider participating in below events that may strengthen your child's school program or gifted program and will help build relationships with your legislators and your school district. Please let Jill know which events you will be participating in with your name, school district and city, and email address. This helps IAGC with their Advocacy efforts. Jill will email you back with your legislators' names and contact information.

In February or March - Visit your legislators at their home office

Visiting your legislators at their home office can strengthen your child's program. (If your schedule does not permit a meeting, please call and speak with them about the points below.) Meeting with your legislator in their home office provides you with an opportunity to:

- share your child's story with your legislator letting him or her know how teachers who know and understand gifted learners make all the difference for your child.
- personalize the need for funding for gifted education by having legislators meet your child.
- talk with your legislator about the specific characteristics of gifted learners and clear up and misconceptions your legislator has about gifted learners.
- help your legislator understand how frustrating it can be for gifted learners (and their parents) to wait for the Illinois State Board of Education and schools to believe that No Child Left Behind includes them.

In March, April, or May – Invite your legislators to your child's classroom

Inviting your legislators to your child's classroom can help strengthen your child's program. (Parents, please work with your child's teacher to schedule the visit. Invite Board of Education members and Superintendent & Administrators to the classroom during the visit):

- Meeting teachers of gifted students provides legislators with an opportunity to see and hear from them why students identified as gifted need specific services and programs.
- Seeing the programs in action helps legislators understand why funds are needed and why funds have to be specified for gifted rather than going into general state aid.



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, ask questions, or send suggestions. Please visit IAGC website, www.iagcgifted.org for information.



WHY PARTICIPATE IN SPRINGFIELD DAY

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

On April 21st, 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. Thanks to everyone's efforts in *Springfield Day 2008*, \$7 million was funded for Gifted Education in the State's Board of Education budget. These funds helped to support professional development for teachers so that they can recognize gifted students and differentiate curriculum to meet their needs. There was no funding in 2009. Advocating for funding continues to be necessary.

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 21st. 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 only once a year.**
- **It will be a day that children will never forget!**



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 add you to the email list. She will email you back with you legislators' names and contact information. Please provide the following -
 - **Contact information:** Name, email address, phone number, and address (so that she can email you your legislators' information based on your address)
 - **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 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. Transportation** – If you have a group of families or students, consider pooling your resources to rent a van or a bus, or check if your district can sponsor a bus for your group.

- _____ **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."

- _____ **5. You can 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' contact information and other interesting facts. Jill can also provide this information for you. Please email her at Springfield.day@sbcglobal.net.

- _____ **6. Call your legislators' offices in Springfield** - Let the staff know you will be visiting Springfield on April 21st 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 19th or 20th, but please make the initial call to let them know you will be there on the 21st.

- _____ **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. Have children and students can write letters or make cards for legislators

This leaves a huge impression on the 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 about the accomplishments made possible due to the gifted programs, 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 letters and cards from children. Be sure to write your address so that the legislators can write back.

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>. 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 – APRIL 21, 2010

... is a day for gifted and talented children, their families, and their teachers to gather in Springfield, Illinois to advocate for funding.

~ Sponsored by the Illinois Association for Gifted Children ~

Join hundreds of gifted and talented children, their parents, and their teachers from across the state on a **visit to Springfield**, our state capital. The purpose of this visit is to meet with legislators to inform them about the unique needs of gifted and talented students and to demonstrate support for funding for Gifted Education. In addition, children experience democracy in action. They can see how laws are made, and can visit the Lincoln Museum or other attractions. This event complements the school curriculum. Thanks to everyone's efforts in *Springfield Day 2008*, \$7 million was funded for Gifted Education in the State's Board of Education budget. These funds helped to support professional development for teachers so that they can recognize gifted students and differentiate curriculum to meet their needs. There was no funding in 2009. Advocating for funding continues to be necessary. Families, teachers, parent organizations, and school groups are invited to participate!

Please join in this memorable day.

WHY PARTICIPATE IN SPRINGFIELD DAY?

- Develop advocacy skills by meeting with your representatives in Springfield. This face-to-face meeting leaves a lasting impression on both the legislators and the participants.
- Hear legislators speak on how laws are made, their roles in state government, and view the legislature in action. Both the House and Senate are scheduled to be in session that day.
- Visit museums and learn about the history of our great state.

PROGRAM FOR APRIL 21, 2010 - WEDNESDAY

11:30 am LARGE GROUP MEET & GREET FOR ALL GROUPS AND FAMILIES

Large Group Photo by the State Capitol;
Introduction of Families and Groups by School Districts

12:15 pm FAMILY TIME OR GROUP TIME

Lunch – Picnic lunch on the lawn or at the Capitol cafeterias
Meet with your Legislators
Watch legislative proceedings and/or visit Springfield attractions

TO PARTICIPATE OR GET MORE INFORMATION:

**Contact Jill Ko at Springfield.day@sbcglobal.net or (630) 978-2327,
or visit IAGC website www.iaqcgifted.org.**



SPRINGFIELD DAY **APRIL 21, 2010**

***Day for talented children, their families,
and their teachers to gather in
Springfield, Illinois to advocate for funding.***
~ Sponsored by the Illinois Association
for Gifted Children

Join hundreds of gifted and talented children, their parents, and their teachers from across the state on a **visit to Springfield**, our state capital. The purpose of this visit is to meet with legislators to inform them about the unique needs of gifted and talented students and to demonstrate support for funding for Gifted Education. In addition, children experience democracy in action. They can see how laws are made, and can visit the Lincoln Museum or other attractions. This event complements the school curriculum. Thanks to everyone's efforts in *Springfield Day 2008*, \$7 million was funded for Gifted Education in the State's Board of Education budget. These funds helped to support professional development for teachers so that they can recognize gifted students and differentiate curriculum to meet their needs. There was no funding in 2009. Advocating for funding continues to be necessary. 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 21, 2010! Families, parent groups, and school groups will all participate!

See the following page for the planned activities for our families!

By April 10, please email us with how many members of your family will be attending and the information below or mail back the below form. After April 10, you can email us to sign up, but we can not guarantee pre-made PACE shirts. We are providing PACE t-shirts to wear at cost of \$7. For more information contact (put in Organizer's name, email address, and phone number);

Visit www.pace308.org or IAGC website, www.iagcgifted.org.

----- please detach and mail below form postmarked by April 10, 2010 -----



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 _____

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 21, 2010!

**** 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** - Please bring sack lunch

- 1:00 pm** **Meet with our legislators, visit their offices, and watch legislative proceedings.** We will meet with Representatives Tom Cross, Representative Linda Chapa LaVia, Representative Kay Hatcher, Senator Chris Lauzen, and Senator Linda Holmes.

- 3:00 pm** **Visit Lincoln Presidential Museum or other historical sites,** 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 – 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 \$7 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.

2008-2009 No Gifted Funding

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	7,000,000
08-09	0

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, 2009**. **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 \$10 for adults and \$4 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 21st 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, 2009**. 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 2010*. 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,

Michele Kane
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
Michele Kane, President	Max McGee
Rosina Gallagher, President-Elect	Diane Beedy
Kris McElligatt, Past President	Mamon Gibson
Judy Rhoads, Secretary	Susan Rhodes
Ken Indeck, Treasurer	Cathy Greene
Paula Olszewski-Kubilius	Lori Swan
Nancy Heaton	

Committee Chairs -

Parent Affiliates - Terry 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, Terry Mohaupt (Consultant)

Convention - Bonnie Park, Mary Ann Paradise (Consultant)

Executive – Bonnie Park, Julie Luck Jensen, Kris McElligatt, Michele Kane, Sally Walker

Finance – Ken Indeck

Scholarships & Awards – Nancy Heaton

ROE/ISC Liaison - Diane Beedy

Diverse Gifted Population - Penny Choice, Rosina Gallagher

University Liaison - Paula Olszewski-Kubilius

Early Childhood - Nancy Hertzog, Laura Beltchenko

Membership - Terry Mohaupt (Consultant)

Policy – Bonnie Park, Julie Luck Jensen

Standards – Sally Walker

Springfield Day – Jill Ko

Independent/Private School Liaison – Ben Hebebrand