



Illinois State Board of Education

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Jesse H. Ruiz
Chairman

Rod Blagojevich
Governor

Christopher A. Koch, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Education

October 29, 2008

Dear Educator,

Three years ago, Governor Rod Blagojevich directed the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) to work with other state agencies to create a new Comprehensive Highway Safety Plan (CHSP) for Illinois. The goal for this initiative is to reduce traffic deaths in Illinois to below 1,000 by the end of 2008.

As part of that Plan, IDOT joined forces with the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), the Illinois Chapter of the American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA), and the American Traffic Safety Services Foundation (ATSSF) to coordinate a statewide Work Zone Safety calendar contest for elementary students in Illinois schools to emphasize the importance of safe driving in work zones. Students, teachers and parents responded to this contest with more than 1,000 entries from around the state for the 2007-2008 calendar contest. Each entry showed creativity in sharing the lifesaving message of Work Zone Safety.

Again this year we are inviting students in kindergarten through sixth grade in Illinois public and private elementary schools to participate in a Work Zone Safety calendar contest. The contest promotes work zone safety by introducing children at an early age to safe driving practices with the hope of instilling a lifelong awareness of work zone hazards and fostering safe driving behavior in the future.

There are three categories for this contest: Kindergarten and First Grade; Second, Third and Fourth Grades, and Fifth and Sixth Grades. Each school will choose the top four entries from each category to submit to IDOT for the state contest. Through a series of judging panels, the top two entries from each category will be chosen and will qualify for the national calendar contest. Along with the top six contestant winners, six additional contestants will be chosen to have their entries displayed in a 12-month calendar which will be distributed to the public through community events throughout Illinois.

We will announce the winners at an awards ceremony in spring 2009. The top six contestants will receive monetary awards, and all 12 winners will receive plaques. All students who submit a contest entry will receive a certificate of participation from the Illinois partners.

I hope you will encourage your students to use their creativity to share a lifesaving message. For contest rules and additional information, please visit the contest website at www.dot.il.gov/trafficsafety/wzs/wzscontest.html Please confirm your interest by calling 217/785-3062. If you have questions, please contact Jessica Baker with the Illinois Department of Transportation at 217/785-3062.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher Koch". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Christopher A. Koch, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Education