

MONTHLY TICKLER

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Percent Changes As Reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics

For the month of **JULY, 2005**

Urban Wage Earners & Clerical

	All Urban (CPI-U)	Workers (CPI-W)
Chicago-Monthly	0.1	0.2
12 Month	2.6	2.7
St. Louis-6 Month	1.9	2.0
12 Month	3.3	3.4
U.S.-Monthly	0.5	0.5
12 Month	3.2	3.3

August CPI Figures will be released September 23, 2005.
Visit the CPI at <http://stats.bls.gov/eag/eag.us.htm>

Reminders/Notes

- Require student health exam and immunization compliance by October 15th unless your district has set an earlier date and provided such notice to parents.
- Adopt your district's final budget after completion of your public budget hearing before the end of September.
- Remember that on January 1, 2006, amendments to the *Open Meetings Act* go into effect regarding posting of meeting agendas on school websites.

The *Tickler* is intended solely to provide information to the school community. It is neither legal advice nor a substitute for legal counsel. The *Tickler* is intended as advertising but not as a solicitation of an attorney/client relationship.

Upcoming HLERK Programs and Activities--The Fall is always a busy time for school administrators so please book the dates now for these important upcoming HLERK programs.

Regional Conferences on Recent Developments in School Law *(Hosted by the Illinois Association of School Administrators)*

October 6, 2005
Collinsville Holiday Inn

October 20, 2005
Itasca, Wyndham Hotel

October 27, 2005
Peoria, Weaver Ridge Golf Club

Pension Seminar/Senate Bill 27 *(Co-Sponsored by IASA)*

October 19, 2005
Loves Park, KIDS Training Room

Contact Kathy Nelson of the IASA at (217) 786-9306 or email her at knelson@jasaedu.org to make your reservation today for any of the above programs.

Also, **Jay Kraning** will present on behalf of the Illinois Alliance of Administrators of Special Education at their Fall conference on Thursday, September 29th at the Holiday Inn in Tinley Park. Please join Jay and other HLERK attorneys the afternoon of

September 29th at the Rush Hour reception at the IAASE conference co-sponsored by HLERK.

Illinois Federal Court Upholds Public School District Dress Code--In a major victory for Illinois school districts a federal court in the Southern District of Illinois has upheld, against constitutional and statutory claims, a school board's decision to implement a school uniform policy at a high school. The case, successfully defended by HLERK attorneys **Stan Eisenhammer** and **Stephanie Jones**, is a case of first impression in Illinois.

In March, 2005, the Board of Education of Belleville Township High School District No. 201 passed a standardized dress code policy, which limits students to wearing school colors and clothes of a particular fit. Specifically, students may wear pants, collared shirts, sweaters or sweatshirts in one of 6 colors. Girls also may wear capri pants and skirts. On August 8, 2005, four parents of students in the District filed a lawsuit in St. Clair County challenging the process the District followed in adopting the policy and asking for the court to enjoin the District from implementing the policy.

The parents asked that a preliminary injunction be put into place until the court could hold a full trial on the merits. Notably, the lawsuit did not challenge the substance of the dress code, but instead argued that the District violated the parents right to due process under the United States and Illinois Constitutions. On August 19, 2005, U.S. District Court Judge Michael Reagan denied the preliminary injunction, holding that the process the District followed was appropriate, that the parents had other remedies, and that the parents did not suffer irreparable harm.

Contact Stephanie Jones, or link to http://www.ilsd.uscourts.gov/Opinions/super_final_or_der.pdf for a copy of the decision.

Louisiana Will Help Provide Records of Students Displaced by Katrina--Many schools across Illinois have been enrolling students displaced by Hurricane Katrina who are now considered homeless by federal and state law. These students generally arrive with no records, and it is very difficult for the receiving schools to get access to those records at the student's home school.

The Louisiana Department of Education has announced that it will be able to provide some student information from their state record system. They will post links on their website at www.doe.state.la.us/lde/ where schools can access information and contact Louisiana's state homeless coordinator for further guidance.

If you would like more information, please contact Debra Kaplan.

Illinois Adopts Family Military Leave Act--The Family Military Leave Act was signed into law by the Governor on August 15, 2005 and is effective immediately. It requires employers, including school districts, to provide up to 15 days (for employers employing between 15-50 employees) or up to 30 days (for employers employing more than 50 employees) of unpaid "family military leave" to an employee during the time federal and state deployment orders are in effect.

Family Military Leave is defined as leave requested by an employee who is the spouse or parent of a person called to military service lasting longer than 30 days with the State or U.S. pursuant to the orders of the Governor or the President. There are other conditions that must be satisfied prior to taking such leave and upon return.

Please contact Cindi DeCola or Barbara Erickson with questions.