



# IEA: The Early Years

## 1853 - 1981

### #IEAstronger

**1853** | IEA is formed in Bloomington. Originally named Illinois State Teachers Institute, our name is changed to Illinois State Teachers Association (ISTA).

**1853-1860** | ISTA supports the development of the public school system in Illinois; they support the creation of the position titled State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

**1855** | Publication of the association journal, *Illinois Teacher*, begins. *Illinois Teacher* is a link between members of the education community and served as a forum for exchanging information and ideas. With a few brief interruptions and name changes, the journal continues today as the electronic newsletter, *IEA Insider*.

**1857** | Illinois is one of 11 states that meet to form the National Education Association.

**1857** | ISTA is instrumental in establishing a state Normal School (now Illinois State University) for the formal training of teachers. Charles Hovey, former editor of the association journal, is named principal of the school.

**1868** | ISTA supports the establishment of Kindergartens.

**1870's-1890's** | ISTA promotes higher standards for the teaching profession, improvements to school architecture and access to education.

**1884** | The Teachers' Reading Circle is established offering "carefully selected courses of reading in professional and general culture."

**1885** | The Illinois Pupil's Reading Circle is organized "for the purpose of encouraging the pupils of school to read good books."

**1890's-1920's** | Answering the charge to advance the cause of public education and the teaching profession, the ISTA increasingly focuses on the social ills that accompany industrialization. During this period, noted educators and social reformers address the Annual Meeting of the ISTA including: William Rainey Harper, Ella Flagg Young, Jacob Riis, and Jane Addams of Chicago's Hull House.

**1902** | At the ISTA Annual Meeting, ISTA members endorse restrictions on child labor in mines, factories and stores.

**1908** | The ISTA supports a minimum salary law for Illinois teachers.

**1912** | Independent regional education associations unify under the ISTA, bringing in the state's teachers. In 1915, a representative assembly is established. The new

structure leads to a shift in association efforts moving increasingly away from curriculum content and teaching methodology and more toward teacher-pupil welfare, legislation, school finance and school district reorganization.

**1913** | The ISTA legislative agenda includes: sanitation standards for schools, larger school units, a state managed teacher pension and retirement fund, a minimum wage for teachers, and tenure for teachers and superintendents.

**1915** | The first full-time staff person is hired to conduct association business year-round. Robert C. Moore serves as the editor for the *Illinois Teacher*, legislative liaison, coordinating the Annual Meeting/Representative Assembly, and answering association correspondence.

**1929** | ISTA supports extending the school year to eight months.

**1931** | ISTA headquarters in Springfield is completed.

**1936** | Association's name is changed to Illinois Education Association; a name that better reflected the evolving mission of the organization.

**1939** | State aid to high schools is obtained; an actuarial retirement system is secured; state aid for pupil transportation begins.

**1941** | Tenure for teachers in board of education districts is finally won.

**1945** | A minimum salary law is enacted.

**1945** | IEA supports school reorganization which will eventually reduce the number of school districts down from 12,500 to less than 3,000.

**1947** | IEA works to increase state aid for transportation, school lunches, and vocational education.

**1948** | IEA supports legislation including: a minimum school year of nine months, improved retirement benefits, sick leave, and the provision that marriage shall not be a cause for dismissal nor a hindrance to a person's employment.

**1953** | IEA celebrates its centennial.

**1961** | IEA establishes a field office in the Chicago metropolitan area.

**1966** | Duty-free lunch is won; an increase in state funding is won; IEA works for improvements to sick leave and sabbatical leave.

**1968** | An NEA journal article cites reasons for growing teacher militancy: inadequate salaries, few fringe benefits, class size, lack of academic freedom, inadequate teaching materials, poor facilities, excessive non-teaching duties, lack of support for teachers in dealing with discipline problems, lack of participation in curriculum planning, and arbitrary dismissals. The same concerns are expressed by IEA members.

**1968** | IEA opens regional service centers in Oak Brook, Marion, Gibson City, Collinsville and Galesburg.

**1969** | An Illinois Education article details new association priorities. **Service to members will be expanded to provide professional negotiations.** The trend is toward professionally negotiated agreements that go beyond salary and benefits, to ones that address class size, teacher load, use of teachers' aides, discipline, evaluation, and even text book selection.

**1969** | Two more regional service centers are opened in Oregon and Peoria.

**1970** | IEA holds a Constitutional Convention — Con Con. After IEA Con Con new bylaws are adopted at the IEA RA. Changes to the organization include: administrators leave the membership ranks, teachers assume control of the IEA, regions are established, an independent political action arm (ED-PAC, later IPACE) is formed, IEA unifies with the NEA, and the UniServ system is adopted (Unified Service) providing co-ordinated local, state, and national field service support. Political action and activism increases dramatically.

**1971** | Teacher strikes in large urban locals attract national attention.

**1972** | ED-PAC is changed to IPACE. Illinois Political Action Committee for Education and the first legislative endorsement meetings are held.

**1973** | IPACE initiates Lobby Day; wins include retirement cost of living adjustments and first early retirement without penalty.

**1974** | District U-46 Transportation Union in Elgin becomes IEA's first chartered ESP local.

**1975** | Eight IEA locals bargain the highest pay in the state.

**1975** | BEST (Better Education Standards Today) guidelines are prepared.

**1978** | Sick leave time for pregnancy and childbirth is obtained; \$8 million for special education is won.

**1979** | The governor signs IEA-supported legislation: Early out, raise in minimum salary, seniority, RIF protection, and disability guarantees; parochial is vetoed.

**1981** | IEA-initiated House Bill 701 is signed by Gov. Jim Thompson. The "mini-collective bargaining bill" is the first step to guaranteeing collective bargaining rights for Illinois public elementary and secondary school employees.



@IEANEA

For more information 844-IEA-1800