Dear Friend in Education,

Students in today's world embrace technology to communicate, socialize and perform—and they want to learn through technology. Teachers are eager to access cost-effective, rich media resources that engage learners in ways text alone cannot. As the Illinois State Superintendent of Education, I believe Illinois Edition of PBS LearningMedia meets the needs of today's digital students.

Illinois Edition is a high-quality, digital media service created by PBS and distributed by Illinois public broadcasters that provides teachers across the state with free access to more than 30,000 resources designed to improve student achievement. Drawing from critically acclaimed PBS programs such as NOVA, FRONTLINE, AMERICAN EXPERIENCE and PBS KIDS programs, The National Archives and NASA, the service supplies videos, images, interactives, and lesson plans to enrich classroom instruction.

With Illinois Edition, LearningMedia teachers can quickly and easily search, save, organize and download content for use in their classrooms. Each resource showcases the subject, grade level and corresponding alignment to the Common Core and other nationally recognized learning standards, allowing users to browse the collections efficiently. According to a pilot study commissioned by Illinois public media stations, participating teachers unanimously recommend the service for its ease of use, high-quality content and ability to engage students.

In Illinois, the number of teachers, students and schools using the service is growing at a rapid rate, and more than 850,000 teachers have registered nationally. Clearly, teachers are finding the service helpful. At a time when schools across the state are facing budget cuts, Illinois Edition delivers trusted, educational content in an interactive platform that saves time and money.

I encourage you to carefully consider the positive impact that the Illinois Edition of PBS LearningMedia offers to educators and students. Please visit the website at illinois.pbslearningmedia.org or contact your local public broadcasting station to learn more about the service. Working together, we will ensure that all educators and students in Illinois benefit from this free public service for teaching and learning.

Over the next few months, my office will publish updates about Illinois Edition, so please watch for news. I look forward to hearing your feedback and stories of success in using this high quality tool in your classrooms.

Sincerely,

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