



**Testimony
Illinois State Board of Education
FY 2010 Budget Request**

\$4.5 million for Grow Your Own Teachers

I am ____(name), __(title: candidate, Ex. Dir, coordinator) with __(community, consortium).

We are one of 16 GYO partnerships, 8 in Chicago and 8 in other high need areas in Illinois. The GYO partnerships include 16 community organizations, 8 public universities, 4 private colleges or universities, 12 community colleges, 23 school districts, and 2 unions. Our partnerships are now supporting **500+ teacher candidates statewide, 87% people of color**. The GYO candidates are in college and preparing to become high quality teachers. We already have 9 graduates and that number will begin to grow rapidly.

ISBE's Goal 2 states: "Every student will be supported by highly prepared and effective teachers and school leaders." GYO is an innovative community-based approach to recruiting and preparing highly qualified teachers for low-income students of color. Grow Your Own teachers are being well-prepared in Illinois' Colleges of Education, our higher education partners. Grow Your Own teachers will be effective because they know the students and their families and live in the communities where they will teach.

After two years of level funding, GYO was pleased to receive a modest increase to \$3.5 million in FY 09. However, higher education institutions have had to raise tuition and fees, and many candidates have made the transition between the community college and the four-year institution, where costs are greater. Furthermore, the increase does not allow for the modest expansion needed to reach the legal goal of 1,000 teachers by 2016.

We request **\$ 4.5 million for FY 2010**. These funds are an investment in a pipeline of teachers of color and will reduce high rates of teacher turnover. Many GYO teachers are preparing for hard-to-fill positions such as bilingual and special education. A \$4.5 million appropriation for FY 2010 will:

- Fund forgivable loans and support services for the 500+ candidates in college;
- Support the admission of some 200 potential candidates now on waiting lists
- Develop badly needed GYO programs in two new low-income, high-need communities
- Continue support for the rigorous GYO evaluation to ensure funds are well-spent.

We hope we can count on your continuing support. Thank you very much.



**Testimony
Illinois State Board of Education
FY 2010 Budget Request**

Budget detail in support of \$4.5 million for Grow Your Own Teachers

FY 10 compared with FY 09

Budget assumptions	FY2009	FY 2010
Numbers of candidates*	550	750
Numbers of consortia	16	19
Graduates (cumulative)	21	61
Candidates in 4-year institutions	175	325
Candidates in community colleges	375	385
Investment per candidate (est)	\$5,388	\$4,853
Budget estimates	FY 2009	FY 2010
1. Consortia grants	\$2,963,813	\$3,640,000
Candidates, direct supports	\$2,873,169	\$3,540,000
Consortia administration	\$ 90,644	\$ 100,000
2. Planning grants	-0-	\$ 80,000 (2)
3. New implementation grant	-0-	\$ 235,000 (1)
4. Evaluation	\$ 120,000	\$ 120,000
5. Technical assistance, support	\$ 350,000	\$ 350,000
6. ISBE Consultant	\$ 66,187	\$ 75,000
Total budget estimates	\$3,500,000	\$4,500,000

*Candidates: FY08 = 500;
 FY 09, estimated 550;
 FY 10, if funded at \$4.5 million, estimated at 750.