

**AUTHORIZE THE PARTICIPATION OF 70 HIGH SCHOOLS IN THE ACADEMIC DECATHLON
COMPETITION PROGRAM AND AUTHORIZE OTHER EXPENSES RELATED TO THE PROGRAM**

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS THE FOLLOWING DECISION:

Authorize participation in the Academic Decathlon Competition Program by students from 70 CPS high schools and authorize expenses related to the Program not to exceed \$28,000. Information pertinent to the Program is stated below.

USER: Office of High School Programs
125 S. Clark Street, 9th floor
M.R. 125
Donald R. Pittman
553-3540

VENDOR: Illinois Academic Decathlon
1900 West Van Buren Street
Chicago, IL 60601
Contact: Mr. Ghingo Brooks
312-850-7120
Vendor No.: 46460

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: The Academic Decathlon Competition Program ("Program") is a team competition wherein students match their intellects with students from other schools. Participation in the Program requires the payment of registration fees for seventy CPS high schools. Registration fees are \$200.00 per school. The Program involves more than 600 CPS students competing amongst themselves. Teams will first compete at the City level. The winning teams advance to compete against schools at the state level then at the national level. The competitions are scheduled as follows:

January 22, 2005	-	City Cluster Competition
February 19, 2005	-	City Regional Competition
March 12, 2005	-	Illinois State Competition
April 13-16, 2005	-	National Competition – Chicago, Illinois

Students are tested in the following ten categories: art, economics, essay, interview, language and literature, mathematics, science, social science, speech and super quiz. Each school enters a team of nine students comprised of the following:

Three (3) "A" or Honor students (GPA 3.75 – 4.00)
Three (3) "B" or Scholastic students (GPA 3.00 – 3.74)
Three (3) "C" or Varsity students (GPA 0.00 – 2.99)

The Illinois Academic Decathlon coaches' clinic is scheduled for October 8 - 9, 2004. The two-day clinic provides the CPS team coaches with insights into different study techniques and coaching strategies. It also provides a networking opportunity for the coaches to identify potential scrimmage partners.

EDUCATIONAL VALUE/OUTCOMES: Students who have demonstrated achievement at the honor, scholastic and varsity levels are given the opportunity to apply their knowledge in 10 academically demanding events. The students compete against their academic peers and experience the benefits of teamwork.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS/TRIP INFORMATION: In the event that a Chicago Public School qualifies to compete in the 2005 USAD National Competition finals, a bus will be provided for transportation to the competition.

COST: The estimated costs are as follows:

Registration Fees:	\$14,000.00 (70 high schools @ \$200.00 per school)
Coaches' Clinic	\$14,000.00 (70 high schools @ \$200.00 per school)

CHAPERONES: The team coach and assistant coach will accompany the team to the 2005 USAD National Competition finals here in Chicago.

PARENTAL CONSENT: Written parental consent and release forms for each student will be on file at his/her school.

AUTHORIZATION: Authorize the Chief Officer of High School Programs to execute any travel agreements necessary for this Program.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION: N/A

LSC REVIEW: Local School Council approval is not applicable to this report.

FINANCIAL:	Charge to Office of High School Programs	Fiscal Year 2005
	Budget Classification: 0470-210-000-2014-5420	\$28,000

GENERAL CONDITIONS:

Inspector General – Each party to any agreement shall acknowledge that, in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-13.1, the Inspector General of the Chicago Board of Education has the authority to conduct certain investigations and that the Inspector General shall have access to all information and personnel necessary to conduct those investigations.

Conflicts – Any agreement shall not be legally binding on the Board if entered into in violation of the provisions of 105 ILCS 5/34-21.3 which restricts the employment of or the letting of contracts to, former Board members during the one-year period following expiration or other termination of their terms of office.

Indebtedness – The Board's Indebtedness Policy adopted July 26, 1995 (95-0726-EX3), as amended from time to time, shall be incorporated into and made a part of any agreement.

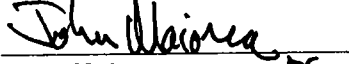
Ethics – The Board's Ethics Code adopted September 27, 1995 (95-0927-RU3), as amended from time to time, shall be incorporated into and made a part of any agreement.

Contingent Liability – Any agreement shall contain the clause that any expenditure beyond the current fiscal year is deemed a contingent liability, subject to appropriation in the subsequent fiscal year budget(s).

Approved:



Barbara Eason-Watkins
Chief Education Officer



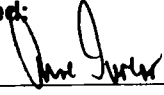
John Maiorca
Chief Financial Officer

Approved as to Legal Form: 



Ruth Moscovitch
General Counsel

Approved:



Arne Duncan
Chief Executive Officer