

Treasurer Fitzgerald Helps Teachers Prepare Students for the Basics

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Free program provides teachers with pencils to use during Basic Skills testing

DES MOINES, IA (09/14/2010)(readMedia)-- State Treasurer Michael L. Fitzgerald is again offering free pencils for Iowa teachers to use during annual skills testing of 2nd and 3rd grade students through the Prepare for the Basics program. Last year the program distributed over 16,000 pencils to schools statewide. "Testing helps teachers monitor the growth of students' basic skills," Fitzgerald said. "This program is a small gesture of appreciation to our teachers for their hard work."

The Prepare for the Basics program also provides students and their families with information about College Savings Iowa, the state-sponsored 529 plan designed to provide an affordable, tax-advantaged way to save for future college expenses. "Families who can start saving early will be in a better position to help pay for college when the time comes," Fitzgerald stated. "Saving ahead of time may reduce the need to borrow for college, which can help families-and their children-get to graduation with less debt." To learn more about College Savings Iowa, go to www.collegesavingsiowa.com or call 1-888-672-9116

Teachers can register to participate in the Prepare for the Basics program online at www.treasurer.state.ia.us

. Click first on Education, then on Prepare for the Basics. Program materials will be sent directly to the participating schools. To ensure timely arrival, materials should be requested at least two weeks prior to testing. Supplies are limited, so early registration is advised.