Message from State Superintendent Randy J. Dunn

Good afternoon.

Here’s my holiday gift to you for 2005: No pedantic Superintendent’s opening message to read this week! Instead, please accept my best wishes for a very merry holiday season and a happy, healthy 2006 to you and yours.

Next week, since some of you may still be in session for a few days, we’ll likely do an abbreviated version of the Weekly Message to deal with any time-sensitive information we may need to pass on.

ISBE offices will be closed on the holiday Mondays, December 26, 2005 and January 2, 2006. There will be no message on Monday, December 26—nor anytime that week.

We’ll be back with the Weekly on Tuesday, January 3, 2006.

In the meantime, enjoy the season!

Randy Dunn

Upcoming Deadlines

- Reading First Grant Applications (Round 3) – December 22, 2005
- Albert Lee Wright, Jr. Memorial Scholarship – January 6, 2006
- Waiver deadline – January 13, 2006
- Illinois Zero Waste School Program Grant – February 1, 2006

Illinois School Purchasing Network

Automated External Defibrillator (AED) contract awarded

School districts may use the new purchasing contract for automated external defibrillators (AEDs) recently posted by the Illinois Department of Central Management Services (CMS). The contract was awarded to Cardiac Science Inc. for the First Save AED G3 ($995). For more information view the contract online at: http://www.purchase.state.il.us/ipb/master.nsf/frmMCDocFrameset?ReadForm&RefNum=4013248&DocID=8A91CB201451FF84862570D3000C939E&view=search or contact Mary Kay Gonterman at CMS by phone at 217-785-3867.

Cardiac Science, Inc. also offers other defibrillator products and supplies through U.S. Communities. The Cardiac Science, Inc. product catalog is available online at: http://www.cardiacscience.com/products/

Hagemeyer, NA offers these products as part of their Homeland Security Solutions for 39 percent off published prices through U.S. Communities. For more information call 888-745-6486 or e-mail, uscommunities@hagemeyerna.com. Be sure to tell customer service that you want to use the U.S. Communities contract number 0681406310.
For more information about the state’s defibrillator compliance deadlines, the number required per physical fitness facility, approved training for the user and defibrillator registration with a resource hospital contact Bev Mercer at the Illinois Department of Public Health Division of Emergency Medical Systems, 217-785-2080.

U.S. Communities maintenance, repair and operations (MRO) supplies contract

U.S. Communities is the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) partner in the Illinois School Purchasing Network. U.S. Communities has announced that Maricopa County, Arizona, has awarded The Home Depot and its wholesale distribution subsidiary, The Home Depot Supply, a contract for maintenance, repair and operations equipment and supplies. The contract was awarded through the U.S. Communities Governmental Purchasing Alliance and is available for use by participating agencies.

The Home Depot contract provides a broad range of MRO equipment and supplies without the need for additional solicitation through both the wholesale and retail sides of The Home Depot. The contract includes highly favorable pricing on entire categories products through The Home Depot Supply’s commercial catalog. In addition, for convenience purchases at retail, public agencies can arrange to have orders accepted at the Pro Desks located in every Home Depot retail store. Public agencies that are interested in using The Home Depot contract must have registered to participate in the U.S. Communities program and will need to establish or update their account with The Home Depot and The Home Depot Supply. For more information on the contract, or to contact a representative of The Home Depot or The Home Depot Supply to establish or update your account, please click on the following links.

Visit The Home Depot/Home Depot Supply MRO contract at:
https://secure.cacommunities.com/uscommunities/contracts.asp or

Federal Grants and Programs

New Census Estimates Affecting FY 07 Title I Released for 2003 Income Years

The U.S. Census Bureau has released the Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) for income year 2003. The estimates will likely be used to calculate FY07 Title I Allocations. Congress will make the final decision on data used to generate Title I allocations.

The estimates can be accessed at
http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/saipe/. Click on School District Data. The 2003 year is defaulted. Select Illinois, then select your district, then Display Data. The last two columns, Relevant age 5-17 and Relevant age 5 to 17 in Families in Poverty are the columns used to determine Title I eligibility. The last column indicates the eligible count. The last column, Relevant Age 5 to 17 in Families in Poverty, divided by the Relevant age 5 to 17 counts produces the poverty percentage.

From this data, local education agencies (LEAs) can determine their potential eligibility for Basic, Concentration, Targeted and Education Finance Incentive Grants (EFIG). To be eligible for a Basic Grant, an LEA must have at least 10 poverty children and the number of poverty children must be greater than two percent of the LEA population of children ages 5-17. To be eligible for a Concentration Grant an LEA must have at least 6,500 poverty children or the number of formula children must exceed 15 percent of the LEA’s 5-17 population. To qualify for Targeted and EFIG grants, an LEA must have at least 10 poverty children and that number must be at least 5 percent of the 5-17 population.

The Census Bureau has provided links throughout the site explaining various aspects of the SAIPE counts. Please note the link for “Challenge Procedures for Estimates” at the bottom of the SAIPE page. This link describes what constitutes the basis for an appeal as well as contact information for appeals. The challenge period for the 2003 estimates ends on February 27, 2006.

Superintendents and Business Managers should carefully examine the data for their district as this will be the first indication as to whether you may be gaining or losing eligibility for Title funds in 2006-07. Appeals must be made to the Census Bureau:
The Illinois State Board of Education neither controls nor generated the data.

NOTE: These numbers do not include other non-census date such as foster, neglected or delinquent counts which may be used to calculate Title I allocations.

If you have questions on information in this message, you may contact Jacquie Hayes or Kim Lewis in the Division of Funding and Disbursement Services at 217-782-5256. If you have specific Title I program related questions, you may contact Myron Mason, Federal Grants and Programs Division at 217-524-4832.

Student Opportunities

Albert Lee Wright, Jr. Memorial Scholarship

Do you know of a high school or college student that is interested in pursuing a career in journalism, teaching journalism, or political science? Do these students have experience as migrant farm workers? If you answered "yes" to both of these questions, encourage these students to apply for the Albert Lee Wright, Jr. Memorial Scholarship.

The deadline to apply is Friday, January 6, 2006. A copy of the application and other details are available at: http://www.isbe.net/bilingual.

Fine Arts

Illinois Arts Education Week poster contest

March 13 through 19, 2006, is designated Illinois Arts Education Week in cooperation with the Illinois Alliance for Arts Education (IAAUE), the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), and the Governor’s office.

Illinois K-12 students will be allowed to submit artwork celebrating the theme of “Creating Understanding through the Arts” for the 24th Annual Illinois Arts Education Week.

Each year an Illinois student’s artwork is featured on the front of the poster for Illinois Arts Education Week. ISBE produces the poster to promote the

week and to reinforce the importance of arts in the growth and development of students. See last year’s poster at: http://www.isbe.net/curriculum/pdf/arts_week_poster.pdf.

Artwork considered for the 2006 Illinois Arts Education Week poster must meet the following criteria:

- Artist must be an Illinois student, grade K-12 (public or private).
- Any 2-D media accepted but no photography.
- There is no limit on colors.
- Prefer size to be 12” x 18” or smaller.
- On the back of entry student should include name, age, grade, teacher, school, home address and telephone number.
- Attach Authorization for Use of Artwork form to back of entry. It must be signed and dated by either parent or guardian.
- Artwork will be accepted through Tuesday, December 13, 2005*
- Theme for this year is “Creating Understanding through the Arts”.
- It is not necessary to write the theme on the artwork. Only the illustration is necessary.

Art teachers:
Please enclose a pre-addressed return label OR a 3”x5” index card that can be affixed to a return envelope. For schools with multiple entries, please place the number of entries in the upper right hand corner of pre-addressed label/card. Please include your e-mail address and/or phone number where you can be reached. Please send entries to:
Illinois Art Education Week Poster Contest
Illinois State Board of Education
Curriculum and Instruction Division, C-215
100 North First Street
Springfield, Illinois 62777-0001

For more information please call 217-557-7323 or e-mail: cpowell@isbe.net.

Special Education

Freedom Machines DVD Education Package available at discount

The program Freedom Machines interweaves the stories of individuals with disabilities and those of assistive technology creators and advocates. This program reframes old concepts of disability and shows how human ingenuity, universal design
concepts and societal commitment can have a positive effect.

A digital video disc (DVD) of the program has chapter points formatted for classroom use, has fully accessible menus and media, including Talking Menus, closed captioning and video descriptions in addition to English/Spanish translation, printable discussion guide, lesson plan and resource list.

First aired on Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) in September 2004, the Freedom Machines DVD is available to Illinois schools and districts at a bulk discount rate of $75 per unit.

Orders must be placed using the code 94CYVH. Freedom Machines is created and distributed by a not-for-profit organization. For more information, visit http://www.freedommachines.com.

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**Nutrition**

**HealthierUS School Challenge**

Attention all Team Nutrition Elementary Schools! You have the opportunity to get recognition for your school’s commitment to health and well being of your students through the USDA HealthierUS School Challenge. If you have been making changes to your school nutrition environments, improving the quality of foods served, and providing more nutritious, healthy choices, your school may qualify for either the silver or gold level of certification. The application packet, criteria and instructions, food and nutrition guidance are located at: [http://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/HealthierUS/index.html](http://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/HealthierUS/index.html). To enroll in USDA’s Team Nutrition, go to [http://www.fns.usda.gov](http://www.fns.usda.gov).

**Expect emergency care for choking poster Soon**

The Illinois State Board of Education has partnered with the Illinois Department of Public Health to distribute the required Emergency Care for Choking Poster to school cafeterias next month.

Post these posters in your cafeterias. Additional posters are available from the Illinois Department of Public Health, Division of Emergency Medical Services and Highway Safety, 500 East Monroe Street, Floor 8, Springfield, IL 62701 or via telephone at 217/785-2080.

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**Child Nutrition Industry conference**

**January 15-17**


The conference allows Food Service operators and industry to build partnerships, develop strategies and share information, to boost student participation in school meal programs.

This conference gives attendees the added skills, and knowledge to perform well in the dynamic and ever-changing world of school food service. Attendees will see and sample new products and learn about new services.

Local Wellness Policy seminar materials available
Are you familiar with the new law requiring that all school districts have a local wellness policy by the first school day of FY07? Learn more from the National Food Service Management Institute by viewing their webcast at: [mms://130.74.84.77/omo/nfsmi/wellnesssat.wmv](http://mms://130.74.84.77/omo/nfsmi/wellnesssat.wmv) or accessing their webcast participant handouts at: [http://www.nfsmi.org/Education/Satellite/ss37/partic.pdf](http://www.nfsmi.org/Education/Satellite/ss37/partic.pdf).

More information is available at: [http://www.nfsmi.org/Education/Satellite/ss37/program_info.htm](http://www.nfsmi.org/Education/Satellite/ss37/program_info.htm) or through the Nutrition Education Loan Library. Call Stephanie Modglin at 618-993-2696, 800-455-5843, or by email at smodglin@roe21.k12.il.us.

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**News from other agencies**

**Illinois Zero Waste Schools Grant Program Request for Application (RFA)**

Application Deadline: February 1, 2006

The Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) is soliciting applications from Illinois public and nonpublic schools for grants to implement/expand recycling and waste reduction programs and strive to achieve zero waste status. Even though absolute zero waste may not be attainable, the ultimate goal of this program is to assist schools in their efforts to maximize reducing,
reusing, recycling and composting waste; and eventually eliminate unnecessary waste.

Grant funds may be used to purchase necessary items to implement a zero waste project such as collection and storage containers, shredders, reusable plates and silverware, dishwasher, composting containers, etc. Illinois public school districts must submit only one application for the total number of schools participating in the zero waste project. The maximum grant request may not exceed $10,000 per school. For example, a district applying for five schools may submit one application and request up to $50,000.

Two levels of funding are available. To be eligible for Level I funding, each participating school must agree to collect white paper and aluminum cans generated at the school, implement at least three source reduction activities, and instruct all involved parties about the benefits of the project. Applicants committing to implement minimum activities for Level I funding described above will be eligible to receive funding according to the following formulas:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total # of Students Enrolled In each Participating School</th>
<th>Allowable Grant Amount /School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Up to 350 students</td>
<td>$5/student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 350 Students</td>
<td>$2/student + $1,050/school</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To be eligible for Level II funding, the participating school must meet requirements for Level I and agree to collect and recycle at least two additional items, implement two more source reduction activities or compost all of the school generated organic waste, and conduct pre and post waste audits. The additional funding will be decided by types and volume of items being reduced, reused, recycled, or composted; percentage of additional waste diverted per student; and additional equipment the applicant will require to implement the proposed project. To qualify for the maximum funding, the applicant must commit to reach attainable zero waste status.

For more information contact Peggy Chamness at DCEO’s Bureau of Energy and Recycling by email at pchamness@ildceo.net, by phone at 217-785-2765, by FAX at 217-785-2618 or by TDD at 217-785-6055.


Grant Application Assistance: DCEO will schedule workshops to answer questions about the grant application process, as well as on collection, market, equipment purchase and education-related topics. Local workshops will be scheduled when at least five applicants express an interest in attending. To schedule a workshop in your area please contact Peggy Chamness. All applicants are strongly encouraged to attend a workshop prior to submitting an application.

All eligible applications received before 5:00 p.m., February 1, 2006, will be independently evaluated based on project merit, how well the criteria listed in the RFA is addressed, and how well the grant money will be utilized to divert the maximum amount of waste from landfills or reduce waste generation through implementation of source reduction activities. These criteria have been established to allow the Department to identify the applications that demonstrate the most cost effective way to successfully implement the zero waste projects.

IllinoisMentor at collegezone.com

IllinoisMentor at http://www.illinoismentor.org offers a number of education and career planning resources for students, including:

- Beginning as early as eighth grade, students can research different careers that match their particular interests and skills. Each career description describes the level of education and the type of degree that it may require, along with Illinois colleges that offer those majors or programs.
- Each student will have a personal, electronic portfolio that allows them to keep track of all their personal data including career exploration, high school coursework, extracurricular activities, demographic data, test scores, awards, etc. Information stored in the student’s e-portfolio can be used to automatically populate FAFSA on the
Web, a scholarship search and IllinoisMentor online college admission applications.

- A student can measure his or her high school coursework against admission requirements for Illinois colleges and universities participating in IllinoisMentor.
- Students can compare key attributes of all IllinoisMentor colleges such as enrollment, student/faculty ratio and school type. They can also find a college by selecting attributes they want, such as major, geographic location, sports, ROTC, etc., and the system will display colleges that have those attributes. Students can search for colleges by entering a ZIP code or an Illinois city. The system will return a list of colleges organized by those closest to the area entered.
- Students can easily apply online to IllinoisMentor colleges. Also, they can request their high school transcripts be sent to participating Illinois colleges.

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission is proud to be able to sponsor this new service on http://www.collegezone.com and provide it free of charge to Illinois students, high schools and colleges. We hope you find it easy to navigate, helpful and most of all, useful in promoting career planning and college access to your students!

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**ISBE employment opportunities**

**External vacancy list**

An External Vacancy List for the Illinois State Board of Education is available at: http://www.isbe.net/hr/pdf/VL05-31.pdf

**In the News**

**Weekly news clips**

Last week’s education news clips are posted at: http://www.isbe.net/news/2005/newsclips/051209.htm