Upcoming Deadlines

- Reading First Grant Applications (Round 3) – **December 22, 2005**
- Enhancing Education through Technology Grant – **December 23, 2005 – 2 p.m.**
  *Note change in deadline from 4 p.m. to 2 p.m.*
- Albert Lee Wright, Jr. Memorial Scholarship – **January 6, 2006**
- Waiver deadline – **January 13, 2006**
- Illinois Zero Waste School Program Grant – **February 1, 2006**

Student Assessment

**Student Assessment Listserv**

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) Division for Student Assessment has set up an email listserv to provide periodic updates regarding Illinois State testing. The information sent out to the listserv will also be posted on the Agency website and in the *Weekly Message*. The listserv is intended to provide a more direct method for receiving the announcements and information. This is not an interactive listserv though participants can send individual messages to Student Assessment.

To sign up, email a blank email to assessment-join@list.isbe.net from the email account to which you want these messages directed. You will receive an enrollment email confirmation.

**Ordering IMAGE tests**

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has contracted with Questar Educational Systems for the printing, delivery, and retrieval of Illinois Measure of Annual Growth in English (IMAGE). Next week, superintendents and Chicago Public School principals will receive a letter from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) through Questar explaining the ordering process for IMAGE test materials.

*Please be sure that the letter and ordering information are passed on to the district test coordinator or bilingual coordinator.*

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Read more...
Illinois School Purchasing Network

Automated External Defibrillator (AED) contract awarded

School districts may use the new contract recently posted by the Department of Central Management Services (CMS). The contract was awarded to Cardiac Science Inc. for the First Save AED G3 ($995.00). View the contract at: http://www.purchase.state.il.us/ipb/IPBhomep.nsf?Open (click on Master Contracts, type in “defib” in search box) or contact Mary Kay Gonterman at CMS, 217-785-3867.

Cardiac Science, Inc. also offers other defibrillator products and supplies through U.S. Communities. 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 contact Hagemeyer’s customer service at 888-745-6486 or by email at uscommunities@hagemeyerna.com. Be sure to use the U.S. Communities contract number 0681406310. The Cardiac Science, Inc. product catalog is available online at http://www.cardiacscience.com/products/.

For more information about the state’s defibrillator compliance deadlines; number per physical fitness facility; approved training for the user; and defibrillator registration with a resource hospital contact the Department of Public Health, Division of Emergency Medical Systems, Bev Mercer 217-785-2080.

Federal Grants and Programs

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

The United States 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 “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, 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.

Scholarship 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 four page application and other details is available at: http://www.isbe.net/bilingual .

Nutrition

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 or accessing their webcast participant handouts at: http://www.nfsmi.org/Education/Satellite/ss37/partic.pdf . More information is available at: 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.

News from other agencies

Illinois Zero Waste Grants to schools now available

Application Deadline: February 1, 2006

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) invites applications from Illinois public and nonpublic schools for grants to implement and 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:

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<th>Total # of Students Enrolled</th>
<th>Allowable Grant Amount per School</th>
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<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>
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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.

The grant application may be downloaded at: http://www.illinoisbiz.biz/NR/rdonlyres/65C9E350-018E-4C5C-9494-7A22F2172BB6/0/FinalRFA1105revised.pdf.

Contact information:
Peggy Chamness
Illinois Dept. of Commerce Economic Opportunity
Bureau of Energy and Recycling
620 East Adams Street
Springfield, Illinois 62701-1615
pchamness@ildceo.net

**IllinoisMentor at collegezone.com**

With the addition of **IllinoisMentor**, a new level of interactivity has been added to the Illinois Student Assistance Commission web site. These enhancements include:

- 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.

ISAC is proud to be able to sponsor this new service on 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**

Highlights from last week’s education news clips are posted at: http://www.isbe.net/news/2005/newsclips/051216.htm