I am sure you are aware the General Assembly has come to the official end of its session, only to once again face the likelihood members will be called back to Springfield to complete unfinished business.

There is mixed news for education in the budget that has been so far approved by the General Assembly. Both Houses of the General Assembly have passed a budget bill that includes full funding for Mandated Categoricals (MCATS) at the level proposed by the State Board and also increases the General State Aid Foundation Level to $6,190, a per pupil increase of $231.

Unfortunately, the General Assembly passed what’s being referred to as a “50%” budget for the remaining educational programs, (SB 1197) essentially providing about half of what was requested by the State Board for education spending in FY 2010. One legislative leader cautioned that state agencies should not look upon this budget as a six-month budget, but rather should begin making plans to implement this “50%” budget.

SB 1197 will force many difficult decisions. As I said before, GSA and MCATS were not impacted by this “50%” budget, however, many very good programs in the Illinois State Board of Education’s budget will not fare so well.

Some of the programs that could possibly be reduced or eliminated include: ADA Block Grant, Agricultural Education, Alternative Learning/Regional Safe Schools, Bilingual Education, Career and Technical Education, Early Childhood Education, Principal and Teacher Mentoring, Reading Improvement Block Grant, Summer Bridges and the Textbook Loan Program just to name a few.

We anticipate that, at its June 17-18 meeting, the Board will review its FY10 budget recommendation in light of the “50%” appropriation. It is my hope that the Board will not need to adopt a FY10 budget at this reduced level.

Governor Quinn and legislative leaders will be meeting this week to continue budget discussions and individual legislators have been told to be ready to return to Springfield. I ask that you reach out to your lawmakers and urge them to work to restore the funding that was requested by the State Board in its recommendation for FY 2010, which you can find at http://www.isbe.net/budget/FY10_budget_book.pdf.
Finally, as I mentioned in a prior message, Illinois has joined the Common Core of State Standards Initiative. A total of 46 states and 3 U.S. territories are working with the National Governors Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers to develop common learning standards for English and math. This voluntary, state-led effort will provide the foundation for dramatically improving teaching and learning. We’ll be better positioned to prepare our students for the rigor and challenges of college and careers and to bring consistency to standards, curriculum, assessments and college entry requirements.

Chris

**Upcoming Dates & Deadlines**

- Advanced Placement Classroom Continuing Applications – June 4
- Deadline for entries in the Art on a Rain Barrel contest – June 10
- Part 65 (New Teacher Induction and Mentoring): Public Comment period ends – June 15
- Part 100 (Requirements for Accounting, Budgeting, Financial Reporting, and Auditing): Public comment period ends - June 15.
- E-report card form – June 26
- 2009 Bilingual Education Program Delivery Report – June 30
- Nonpublic Registration, Enrollment, and Staff Report – June 30
- Student Health Data – Vision – June 30
- FY10 Consolidated Application to Serve English Language Learners - postmarked by June 30
- Migrant Education Application for the 2009-2010 School Year – July 15
- TSR Salary Data – July 15
- FY 2009 State and Federal grant projects ending Aug. 31 submit amendments and project extension requests – Aug. 1
- Modified End of Year Report on IWAS- Aug. 1
- Deadline for entering data in IWAS on the 2008-2009 High School Students Taking Community College Courses – Aug.1
- Deadline for waiver applications to be considered by the General Assembly in Fall 2009 – Aug. 14

**Funding and Disbursements**

**2009 Annual Training for School Bus Drivers Instructors**

The 2009 Annual Training for Certified School Bus Driver Instructors will be held this summer at three locations. The dates and locations as well as all requirements and registration information can be accessed under the “2009 Summer Instructor Training Information” at http://www.isbe.net/funding/html/student_transport.htm

If you should have any questions regarding the training, please contact Cinda Meneghetti at 217-782-5256 or cmeneghe@isbe.net.

**Proper Treatment of Retirement Incentive Payments on Federal Grants**

The United States Department of Education has requested that the Illinois State Board of Education issue a reminder regarding the proper treatment of retirement incentive or “severance” payments and how those expenditures are reflected on federal grants.

The Cost Principles for State, Local and Indian Tribal Governments at 2 CFR 225 (Office of Management and Budget Circular A-87) which can be accessed at http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/assets/omb/fedreg/2005/083105_a87.pdf establish standards for determining costs on federal awards carried out through grants, cost reimbursement contracts, and other agreements.

Appendix B Paragraph 8.g. – Compensation for Personal Services addresses the criteria for severance payments.
A summary of retirement, termination and severance costs along with the procedures for proper accountability on grants are provided below and are included in the May 2009 update of the State and Federal Fiscal Policies and Procedures Handbook and can be accessed at [http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/fiscal_procedure_handbook.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/fiscal_procedure_handbook.pdf).

**Retirement, Termination and Severance Pay Cost**

The United States Department of Education (ED) sent a February 2009 letter to ISBE regarding the proper treatment of retirement incentive payments that may be charged to federal grant programs. In general, if the payment confers a benefit to the affected program then it may be included as a direct cost of the program. When the payment confers no direct benefit to the program, it can only be charged indirectly to the program.

Please be advised that any abnormal, lump sum severance payments, accelerated early retirement expenditures or other costs in addition to normal, annual salaries and related benefits are not allowed to be charged solely as a direct cost on any Federal grants and may be charged as an indirect cost or a combination of direct and indirect costs only if prior approval has been obtained. LEAs will need to contact ISBE for approval of abnormal or mass severance expenditures. ISBE will work with ED for final approval. Requests for prior approval, at a minimum, must demonstrate the reasonableness and allocability of such costs to Federal programs.

Retirement (Allowable Direct Costs) – when an employee has chosen to end their employment, the costs associated in the current fiscal year of this action may be included as a direct cost to the grant. This may include compensation for unused sick and/or vacation days paid as part of the individual’s current annual salary.

Termination and Mass Severance – Any disbursement/expenditure made in addition to regular salaries and wages for workers whose employment was terminated in the current school year, may be charged as an indirect cost or a combination of direct and indirect costs only if prior approval has been obtained. Examples of one-time abnormal or mass severance include expenses associated with events that are offered to employees as an incentive to leave employment such as: 

- Lump sum payments linked to years of service including prior year benefit accruals (e.g. unused vacation or sick)
- Increased pension benefits such as granting additional years or eliminating penalties for early retirement.

To facilitate accountability for these expenditures, the Part 100 Requirements of Accounting, Budgeting, Financial Reporting and Auditing, provides that Object Code 800 be used for such costs. Table F, Expenditure Object Accounts, provides “800 Termination Benefits” for all “payments made to terminated or retiring employees as compensation for unused sick or vacation days.” Object Code 800 is not available for use on grant budgets. Therefore, if prior approval has not been obtained to claim these cost directly, termination and severance expenditures can only be absorbed as an indirect cost. Local education agencies identifying abnormal or mass severance expenses in the Annual Financial Report will not be provided an indirect cost rate by ISBE without prior approval of such costs.

**Curriculum & Instruction**

**Registration for Illinois Virtual High School Open**

Students who already have an IVHS Login ID and want to register for Summer Term 09 courses only, login to the IVHS system (http://www.ivhs.org) to request a course beginning May 4. New students should click on the Registration link at the top of the IVHS home page (http://www.ivhs.org).

If you have questions regarding Summer Term 09, please email: ivs-summer@ivs.k12.il.us.

Fall registration will open in June. For questions regarding Fall Term 09, please email: ivs-fall@ivs.k12.il.us.

**Illinois Virtual School – Your Input is Requested**

As we begin our efforts to expand and enhance the IVS, an initial step is to gather input from users statewide. CURRENT IVHS USERS - We would like feedback on current virtual school operations, courses currently available through IVHS, and virtual courses desired to meet the education needs in your schools. Please
complete the following online survey using the link below:

http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/?p=WEB2295BAFH

NON-IVHS USERS -. We would like feedback on current educational needs, virtual programs to be offered, potential challenges in offering online learning, and professional development needs. Please complete the following online survey using the link below:

http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/?p=WEB2295BGQHS7H

If you have specific questions regarding the transition between Illinois Virtual High School (IVHS) and the new Illinois Virtual School (IVS), please email Cindy Hamblin at chamblin@ltc3.k12.il.us.

The Peoria Regional Office of Education No. 48’s partners include Area III ROEs, Area III Learning Technology Center, Two Rivers Professional Development Center, and Western Illinois University.

**FY10 Reading Improvement Block Grant Applications**

The FY10 Reading Improvement Block Grant application became available for completion through the eGrants system on Tuesday, May 12. All eligible school districts serving grades K-6 may apply. Projected allocations for FY10, which are contingent on legislative approval, can be found near the bottom of the Budget Detail page of the application. Districts also may check their projected allocations by going to http://isbe.net/curriculum/pdf/ribg_alloc_fy10.pdf.

Please remember that the allocations are not final since the legislature has not yet approved the state’s budget. The total dollars allocated to each district could change.

The due date for the Reading Improvement Block Grant application is **June 15**. The start date for use of grant funds is Wednesday, July 1, or the date a substantially approvable application has been received by ISBE, whichever is later. All FY10 funds must be spent by June 30, 2010. For more information, please contact Sarah McCusker in the Division of Curriculum and Instruction at 217-557-7323.

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**Special Education Directors’ Conference 2009**

Registration is open for the annual Special Education Directors’ Conference and can be accessed online at:

http://webapps.isbe.net/ISBEConference/

This year’s keynote speaker is Daniel Habib, who will present and discuss his documentary film *Including Samuel*. Before his son, Samuel, was diagnosed with cerebral palsy, photojournalist Mr. Habib rarely thought about the inclusion of people with disabilities. Now he thinks about inclusion every day.

Shot and produced over four years, Mr. Habib’s award-winning documentary film, *Including Samuel*, chronicles the Habib family’s efforts to include Samuel in every facet of their lives. The film also features four other families with varied inclusion experiences, plus interviews with dozens of teachers, young people, parents and disability rights experts.

The conference’s featured speaker will be Nelson Lauver. In 1992, at age 29, Mr. Lauver, then a parking lot line painter, set a goal to overcome a lifetime of illiteracy caused by undiagnosed dyslexia. Intense struggle, burning desire, and a never-give-up attitude enabled him to achieve his goal, and change his life. Mr. Lauver learned to read and write - and that was just the start. Today, Mr. Lauver touches the lives of millions of listeners with his syndicated radio feature, The American Storyteller Radio Journal.

Further information on the conference can be found at the following links:


Questions regarding the conference may be directed to Leigh Ann Smith at 217-782-4870 or via e-mail at lsmith@isbe.net.

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**English Language Learning**

**Updated Information Regarding FY10 Screening for Pre-K/K Students**
Beginning on July 1 (2009-2010 school year), all school districts in Illinois are required to use the WIDA MODEL™ as a screener for students entering kindergarten to determine students’ English language proficiency and identify students eligible to receive ELL services.

Children who score below a 4.0 on either the Speaking or Listening domain of the WIDA MODEL™ are considered limited English proficient and are eligible for language support services.

Students, age 3 and 4, entering Pre-K will be screened using the Pre-IPT® Oral English Language Proficiency Test. Three-year-old children scoring below Level D (A, B, or C) are considered limited English proficient and are eligible for language support services. Four-year-old children scoring below level E (A, B, C, D) are considered limited English proficient and are eligible for language support services.

For more information, please visit the following page on the ISBE Web site:
http://www.isbe.net/bilingual/pdfs/wida_prek-k_screening10.pdf

Should you have any additional questions regarding this request, please call 312-814-3850.

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We have incorporated automated email notification into EPS so people with access to the system are fully aware of profile changes made by ISBE. ROE staff and Public School District staff with access to EPS will receive email notification when a profile change on any district or school profile record is made within their ROE and/or District.

All Regional Superintendents and District Superintendents will be granted full access to EPS on May 26. We encourage these administrators to take a look at the system and prepare to enter all of your school, district and ROE profile changes in preparation for the 2009-2010 school year which are due to ISBE by the end of June.

Thank you for your attention and if you have any questions, please direct them to help@isbe.net or call our helpdesk at 217-558-3600.

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**Data Systems**

**New IWAS-based system (Entity Profile System) available**

On Tuesday, May 26, ISBE released a new IWAS-based system named: **Entity Profile System (EPS)**. EPS replaces the paper-based Spring Update to the CDS system. It will be available all year long and will be a central location where customers can easily edit their entity profile information such as: Entity Name, Contact Name, Mailing Address, Delivery Address, Phone, Fax, Email Address, Grades Served, etc. EPS will allow for real-time changes to Entity Profiles and will also allow for the post-dating of profile changes such as new administrator contact names that are effective July 1st.

EPS will allow Public School Districts to update their district and school profile records. EPS will allow Regional Office personnel to update their ROE record and view all profile information for the districts and schools within their region. Reports are available in EPS for all district-level and ROE-level users with access to the system.

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**IWAS OPEN FOR 2008-2009 Data Submission on High School Students Taking Community College Courses**

The 2008-2009 High School Students Taking Community College Courses system is open on IWAS for district-level data submission. Only unit districts and high school districts need to submit data. Regional Offices of Education and Intermediate Service Centers can view reports on IWAS of data submitted by districts in their regions.

The deadline for entering data on the 2008-2009 High School Students Taking Community College Courses system is **August 1, 2009**. Your cooperation in submitting accurate data in a timely manner is greatly appreciated.

Questions about information to be entered for this data collection should be referred to Niann-Tsyr Chern in the Data Analysis and Progress Reporting Division at 217-782-3950.

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**Nutrition**

**2009–2010 Special Observances Dates/Themes Announced**
The School Nutrition Association has announced the 2009–2010 National School Lunch Week and the National School Breakfast Week themes.

Bookmark the respective Web sites to help plan, promote, and publicize your special events. Each site contains recipes, menus, logos and artwork, suggestions for events, proclamations, and much more.

- **National School Lunch Week (NSLW)** is October 12–16, 2009, and the theme is “All-Star School Lunch.”

- **Illinois School Breakfast Week** is November 16–20.

- **Illinois School Breakfast Week (ISBW)** is celebrated in conjunction with American Education Week. Visit the National Education Association’s website at www.nea.org for more information. This year’s theme is “Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility.”

- **National School Breakfast Week (NSBW)** is March 8–12, 2010, and the theme is “School Breakfast—Ready, Set, Go!”

Please bookmark www.schoolnutrition.org/nsbw.

### Professional Development

#### Annual Superintendents’ Conference Announcement

The Annual Superintendents’ Conference will run Oct. 27-28 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield.

Roy Romer, former three-term Governor of Colorado, will serve as this year’s keynote speaker.

Mr. Romer has served as chair of the Democratic National Party, the National Governors Association, and the Educational Commission of the States. He was Superintendent of Schools for the Los Angeles Unified School District and chair of Strong American Schools.

Mr. Romer now serves as senior advisor to the New York-based nonprofit, The College Board, in its mission to connect students to college success and opportunity. He has a degree in agricultural economics from Colorado State University, a law degree from the University of Colorado and he studied ethics at Yale University.

Michael Geisen, the 58th National Teacher of the Year, will be the featured speaker on October 28. Mr. Geisen, a science teacher at Crook County Middle School in Prineville, Oregon, is just completing a year as a full-time national and international spokesperson for education that began on June 1, 2008. Mr. Geisen's goal is to ignite passion for learning in his students and his community.

Online registration opened Monday, June 1 and may be accessed at: http://webapps.isbe.net/ISBECconference/

Questions and concerns regarding the conference may be directed to Leigh Ann Smith at 217-782-4870 or via e-mail at lsmith@isbe.net.

#### Gifted Education Seminar Training Opportunities

The Illinois State Board of Education has made approximately $6 million in funds available to Regional Offices of Education to fund the statewide delivery of the new Gifted Education Seminar in Fall 2009 through Summer 2010. The Gifted Education Seminar is a 45-hour course of study that replaces the Gifted Education Institute.

The Gifted Education Seminar will help classroom teachers deepen their understanding of how to teach and reach gifted and talented students, including assisting them to create an environment that is conducive to identifying gifted and talented learners, addressing their diverse needs, providing skills to differentiate instruction and measuring student growth in the classroom.

The Gifted Education Seminar is being piloted throughout the state in Summer 2009 and will be available in Fall 2009 for additional teachers to be trained. For more information, please contact your Regional Office of Education or Intermediate Service Center. http://www.isbe.net/regionaloffices/pdf/roedirectory.pdf

### 2010 OAH TACHAU TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Organization of American Historians sponsors an annual award to recognize the contributions made by
precollegiate or classroom teachers to improve history education. The award, to be given for activities which enhance the intellectual development of history teachers and/or students, memorializes the career of Mary K. Bonsteel Tachau, University of Louisville, for her efforts to build bridges between university and precollegiate history teachers.

Applications must be received by December 1. The award will be presented at the 2010 annual meeting of the OAH in Washington, DC.

Precollegiate teachers engaged at least half time in history teaching, whether in history or social studies, are eligible to apply.

For more information, please visit:
http://oah.org/activities/awards/tachau/index.html

Student Opportunities

Illinois Youth Summit

On August 10, The Illinois State Board of Education's Student Advisory Council, in conjunction with State Farm and America's Promise Alliance, will host a statewide youth summit to gather input from Illinois students about their school experiences.

The summit will bring students from diverse geographic, ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds from across Illinois to Bloomington-Normal for a one day symposium and will serve as a catalyst to guide and inform future initiatives, especially the Drop-Out Prevention Summit scheduled for November 4.

This will be a student-planned and student-led conference. We expect the day to be a terrific experience for all participating students and adults. Please share information about the Youth Summit with students who can benefit from this one-day event and who will provide honest and forthright information about their school.

To have students register for the Youth Summit, please go to
http://www.sfamericaspromise.com/summits-il.php

Gallup Student Poll

America's Promise Alliance (the Alliance), Gallup, and the American Association of School Administrators, recently completed the first phase of the Gallup Student Poll - a nationwide survey of 5th through 12th graders measuring hope, engagement, and well being. On May 5, results from the initial phase were announced. Now, the Alliance is preparing for the fall round of polling.

With the permission of school officials, such as superintendents and principals, the Alliance will administer the poll in schools across the country to capture the voices of our youth. Available in English or Spanish, and free of charge to participating districts, the Gallup Student Poll will provide schools and communities with results within two weeks of the survey period.

More information is available at
http://www.gallupstudentpoll.com where you can register for webinars June 18 through the 26th.

Employment Opportunities

ISBE External Vacancy List

An External Vacancy List for the Illinois State Board of Education is available at:
http://www.isbe.net/hr/Default.htm

In the News

Weekly news clips

ISBE has posted highlights from last week’s education news clips at: