I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable holiday weekend.

As you know, Illinois does not have a budget for the 2010 fiscal year which began July 1. Last week, Governor Quinn vetoed the so-called 50 percent budget lawmakers approved at the end of May.

The budget vetoed by Governor Quinn would have required the Board to make some drastic cuts to FY 2010 budget line-items other than General State Aid and Mandated Categoricals (MCAT). If Governor Quinn had not vetoed the “50-percent budget,” the Board was prepared to convene a special meeting to cut nearly $500 million from their proposed FY 2010 budget.

Lawmakers are scheduled to return to the Capitol July 14. Talks between the Governor and legislators continue this week and it is my hope that they result in a new budget that would not require massive cuts. I would urge you to reach out to your local lawmakers and make your district needs known to them.

It is quite possible that when lawmakers reconvene, they would vote to override the Governor’s veto. If that is the case, the Board will schedule an emergency meeting to take action as soon as possible. Check the ISBE Web site for a meeting announcement.

As we are currently without a budget, I would strongly urge you not to spend any funds that you anticipate receiving from state-only funded grant programs. A list of these programs follows my column.

Finally, I wanted to let you know that the Comptroller’s office has released approximately $275 million to pay outstanding education vouchers, leaving the backlog of school bills at about $570 million. This latest installment of funds paid all education vouchers through March 31, which includes the third-quarter MCAT payments. While we all would like to see the state up to date on its bills, these are funds that could have been paid to other entities who are also owed state money, some of whom have bills dating back to February. We will continue to update you on any funds released to pay for the remaining bills.

Have a great week!

Chris
Upcoming Dates & Deadlines

- Accounting Webinar – July 10
- Migrant Education Application for the 2009-2010 School Year – July 15
- TSR Salary Data – July 15
- Request for Proposals (RFP) for Reading Recovery ® training and professional development – July 20
- PSAE corrections – July 21
- Part 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision), Part 25 (Certification) and New Part 425 (Voluntary Registration and Recognition of Nonpublic Schools) Public comment period ends – July 27
- Differentiated Accountability Flexibility Applications due – July 31
- 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
- Statewide Youth Summit – Aug. 10.
- Deadline for waiver applications to be considered by the General Assembly in Fall 2009 – Aug. 14
- Reading Improvement Block Grant Performance Report – Aug. 17
- Part 120 (Pupil Transportation Reimbursement), Part 180 (Health/Life Safety Code for Public Schools), Part 252 (Driver Education), Part 401 (Special Education Facilities Under Section 14-7.02 of the School Code), and Part 675 (Providers of Supplemental Educational Services): Public comment period ends August 20.
- Annual Superintendents’ Conference in Springfield – Oct. 27-28

FY2010 Budget

State-funded grant programs

The Illinois State Board of Education faces potential cuts to many state funded appropriation line items in the FY10 budget. While we await the approval of an FY 2010 budget, the agency strongly urges that districts make no expenditures in anticipation of state funded grants for FY 2010 which began July 1. ISBE will inform districts of fund availability as soon as the final budget is passed.

In addition, if you have a contract with the agency you should review it to determine what actions need to be taken at this point in time, per the specifics of the contract. If you have questions or need clarification, please speak with your agency contact.

State Funded budget line items that could face substantial cuts include the following:

ADA Safety and Educational Block Grant
Advanced Placement Classes-State Grant
After School Programs-Mentoring & Student Support

Agriculture Education
Arts Education & Foreign Language Assistance
Illinois Autism Training and Technical Assistance Project
Bilingual Ed. - Chicago District 299
Bilingual Ed. - Downstate - T.P.I. & T.B.E.
Illinois Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic
Bridges Extended Learning Opportunities
Career & Technical Education
Charter Schools - Transition Impact Aid
Children's Mental Health Partnership
Driver Education
Early Childhood - Block Grant
Educational Materials Center
Extended Learning-Summer Bridges
Grow Your Own Teachers
National Board Certification Initiatives
Philip J. Rock Center and School
Principal Mentoring Program
Reading Improvement Block - Professional Development
Set Aside
Reading Improvement Block Grant
Regional Safe Schools
Re-Enrolling Students-Alternative Schools Network
Reorganization Incentive
ROE School Bus Driver Training
ROE/ISC Operations
School Breakfast Incentive
State Free Lunch & Breakfast
Statewide System of Support
Supervisory Expense
Tax Equivalent Grants
Teacher & Administrators Mentoring Program
Teach For America
Teacher of the Year
Technology for Success
Temporary Relocation Expense Fund
Truants Alternative/Optional Ed.

ARRA

Accounting Webinar July 10

Please be reminded of the 10 a.m. Friday, July 10 webinar on school district auditing and reporting.

Review and verify your data carefully. Sort by and clear all error codes, verify all student demographic information, and check the “unassigned test results” file to make sure all student scores are accounted for. All corrections must be completed by Tuesday, July 21. Data at that time will be considered final. Failure to make corrections during this window will not be grounds for subsequent appeals. Rescore request forms are available on [www.isbe.net/assessment/psae.htm](http://www.isbe.net/assessment/psae.htm).

Completed forms are due to ISBE no later than 5 p.m. Tuesday, July 21.

Please note that students who did not earn valid reportable ACT scores will have “NA” in the Day 1 ACT scores field.

For technical questions, please contact the SIS Help Desk at 217-558-3600. For general PSAE questions, contact the Student Assessment Division at 217-782-4823.

Curriculum & Instruction

Reading Improvement Block Grant Performance Reports

The FY09 Reading Improvement Block Grant reports became available for completion through the eGrants system on Friday, June 26. All school districts receiving grant funds must submit a performance report. The due date for the Reading Improvement Block Grant performance report is August 17.

Grants & Programs

FY 2010 NCLB Consolidated Application

The FY 2010 No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) Consolidated Application has been available since Thursday, June 26 in the electronic Grants Management System (eGMS). It includes the following grants:

- Title I, Part A, Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged
- Title II, Part A, Teacher Quality
- Title II, Part D, Enhancing Education Through Technology (formula grant) [available in the fall*]
- Title IV, Part A, Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities

Student Assessment

Posting of 2009 PSAE Scores

We are moving into the next phase of the assessment process. Scores from the spring 2009 PSAE are posted in ISBE’s Student Information System (SIS).
FY 2010 projected district allocations were mailed to each district in May for Regular Title I and ARRA Title I, and on June 25 for Title II and IV and will be reflected in the NCLB Consolidated Application in eGMS. In addition, the allocations can be viewed on the Funding and Disbursements Home Page and the Grants and Programs Home Page under “2010 NCLB Projected Allocations” or just click on the following link: http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/nclb_allocations10.pdf

*Title II-D allocations are based on the final Title I allocations, which are determined in the fall. Districts must amend for these funds prior to incurring expenses related to the Title II-D funds and the final Title I allocations. The ARRA NCLB Application will be opening in July and a separate announcement will be forthcoming.

Please make sure that your approval groups are properly assigned through IWAS in order to access eGMS and submit your application.

**SBE Announces FY 2010 NCLB Technical Assistance Workshops**

ISBE staff from the Division of Grants and Programs invite you to a one-day NCLB technical assistance workshop being offered throughout the state this summer. The morning session will focus on Public School Choice (PSC) and Supplemental Educational Services (SES), which are programs that apply to schools in federal school improvement status. The afternoon session will focus on the FY 2010 NCLB Consolidated Application process, including updates on the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Title I application and additional information about funding for Choice and SES.

The three all-day workshops will be offered on July 6, 7, and 8. There is no fee to attend, and lunch will be provided. All interested districts are invited regardless of school improvement status.

The provisions of PSC and SES are complicated and challenging for local districts. Choice requires districts to notify parents of the option to enroll their children in schools that are not in improvement status and to provide any required student transportation associated with such a change in building enrollment. SES requires districts to provide free tutoring to low-income students at Title I schools identified to offer SES. Districts must address parent notification materials, contracts with SES providers, billing and payment issues with those providers, and compliance concerns with state and federal law. The workshop will provide practical guidance on the implementation of these provisions.

Similarly, completion of the annual NCLB Consolidated Application can prove to be complicated and challenging, especially this year with questions about the new stimulus money and how to apply for ARRA Title I funds. The afternoon session of this workshop will focus on how to complete the regular NCLB Consolidated Application and the ARRA Title I Application. This training may serve as a follow-up for those who participated in the eGMS Spring 2009 Workshop Webinar for 2010 NCLB Grants (held June 18).

Please consider attending. For more information about these workshops, including instructions for registering, districts should visit: www.isbe.net/grants/pdf/nclb_workshops.pdf

**Rules & Waivers**

**Notice of Completed Rulemaking**

Please be advised that two sets of amendments recently adopted by the State Board are now in effect. These rules have been posted on the agency’s Web site at www.isbe.net/rules; choose “Rules Currently in Effect” and scroll to the relevant Part number. If you print the affected Sections, then please be sure to include the table of contents for the Part, since that changes every time the rules are amended.

Part 140 (Calculation of Excess Cost Under Section 18-3 of the School Code)
Incorporates changes in response to P.A. 95-793 (deadline for claims, removal of summer school); provides more explicit information on calculations. Affected Section: 140.10, 140.20, 140.30 and 140.40 Effective Date: June 22, 2009

**Part 240 (Alternative Learning Opportunities Program)**
Provides technical updating only by eliminating a reference to Part 110 (Program Accounting Manual) in favor of Part 100. Affected Section: 240.80 Effective Date: June 22, 2009

**Invitation to Comment on Rules**

Five proposed rulemakings recently reviewed by the State Board of Education are now available for public comment. These items have been posted on the agency’s Web site at www.isbe.net/rules; choose “Proposed Rules and Amendments”. Please submit any comments or suggestions you may have to rules@isbe.net.

**Part 120 (Pupil Transportation Reimbursement)**
Makes revisions to districts’ responsibilities for transporting students to and from child care locations; other revisions are technical in nature. Deadline for Public Comment: August 20, 2009

**Part 180 (Health/Life Safety Code for Public Schools)**
Incorporates by reference the newest editions of the International Building Code and its sub-codes as the requirements for school construction in Illinois, effective on or after January 1, 2010. Also, makes a technical correction to eliminate an outdated reference to the Fall Enrollment and Housing Report. Deadline for Public Comment: August 20

**Part 252 (Driver Education)**
Makes allowances for a school district’s contracting of behind-the-wheel instruction when adaptive driver’s education is required; aligns teacher qualifications with requirements in Part 25 (Certification) and Part 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision). Deadline for Public Comment: August 20

**Part 401 (Special Education Facilities Under Section 14-7.02 of the School Code)**
Makes technical changes to update terminology and a cross-reference to Part 226 (Special Education). Deadline for Public Comment: August 20

**Part 675 (Providers of Supplemental Educational Services)**
Eliminates the requirement that providers have experience serving youth in the same community where supplemental educational services will be offered. Also aligns two places within Appendix B (Evaluation Rubric) with a change made as part of the amendments to Part 675 that were completed earlier this month, repairing an omission that will have no effect on the next scheduled evaluations of providers. Deadline for Public Comment: August 20

**Nutrition**

United States Department of Agriculture Food Distribution Program and Illinois Commodity System Workshops

Nutrition Programs staff is providing United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food Distribution Program (FDP) and Illinois Commodity System Trainings at seven sites in November and December 2009. The trainings focus on the Illinois Commodity System, placing annual commodity orders, diversions to processors, the Department of Defense (DoD) Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program, and additional monthly processes to teach better management of USDA foods. Pre-registration is required. Registration begins at 11:30 a.m. and the program runs from noon until 4 p.m. Space is limited.

- November 3 ............................................... Galesburg
- November 4 .......................................... Bloomington
- November 12 ......................................... Schaumburg
- November 13 .......................................... Tinley Park
- November 17 ................................................. Marion
- November 18 ........................................ Fairview Heights
- December 2 .............................................. Springfield

For more information and to register, go to http://webprod1.isbe.net/cnscalendar/asp/EventList.asp and scroll down to the USDA Food Distribution Program and Illinois Commodity System.
School Year 2009-10 Household Eligibility Application Online

The 2009–2010 Household Eligibility Application for free and reduced-price meals has been posted on the division of Nutrition Programs Web site: www.isbe.net/nutrition.

All forms used in prior years to create copies for distribution should be discarded. The new application form must be used. We realize schools like to prepare materials before this time for the upcoming school year. However, program regulations require schools to distribute free and reduced-price Household Eligibility Applications no earlier than four calendar weeks prior to the time the students start school. Schools cannot send letters home at the end of the current school year for the next school year, nor can schools accept and process applications before July 1.

If you have questions, please contact Nutrition Programs staff at 800-545-7892 or 217-782-2491, or at: cnp@isbe.net.

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: http://www.isbe.net/news/2009/newsclips/090703.htm