



Oct. 6, 2009

Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

Later this month, we will host the annual Superintendents’ Conference in Springfield. This is an event that I always look forward to because it’s a great opportunity for me to hear what’s on your mind, see some old friends and meet new ones. It offers you a chance to get some additional professional development and network with your peers. Our featured speakers this year include Roy Romer, former three-term Governor of Colorado, and Michael Geisen, the 58th National Teacher of the Year. In addition, I intend to host another hot topics session for you. Please register online at <http://webapps.isbe.net/ISBEConference/> before Oct.16.

I, along with several of my counterparts from other states, recently traveled to Finland to study their education system — a trip sponsored by the Council of Chief State School Officers. Finland has approximately five million citizens, socialized health care, free tuition at higher education institutions and high taxes — and what many believe is the top-performing education system in the world.

Each year, the Finnish Minister of Education recommends an “adequate” funding level for public education and the national government provides 40 percent of that funding, leaving the locals to provide the other 60 percent. Even though local governments do not always provide their 60 percent share for education, the schools are all consistent in their high performance. It does not matter where a student lives, as all students are guaranteed a strong public education.

Of all the impressions I was left with in Finland, the most notable was that they make every possible effort to ensure that every teacher and administrator is exceptionally prepared to teach children. They require mastery of content in two areas for middle school teachers as well as for principals, and they invest heavily in professional development and support to those individuals. They don’t have new classrooms or buildings nor do they have exceptional technology. The focus is on the effectiveness of the teachers in the classroom.

Surprisingly, the Finnish people didn’t seek a No. 1 world status and they are actually trying to figure out what about their system is yielding such exceptional results. Finland, having been buffeted by Sweden and Russia for centuries, realized that their most important resource was their citizens. They began investing in their people through education — not only their children but also their adults. As such, there are many folks exceptionally well prepared for work in Finland and the competition for jobs is fierce.

Another major impression is that they trust in public education. Teachers are well respected and education policymakers pride themselves in giving school personnel flexibility to make the best instructional decisions possible. They were puzzled when we described testing for accountability under NCLB. They don’t even assess students until they are in high school and they feel that doing so any earlier would be pointless; an incentive for teachers to teach to the test and a means to generate unnecessary media attention. Their Minister of Education said she would never consider such a system.

Table of Contents	
Funding and Disbursement Services.....	2
H1N1 Influenza	3
Curriculum and Instruction.....	3
Common Core	4
Education Funding Advisory Board.....	4
ARRA	4
Grants and Programs	5
Data Analysis and Progress Reporting	5
School Business Services	5
Nutrition.....	6
Computers and Technology	6
Professional Development.....	6
Student Opportunities	6
School Opportunities	7
Employment Opportunities.....	7
In the News.....	7

I also want to bring to your attention the Illinois Youth Dropout Prevention Summit, which is being convened Nov. 4 by America's Promise Alliance and co-sponsored by the Illinois State Board of Education and State Farm Insurance. I would encourage you to join me for the summit at Illinois State University's Bone Student Center and bring a team from your district or region. There is no cost to the attendee and lunch will be provided, with travel stipends available on a first-come basis through your Regional Office of Education. CPDU's will be available.

During the summit, attendees will be paired regionally in facilitated working sessions to develop a framework to take home with them to implement action plans within their communities. Follow up meetings will be held after the summit to provide regional support.

Please encourage those within your district to attend. Sign up at <http://www.sfamericaspromise.com/adultsummit.php>.

Have a great week!

Chris

Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

- **ISAT Writing Pilot** – Oct. 5-9
- **Common Core College and Career Readiness Standards meeting in Chicago** – Oct. 6
- **U.S. Senate Youth Program and Hearst Scholarship application deadline** – Oct. 7
- **Education Funding Advisory Board meeting** – Oct. 7
- **Common Core College and Career Readiness Standards meeting in Springfield** – Oct. 8
- **Illinois Youth Dropout Prevention Summit** – Oct. 12
- **Deadline for submitting the 2009 Reduction in Force Survey** – Oct. 15
- **FY 2011 Budget Hearing in Peoria County** – Oct. 19
- **FY 2011 Budget Hearing in Chicago** – Oct. 21
- **Those Who Excel/Illinois Teacher of the Year Banquet in Peoria** – Oct. 24
- **Part 100 (Requirements for Accounting, Budgeting, Financial Reporting and Auditing):** Public comment period ends Oct. 26
- **Annual Superintendents' Conference in Springfield** – Oct. 27-28
- **FY 2011 Budget Hearing in Springfield** – Oct. 28
- **School District's Adopted Budget due at ISBE** – Oct. 30
- **Illinois Dropout Prevention Summit** – Nov. 4
- **FY 2011 Budget Hearing in Wheeling** – Nov. 5
- **Annual Statewide Transition Conference** – Nov. 8-10
- **Limitation of Administrative Costs Worksheet deadline** – Nov. 16
- **Annual Financial Report due at ISBE** – Nov. 16 (excluding those granted extensions due Dec. 15)
- **FY 2011 Budget Hearing in Mundelein** – Dec. 9
- **Postmark deadline for waiver applications to be considered by the General Assembly in Spring 2010** – Jan. 8

Funding and Disbursement Services

Final FY 2010 General State Aid and Hold Harmless Calculations

Final General State Aid (GSA) and Hold Harmless (HH) Entitlement calculations are available via the GSA Inquiry, which can be accessed at

<http://webprod1.isbe.net/gsainquiry/asp/default.asp>. Due to the uncertainty as to when GSA payments will be paid with the ARRA Stabilization funds later this year, the balance of the payments will not be loaded in the Financial Reimbursement Information System (FRIS) for the entire fiscal year. GSA entitlement payments were calculated using the FY 2010 foundation level of \$6,119; however, the FY 2010 GSA appropriation is insufficient to fully fund calculated GSA entitlements. This is due

primarily to two pieces of legislation that impacted the final GSA calculations. PA 96-0300 changed statute to require ISBE to use the calendar year 2008 Corporate Personal Property Replacement Tax instead of calendar year 2007. PA 96-0152 provides for an alternate Property Tax Extension Limitation Law adjustment in the General State Aid formula for districts that had a successful referendum to increase their limiting rate. Per statute, the GSA prorated shortage must be deducted from the Poverty Grant portion of GSA calculation of entitlements. Although it is possible that there will be a supplemental appropriation, we have chosen to error on the side of caution. Thus we have prorated the Poverty Grant portion to approximately 98.42 percent.

In addition, the FY 2010 GSA Hold Harmless appropriation is insufficient to fully fund calculated HH payments and has been prorated down to approximately 43.68 percent of the calculated payment amounts as well. If you have questions regarding General State Aid, contact **Jim Mathes** at jmathes@isbe.net or phone 217-782-5256.

PA 96-0689 – Individual School Building Closure Due to Public Health Emergency

Public Act 96-0689 added Section 18-12.5 to the Illinois School Code. This new language allows a district to close to student attendance one or more, but not all, recognized school buildings due to a public health emergency after the district has consulted with a local health department and still claim attendance for that building for General State Aid purposes. The Illinois State Board of Education in consultation with the Illinois Department of Public Health must determine a public health emergency exists. Once a public health emergency has been verified for General State Aid purposes, the district may claim attendance for the day(s) that the building is closed based on the average of three days of attendance immediately preceding the closure. You may access further details and information at http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/PA96-0689_district_guidance.pdf.

For questions, contact **Marj Beck** at mbeck@isbe.net or 217-782-5256.

H1N1 Influenza

The U.S. Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act

On June 25, 2009, the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services issued an amended Declaration for the use of the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness

Act (PREP Act) (Pub. L. 109-148, 42 U.S.C. §§ 247d-6d, 247d-6e) for the 2009 H1N1 vaccine. This Declaration triggers the immunity provisions under the PREP Act, assuming certain conditions are met as required by the PREP Act, which may provide some protection from liability to school districts and their employees (including school nurses) if a school district participates in school-located vaccination clinics. School districts should ask their local counsel to review the PREP Act and the facts related to their participation in a school-located vaccination clinic, to determine what liability protection may exist. The amended Declaration can be found at <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/pdf/E9-14948.pdf>.

Booklet Aims to Educate Schoolchildren

Grade-school teachers can educate their students about H1N1 and protection against germs with the help of a new booklet called “Germ Warfare.”

The booklet, available at http://www.idph.state.il.us/h1n1_flu/germ-warfare-book.pdf, is by Brad Tassell with illustrations by Tracey Tellez. Tassell is also the author of “Don’t Feed the Bully,” a book that has been used in some schools to teach children about bullying (<http://www.dontfeedthebully.com>). The Champaign-Urbana Public Health Department asked Tassell to write the book and has distributed it to local schools and agencies serving youth. For more information, contact Julie A. Pryde at 217-531-5369 or jpryde@c-uphd.org.

CDC Releases Guidance Materials for School-Located Vaccination Clinics

If you are considering a school-located vaccination clinic, the CDC has released guidance materials that you may find helpful. The guidance materials can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination/slv/>. Local school districts planning on holding school-located vaccination clinics should work with their local counsel in developing agreements with local health officials and evaluating communications with parents and the community. The guidance also references aspects of the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

Curriculum and Instruction

Assessment Survey

There has been substantial interest in assessment practices among U.S. educators during recent years.

Increasing numbers of educators regard the formulation of a comprehensive balanced assessment system as an integral component to effective teaching and learning.

The purpose of this survey is to determine what is occurring in the school districts in Illinois in terms of promoting the effective use of assessment as a requisite component of quality instructional practice.

The survey can be completed by the district superintendent, curriculum coordinator or building administrators. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey or forward the link (<http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/?p=WEB229PH48LVQL>) to the appropriate person. This valuable information will assist ISBE to formulate effective policy and practice in terms of providing the necessary resources to develop the use of formative assessment in Illinois classrooms.

For more information, contact **Gil Downey**, Principal Consultant, Curriculum and Instruction Division at 217-557-7323.

Common Core

Meetings Slated to Gather Feedback

The Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE), Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) and Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) invite you to attend a critical stakeholder meeting to review and provide feedback on the draft of national Common Core College and Career Readiness Standards for mathematics and English language, which potentially will impact the K-12 learning standards in Illinois.

A series of regional meetings are being held to gather feedback on these drafts so that the state partners can share Illinois-specific feedback with the national network. After meetings for the general public in Chicago and Mount Vernon, there are two stops remaining on the calendar.

- **3-5 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 6**
Chicago Federation of Labor
130 E. Randolph St. #2600
Chicago, IL 60601
Audience: Business and labor
- **1-4 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 8**
Springfield Crown Plaza
3000 S. Dirksen Pkwy.
Springfield, IL 62703
Audience: General Public

If you cannot attend one of the regional meetings, consider submitting comments electronically at <http://www.ibhe.org/commonCore/comment.asp>.

Education Funding Advisory Board

Meeting Scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 7

The Education Funding Advisory Board will hold its second Fiscal Year 2010 meeting Oct. 7. The meeting is set for 1 to 4:30 p.m. in Room 16-503 at the James R. Thompson Center in Chicago.

EFAB makes recommendations to the General Assembly on funding levels for school districts with a high volume of children at or below the poverty level.

This meeting will be accessible to persons with disabilities. Persons planning to attend who need special accommodations should contact the Board office no later than the date prior to the meeting. Contact the Superintendent's office at the Illinois State Board of Education, phone: 217-782-2221; TTY/TDD: 217-782-1900; fax: 217-785-3972.

In May, Gov. Pat Quinn named five members to the advisory board. They are: Sylvia Puente, Board Chair and the Executive Director of the Latino Policy Forum; Dean Clark, a former board member of ISBE and EFAB as well as the National Association of State Boards of Education, Arthur Culver, Superintendent of Champaign Unit 4 School District, Ed Geppert Jr., President of the Illinois Federation of Teachers and Ken Swanson, President of the Illinois Education Association.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

ARRA Applications Announcement

Districts, there has been a delay in the approval of the ARRA applications. Please be patient with staff as they are working hard to review all of the 735 NCLB and 735 ARRA applications. There was a problem with the two applications not talking to each other in e-grants. We now have the problems corrected.

Deadline for NCLB and ARRA Applications

This year we have a deadline for submitting NCLB and ARRA applications in e-grants. NCLB Applications and

ARRA applications deadline is **Nov. 2**. All applications must be submitted by Nov. 2. Applications after this date will not be accepted. If you have questions contact your Principal Consultant in the Grants and Programs Division at 217-524-4832.

Grants and Programs

NCLB Performance Report for FY09

Each year all districts who received NCLB funds are required to submit a performance report to the Illinois State Board of Education. The NCLB performance report is located in IWAS. You will find it when you log in to IWAS under Reporting and then under Annual. The NCLB performance report for FY09 is now available for you to enter your information. The deadline to submit is **Oct. 20**. If you have any questions about how to submit the performance report, contact **Gail Buoy** in the Grants and Programs Division at 217-524-4832 or gbuoy@isbe.net.

Data Analysis and Reporting

Teacher Salary Study Form Available

The 2009-10 Teacher Salary Study data form is now available on IWAS. The deadline for districts and other local agencies that hire teachers to complete and submit the form is Oct. 23. If you do not have a contract at this time (still in negotiations), click on the “No Contract” button and log off; you will be asked to submit your data again in January 2010. Please be sure to provide a copy of your salary schedule/policy and negotiated agreement, unless you have already done so in a prior year and they are still in effect. Send them to: Illinois State Board of Education, Data Analysis and Progress Reporting, 100 N. First Street, S-284, Springfield, IL 62777.

Questions about completing the Teacher Salary Study data form can be addressed to **Dr. Richard Yong** in the Data Analysis and Progress Reporting Division at 217-782-3950 or ryong@isbe.net.

2009-10 Nonpublic Registration, Enrollment and Staff Report

Starting Oct. 1, the Nonpublic Registration, Enrollment and Staff Report (87-01) for school year 2009-10 will be available in IWAS at <https://sec1.isbe.net/iwas>. Completed reports must be received by ISBE no later than Dec. 31.

Nonpublic schools that have registered with ISBE at least once in the past must submit their data online via IWAS.

Nonpublic schools that have never registered with ISBE must submit their data using the paper form 87-01 at http://www.isbe.net/research/htmls/np_entity.htm.

Public district administrators should communicate with nonpublic school administrators within their district boundaries and encourage them to submit registration, enrollment and staff data. A portion of the public district funding allocation calculated for the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) uses nonpublic enrollment data that is reported voluntarily by nonprofit elementary and secondary schools.

Nonpublic schools seeking recognition must submit the Nonpublic Registration, Enrollment and Staff Report before applying for recognition.

Questions can be directed to **Md. Shafiqul Azam** in the ISBE Data Analysis and Reporting Division at 217-782-3950.

2009-10 Non-Certified Staff Salary Study

Starting Oct. 1, the Non-Certified Staff Salary Study survey will be available in IWAS for submission of 2009-10 school year data. Here are URLs for two useful documents are provided below.

Worksheet:

http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/2007_ncss_worksheet.pdf.

Example for completing the survey:

http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/2007_ncss_instruct.pdf

The deadline date for submission is March 1. Districts with student enrollments of less than 1,000 as of the last school day in September 2008 can ignore this message.

Questions can be directed to **Md. Shafiqul Azam** in the ISBE Data Analysis and Reporting Division at 217-782-3950.

School Business Services

Reorganization Feasibility Studies

Funding is available for FY 2010 School District Reorganization Feasibility Studies. Feasibility studies are a tool to be used by school districts wanting to investigate the advantages and/or disadvantages of reorganization options. Interested school districts should submit a proposed agreement with an independent contractor(s) to their Regional Office of Education

(ROE). The ROE will submit the agreement to the Illinois State Board of Education for approval.

Each study will be funded on a base tier according to the number of school districts involved in the study. Studies will be funded an additional tier based on the combined enrollment of the districts involved in the study. Studies are funded between \$4,500 and \$8,000 based on the procedure listed above. Funds are available on a first-come, first-served basis. In order to receive reorganization feasibility study funds in FY 2010, agreements must be approved by both ROE and ISBE, and studies must be completed and approved for payment no later than June 30.

Procedures, funding allotment and sample forms are available at

<http://www.isbe.net/sfms/html/feasibility.htm>.

For questions, contact **Michelle Heninger**, School Business Services, at 217-785-8779 or mheninge@isbe.net.

Nutrition

National School Lunch Week Coming Up

The School Nutrition Association has provided tools to celebrate National School Lunch Week, Oct. 12-16. Begin with a sample proclamation, logos and more at <http://docs.schoolnutrition.org/meetingsandevents/nslw2009/content-tools.asp>. Plan now to join schools across the country to serve the special menu with recipes provided. The elementary and secondary average nutrients per serving of NSLW meals are available at the Web site. Honor and recognize your school nutrition staff's contributions to the school district. Best wishes for a successful NSLW.

Computers and Technology

Microsoft Select Licensing Program Fall 2009 Update

ISBE offers Illinois K-12 public schools and organizations of all sizes the ability to purchase Microsoft software at greatly discounted prices through the Microsoft Select Licensing program. The current agreement with Microsoft expires on Feb. 28. ISBE is working on plans to renew this agreement for an additional three years through February 2013.

The Select program is a perpetual license program allowing schools the ability to purchase even a single

license at discounted prices. Media can be ordered only when needed. All of the Microsoft Applications like Office are offered along with the complete set of Microsoft server products and Operating System Upgrade licenses. Subscription based products such as Forefront for Exchange (used at ISBE) that allow you to license software for the remaining five months of the current contract are also available.

Illinois schools place their orders directly through Microsoft LARS chosen by ISBE to service this program. Pricing and program information can be found online at <http://www.isbe.net/msselect/contract.html>. A brief price list of the most popular Microsoft products and a complete list of all products are current and are updated monthly.

The Microsoft Bi-weekly Education Newsletter is a new edition to the Web link this fall. Published by Microsoft, the newsletter provides information on upcoming Microsoft Live Meeting product and program Webcasts as well as new product and promo information.

Professional Development

James Madison Fellowship Available

The James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation is seeking applicants from Illinois committed to a career in teaching American history, American government or social studies at the secondary level.

The James Madison Fellowship offers up to \$24,000 to pursue a master's degree. Teachers and students about to complete their undergraduate work can apply at www.jamesmadison.gov for the federal program.

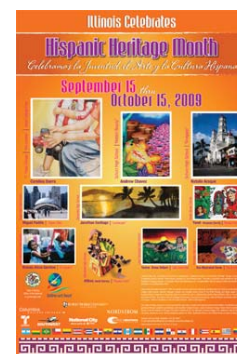
Visit the Web site for more information. Contact Lewis F. Larsen at llarsen@jamesmadison.com for questions.

Student Opportunities

Poster Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

The Official State of Illinois poster for 2009 Hispanic Heritage Month was recently unveiled at a press conference with Gov. Pat Quinn.

The poster features some of the award-winning artwork from Chicago-area high school



students in a contest organized by Latino Art Beat. Visit <http://latinoartbeat.com/images/HHP08.09proof.pdf> to see a large version of the poster, which marks a celebration from Sept. 15 through Oct. 15.

Latino Art Beat, a Chicago-based not-for-profit organization, awards scholarships to high school students through the contest. For more information, visit <http://latinoartbeat.com>.

Real World Design Challenge Returns

The Real World Design Challenge is gearing up for its second year in search of high school teams to compete. Teams consist of a teacher and three to seven students who will compete in the area of aviation. The national competition will be held in March.

The Real World Design Challenge is run by a public and private partnership that aims to promote science, technology, engineering and mathematics in schools.

For more information, visit <http://www.realworlddesignchallenge.org> or contact **Ralph K. Coppola** at 703-298-6630 or rcoppola@ptc.com.

School Opportunities

Awards Honor Health Education Programs

The American Association for Health Education is looking to hand out awards to schools with outstanding health education programs. Applications for the Blue Apple Health Education Awards are available at <http://www.blueappleaward.org>.

The deadline to apply for the second annual awards is Nov. 6. The Blue Apple Health Education Awards will recognize up to 12 public schools from across the country. For more information, visit the Web site above.

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/091002.htm>.