



Nov. 17, 2009

Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

Last week, the U.S. Department of Education released applications for the Race to the Top (RT3) and Phase II of the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund. The Race to the Top application was released on Thursday, with an application deadline in mid-January. We have been working with stakeholder groups as we develop this application and will continue these efforts through the holiday season. Awards for the first round are expected to be announced next spring with a second round of applications taking place over the summer. Should our application for Race to the Top funds be successful, Illinois would receive between \$200 million and \$400 million. You can find out more information about RT3 at <http://www.ed.gov/programs/racetothetop/index.html>.

Also last week, the U.S. Department of Education released the application for the second phase of the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF). The SFSF stimulus funds have been used to prevent General State Aid from being cut, with the last five GSA payments in FY 2009 and the first in FY 2010 being comprised entirely of these funds. The budget the Governor and lawmakers developed for FY 2010 calls for about \$1 billion of GSA funds to be paid from stimulus sources, and in order for that to occur, we must have a successful Phase II application.

The Phase II SFSF application is due in mid-January and a state must have an approved Phase II application to receive an RT3 award.

Finally, I attended the Dropout Prevention Summit earlier this month at Illinois State University. The summit, sponsored by America’s Promise Alliance and State Farm, provided hundreds of educators from around the state an opportunity to work together on our dropout problem. Alma Powell from America’s Promise was the keynote speaker and regional breakout sessions were held in the afternoon for teams to develop strategies to take home with them.

Rick Stephens of Boeing Corp. expertly conveyed a key message: We can’t expect schools to fix everything — these are community issues and we need the entire community to be involved to resolve them. I think it’s important for you to know that many folks in corporate America want to be involved in moving education forward, cooperatively.

Have a great week.

Chris

Table of Contents	
Legal	2
Assessment.....	2
English Language Learning.....	2
Special Education and Support Services ...	3
Rules and Waivers.....	3
Nutrition.....	4
Curriculum and Instruction.....	4
Student Opportunities.....	4
Professional Development.....	5
Employment Opportunities.....	5
In the News.....	5

Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

- **Assessment Network Webinar training session** – Nov. 19
- **FY 2010 NCLB Monitoring Instrument submission deadline** -- Nov. 30
- **ISAT Science and Math Item Presentation Pilot** – Dec. 7-11

- **FY 2011 Budget Hearing in Mundelein** – Dec. 9
- **Part 151 (School Construction Program)** – Public comment period ends Dec. 28
- **Part 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision) and Part 252 (Driver Education)** – Public comment period ends Jan. 4.
- **IAAE Service Recognition Awards nomination deadline** – Jan. 4
- **Postmark deadline for waiver applications to be considered by the General Assembly in Spring 2010** – Jan. 8
- **Immigrant Education Program Student Report deadline** – Jan. 15
- **Part 228 (Transitional Bilingual Education) and Part 235 (Early Childhood Block Grant)** – Public comment period ends Feb. 15
- **Illinois Young Authors’ Conference in Bloomington-Normal** – May 15
- **2009-10 Eye Examination Data Collection deadline** – June 30

Legal

Clarification on the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act

We have been contacted by the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) regarding a concern that student teachers have not been considered by school officials as mandated reporters of child abuse or neglect pursuant to the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act (ANCRA).

DCFS has raised a concern that student teachers may not believe they are mandated reporters. ANCRA requires all “school personnel,” including administrators and both certified and non-certified school employees, to be mandated reporters. Student teachers are mandated reporters of child abuse and neglect when acting in their professional or official capacity. Student teachers are required to fill out the appropriate Acknowledgement of Mandated Reporter Status form, which is available on the DCFS Web site, <http://www.state.il.us/dcf/index.shtml>.

Assessment

ISAT Science and Math Item Presentation Pilot Coming Up

In December, there will be a special pilot looking at the impact of different presentation accommodations on ISAT science and math item performance. Schools selected for participation will be receiving notification within the next week.

Students in grades 3 and 5 will be taking one approximately 55 minute math session. Students in grade 8 will be taking both a math and science session. Materials should arrive the week of Nov. 30. In the notification letters, the groups of students who should be assessed will be identified. Participation of students with

disabilities and students identified as limited English proficient as specified in the letters is critical.

The window for the administration is Dec. 7 through Dec. 11. Additional information regarding administration will be provided in the notification letters and with the assessment materials.

Your full cooperation and support of this effort is appreciated and will allow us to continue and to expand the accommodations made available with ISAT. If you have questions regarding the pilot, please contact Student Assessment at 217-782.4823.

English Language Learning

Immigrant Education Program Student Report Due Jan. 15

Illinois school districts are reminded to complete and submit the Immigrant Education Program Student Report by Jan. 15.

Authorized by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (Public Law 107-110), local school districts are asked to identify immigrant students enrolled in both public and nonpublic schools within their attendance boundaries. The immigrant student count submitted in this report will be used to determine FY11 Immigrant Education Program funding eligibility.

To access the memo, report form, directions for submitting the report and other critical details, see http://www.isbe.net/bilingual/pdfs/immigrant_program_app.pdf.

For additional information regarding this program, contact Gerardo Cepeda at 312-814-5583 or gcepeda@isbe.net.

Special Education and Support Services

Early Intervention to Early Childhood Tracking Forms Change

The Illinois State Board of Education’s Special Education Division is continuing to receive Early Intervention to Early Childhood Tracking Forms despite clarifications and updates that this step is no longer needed. We have also been notified by the Illinois House of Representatives Office that they, too, have been inadvertently receiving faxes of Early Intervention to Early Childhood Tracking Forms. Please be advised that as of Aug. 1, 2008:

- Districts are no longer required to fax these Tracking Forms to ISBE.
- These data are to be reported to ISBE through the Student Information System (SIS).
- Districts are, however, still required to submit the tracking form to the Child and Family Connections (CFC) office.

The updated tracking form can be found at http://www.isbe.net/earlychi/docs/EIEC_tracking.doc.

If you have any questions, please contact the Early Childhood Division at 217-524-4835.

ARRA IDEA Construction and Renovation Projects Approval Process Webinar

With the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), ISBE has received a significant number of requests for approval to use ARRA IDEA funds to pay for building construction and renovation projects. This message is sent to inform you of recent developments regarding the approval of construction requests. While all expenditures under ARRA must be reported, the use of ARRA funds for construction is subject to extensive compliance measures.

Section 1511 of the ARRA requires the Governor or other chief executive to vet all construction requests and certify that the infrastructure investment is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars. ARRA also requires that all construction projects supported with ARRA funds must be reviewed and when approved and certified, the LEA name, description of the proposed project and cost must

be posted on the federal ARRA Web site at <http://www.recovery.gov>.

All procedures are in place for ISBE to comply with the ARRA requirements for construction approval. For your reference, please see the attachment that describes the ISBE Review Procedures for Construction Applications. A Webinar on Construction with ARRA/IDEA funds will be held from 2 to 3 p.m. Nov. 20, at which time the construction approval process will be described and participants will be given the opportunity to ask questions. Registration for the Webinar is required and can be completed by using the link that follows: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/515389785> or by visiting the home page of the ISBE Web site where this link is posted.

A construction application will be posted at <http://www.isbe.net/arra/default.htm> and also at http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/html/idea_part-b.htm on the morning of Nov. 20. All grant applicants seeking ARRA/IDEA funds for construction must complete the construction application. Even if you have already sent in a request, you must complete the attached form and mail the signed original and one copy to ISBE as indicated on the form. Fax or electronic copies cannot be accepted as original signatures are required. This construction application is to be used for all construction requests using ARRA IDEA funds or “regular” IDEA funds. It is necessary to have applicants complete this form to collect data which will meet the requirements of ARRA regulations.

Rules and Waivers

Notice of Completed Rulemaking

Please be advised that several sets of amendments recently adopted by the Illinois State Board of Education are in effect. These rules have been posted on the agency’s Web site at <http://www.isbe.net/rules>. Please choose “Rules Currently in Effect” and scroll to Part number.

Part 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision)

Amends various sections of these rules addressing accountability, equal opportunities, curricular mandates, support services and personnel.

Affected Sections: 1.20, 1.30, 1.88, 1.100, 1.240, 1.420, 1.450, 1.465, 1.480, 1.510, 1.530, 1.630, 1.720, 1.737, 1.770, 1. Appendix A

Effective Date: Oct. 20, 2009

Part 65 (New Teacher Induction and Mentoring)

Eliminates the focus of the program as a pilot program; makes changes in program requirements addressing certificates, mentor-teacher contact hours and mentor stipends.

Affected Sections: 65.20, 65.130, 65.140, 65.160

Effective Date: Oct. 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.

Affected Sections: 180.60, 180.540

Effective Date: Oct. 20, 2009

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).

Affected Sections: 252.20, 252.30, 252.40

Effective Date: Oct. 20, 2009

Part 401 (Special Education Facilities Under Section 14-7.02 of the School Code)

Makes two technical corrections.

Affected Section: 401.270

Effective Date: Oct. 20, 2009

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 a previous rulemaking.

Affected Section: 675.50, 675.APPENDIX B

Effective Date: Oct. 20, 2009

Nutrition**National School Lunch Program Verification Summary Report Deadline**

Verification is the confirmation of eligibility for free and reduced-price meals under the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP). Annually, each local educational agency (LEA)

participating in the NSLP and/or SBP must select and verify a sample of household applications approved for benefits. The LEA must submit a Verification Summary Report (VSR) summarizing the results of verification efforts. The VSR must be submitted electronically through IWAS, to the Illinois State Board of Education by Dec. 15.

Instructions on accessing and completing the VSR are available at <http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/vsr.htm>. Basic information regarding the verification process can be found at

http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/pdf/verification_process.pdf.

Illinois School Breakfast Week/American Education Week Under Way

This year marks the 20th Illinois School Breakfast Week (ISBW), which is set for Nov. 16-20. It is celebrated in conjunction with American Education Week. Take advantage of this great opportunity to educate students, your school community and faculty on the importance of eating breakfast and academic performance.

Curriculum and Instruction**Nominations Sought for Arts Education Awards**

Nominations for the 2010 IAAE Service Recognition Awards are available. This is a wonderful opportunity to recognize individuals and groups who have contributed to arts education in Illinois. Individual arts educators can be nominated, as well as individuals and organizations in the areas of public and community service, industry and business and more.

Deadline for nominations is Jan. 4. Visit <http://www.isbe.state.il.us/curriculum/default.htm> for more information.

Congressional Medal of Honor Film

Public Act 096-0099, effective July 1, 2009, amends the School Code adding Section 27-3.5. This amendment requires all grade 7 students and all high school students enrolled in either a United States history or combination United States history and American government class to view the Congressional Medal of Honor film.

The film, "Medal of Honor – In Their Own Words 2009," is approximately 11 1/2 minutes in length. It is available in Real Media Player and Windows Media

through the Curriculum & Instruction Web page. The video link is http://www.isbe.net/curriculum/html/medal_of_honor.htm.

Student Opportunities

Entries Sought for John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Essay Contest

High school students across the country have the opportunity to enter the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Essay Contest. Organized by the library's foundation, the contest asks students to write about the political courage of a U.S. elected official who served since 1956.

Winning essayists will receive awards totaling up to \$13,500, and the first-place winner will be invited to accept the award at the Profile in Courage Award Ceremony in May at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum in Boston. In addition, the nominating teacher of the first-place winner will receive a \$500 grant.

For complete contest information and resources, visit <http://www.jfklibrary.org>. Under "Education & Public Programs," click on "For Students" to find links to the essay contest. Resources include lesson plans for teachers and video footage for classroom use.

Students must register at the Web site and submit essays by Jan. 9.

Professional Development

Early Literacy and Illinois Reading Recovery Conference Scheduled

The 2010 Early Literacy and Illinois Reading Recovery Conference is set for Jan. 20-22 in Chicago.

Sponsored by the Illinois Reading Recovery Center and National-Louis University, the conference offers up to nine hours to eligible Illinois-certified administrators and teachers who are working on their certificate renewal.

For more information and registration, visit <http://www.nl.edu/rconf/>. For questions, contact Claudia Katz at ckatz@17755@aol.com or 847-236-1164.

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/091113.htm>.