Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

I want to thank all of you for your calls, e-mails and comments this week; your words of encouragement helped offset the disappointment of our state not receiving a Race to the Top grant. As demonstrated by our finishing fifth out of 41 applicants, our application was very competitive. We will submit a Phase II application by the June 1 deadline.

We have been reviewing the comments from the Rt3 reviewers and are beginning to formulate how we might improve Illinois’ chances during this second round of Rt3. While we had sign on from districts representing more than 74 percent of all students and more than 80 percent of low-income students, the reviewers focused on the large number of districts that did not sign a Memorandum of Understanding. Given the number of districts in our state compared, for example, to Delaware, I know it will be difficult to put together an application that would be supported by all districts. Illinois has nearly 870 districts and more than 2 million students. Delaware has 20 districts and less than 130,000 students. We will need your assistance in trying to increase participation both in terms of the number of districts and the number of local unions signing on. I know many of you want to know if we will need to re-submit new Memoranda of Understanding. This is a question we are still working through.

As we work through the process of preparing our Phase II application, I am asking for superintendents to please complete a short survey to provide me with some feedback. We need your input as we develop our Phase II Rt3 application, and I have sent all districts a link to the survey via IWAS. Please take a few moments to review it and provide your insights. Many of the RT3 elements, such as professional development with the new learning standards, the learning performance management system and improved assessments will benefit all districts. But those of you who sign on will be implementing these reforms on the ground and it is important that you have a say in it.

Legislators are currently on their spring break and will be coming back to Springfield next week. Once they return, they will undoubtedly have many questions for me about why we didn’t win the Rt3. I will note the reviewers’ concerns about our education system not having the capacity at the state and local levels to successfully implement our reform agenda, and will underscore the importance of the General Assembly approving the Board’s recommended budget, which you can access at http://www.isbe.net/budget/FY11_budget_recommendations021810.pdf. If you have an opportunity to meet with your local legislators in the coming days and weeks you may also want to point to state and local capacity concerns and implementation of Rt3 as well.

I hope you are enjoying the spring weather.

Chris

Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

- Truants’ Alternative and Optional Education Program (TAOEP) RFP deadline – April 14
• **Title I Status Survey deadline** – May 1
• **Illinois School Wellness … From A to Z Conference** – May 4
• **School Safety Conference in Schiller Park** – May 5 (Registration deadline May 1)
• **Investing in Innovation Fund grant deadline** – May 11
• **Illinois Young Authors’ Conference in Bloomington-Normal** – May 15
• **Part 24 (Standards for All Illinois Teachers) and new Part 210 (Illinois Hope and Opportunity Pathways through Education Program)** – Public comment period ends May 24
• **2009-10 Eye Examination Data Collection deadline** – June 30
• **2010 Bilingual Education Program Delivery Report deadline** – July 30
• **Postmark deadline for waiver applications to be considered by the General Assembly in Fall 2010** – Aug. 13
• **2009-10 Teacher Service Record spring data collection period deadline** – Aug. 15

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**Illinois State Board of Education**

**2010 Meeting Schedule Revised**

The Illinois State Board of Education has announced changes to its meetings schedule for 2010.

All State Board of Education meetings listed on this agenda 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 State Board of Education, Phone: 217-782-2221; TTY/TDD: 217-782-1900; Fax: 217-785-3972.

Staff presentations and detailed Board discussion typically take place during committee meetings prior to the State Board taking action in the plenary session. Note that some committee meetings will begin at the conclusion of the previous meeting. The State Board of Education plenary session is always the morning of the second day of meetings.

State Board meetings held in Springfield are located in the 4th Floor Board Room at 100 N. First St. Please check the ISBE Web site (http://www.isbe.net/calendar) for final meeting postings. Here is a list of the remaining meetings for this year:

- April, no meeting scheduled
- May 19-20, Springfield
- June 23-24, Springfield
- July, no meeting scheduled
- Aug. 11-13, Board retreat in Bloomington
- Sept. 22-23, Springfield
- Oct. 27-28, Springfield
- Nov. 18, TBA
- Dec. 15-16, Springfield

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**Curriculum and Instruction**

**High School Students Invited to Join ISBE Advisory Council**

The Illinois State Board of Education is accepting applications for the Student Advisory Council for the 2010-11 school year. There are eight openings on the 15-member council. Any Illinois public school student who will be a sophomore, junior or senior is eligible to apply.

The Student Advisory Council was created in 1975 to bring student concerns to the attention of ISBE. Each year, the Student Advisory Council presents research and makes policy recommendations to the board. Council members attend board meetings and sessions of the General Assembly. Through this experience, students will gain an understanding of the educational issues facing Illinois schools.

An application is available online at http://www.isbe.net/SAC/default.htm. It must be returned to the State Board of Education by 4 p.m. Friday, May 14, 2010. The mailing address is: Illinois State Board of Education, Curriculum and Instruction, 100 N. First St, C-215, Springfield, IL 62777.

Activities of the Student Advisory Council in 2010-11 are contingent upon final state budget allocation. For more information, please contact the division of Curriculum and Instruction at 217-557-7323.

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**Educator and School Development**

**School Safety Conference Set for May 5**

The Illinois State Board of Education, the Archdiocese of Chicago Office of Catholic Schools, RETA Security, the Illinois Terrorism Task Force and East Aurora School
District invite you to heighten your safety awareness by attending a gathering of experts in the field of school safety and crisis prevention. At no cost to you, you can learn how to enhance the safety and security of your school facility on a day-to-day basis and long term. This vital information will be practical and easy to apply, and there will be ample time for you to ask specific questions.

The conference will be held May 5, 2010, at Victoria Beau Jolie in Schiller Park. The registration deadline is May 1. For more information, including registration information, please see the following link: http://isbe.net/esd/pdf/safety_conf_flyer_may2010.pdf.

**Nutrition**

**School Food Service Equipment Grant Application Now Available**

The secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture has awarded a one-time appropriation to Illinois of $902,953 for equipment assistance to eligible school food authorities (SFA).

Funds will be distributed via a competitive grant to SFAs who participate in the National School Lunch Program and did not receive an FY09 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Equipment Grant. An SFA is ineligible to apply if even one of its sites received ARRA equipment funding. Sites for which funds are sought must have at least 50 percent of students eligible for free and reduced-price meals. Minimum awards of $500 will be made starting May 7, 2010, and funds must be expended by Aug. 31, 2010.

To apply, go to [http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/](http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/) and under What’s New, click on FY10 NSLP Equipment Assistance Grant Application. For questions, contact the Nutrition Programs Division at 800-545-7892.

**Culinary Courses Help Schools Meet School Meal Recommendations**

The National Food Service Management Institute (NFSMI) developed a series of six free online courses designed to help child nutrition teams prepare healthier school meals that appeal to students’ tastes. The Culinary Techniques for Healthy School Meals series will help school foodservice staff initiate food production and culinary techniques that incorporate principles of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans into the preparation of school meals.

Illinois school food service staff that complete the Culinary Techniques series are eligible to receive a stipend of $75 and a set of Dietary Guidelines posters for their cafeteria through June 30, 2010. The stipends were made available by a USDA Team Nutrition Training grant. If you don’t have computer access, log onto the course at your local library.

The launch of the NFSMI culinary courses is particularly timely as the Institute of Medicine (IOM) recently released recommendations for healthy school meals. The IOM’s School Meals: Building Blocks for Healthy Children report provides recommendations for revising the standards and requirements for the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program. USDA will use the recommendations to draft proposed rules for revising these programs.

Go to [http://KidsEatWell.org](http://KidsEatWell.org) for details about the Culinary Techniques courses, the reimbursement stipend and posters.

**Data Analysis and Progress Reporting**

**Title I Status Survey on IWAS**

The Title I Status Survey is now available on IWAS. The purpose of this survey is to identify Title I schools for 2009-10 AYP computations and school report cards. The deadline to complete this survey is May 3, 2010.

If you have any questions, please call Richard Yong in the Data Analysis and Progress Reporting Division at 217-782-3950.

**2009-10 Teacher Service Record – Spring Data Collection Period**

The 2009-10 Teacher Service Record will open Thursday, April 1, for districts and other reporting entities to provide data on all full- and part-time employees who worked at any time during the 2009-10 school year in a position that requires a teaching, administrative or school service personnel certificate issued by the Illinois State Board of Education. This includes any retiree who worked in a position requiring certification, performing duties other than as a substitute.

This spring data collection period is for educator updates (additions and changes since the fall data collection period) and for 2009-10 salary submissions. The deadline for submitting these data is Aug. 15, 2010.
Questions about completing the Teacher Service Record can be directed to the ISBE Data Analysis and Progress Reporting Division at tsr@isbe.net or 217-782-3950.

2010 Bilingual Education Program Delivery Report Available on IWAS

The 2010 Bilingual Education Program Delivery Report (PDR) is available on IWAS. Each school district or other local education agency operating a school or program that had students with limited English proficiency (LEP) enrolled during the 2009-10 school year is required to submit this report to ISBE, per 23 Illinois Administrative Code 228.40(c)(2). The deadline for submitting the report is July 30, 2010. The user guide for electronic submission of the report on IWAS is available at ftp://help.isbe.net/webapps/BilEdPgmDelRpt/pdf/PDR User Guide.pdf.

Questions about using the Bilingual Education PDR system on IWAS should be referred to the ISBE Help Desk at 217-558-3600. Questions about completing the Bilingual Education PDR should be referred to Lilibeth Q. Gumia in the Data Analysis and Progress Reporting Division at 217-782-3950 or lgumia@isbe.net.

School Business Services

School Maintenance and School Energy Efficiency Project Grant Programs

The FY2010 Capital Bill provided $100 million for School Maintenance Project Grants. The Maintenance Grants are a dollar for dollar state matching grant program providing up to $50,000 for small repair and maintenance projects. All school districts, charter schools, cooperative high schools, vocational centers or public university laboratory schools are eligible. The grants are planned to be distributed over the next three fiscal years. The applications will be available at the ISBE Web site once the funds are released.

The FY2010 Capital Bill provided $50 million for School Energy Efficiency Project Grants. The Energy Efficiency Grants are a dollar for dollar state matching grant program providing up to $250,000 for energy efficiency projects in schools. All school districts, charter schools, cooperative high schools, vocational centers or public university laboratory schools are eligible. The grants are planned to be distributed over the next three fiscal years for insulation, windows, doors, energy controls, lighting, energy recovery, energy conservation, alternative energy systems and other projects designed to reduce energy consumption. The applications will be available at the ISBE Web site once the funds are released.

Special Education Services

FAQs About Special Education Eligibility and Entitlement Procedures and Criteria Within a RtI Framework


The FAQ provides additional detail and examples connected to information in the ISBE Guidance Document. The questions contained in the FAQ were developed, in part, based on questions and issues raised by stakeholder groups and individuals during the review of the initial draft of the Guidance Document. The responses to the questions draw on current research and effective practices in implementing a three-tiered model of instruction, assessment and intervention, as well as the federal regulations and state rules for special education. It is important to note that the FAQ is intended to provide technical assistance and should not be a substitute for appropriate professional and/or legal advice on specific matters.

As shared previously, a series of training events will be conducted to support implementation of the process outlined in the Guidance Document. The training materials are under development, and we anticipate that training will begin in May. Further details, including dates and locations, will be forthcoming. Questions about the FAQ or the Guidance Document can be directed to Special Education Services at 217-782-5589.

Rules and Waivers

Invitation to Comment on Rules

Two rulemakings recently reviewed by the Illinois State Board of Education are available for public comment. The proposals have been posted on the agency’s Web site at http://www.isbe.net/rules; choose “Proposed Rules and
Amendments.” Please submit any comments or suggestions to rules@isbe.net.

Part 24 (Standards for All Illinois Teachers)
Updates general standards for teachers and incorporates separate standards for language arts and technology into the Illinois Professional Teaching Standards to take effect July 1, 2012.
Deadline for Public Comment: May 24

New Part 210 (Illinois Hope and Opportunity Pathways through Education Program)
As required by P.A. 96-106, effective July 30, 2009, establishes criteria for approval of these programs intended to re-enroll dropouts in programs that will lead to the students’ receipt of a high school diploma from their school district of residence; sets forth the application process for seeking competitive funding under the incentive grants initiative.
Deadline for Public Comment: May 24

Innovation and Improvement

Center Offers Webinars for Districts
The Center on Innovation and Improvement has created several Webinars that aim to help districts learn more about the Intervention models for School Improvement 1003(g) and Race to the Top.

The Webinars are available at http://www.centerii.org/webinars/. For more information, contact Marilyn Murphy at mmurphy@centerii.org or Sam Redding at sredding@centerii.org.

Classroom Opportunities

Take a Virtual Tour to Bryce Canyon National Park
The National Park Service and the National Park Foundation are planning an electronic field trip to Bryce Canyon National Park. The program couples a live one-hour broadcast from the park along with a Web site for teachers and students.

Two “trips” to Bryce Canyon in Utah are scheduled for 9-10 a.m. and noon to 1 p.m., Tuesday, May 18. The Web site, which includes lesson plans for teachers and interactive challenges for students, will go live in mid-April.

For more information or to register, visit http://www.brycecanyoneft.org. For questions, contact Carolyn Hill at chill@nationalparks.org.

Student Opportunities

Latino Art Beat Offers Competition for High School Juniors and Seniors
Latino Art Beat, a national not-for profit arts organization, has announced its 13th annual art competition will be themed “What Hispanic Heritage & Culture Means to Me?” The competition is available to all high school juniors and seniors currently enrolled in an Illinois high school.

Competition entries will include drawing, painting, film and animation. Students can submit artwork entries in all media. In the categories of drawing or painting, such entries must be either mounted or matted on white or black board. All canvas entries must be stretched and mounted to a wood stretcher. Film entries must reflect the student’s Hispanic heritage and be a VHS or DVD of 5 minutes or less total running time.

Scholarship awards will be given to select winners of the 2010 competition. To date, Latino Art Beat has awarded more than $3 million in scholarships to students on a national basis. The Illinois deadline for entries is Friday, May 28, 2010.

For full competition information, applications and the 2010 Rules & Guidelines booklet please e-mail your request to: latinoartbeat@hotmail.com or telephone 773-291-6901.

Organization Offers Free Camps for Military Children
Military children ages 15-17 years old are eligible for the National Military Family Association’s Operation Purple Leadership Camps.

The camps include a commitment to complete a community service project that teens will be required to document progress on throughout the year.

The camps are free to selected participants with travel expenses up to $500 reimbursed. They are planned in five different locations across the country. For more information, eligibility requirements and to apply, visit http://www.militaryfamily.org/leadership or call 703-931-6632.
**Professional Development**  
**Program on Teaching Chinese Language**  

The Cultural Division of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Chicago announced a new program for teachers interested in training to teach the Chinese language.

The two-week program will be held this summer in Taiwan, where participating teachers will receive methodological and theoretical advanced instruction for K-12 level Mandarin Chinese pedagogy. Professional development includes curriculum and oral training, Chinese teaching pedagogy, classroom visits, cultural introductions and a conference promoting Chinese language learning.

Tuition, accommodations, textbooks and food and transportation is Taiwan is covered by the Ministry of Education. But teachers are responsible for their own airfare.

For more information, including how to receive an application, e-mail info@edutw.org or call 312-616-0805. The deadline to apply is April 10.

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**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.

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**In the News**  
**Weekly News Clips**  