I want to thank all of you who took the time to participate in our Race to the Top Webinar last Tuesday. We had more than 200 participants in the live Webinar. The video of the Webinar and a version of the PowerPoint presentation that you may download for your own use can be accessed at http://www.isbe.net/racetothetop/htmls/webinars.htm.

Tomorrow we will host a Webinar focusing on the Learning Performance Management System at 11 a.m. This Webinar will provide you with a closer look at the Learning Performance Management System we are proposing to construct with Race to the Top funds to be accessible to all schools and will also include a live demonstration of an LPMS that is currently in use in the Bloomington School District 87. You can register for this Webinar at https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/644744016.

Through the Webinars, surveys and face to face meetings, we have received some great feedback from you and have been able to address concerns, make adjustments and correct misinformation. In addition to the resources that we have already made available to you, we have also developed a question and answer document that I hope you will find useful. You can download this Q and A from the resources box on our Race to the Top homepage at http://www.isbe.net/racetothetop/default.htm.

Lawmakers are entering their final week of the scheduled spring legislative session and we will likely see a number of actions moving very quickly this week. The biggest issue before the General Assembly continues to be the state budget for FY 2011. The fate of the FY 2011 budget is still uncertain. I want you to be aware that I was asked by Representative Jim Watson for my thoughts on the viability of a six-month budget. In my written response to Representative Watson, which I have posted on our Website at http://www.isbe.net/pdf/budget_response.pdf, I was very clear about my opposition to a six-month budget scenario because of the host of problems it would create for our school districts. Please feel free to use this letter or borrow from it in any communications you have with lawmakers or constituents.

Finally, I know the end of session is a time of high anxiety. I have been in contact with many of the people involved in the budget making process and I have been informed that the discussions are centering on FY 2011, as opposed to any reductions to the current (FY 2010) budget. We have four GSA payments left in the current fiscal year and these have been, and as far as I am aware, these remain priority payments for the State.

In addition, the fourth quarter Mandated Categorical payment will be made using the Education Assistance Fund (EAF). Cash is more readily available from EAF than payments that are made from General Revenue. The second and third quarter payments have already been vouchered from the General Revenue and it is anticipated that the balance in the EAF will be sufficient to pay the fourth quarter payment. As a result, the fourth quarter Mandated Categorical payment normally paid in June will be paid before the second and third quarter payments.

Chris
Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

- **PSAE accommodations test window** – April 28-May 13
- **Title I Status Survey deadline** – May 3
- **Illinois School Wellness From A to Z Conference** – May 4
- **School Safety Conference in Schiller Park** – May 5
- **Expanding Breakfast grants application deadline** – May 7
- **Investing in Innovation Fund grant deadline** – May 11
- **PSAE make-up test dates** – May 12-13
- **Student Advisory Council application deadline** – May 14
- **Strengthen Your Wellness Policy Webinar** – May 14
- **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
- **FY 2011 Regional Safe Schools Program application deadline** – May 24
- **Final 2009-2010 Public School Calendar deadline** – last day of school
- **Proposed 2010-2011 Public School Calendar deadline** – June 15
- **2009-10 Eye Examination Data Collection deadline** – June 30
- **Migrant Education Program application deadline** – July 15
- **Special Education Directors’ Conference in Peoria** – July 28-30
- **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

### Innovation and Improvement

**Information on the FY 2011 School Improvement Grant – Section 1003(g)**

The Innovation and Improvement Division is pleased to announce that the FY 2011 competitive grant, the School Improvement Grant – Section 1003(g), will be released early May. The SIG-1003(g) Request for Proposal, Needs Assessment, proposal forms and Webinar information will be posted at [http://www.isbe.net/sos/htmls/sip_1003.htm](http://www.isbe.net/sos/htmls/sip_1003.htm).

Three Webinars will be conducted to assist eligible district and school representatives with the development of their proposals.

- **Monday, May 10:** Completing the Needs Assessment, 1-3 p.m., pre-registration required, [https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/918876984](https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/918876984)
- **Tuesday, May 11:** Bidders Conference, 1:30-3:30 p.m., pre-registration required, [https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/753857248](https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/753857248)
- **Monday, May 24:** Technical Assistance Conference, 1-2:30 p.m., pre-registration required, [https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/637230089](https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/637230089)

This grant will provide funding to eligible districts that demonstrate the greatest need for school improvement funding and the strongest commitment to use the funds to implement the most rigorous reform interventions in the state’s persistently lowest-achieving schools (Tier I and Tier II). These reform efforts must hold the promise of producing rapid improvements in student achievement and school culture. The definitions and list of eligible Tier I and Tier II schools are posted at [http://www.isbe.net/SFSF/default.htm](http://www.isbe.net/SFSF/default.htm).

These grant funds are being provided through the Title I, Part A, Section 1003(g) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) and under section 1003(g) of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) with the purpose of improving student achievement in Title I schools identified for improvement, corrective action, or restructuring. Detailed information and resources supporting the development of these school improvement grants is available on the U.S. Department of Education Web site at [http://www2.ed.gov/programs/sif/index.html](http://www2.ed.gov/programs/sif/index.html), including the Guidance on School Improvement Grants.
and the Frequently Asked Questions for Local Educational Agencies on School Improvement Grants.

Illinois has received $134 million to support these intensive reform efforts with individual school awards ranging from $50,000 to no more than $2 million based on the selected intervention model. The district and schools may receive funding for two additional one-year periods based on appropriations and demonstrated progress.

If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Marci Johnson in the Innovation and Improvement Division at marjohns@isbe.net or 217-524-4832.

ISBE

Superintendents’ Conference Won’t Be Held This Year

For over 30 years, the Annual Superintendents’ Conference has been held each fall as a way to gather together and share ideas as the new school year begins. As we are all aware, times have changed and schedules have become increasingly difficult to manage. These facts, as well as the state’s fiscal crisis and discussions with superintendents, have caused us to reevaluate the need for the conference. During these discussions, Brent Clark, executive director of the Illinois Association of School Administrators, graciously offered to collaborate with ISBE and included us in their conference held in Springfield on April 13-14, 2010. As a result, there will be no Superintendents’ Conference this year. We hope to continue to collaborate with IASA in the future at the spring conference, and will keep you updated.

School Business Services

An Important Reminder on School Treasurer Bonds

All treasurers of school districts are to be properly bonded. Section 8-2 of the School Code states:

Before entering upon his duties, each school treasurer shall execute a bond ... conditioned upon the faithful discharge of his or her duties. The penalty of the bond shall be 25% of the amount of all bonds, notes, mortgages, moneys and effects of which he is to have the custody, whether individuals act as sureties or whether the surety given is by a surety company authorized to do business in this State, and shall be increased or decreased from time to time, as the increase or decrease of the amount of

notes, bonds, mortgages, moneys and effects may require, and whenever in the judgment of the regional superintendent of schools, or whenever in the judgment of the township trustees or the school board of the district by which the school treasurer was appointed or elected, the penalty of the bond should be increased or decreased; provided that the penalty of the bond shall not be increased to more than 25% of the amount of all bonds, notes, mortgages, moneys and effects of which the treasurer has custody at any time. …

No part of the State or other school fund shall be paid to any school treasurer or other persons authorized to receive it unless such treasurer has filed his or her bond, or if reelected, has renewed his or her bond and filed it as required by law. (105 ILCS 5/8-2)

The State Board of Education (ISBE) continues to interpret this to mean that a school district treasurer must be bonded for 25% of the amount he has in custody at any given time, not the total amount over the course of a year. The 25% will always remain 25% as the statute requires. There is no other percent that may be used. It is the dollar amount of the penalty that potentially could be increased or decreased.

The first part of the statute provides that before the treasurer enters upon his duties, he must be bonded for 25% of the amount over which he is expected to have custody at the time he assumes custody. Because he has not yet entered upon his duties, this refers to the amount for which he initially will be bonded when he does.

The statute also provides that it is the penalty that may be increased or decreased, not the 25%. After a treasurer is initially bonded, the board may exercise its judgment as to when the penalty of the bond should be increased or decreased. A judgment should be made based on the total amount the treasurer is holding at any given time. If the amount has increased, the bond should be increased. Section 8-2 is plain that the penalty is an amount of money, not a percentage. While the amount may be increased or decreased, the percentage may not be. The amount should change based on the amount the treasurer has in custody. The prohibition of going above 25% applies to the board increasing the penalty above 25% of what the treasurer holds. There is no prohibition of the penalty amount being more than 25% above what the treasurer actually holds if the amount the treasurer holds is reduced. This is one reason a board might exercise its judgment to decrease the penalty amount.
For example, if during the course of a year a district issues bonds, thus increasing the amount that the treasurer will have in his custody, the district should concurrently consider increasing the amount for which the treasurer is bonded. To do otherwise may leave the district open to risk of liability for the difference between the amount for which the treasurer was originally bonded and the amount for which the treasurer should now be bonded. If the district pays off bonds during the year, the amount for which the treasurer is bonded may be decreased because the bonded indebtedness in the treasurer’s custody will likewise be reduced.

The bond shall be payable to the township trustees of schools over the district or payable to the school board of the district, whichever is applicable. The bond shall be filed with the Regional Superintendent of Schools. School districts should not file a copy of their bonds with ISBE. Regional Superintendents of Schools shall file an affidavit with ISBE, by Sept. 1 of each year, showing which treasurers of school districts in their region are properly bonded. Copies of the actual school treasurer bond do not have to be filed with ISBE.

Additional Reminders on the School Treasurer Bond affidavit will be published in the Weekly Message in August.

Please contact Michelle Heninger at 217-785-8779 or e-mail her at mheninge@isbe.net with any follow-up questions.

English Language Learning

Migrant Education Program Application Available Online; Deadline July 15

The Migrant Education Program application for the 2010-11 fall and regular school year is available on the Division of English Language Learning Web page at http://www.isbe.net/bilingual/htmls/migrant.htm.

Funding is available under Title I, Part C of No Child Left Behind (NCLB) for supplemental academic and support services in school districts with qualifying migrant children and youth. The deadline for submitting the application is Thursday, July 15, 2010.

Children ages up to 21 years old who have not graduated from high school may be eligible for the program if they have moved within the past three years across state or school district lines with a parent or guardian or on their own to obtain temporary or seasonal work in agricultural production, fishing or food processing industries.

A certified recruiter must document that children qualify as migrant students. ISBE can assist districts with this process. For more information, contact Beth Robinson at 312-814-3850.

Nutrition

Expanding Breakfast Grant Application Due Date May 7

The Midwest Dairy Council’s 2010 Competitive Expanding Breakfast grants will assist grantees to implement nontraditional breakfast services such as Breakfast in the Classroom, Grab ‘n Go Breakfast, Breakfast after 1st period, and Universal Breakfast. Awards of up to $2,500 are available for a full year program or up to $1,000 for a pilot program (30 days, minimum) in school year 2011. Maximum award is $10,000 per district.

The deadline to apply is May 7, 2010. Go to http://www.midwestdairy.com/0p43a28/expanding-breakfast-more-options-for-students/ for the application.

Strengthen Your Wellness Policy Webinar Scheduled for May 14

Action for Healthy Kids and Yale University’s Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity announce the Strengthen Your Wellness Policy Webinar May 14. The Webinar will highlight the Wellness School Assessment Tool (WellSAT). An assessment tool, WellSAT covers nutrition education and promotion, physical activity/physical education, school meals and competitive foods.

Register for the Webinar at http://www.actionforhealthykids.org/resources/newsletter/strengthen-your-wellness.html.

Webinar on Electronic Direct Certification System Scheduled

From 10-11:30 a.m. on June 15, staff with the Nutrition Programs Division of the Illinois State Board of Education will provide School-Based Child Nutrition Program sponsors an overview of the Electronic Direct Certification System that will be used for school year 2010-11. This is the second school year in which the system will be used; system enhancements will be discussed.
Direct Certification is a simplified method of determining student’s eligibility for free meals through the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs or free milk under the Special Milk Program without completing a Household Eligibility Application. In addition, students directly certified to receive free meals or milk are not subject to verification. The Electronic Direct Certification System will be available July 1, 2010, for the school year 2010-11 eligibility determinations securely through Child Nutrition ACES.

Please note that the eligibility certificates that were mailed to each student receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (formerly the Food Stamp Program) and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) will no longer be mailed.

Materials for this Webinar, including the PowerPoint presentation and Guidance Document, will be posted on the Nutrition Programs Website (http://www.isbe.net/nutrition) no later than noon on Friday, June 11.

Space is limited. Pre-register for this Webinar at https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/174975848. If you have any questions, contact the Illinois State Board of Education, Nutrition Programs Division at 800-545-7892 or 217-782-2491. Staff can also be reached at cnp@isbe.net.

Special Education Services

Registration Under Way for Annual Special Education Directors’ Conference

We are pleased to announce that registration for the annual Special Education Directors’ Conference 2010 is open. The conference will be held July 28-30, 2010, at the Peoria Civic Center in Peoria.

Please take a few moments to read through the registration document at http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/conf/2010/pdf/registration.pdf as there have been a few changes this year. Most significantly, there is only one database for all conference registrants, so cooperatives, districts and nonpublic facilities will be using the same site to register. Also, all registration must be paid prior to the conference. The deadline is July 16.

We are very pleased to announce that Matt Roloff, star of TLC’s “Little People, Big World,” will be our special guest speaker on Friday, July 30. Matt Roloff translated a knack for entrepreneurship at an early age into a successful 25-year career in high tech sales, product development and service. He was a top performer for companies such as National Semiconductor, Altos Computer Systems, Sequent Systems and AMDOCS. Matt’s insatiable drive for achievement is reflected in many other ways. He is the author of two books. His autobiography “Against Tall Odds” chronicles his business successes and challenges as a little person. “Little Family, Big Values” is an inspirational look at his life and family. Matt has spoken to hundreds of audiences, motivating individuals to overcome challenges and achieve their dreams. Clients have ranged from Tyson Foods and Wal-Mart to Indiana University and the South Dakota Governor’s Conference.

Please continue to check the ISBE Web site at http://www.isbe.net for further information on the conference program, schedule and keynote speaker.

2007 Annual State Report on Special Education Performance Now Available


As in previous years, this report summarizes key performance data for students with disabilities that the Illinois State Board of Education regularly reports to the U.S. Department of Education. These performance areas include high school completion, student performance on statewide assessments and educational environments. Each of the three performance areas is introduced by providing the desired results as related to the Illinois State Performance Plan followed by overall observation. In addition, a background information section is provided to give an overall picture of students with disabilities in Illinois.

The Illinois State Board of Education publishes this report on an annual basis to ensure that parents, teachers, administrators, legislators and the public remain informed of the current performance and progress in improving results for students with disabilities.

Rules and Waivers

Notice of Completed Rulemaking

Please be advised that a set of amendments recently adopted by the Illinois State Board of Education is now in effect. These rules have been posted on the agency’s

**Part 145 (Temporary Relocation Expenses)**

Requires school districts to consider other resources and in-kind contributions when estimating both their ability to repay a temporary relocation loan and the expenses they anticipate incurring because of the relocation; provides for annual renewal applications; and makes other procedural requirements necessary for program accountability and management.

*Affected Sections: 145.10, 145.20, 145.30, 145.50, 145.60*

*Effective Date: April 22, 2010*

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**Student Opportunities**

**National-Louis University Offers Fellowships in Education, Business**

National-Louis University is offering the Elizabeth Harrison Fellowship for students interesting in pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in business administration or Bachelor of Arts in elementary education.

The fellowship, named for NLU’s founding president, is designed for full-time students attending during the day at the university’s Chicago campus. The fellowship covers about two-thirds of tuition or about $60,000 per student over four years.

The deadline to apply is May 17. Applications are available at http://www.nl.edu/harrisonfellows.

For questions or additional information, contact Jason Almodovar, Harrison Fellowship adviser, at 312-261-3043 or harrisonfellows@nl.edu.

**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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**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**