Lawmakers are expected to return to Springfield next week to wrap up their spring legislative session. I would anticipate that they will finalize a budget for FY 2011 before the Memorial Day weekend and we will be following the developments closely.

As lawmakers here in Illinois work to conclude their budget making process, we are keeping an eye on what is also happening in Washington. The Keep Our Educators Working Act contains $23 billion to provide states with relief to prevent additional cuts to education. It is estimated that Illinois’ share of this funding would be more than $950 million.

I have been in touch with members of our Congressional delegation and have expressed my support for this bill. This would replace approximately $1 billion in stimulus funding that we have used in each of the past two years to prevent additional education cuts here in Illinois. As you know, there are no more State Fiscal Stabilization Funds available in FY 2011. The Keep Our Educators Working Act has already passed in the U.S. House, and it is my hope that the U.S. Senate will consider it soon. If you have a position on this bill please consider reaching out to members of our delegation.

I have received a number of calls recently about Perkins/Career and Technical Education (CTE) funding and the Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirements surrounding them. The state match for the Perkins/CTE funding is part of the $1.4 billion backlog of bills owed to schools. I understand and share the concerns that this historic fiscal crisis could create future hardships through reduced federal CTE funding.

I want you to know that my staff and I have been in contact with federal Perkins administrators to get clarification on MOE determinations. It is my hope that the state’s commitment through the vouchering process will be sufficient to meet the MOE requirement, providing all funds are eventually paid. If that is not the case, then we will explore the possibility of a MOE waiver. While neither of these solves the current problem of state support for CTE, it is my hope that we are able to prevent future reductions to this vital source of federal funding for our students.

Last week, we sent information to principals about the ‘Find-a-Book’ website as an effort to encourage students to read over the summer. Using a student’s Lexile scores, the Find-a-Book website offers quick and easy access to a list of books that will match a child’s reading level and interests as well as the nearest libraries carrying each title. Users of the website can also find appropriate books without a Lexile measure through a search using the child’s grade level and comfort with the typical reading materials at that grade level. You can find out more about this program on the ISBE website at [http://www.isbe.net/htmls/summer_reading_2010.htm](http://www.isbe.net/htmls/summer_reading_2010.htm).

Finally, I want to remind you that this is the last week to return your signed memorandum of understanding (MOU) to become a participant in our Race to the Top application. The deadline is next Monday, May 24. Additional information
about our efforts to develop the application and benefits to all schools, as well as copies of the MOU and Letter of acknowledgement can be accessed at [http://www.isbe.net/racetothetop/default.htm](http://www.isbe.net/racetothetop/default.htm).

The reforms outlined in our Race to the Top application are ones that many of you will be pursuing anyway. If we receive this federal grant it will allow the state to develop a shared infrastructure to support the reform agenda that we are moving toward. Please consider joining with us for the common good of all students.

Have a great week!

Chris

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**Upcoming Dates and Deadlines**

- **Dental Data Collection system** – Open for data entry May 16-June 30
- **Illinois State Board of Education meeting** – May 20-21
- **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 amendments for federal or state funded grants with a Project End Date of June 30, 2010** - May 31
- **Final 2009-2010 Public School Calendar deadline** – last day of school
- **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 amendments for federal or state funded grants with a Project End Date of June 30, 2010** - May 31
- **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
- **Budget increases for state-funded grant projects** – 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
- **Amendments for grants with a Project End Date of August 31, 2010** August 1, 2010
- **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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**Funding and Disbursements**

**PA 96-0410 Effective July 1 Eliminates 15 Passenger Vans for School Transportation**

Public Act 96-0410 amends the School Code and the Illinois Vehicle Code. It removes a provision in the School Code that allows a school district to transport not more than 15 students to and from an interscholastic athletic or other interscholastic or school-sponsored activity in an 11-15 passenger van. You are encouraged to review the revised School Vehicle Use guidance that includes this new law at [http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/school_vehicle_guidance.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/school_vehicle_guidance.pdf).

The law adds a provision to allow the use of a federally approved multifunction school-activity bus (MFSAB) as a safe alternative to an 11-15 passenger van as well as allowing depreciation to be claimed for such vehicles on the FY 2012 Annual Pupil Transportation Claim. This bill provides that a school district transporting students in grade 12 or below for an interscholastic, interscholastic athletic or school-sponsored non-curriculum-related activity that (i) does not require student participation as part of the educational services of the district and (ii) is not associated with the student’s regular class-for-credit schedule or required five clock hours of instruction, shall transport the students only in a school bus, a vehicle manufactured to transport not more than 10 persons, including the driver, or a multifunction school-activity bus (MFSAB) manufactured to transport not more than 15 persons, including the driver and allows a district to claim depreciation on the Pupil Transportation Claim for that vehicle.

Prior to this bill becoming law, multifunction school-activity buses (or white activity buses) were claimed on the Pupil Transportation Claim with a depreciation code of “N” for non-reimbursable and their miles were also non-reimbursable. This bill allows a district to claim depreciation with a code of “V” for vehicle at a rate of 20
percent per year for 5 years provided for in Section 29-5 of the Illinois School Code. The mileage and expenditures for these vehicles is still non-reimbursable and should continue to be reported in the non-reimbursable category.

A multifunction school-activity bus is defined as a school bus manufactured for the purpose of transporting 11 to 15 persons, including the driver, whose purposes do not include transporting students to and from home or school bus stops nor between schools during the regular mandated curriculum period.

This law is effective July 1, 2010, which will affect the Annual Pupil Transportation Claim of 2010-11, payable in FY 2012. If you have any questions regarding this law, please contact Jamie Johnson in the Division of Funding and Disbursements at jjohnson@isbe.net or phone (217) 782-5256.

**FY10 State and Federal Grant Amendments and Project Extension Requests**

Many state and federal grant projects are approaching a June 30 end date for obligating FY 2010 grant funds. Be advised that per Policy Statements No. 2 and No. 3 on Page 3 of the State and Federal Grant Administration Policy and Fiscal Requirements and Procedures ([http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/fiscal_procedure_handbook.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/fiscal_procedure_handbook.pdf)), all state and federal project end date extension requests and final budget amendments must be received by the agency no later than 30 calendar days prior to the end date of the project.

Final amendments for federal or state funded grants with a Project End Date of June 30, 2010, must be received by ISBE no later than May 31, 2010. For those grants with a Project End Date of Aug. 31, 2010, the last day amendments will be accepted is Aug. 1, 2010. Budget increases for state funded grant projects must be received by June 30, even if the project end date has been extended. For grant applications in the electronic Grants Management System (eGMS), the deadline is also referenced on the Program Overview page under “Amendment Due Date.”

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**Innovation and Improvement**

**Federal Regulation Update on Unspent SES Funds**

In the past, when a district had unspent SES funds, the district moved those dollars, via an amendment to its Consolidated Application, into regular Title I funds and expended the dollars on other allowable Title I purposes. In November 2008, a new regulation from the U.S. Department of Education took effect, which requires that districts made reasonable efforts at implementing SES programs before being allowed to make such a fund transfer.

ISBE has created an e-bulletin to explain this regulation and a notification tool by which districts can assure ISBE they have met the requirements of the regulation and thus may make that fund transfer.

Districts facing unspent SES funds are urged to read the e-bulletin ([http://www.isbe.net/e-bulletins/default.htm](http://www.isbe.net/e-bulletins/default.htm)) and then make use of the notification tool ([http://www.isbe.net/ees/html/district_information.htm](http://www.isbe.net/ees/html/district_information.htm)) when applicable to local circumstances.

**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), was released on Friday, May 7, 2010.

The final SIG-1003(g) Request for Proposal and the proposal forms, including the Needs Assessment form, are posted at [http://www.isbe.net/sos/htmls/sip_1003.htm](http://www.isbe.net/sos/htmls/sip_1003.htm). Eligible districts and their Tier I and Tier II school representatives engaged in the process of developing a SIG-1003(g) proposal must use these final documents. Previously posted documents were provided for planning purposes only.

The Bidders Conference webinar will be conducted from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 11. Preregistration is required at [https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/753857248](https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/753857248). In advance of the webinar, participants are encouraged to download a copy of the RFP, proposal forms, and the webinar Power Point from the ISBE School Improvement Grant home page at [http://www.isbe.net/sos/htmls/sip_1003.htm](http://www.isbe.net/sos/htmls/sip_1003.htm).

A Technical Assistance Conference webinar will be held from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday, May 24; preregistration is also required. Register at [https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/637230089](https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/637230089). District proposals that include the proposal for each of the district’s eligible Tier I and Tier II schools are due in
If you have questions or need assistance, contact Marci Johnson in the Innovation and Improvement Division by e-mail at marjohns@isbe.net or call 217-524-4832.

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**Nutrition**

**Mini-grant Opportunity for Afterschool Care Programs; Deadline July 1, 2010**

All Illinois afterschool programs participating in the Afterschool Care Snacks Program are eligible to apply for one of 10 $2,000 mini-grants, provided by the Illinois Nutrition Education and Training (NET) Program through a USDA Team Nutrition Training grant.

The purpose of the grant is to assist after-school programs in educating students and their families about healthy food choices and physical activity, through creative and innovative activities.

For more details and to download an application, go to [http://www.kidseatwell.org/Healthy-After-school-Programs.html](http://www.kidseatwell.org/Healthy-After-school-Programs.html).

**School Breakfast Program Start-Up Grants Available**

The state-funded School Breakfast Program Start-Up Grant is designed to assist schools in overcoming some of the barriers associated with starting a new program and provides up to $3,500 per school for eligible costs. Past recipients have used grant funding to purchase items such as point-of-service software, two-door coolers, food warmers, rolling carts, garbage cans, stack ovens, toasters, menu boards, cereal dispensers and outreach materials.

For sites to be eligible for the grant, they must start a School Breakfast Program within 12 months, or start the current year and operate a School Breakfast Program for at least 20 service days and three years thereafter, and begin the program during the school year in which they apply. Priority is given through Aug. 15 to schools with 40 percent or greater free and reduced-price eligibility.

If your school meets the criteria and is interested in starting a School Breakfast Program, visit our webpage at [http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/breakfast_state.htm](http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/breakfast_state.htm) for the School Breakfast Program Start-Up Grant application. School Breakfast Program Start-Up Grant is contingent upon fiscal year 2011 state appropriation.

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### Data Analysis and Progress Reporting

**2009-10 Dental Data Collection System Open Through June 30**

The Dental Data Collection system will be open for data entry May 16 through June 30, 2010. The data must be submitted online using IWAS. Once logged into IWAS, the dental link (Student Health Data – Dental) will appear on the Systems Listing page under ‘Annual.’ If you do not see the “Student Health Data – Dental” link, please call the ISBE Helpdesk at 217-558-3600.

URLs for important documentation are listed below:

- IDPH Dental Examination Waiver Form [http://www.idph.state.il.us/forms/ohpm/Dental%20Exam%20Waiver.pdf](http://www.idph.state.il.us/forms/ohpm/Dental%20Exam%20Waiver.pdf)
- Dental Information-Data Entry Worksheet [http://www.isbe.net/research/xls/dental_worksheet.xls](http://www.isbe.net/research/xls/dental_worksheet.xls)

In the event of problems opening these links, copy the URL to the address bar of a browser window (Internet Explorer or Netscape) and hit the “Enter” button.

As mandated by Section 5/27-8.1 of the School Code, all Illinois schools serving any combination of kindergarten, grade 2, and/or grade 6 students are required to submit dental data. The data may be entered at the school level or, for public school districts, the district level. However, it is the responsibility of the nonpublic school administrator/public school district administrator to review the accuracy of entered data and submit the data to ISBE.

Please share this information with your school nurses, health technicians and individuals responsible for entering your dental data on IWAS. Questions about the information to be provided may be addressed to Md. Shafiqul Azam in the Data Analysis and Progress Reporting Division at 217-782-3950 or mazam@isbe.net.
2009-10 End of Year Report Open in IWAS

The 2009-10 End of Year Report is open in IWAS for school-level data submission. All public schools operated by a district or special education cooperative, as well as other state-funded schools and regional programs, need to submit the required data. The deadline for this data submission is Aug. 15, 2010.

Questions about the IWAS system should be referred to the ISBE Help Desk at 217-558-3600. And questions about the information to be entered for this data collection should be referred to Niann-Tsyr Chern in the Data Analysis and Progress Reporting Division at 217-782-3950.

2009-10 High School Students Taking Community College System Open in IWAS

The 2009-10 High School Students Taking Community College Courses system is open in IWAS for district-level data submission. The deadline for this data submission is Sept. 15, 2010.

Only unit and high school districts need to submit the required data, per Section 2-3.144 of the Illinois School Code. Each district needs to submit a report, even those that did not have any high school students taking community college courses during the 2009-10 school year. In this instance, the district should access the system, click on “No,” and submit the report by Sept. 15.

Questions about the IWAS system should be referred to the ISBE Help Desk at 217-558-3600, and questions about the information to be entered for this data collection should be referred to Niann-Tsyr Chern in the Data Analysis and Progress Reporting Division at 217-782-3950.

New U.S. Department of Education Race and Ethnicity Data Standards

This is a reminder that the Illinois State Board of Education will implement the new federal race and ethnicity data standards starting with data to be reported for the 2010-11 school year. Please see information posted on the ISBE Web site at http://www.isbe.net/research/default.htm.

For 2010-11 reporting, race and ethnicity must be re-identified for all students and staff. Parents and guardians should identify for students, unless a student is 18 years of age or older or emancipated. Respondents must answer a two-part question to indicate ethnicity and one or more of five races. If a parent or guardian declines to respond, school district personnel must use observer identification to provide the missing information. The process for reporting collected data is different than the process for the collection of data from individuals. ISBE systems that collect race and ethnicity data — including the Student Information System (SIS) — will use seven NEW mutually-exclusive reporting categories starting next school year:

- 11 – Hispanic or Latino
- 12 – American Indian or Alaska Native
- 13 – Asian
- 14 – Black or African American
- 15 – Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- 16 – White
- 17 – Two or More Races

For staff there will be an eighth reporting option since these individuals may decline to identify and school districts are not required to use observer identification as they are for students. The Teacher Service Record, for example, will include the category “99 – Unknown.” Please note as well that the two-digit codes assigned to the existing SIS race/ethnicity reporting categories (SY 2010 and Before) are NOT being re-used.

Questions may be directed to the Data Analysis and Progress Reporting Division at 217-782-3950.

Educator and School Development

Illinois New Principal Mentoring Program Announcement for Superintendents

Per PA 94-1039, school districts are charged with the responsibility of ensuring each first year principal in Illinois is mentored by a qualified, highly-trained mentor. To guarantee new principals receive the mentoring needed, school districts may contract for mentoring services with an ISBE certified Mentoring Provider best suited to meet their needs. A complete listing of certified Mentoring Providers approved to offer mentoring services as well as information about the INPM Program can be found at http://www.ilprincipalmentoring.org.

Please note that mentoring is for those who will be in their first year as a building principal, not for experienced principals new to your district.

As the ISBE Program Manager for the INPM Program, the Illinois Principals Association is asking for your assistance to enhance planning for the 2010-11 school
year. Per Section 35.20 a) of INPM Rules and Regulations:

No later than June 30, each district superintendent shall report to the State Superintendent of Education, or to the State Superintendent’s designee, the name(s) of first-year principal(s) who are expected to be working in the district in the coming school year, administrative certificate numbers, and assigned school(s) of the individual(s) chosen.

Though hiring for the 2010-11 school year continues, please e-mail the name(s) of any first year principal(s) new to the profession you have hired to Lynne Woodrum at lynne@ilprincipals.org as soon as possible. You will receive additional e-mail reminders as the June 30 deadline approaches. Any additional new principals employed before or after the June deadline are to be reported at the time of employment.

Thank you for your leadership and assistance to ensure that new principals receive the support they need to be successful in their first year and beyond.

**Special Education Services**

**2008-09 District Special Education Profiles Available for District Administrative Review**

In a continuing effort to disseminate data to local education agencies and to the public, the Illinois State Board of Education will again post District Special Education Profiles on its Website. District Special Education Profiles allow the reader to access all special education performance information in one location. The reader has the ability to view a district's progress toward improving results on critical performance indicators in the areas of student performance, educational environment and school completion.

For the next two weeks school district superintendents may preview their Profile using their ISBE Web Application Security (IWAS) District Admin user login name at https://sec1.isbe.net/iwas/. The District Special Education Profiles system can be found under the category of Reporting on the IWAS "System Listing" page. The 2008-09 Profiles will be open to the public after the initial district superintendent review period and can found via the ISBE Special Education Profiles site (http://webprodl.isbe.net/LEAProfile/Searchcriteria1.aspx) after May 21, 2010.

Questions regarding the District Special Education Profiles may be directed to Scott Beever or Gwen Williams at 217-782-5589.

**Training on Special Education Eligibility and Entitlement in an RtI Framework**

We are pleased to announce the dates and locations of training on Special Education Eligibility and Entitlement in an RtI Framework. The target audience for this training is district and special education joint agreement teams that are involved in intervention planning and implementation and special education eligibility determination. Through the training, participants will:

1) Learn essential aspects of the ISBE procedures and criteria for determining eligibility and entitlement within an RtI framework.

2) Using case examples at the elementary and high school levels, learn how the procedures and criteria are applied to the IEP process and documented on the state-recommended ISBE forms.

3) Analyze their current system for documenting determinant factors and exclusionary and inclusionary criteria.

4) Review resources and plan next steps for implementation.

This training will be delivered on behalf of ISBE through the Illinois ASPIRE regions. We ask that district and special education joint agreement teams attend trainings offered by the ASPIRE region in which they are located (see ASPIRE regional map at http://www.illinoisaspire.org/welcome/). Further details, including registration and contact information, are available on each region’s website via the links below.

I-ASPIRE North:

I-ASPIRE Central:

I-ASPIRE South:
http://www.illinoisaspire.org/south/trainings.php

Questions about the training events may be directed to the contact person(s) designated on each region’s website. Please note that Chicago Public Schools District 299 will be scheduling training for its district personnel.
and will communicate details directly to potential attendees within the district.

We would also like to remind everyone that both the ISBE Guidance Document on special education eligibility and entitlement in an RtI framework and the corresponding FAQ are available on the ISBE website at http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/html/rti_speced.htm. Questions about these documents can be directed to Special Education Services at 217-782-5589.

Illinois State Board of Education

May Board Meeting Rescheduled for Thursday and Friday, May 20-21

The Illinois State Board of Education’s May meeting, originally scheduled for May 19-20, will be held Thursday and Friday, May 20-21, in Springfield. The 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 day 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. Check the ISBE Web site (http://www.isbe.net/calendar) for final meeting postings.

School Business Services

FY 2011 School District/Joint Agreement Budget Forms Available

Now available at the School Business Services division website are FY2011 School District/Joint Agreement Budget forms (ISBE Form 50-36/50-39) with related additional information and instructions.

At http://www.isbe.net/sfms/budget/default.htm:
  • ARRA budgeting requirements – Emergency Rules Part 100
  • Dates to Remember

FY2011 School District Budget Forms must be submitted to ISBE no later than Friday, Oct. 29, 2010. The School Code, Section 17-1 (105 ILCS 5/17-1) requires school districts to electronically submit the adopted annual budget to ISBE; and also requires school districts who adopt an unbalanced budget in the operating funds to complete a Deficit Reduction Plan to balance the budget within three years. Additional deadline dates are included in the Web page.

Note: The Joint Agreement Budget Form 50-39 is excluded from this state filing requirement and should be filed locally as determined by the provisions of the joint agreement.

Amended FY2010 Budgets must be completed and adopted no later than June 30, 2010. Please submit the amended budgets to ISBE through the Attachment Manager (https://sec1.isbe.net/attachmgr/default.aspx).

FY 2009 Operating Expense Per Pupil/Per Capita Tuition Charge Available

Now available are the FY2009 Operating Expense Per Pupil (OEPP)/Per Capita Tuition Charge (PCTC). (http://www.isbe.net/finance/verification.htm) Districts are not required to verify the amounts, but an excel calculation worksheet is available to check against the audited Annual Financial Report (AFR). These are considered the official OEPP/PCTC for each district. If necessary the detailed calculation is available upon request. If you have any questions, please contact the School Business Services division at 217-785-8779.

Curriculum and Instruction

Information Sessions on Arts and Foreign Language Program Scheduled

The Illinois State Board of Education will hold several information sessions throughout the state about funding for public schools through the Arts and Foreign Language Program (AFL), a joint project of the Illinois Arts Council and ISBE.

This program, which began in 2006, is designed to assist Illinois public school districts, public university
laboratory schools, charter schools and area vocational schools with the development, maintenance, or enhancement of curricular programs in the Arts or Foreign Language. Funding is available for up to four years; one year of program planning and three years of program implementation.

Planning grants will range from $10,000 to $40,000, and implementation grants will range from $10,000 to up to $100,000. Grant awards are contingent on the final State budget allocation.

The informational sessions are intended to provide detailed information on the program as well as technical resources for developing and submitting a Request for Proposal (RFP), the required application document. There will be a question and answer period and time for attendees to network, socialize and share ideas with each other. The sessions are scheduled in various locations around the state, and will be held from 3:30 to 6 p.m. The remaining schedule is as follows:

- **Wednesday, May 19:** Frankfort Community High School, 601 E. Main St., West Frankfort
- **Tuesday, May 25:** Western Illinois University, Quad Cities, 3561 60th St., Moline
- **Wednesday, May 26:** Regional Office of Education No. 26, 130 S. Lafayette, Suite 200, Macomb
- **Thursday, May 27:** Trutter Center, Lincoln Land Community College, 5250 Shepherd Road, Springfield
- **Tuesday, June 1:** Barrington High School, 616 W. Main St., Barrington
- **Wednesday, June 2:** LaSalle Peru Township High School, 541 Chartres St., LaSalle
- **Thursday, June 3:** Lincoln-Way North High School, 19900 S. Harlem Ave., Frankfort

These programs are free to attend and will include refreshments. Recommended attendees include arts and foreign language teachers, department chairs, administrators, district superintendents, grants officers and other interested parties. Attendees must register prior to each meeting by calling the division of Curriculum at Instruction at 217-557-7323 or e-mail Christina Steelman at christina.steelman@illinois.gov.

Illinois Virtual School Summer Courses Registration Deadline Set for June 15

Registration for the Illinois Virtual School summer term ends June 15 with classes running from June 16 to Aug. 11. IVS summer courses are $225. A complete list of classes being offered is available at [http://ilvirtual.org/uploads/documents/uploader/327IVS_summer_courses_2010.pdf](http://ilvirtual.org/uploads/documents/uploader/327IVS_summer_courses_2010.pdf). IVS is available to partner with schools that are unable to offer summer school or have a limited course selection. Consider IVS to expand your students’ opportunities to earn credit during the summer. Contact IVS with any questions at [http://helpdesk.ilvirtual.org](http://helpdesk.ilvirtual.org) or 309-676-1000. For additional information, click [http://www.isbe.net/curriculum/Default.htm](http://www.isbe.net/curriculum/Default.htm) to see how IVS can be a solution to your summer school needs.

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### Professional Development

**Financial Literacy Conference Scheduled for July 9 in Chicago**

Teachers are invited to a financial literacy conference to be held at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Friday, July 9. The conference is free but registration is required to guarantee a seat.

Teachers can earn CPUs and receive travel subsidies. A series of breakout sessions will introduce teachers to leading personal finance curriculum. Contact Helen Roberts at hroberts@uic.edu or (312) 413-3599 to reserve a spot. For complete details, visit [http://www.cefe.illinois.edu/calendar/event_07_09_10.html](http://www.cefe.illinois.edu/calendar/event_07_09_10.html).

The conference is sponsored by the UIC Center for Economic Education, the U of I Center for Economic and Financial Education and Econ Illinois, with support from the Council for Economic Education and Citi Foundation.

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### School Opportunities

**Ace Hardware Offers Helpful Hands to High Schools Across the Country**

Ace Hardware is offering high schools across the country the opportunity to get a new coat of paint. The company’s Helpful Hands program will give one high school in each state a $2,000 paint makeover, with labor from community volunteers.

To nominate a high school, log on to [http://www.acehardware.com/helpfulhands](http://www.acehardware.com/helpfulhands). Nominations will be accepted through May 31, and the winning schools will be announced in September.
Mini-grants Available to Help Celebrate Walk and Roll to School Day

The Active Transportation Alliance is offering mini-grants to help celebrate Walk and Roll to School Day on Oct. 6. Schools in Cook, DuPage, Lake, Kane, Kendall and McHenry counties are eligible to apply.

The mini-grants include $500, promotional items and more. Visit http://www.activetrans.org/walkandroll for more information and to apply. The deadline is July 2.

The program and day aims to promote walking and biking to school as healthy and safe choices.

For questions, contact Heather Schady at 312-427-3325, ext 236, or heather@activetrans.org.

Student Opportunities

Deadline for Latino Art Beat Competition Set for May 28

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.

First Freedom Center Sponsors Annual Essay Contest for High School Students

The First Freedom Student Competition invites high school students from across the country to examine the First Amendment. This year’s topic asks students to discuss a minority religion in U.S. history.

Students will compete for $3,000, $1,500 and $750 awards. The deadline to register is Nov. 22. The competition is sponsored by the First Freedom Center.

For more information, including eligibility and how to register, go to http://www.firstfreedom.org/education/students.html.

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