Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

Today is the final day for districts to let us know whether or not they will join us in submitting our Race to the Top application. We have had more than 300 districts signify that they will partner with us, with about 150 of those having sign on from the local superintendent, board president and union leadership.

Those districts that signed on for Race to the Top in January need to indicate their continued interest by signing an acknowledgement form. You can find a copy of the MOU or an acknowledgement form on the Race to the Top homepage on our website at http://www.isbe.net/racetothetop/default.htm or you can request one be sent to you by calling 217-782-4648.

Please send your completed MOU’s or Acknowledgement form to rt3mou@isbe.net today.

Legislators are coming back to Springfield this week to take up the FY 2011 budget. The House is currently scheduled to come back tonight and will meet through at least Wednesday. The Senate is scheduled to return on Wednesday, and conclude its business by Friday; however, they have been told it’s possible they could meet through the weekend.

If you have not reached out to your legislators to indicate the needs of your district, it is still not too late and I would encourage you to do so this week.

Most schools will be getting out over the next couple of weeks and I know it’s an exciting time for students, staff and faculty. It’s also an extremely busy time as you finish the school year.

As we head into the Memorial Day weekend, I encourage you to speak with your staff about recognizing the men and women who have given their lives while in our nation’s armed services. I fear that too often the importance of this holiday is lost on the “kickoff to summer.”

Yes, it should be a joyous time, spent with family and friends, cooking out, watching the Indianapolis 500 or the Cardinals and Cubs. However, we need to ensure that part of that time is spent remembering those who gave their life for our freedom. That is as important a lesson as they will learn in any classroom throughout their entire educational career.

Have a great week and a wonderful Memorial Day!

Chris

Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

- 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
- Those Who Excel/Illinois Teacher of the Year nomination deadline – May 26
- 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
- FY 2011 School Improvement Grant 1003(g) application deadline – June 14
- Coalition for Illinois High Schools’ High School Challenge Conference – June 14-15
- 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
- Let’s Move: Apps for Healthy Kids Competition deadline – June 30
- Dental Data Collection system – Open through 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 Aug. 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

### Funding and Disbursements

#### 2009-10 General State Aid Claim Deadlines

Please be advised that per Section 18-12 of the School Code, the 2009-10 General State Aid Claim must be transmitted via IWAS to each respective Regional Office of Education by June 21 for districts with an official school calendar end date before June 15 or within two weeks following the official school calendar end date for districts with a school year end date of June 15 or later.

The regional superintendent shall certify and file with the State Superintendent of Education district State aid claims by July 1 for districts with an official school calendar end date before June 15 or no later than July 15 for districts with an official school calendar end date of June 15 or later. Failure to file by these deadlines constitutes a forfeiture of the right to receive payment by the State until such claim is filed and vouchered for payment.

A final school calendar must be transmitted and approved before the General State Aid claim can be transmitted. If you need technical assistance with completing the final school calendar, you may contact your Regional Office of Education or Marj Beck, Funding and Disbursements, at mbeck@isbe.net. Questions related to completing the General State Aid Claim can be directed to Jim Mathes, Funding & Disbursements, at jmathes@isbe.net. Marj and Jim can also be reached in the Division of Funding and Disbursement Services at 217-782-5256.

#### 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 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 are 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.

Data Analysis and Progress Reporting

Administrator and Teacher Salary and Benefits – 2010 Report on IWAS

Public Act 096-0266 added Sections 10-20.46 and 34-18.37 to the School Code [105 ILCS 5/10-20.46 and 5/34-18.37]. The two new Sections contain identical language requiring school districts to report administrator and teacher salary and benefits to the State Board of Education, effective Jan. 1, 2010:

“Each school board shall report to the State Board of Education, on or before July 1 of each year, the base salary and benefits of the district superintendent [or the general superintendent of schools or chief executive officer] and all administrators and teachers employed by the school district. For the purposes of this Section, "benefits" includes without limitation vacation days, sick days, bonuses, annuities, and retirement enhancements.”

To comply with this law, school districts are required to submit to the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) the following data for each individual employed as an administrator and/or teacher during school year 2010:

- **Name**: Legal last name, first name, and middle name
- **Position**: Main position, i.e., District Administrator, Other Administrator, or Teacher
- **Title**: Title for main position (optional)
- **Base Salary**: Dollar amount of base salary for all positions combined
- **FTE (Full-Time Equivalency)**: FTE for all positions combined, counted in hundredths
- **Vacation Days**: Number of vacation days awarded this school year
- **Sick Days**: Number of sick days awarded this school year
- **Bonuses**: Dollar value of bonuses
- **Annuities**: Dollar value of employer-provided qualified and nonqualified annuities
- **Retirement Enhancements**: Dollar value of employer-provided retirement enhancements
- **Other Benefits**: Dollar value of other benefits provided by employer

ISBE has created a new system in IWAS, the “Administrator and Teacher Salary and Benefits” system. District administrators can access the system by logging on to IWAS; go to System Listing, then look under Reporting (Annual). Others must sign up in IWAS to use the new system. Authorized users can access the system now through June 15 to visit a “Coming Soon” page that provides more information about the data to be submitted and the required file upload process.

The system will be open for actual data entry starting June 16, and the deadline to submit is midnight, July 1, 2010. The salary and benefits data you report are to include known payments through June 30, 2010, on all forms of compensation received by an individual. Because the information is public and would be provided if requested under the Freedom of Information Act, ISBE has decided that reported data will be posted on its Web site.

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

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:

**School Dental Examinations – Information Sheet**
http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/dental_information.pdf

**IDPH Proof of School Dental Examination Form**
http://www.idph.state.il.us/HealthWellness/oralhlth/DentalExamProof10.pdf

**IDPH Dental Examination Waiver Form**
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

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

**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) and then make use of the notification tool (http://www.isbe.net/SES/html/district_information.htm) when applicable to local circumstances.
Illinois Department of Labor

Agency Issues Reminder on Illinois Child Labor Law

The Illinois Department of Labor would like to remind employers and teen job seekers about protections under the state’s child labor law.

“We want to make sure that these young job seekers in Illinois stay healthy and safe in the workplace,” stated IDOL Director Catherine Shannon in a recent news release. “The law includes restrictions on the number of hours a child can work and details the type of work that may and may not be performed. Employers, parents, caregivers and children should be aware of the law’s requirements and protections.”

To read the entire press release, which includes many details about the Illinois Child Labor Law, visit http://www.state.il.us/agency/idol/Forms/PDFS/CLLRelease5-7-10.PDF. More information is available at 312-793-2804. To file a child labor complaint, call the Child Labor Hotline at 800-645-5784 or print out a complaint form at http://www.state.il.us/agency/idol.

For teenagers in search of work, the state of Illinois has launched a Summer Job Central website, http://www.ILWorkInfo.com/icrn, which is run by the Illinois Department of Employment Security.

Nutrition

Household Eligibility Applications for School-Based Child Nutrition Programs

The release of the Household Eligibility Applications for School-Based Child Nutrition Programs for school year 2010-11 is postponed due to federal delays. Our office (the Illinois State Board of Education) has just received correspondence from the U.S. Department of Agriculture that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has not yet released the federal poverty guidelines. We expected that the Illinois prototype Household Eligibility Application, which utilizes these income eligibility guidelines, would be available no later than the end of May 2010. At this time, we are unable to provide an anticipated release date.

It is important to remember that the Household Eligibility Applications for school year 2010-11 may not be distributed until after July 1 and no earlier than four calendar weeks prior to the time students start school. As well, we highly encourage local educational agencies to complete the electronic direct certification process prior to the distribution of the Household Eligibility Application to ease the burden of processing duplicate applications.

As more information becomes available, we will keep you updated. Thank you for your patience.

Healthy Kids Competition
Deadline Set for June 30

As part of the first lady’s Let’s Move campaign, the Apps for Healthy Kids Competition invites software developers, game designers, students and others to develop an application helping children and their families eat healthier and engage in physical activity, with a focus on targeting 9-12 year olds.

The application must incorporate the USDA’s Nutrition Dataset located at http://www.data.gov/details/1294. Prizes totaling $60,000 are available. Visit http://www.appsforhealthykids.com for more information.

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.

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 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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**Professional Development**

**Coalition for Illinois High Schools Conference Slated for June 14-15**

The Coalition for Illinois High Schools will hold the fifth annual High School Challenge Conference for educators June 14-15 in Bloomington.

Registration for this year’s conference, titled “Promoting Student Success: A Variety of Approaches, costs $180 or $100 for a single day.

To register and for the conference schedule, visit http://www.cfihs.net/. The Coalition for Illinois High Schools can be reached via e-mail at info@cfihs.net.

**Save the Date: RtI Summit for Middle and High School Teams**

Illinois ASPIRE recently announced that a two-day Response to Intervention (RtI) Summit for middle school and high school teams will be held in three locations during the week of Sept. 27, 2010. Two nationally known speakers – Dr. Kevin Feldman and Dr. George Batsche – will be presenting.

Further details about dates, locations and content are available in the Save-the-Date flyer on the I-ASPIRE website at http://www.illinoisaspire.org. Because we recognize the budget challenges districts are facing, the registration fee will be nominal for this professional development opportunity. Registration information will be forthcoming. In the interim, questions may be directed to Rhonda Mooterry at mmooberry@peoria48.net.

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**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.

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. 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.

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