Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

The final draft of the Common Core State Standards in English language arts and mathematics was released last week after more than a year of development and more than 10,000 public comments. It is my hope that the Illinois State Board of Education will adopt these Common Core State Standards as the new Illinois Learning Standards in English and math.

It has been more than a decade since the Illinois Learning Standards were revisited, and I know many of you are dissatisfied with them. Many critics argue that our current standards are a mile wide and an inch deep, that they are impossible to cover in a year, or that they are just too difficult to understand. The Common Core State Standards are clearer, higher and fewer.

The idea behind the Common Core is for states to adopt a common set of college and career standards that will prepare our students for success on a global scale, that flow smoothly from postsecondary back to preschool. I believe that these standards will be more rigorous for our students and more manageable for educators.

Currently, the Common Core only includes standards for English language arts and mathematics. It is important to note that this is a state led effort; being driven by the needs of the 48 participating states. English and math are subjects in which there is great commonality so that’s why we chose to develop those first, with others to follow.

You may review the Common Core Standards at http://www.isbe.net/ADP/default.htm.

I know that there are many questions with regards to the Fiscal Year 2011 budget. Later this month the State Board of Education will be meeting to discuss the FY 2011 budget. Lawmakers have passed a budget, but will likely need to return to Springfield at some point to work on some additional budget matters.

Primarily, the Board will meet to discuss its priorities and how to allocate the approximately $545 million appropriated to the Board in a lump sum for grants other than General State Aid and Mandated Categoricals. This is about a $440 million reduction in this area from the FY 2009 level.

In addition to this prioritization effort, the Board will need to begin to think about how it may have to prioritize additional reserves. The Emergency Budget Act, which has passed both houses but has not yet been signed into law, gives the governor the power to require agencies to reserve a portion of their budget.

I wanted you to be aware of the Emergency Budget Act because in the past, education has not been impacted by budget reserves. The Emergency Budget Act would allow the Governor to order the ISBE to reserve in FY 2011 one third of the total dollar amount of vouchers being held in the Comptroller’s office for education on July 1. We anticipate that by the end of the fiscal year the backlog of money owed to schools will be about $1.8 billion and that we may be required to reserve $600 million from an already substantially cut budget.
Again, the Emergency Budget Act has not been signed into law and it is possible that the General Assembly may take additional action in the near future. But realistically, I believe we all need to prepare as if this additional cut to education will occur.

Given the increasing backlog of bills owed by state government and the lack of additional revenues, things are likely to get worse before they get better.

Chris

### Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

- **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
- **Part 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision) and Part 25 (Certification)** – Public comment period ends July 19
- **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 Aug. 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

### Educator Preparation and Certification

#### Best Practices for ‘Interim’ District Superintendents

The Illinois School Code requires all school districts “to employ a superintendent who shall have charge of the administration of the schools under the direction of the board of education.” 105 ILCS 5/10-21.4. The School Code does not, however, further define the ways in which school districts are permitted to employ superintendents. For example, the School Code does not require, on its face, that a school district superintendent be hired “full-time,” nor does the School Code, on its face, prohibit a school district from retaining a retired district superintendent to work in that school district for less than 120 days in a school year.

The Illinois State Board of Education (the “Agency”) has done its best, despite the lack of clarity in the law, to determine what is and what is not an acceptable employment practice, and has historically taken action pursuant to Section 1.20 of its administrative rules (23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.20) to reduce the recognition status of school districts that have not shown a commitment to employing a full-time district superintendent. Furthermore, despite little statutory guidance, Regional Superintendents have done an excellent job to best ensure compliance consistently across the state.

During the past year, the Agency has worked with Regional Superintendents to establish clear standards for the employment of district superintendents. A proposed rule was presented to the State Board at its May meeting, which will be published for public comment. Because the rule will not be effective until at or after the beginning of the 2010-2011 school year, the Agency has decided that — as was the case for the 2009-10 school year — no school district's recognition status will be negatively affected due to its employment of an “interim” superintendent. This moratorium by the Agency should not be interpreted as an endorsement of school districts employing an “interim” superintendent.
If your school district has any questions regarding this message, please contact Patrick Murphy, Division Administrator for Educator and School Development, at pmurphy@isbe.net.

Student Assessment

Update on Assessment Data Results and Important Deadlines

It’s that critical time of year when assessment results are being processed. ISAT and IAA demographic and score data for all content areas are currently available. Please keep in mind that the portion of the Assessment Correction window during which both demographic and score data are available is shorter this year. The deadline to correct all demographic and score data for ISAT (grades 3-8) and IAA (grades 3-8 and 11) is 4 p.m. June 16, 2010. After June 16, the demographic and score data for ISAT and IAA will be considered final. Failure to make corrections during this window will not be grounds for appeals later. The only exceptions are score data changes resulting from rescore requests. Rescore request forms are available at http://www.isbe.net/assessment. Please note all rescores from non-Chicago Public Schools (non-CPS) must be received in the Assessment division by 4 p.m. June 16, 2010. CPS must submit their requests through the CPS central office by 8 a.m. June 14, 2010.

PSAE score data are currently scheduled to be released on July 13, 2010. The deadline to correct the demographic and score data for PSAE is 4 p.m. July 19, 2010. Although scores won’t be posted until then, you currently have access to the assessment correction file. If it is possible, please verify the accuracy of the demographic information and address any error codes that may exist.

The 2010 School/District AYP status reports for those elementary/middle schools that have completed their E-Report Card data are posted. As for high schools, the AYP status reports are currently scheduled to be released on July 13, 2010. The AYP status report should be considered final unless schools rescoring or make further corrections related to AYP data elements. Schools choosing to check their AYP reports early are encouraged to again check them at the end of the correction window. In addition, testing irregularity investigations may result in changes even after the closing of the correction window. The status report will be generated on a daily basis as schools complete their E-Report Card data. The deadline for E-report card submission is June 25, 2010.

Funding and Disbursement

June 30 ARRA Jobs and Vendor Data Due July 5, 2010

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs and vendor data for the quarter ending June 30, 2010, is due at the Illinois State Board of Education on or before Monday July 5, 2010. We fully understand the challenge this due date places on local education agencies because of the July 4 holiday. Unfortunately, federal requirements have not been relaxed for states to collect and report ARRA data at the federal level. You are therefore highly encouraged to submit your June 30 data before the holiday break.

ARRA data reporting includes two primary elements: the number of jobs funded in the reporting quarter with ARRA funds and payments made to a vendor in the amount of $25,000 or more. ARRA jobs and vendor data must be submitted by all local education agencies (LEAs) that have applied for and/or received ARRA funds. All ARRA data must be reported via the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Reporting System in IWAS. Please refer to the ARRA Reporting Instructions at http://www.isbe.net/arra/pdf/arra_reporting_inst.pdf for detailed information.

ARRA data must be reported regardless of whether any jobs were funded or any payments were made to a vendor of $25,000 or more in the reporting quarter. Please follow these three steps below to properly calculate the jobs FTE that must be reported for the period ending June 30.

- **Step 1** – Determine the number of hours in a full-time schedule for ARRA funded employees between April 1 and June 30 (i.e. an employee works 40 hours a week for 13 weeks, the quarterly hours in a full-time schedule is 520 hours). Note: This figure may change depending on the type of employee.

- **Step 2** – Determine the number of hours employees were paid with ARRA funds for the reporting quarter ending June 30.

- **Step 3** – Divide the number calculated in Step 2 by the quarterly hours in a full-time schedule calculated in Step 1. This calculation should be performed for each employee funded with ARRA dollars. The formula for reporting can be represented as: Total Number of Hours ARRA
Funded within Reporting Quarter ÷ Quarterly Hours in a Full-Time Schedule = FTE

June 30 ARRA data must be reported for the following ARRA programs if your LEA has been awarded or received funds:

- Title I Low Income – Revenue Code 4851
- Title I Low Income Neglected – Revenue Code 4852
- Title I Low Income Delinquent – Revenue Code 4853
- IDEA Part B Preschool – Revenue Code 4856
- IDEA Part B Flow Through – Revenue Code 4857
- Title II D Enhancing Education Through Technology – Revenue Code 4861
- McKinney Vento Homeless Education – Revenue Code 4862
- Stabilization Other Government Services (Early Childhood) – Revenue Code 4875

Alternate PTELL Adjustment to EAV Used in GSA Calculations

Pursuant to Public Act 96-0152, an alternate calculation is made to produce the Extension Limitation Equalized Assessed Value (ELEAV) for school districts subject to the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL) and whose voters have approved an increase in the district’s limiting rate. For such districts, the ELEAV used in the General State Aid (GSA) calculation is now the EAV (used for the prior year GSA) increased by the Consumer Price Index, plus the EAV of new property, annexed property and recovered TIF districts minus the EAV of disconnected property.

ISBE staff has collected data from the State Board of Elections and county clerks and a list of eligible districts for FY 2011 GSA may be found under the Reports section of the GSA page which can be accessed at [http://www.isbe.net/funding/html/gsa.htm](http://www.isbe.net/funding/html/gsa.htm).

If you have any questions about the data provided in this report, contact either Jason Hall (jhall@isbe.net) or Toni Waggoner (twaggoner@isbe.net) at 217-782-0249.

NCLB and ARRA

Qualified Zone Academy Bond (QZAB) Program

The Illinois State Board of Education has authorized Illinois’ entire $52,401,000 volume cap from the 2009 allocation to 24 school districts. Of the $52,218,000 volume cap authorized for 2010, the State Board has authorized $21,806,001 to seven school districts. A total of $30,411,999 remains to be authorized from the 2010 volume cap. Districts that would like to submit an application for the remaining volume cap can do so beginning June 7 through July 16, 2010. Allocations will be based on the relative degree of poverty as reflected by the percentage of students eligible for free or reduced lunch, with preference given to those school districts that have not previously been awarded an allocation.

The State Board of Education will be accepting applications and supporting materials beginning June 7 through 4 p.m. July 16, 2010. Applications and additional information are available on the ISBE web site at [http://www.isbe.net/construction/html/qzab.html](http://www.isbe.net/construction/html/qzab.html). For questions or inquiries, call Lou Ferratier, School Support Services at 217-785-8779.

The Qualified Zone Academy Bond Program (QZAB), created in 1997, has been extended through 2011 by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The QZAB program provides federal tax credits in lieu of interest on bonds designated as QZAB’s by the issuing school district. QZAB proceeds may be used for rehabilitating or repairing public school facilities, investing in new equipment and technology or developing challenging course materials or training teachers; funds cannot be used for new school construction.

In order to designate bonds as QZAB’s, a school district must receive an allocation of the state’s volume cap through application to the State Board of Education. To qualify for an allocation, the school or program designated as a qualified zone academy by the school district must be located in an empowerment zone or an enterprise community; or there is a reasonable expectation that at least 35 percent of their students are eligible for free or reduced-cost lunches under the National School Lunch Act. Additionally, private business contributions that total at least 10 percent of the face value of bonds to be designated as QZAB’s must be secured by the issuing district on behalf of the zone academy.

A qualified zone academy is a school or program that provides education and training below the postsecondary level if: (1) the public school or program is/was designed in cooperation with business to enhance the academic curriculum, increase graduation and employment rates, and better prepare students for the rigors of college and
the increasingly complex workforce, (2) students in the public school or program will be subject to the same academic standards and assessments as other students educated by the eligible local education agency, and (3) the comprehensive educational plan of the public school or program is approved by the eligible local education agency.

The federal legislation provided for national allocations of $1.4 billion in each of calendar years 2009 and 2010. The Internal Revenue Service notice (IRS Notice 2010 – 22) provides that Illinois’ share of these allocations is $52.218 million (for calendar year 2010). Changes to the program made by the Tax Extenders and Alternative Minimum Tax Relief Act of 2008 are discussed in the Notice, which is available at http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-drop/n-09-30.pdf.

**FY 2011 NCLB Consolidated and ARRA Applications Webinar and Updates**

ISBE staff will provide a webinar on the FY 2011 NCLB Consolidated Application and updates on the ARRA applications at 2 p.m. Thursday, June 17. The webinar will focus on the application process, specifics of completing each page of the application, fiscal guidance and program assistance. Staff from the Divisions of Innovation and Improvement and Funding and Disbursements will be leading the discussions.

Districts that are planning to apply for FY 11 NCLB Consolidated funds are strongly encouraged to register for the webinar. Space is limited. Reserve a webinar seat at https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/127417696.

The FY 2011 regular NCLB Consolidated and American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) applications should be available to all districts in the near future via the electronic Grants Management System. Districts will receive an e-mail notice through IWAS when it is available. We appreciate your patience.

If you have questions regarding the webinar, please contact your principal consultant at 217-524-4832 in the Innovation and Improvement Division.

**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 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision)**

Amends provisions addressing annual measurable achievement objections for English language learners, the Student Information System and participation of nonpublic schools, interim superintendents, teacher evaluations, and qualifications for bilingual education teachers (for both transitional bilingual education programs and transitional programs of instruction).

*Deadline for Public Comment: July 19*

**Part 25 (Certification)**

Makes changes relative to basic skills test, language proficiency tests and postsecondary institutions’ access to examinees’ test results (pass/fail only).

*Deadline for Public Comment: July 19*

**Class of 2010**

**High School Valedictorians to be Honored**

The Illinois Principals Association is partnering with Gov. Pat Quinn to recognize 2010 high school graduates who finished at the top of their class.

The governor is asking for high school principals to e-mail their valedictorian’s name, parents and guardian names, e-mail addresses and school names to: Matt Bergbower, Office of Governor Pat Quinn, 2M Statehouse, Springfield, IL 62706.

A recognition event is tentatively scheduled to take place on Aug. 15 during the 2010 Illinois State Fair.

Contact Jason Leahy at jason@ilprincipals.org for more information.

**Professional Development**

**NIU College of Education Summer Literacy Conference Coming Up**

The 37th annual Northern Illinois University College of Education’s Summer Literacy Conference is set for June 11, 14-17. The conference, titled “Enhancing Teaching and Learning through Literacy Coaching,” will be held at Waubonsee Community College in Sugar Grove.

This year’s featured speakers include Rita M. Bean, a professor at the University of Pittsburgh and author of “The Reading Specialist: Leadership for the Classroom,
School, and Community”; Michael F. Opitz, a professor and reading program coordinator at the University of Northern Colorado and the author of “Good-Bye Round Robin” and “Do-able Differentiation”; Doug Fisher, a professor at San Diego State University and author of “Better Learning Through Structured Teaching” and “Word Wise and Content Rich”; and Jerry L. Johns, NIU’s Distinguished Teaching Professor Emeritus and the author of “Improving Reading: Strategies and Assessment,” and the “Basic Reading Inventory.”

To register and for more information, visit http://www.cedu.niu.edu/oep/conferences.

## 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