Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

At its meeting last week the Illinois State Board of Education voted to adopt the Common Core State Standards as Illinois’ newly revised learning standards for K-12 education. These new standards are fewer, clearer and higher than the previous standards, which were adopted in 1997, and will better prepare Illinois students for success in college and careers. The new standards are specific to each grade, unlike the previous standards which banded grades together.

The Common Core is a state-led partnership, of which Illinois was a leading member, committed to academic rigor and success in the global economy. Our new learning standards are focused on college and career readiness.

Beginning in 2009, teachers, administrators and education experts provided important feedback towards the development of the standards. More than 10,000 public comments were received.

The grade-by-grade standards in K-5 English-language arts establish student expectations in reading, writing, speaking, listening and language across different subjects at each grade level. The standards for the individual grade levels in 6-12 establish English-language arts standards as well as a section in history, social studies and science. The math standards focus on practices that all levels of students need to develop.

This summer we will convene a team of teachers to complete a crosswalk, examining the old and new standards, finding the commonalities and identifying the differences.

We have long known our current standards were too broad and not always measurable. These new standards combine both what students need to know and how students would apply that knowledge in real-life situations. No longer can we accept that someone is “book-smart” but can’t work in a group or meet a deadline. In just about every field and career, we need people who can apply a depth of knowledge to a broad range of challenges.

These new standards are better for Illinois students, better for Illinois teachers and better for Illinois’ future. Please feel free to review the new standards at http://www.isbe.net/ADP/default.htm.

At the same meeting, the Board took action on the FY 2011 budget. They took testimony from a number of stakeholders and students. It was a difficult time for all involved in the process, but I want to thank everyone for their participation.

Governor Quinn provided nearly $200 million to Early Childhood and Bilingual Education under discretionary funds. Even with these additional funds, though, the Board was forced to cut nearly $300 million (in other words, the FY 2011 budget is $300 million less than the FY 2010 budget).

The Board has also instructed me to send a request to the Governor and General Assembly for additional funding. It is our hope they will identify money that will allow for the restoration of funding for the dozens of programs in the agency budget that were reduced significantly and/or eliminated.
As this message exemplifies, these continue to be both exciting and trying times in education, and I appreciate all you continue to do every day to best ensure success for our students.

Chris

**Upcoming Dates and Deadlines**

- **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
- **FY11 eGMS Consolidated Bilingual Program Application** – June 30
- **School year 2010 Administrator and Teacher Salary and Benefits report deadline** – July 1
- **June 30 ARRA jobs and vendor data due** – July 5
- **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
- **Carol M. White Physical Education Program grant deadline** – 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
- **Illinois Summer Reading Conference in Tinley Park** – Aug. 10-13
- **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
- **Part 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision), Part 22 (Code of Ethics for Illinois Educators) and Part 226 (Special Education)** – Public comment period ends Aug. 23
- **Illinois ASPIRE Middle School/High School RtI Summit in Collinsville** – Sept. 27, 28
- **Illinois ASPIRE Middle School/High School RtI Summit in East Peoria** – Sept. 28, 29
- **Illinois ASPIRE Middle School/High School RtI Summit in Naperville** – Sept. 29, 30

**Assessment**

**Budget Crisis Forces Suspension of ISAT Writing Assessment for 2010-11**

Due to the historic budget crisis facing Illinois the State Board of Education decided at last week’s meeting to not administer the ISAT writing assessment for grades 3, 5, 6 and 8 during the 2010-11 school year. The ISAT writing assessments are not part of the No Child Left Behind federal mandate, and Illinois receives no federal dollars to support the writing assessment.

A writing assessment will still be a component of the Prairie State Achievement Examination (PSAE) given to 11th-graders in Illinois. Many universities require the writing test for admission.

The writing assessments for grades 3, 5, 6 and 8 will be re-evaluated for the 2011-12 school year, with hopes budget levels will return to fund vital education programs.

**Data Analysis and Progress Reporting**

**Administrator and Teacher Salary and Benefits – 2010 Report Reminder**

This is a reminder that the deadline for districts to submit their school year 2010 Administrator and Teacher Salary and Benefits report is July 1, 2010. (The system will close at 11:59 p.m. July 1.)

Districts are encouraged to check recent messages sent to all “Administrator and Salary and Benefits” IWAS system users, which provide additional clarification about the information to be submitted.
Questions can be directed to Mark Hobneck in the ISBE Data Analysis and Progress Reporting Division at 217-782-3950. Mark will be available to take calls and receive emails until 4 p.m. on July 1.

Rules and Waivers

Notice of Completed Rulemaking

Please be advised that a set of emergency amendments recently adopted by the Illinois State Board of Education is now in effect. These rules have been posted on the agency’s Web site at http://www.isbe.net/rules. Please choose “Rules Currently in Effect” and scroll to Part 1. The emergency amendments are posted separately, just below the main document.

Part 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision)
Incorporates by reference the Common Core Standards for English language arts and mathematics, to replace the current Illinois Learning Standards in those subject areas. Affected Sections: 1.Appendix D
Effective Date: June 24, 2010, for a maximum of 150 days

Invitation to Comment on Rules

Several proposed 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)
Incorporates by reference the Common Core Standards for English language arts and mathematics, to replace the current Illinois Learning Standards in those subject areas. Deadline for Public Comment: Aug. 23

Part 22 (Code of Ethics for Illinois Educators)
Establishes the framework and descriptions for professional behavior and the promotion of high standards of practice among Illinois educators. Deadline for Public Comment: Aug. 23

Part 226 (Special Education)
Makes several changes resulting to align the rules’ provisions to federal regulations or recently enacted State legislation; these changes address parental consent, hospital/home instruction, remote educational programs, and hearings by regional boards of school trustees.

Deadline for Public Comment: Aug. 23

Special Task Force

Model School Energy and Resource Conservation Programs Sought

A special task force created by House Joint Resolution 45 of the Illinois General Assembly is looking for model school energy and resource conservation programs that can be shared with all schools and the general public.

The task force will provide a report to the GA with their findings and recommendations concerning the creation and financing of a system to ensure that existing public schools are retrofitted and new public schools are constructed in a manner that promotes energy efficiency and sustainability. This report is to be delivered to the Illinois General Assembly by Nov. 1.

This task force is asking for assistance in identifying schools that can be used as case studies for the report. The task force has identified six areas of focus for which they need exemplary projects or policies. Those areas are listed below with examples of programs and policies:

- Curriculum integration
  - Involving students in the implementation of policy such as recycling or energy efficiency
  - Lessons to help students understand stewardship for natural resources
- Energy management/retrofit
  - Building operation and maintenance plans to increase energy efficiency
  - Energy audits/building commissioning
  - Renewable energy – geothermal, wind, solar
- Water efficiency
  - Water efficient landscaping
  - More efficient plumbing fixtures
- Indoor Environmental Quality
  - Green cleaning policies
  - Indoor air quality management plan
  - Increased ventilation
  - Occupant comfort in the control of lighting and temperature
  - Day lighting
- Sustainable sites
  - Availability of alternative transportation
  - Pest management plans
  - Protecting and restoring habitat
  - Light pollution reduction
  - Storm water management
• Waste management/recycling
  o Sustainable purchasing policies for equipment, furniture, lighting, food, etc.
  o Waste stream audits and Incorporation of waste stream policies
  o Incorporation of recycling programs

These case studies will be included in the report to the General Assembly with hopes that they will become models that other schools across the state can use in developing their own green building programs. If you are aware of any schools that may fit this request, please provide primary contact information for the school, such as the principal, superintendent or facility manager.

The task force is aiming to gather the data by July 25. All responses should be sent to Lisa Mattingly, Administrator of Professional Services, Capital Development Board, 401 S. Spring St., 3rd Floor Stratton Building, Springfield, IL 62706 or e-mail to lisa.mattingly@illinois.gov.

Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

Laid Off Education Workers Asked to Complete Survey for Grant Purposes

The state of Illinois is pursuing funding from the U.S. Department of Labor in order to address the needs of dislocated education staff. The retraining and re-employment grant sought by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity would allow for such services at resume development and design, job referral and placement services, job search skills training workshops, and more.

Laid off education workers are asked to take the time to fill out a short survey. The survey can be accessed and completed at http://www.illinoisworknet.com by clicking on the “Laid Off Education Worker Survey” on the right side of the page. It takes less than five minutes to complete.

School Business Services

Fiscal Year 2003 School Construction Application Entitlements Issued

In accordance with Section 5-15 of the School Construction Law (105 ILCS 230/5-15) and the 23 Illinois Administrative Code, Section 151-School Construction Program, the Illinois State Board of Education has transmitted the priority ranking of school districts entitled for Fiscal Year 2003 School Construction applicants to the Capital Development Board.

The priority ranking was calculated as stipulated in Section 151.50 of the aforementioned rules. The FY2003 application cycle includes 94 applications (excluding Chicago Public Schools) of which 78 are eligible for entitlement. In addition, five emergency applications were submitted for the FY2011 application cycle of which four were eligible for entitlement.

Jointly administered by the Illinois State Board of Education and the Capital Development Board, the School Construction Program was revitalized with the passage of the capital bill, which provided a $1.5 billion dollar appropriation for the state-local matching grant program.

The priority listing can be viewed at http://www.isbe.net/construction/html/priority_ranking.htm. Entitlement letters have been sent to the districts.

Districts having filed applications for FY2004 will be contacted for updated application information. Additional bond authorization will be necessary for future funding.

For more information, please contact the School Business Services Division at 217-785-8779.

Energy Efficiency Grant Applications Anticipated at the End of Summer

The FY2010 Capital Bill provided $50 million for School Energy Efficiency Grants. The Energy Efficiency Grants are a dollar for dollar state matching grant program providing up to $250,000 for energy efficiency projects in schools. All school districts, charter schools, cooperative high school, vocational center or public university laboratory schools are eligible.

The grants are planned to be distributed over the next three fiscal years, with $9 million to be released later this summer. The grants can be used for insulation, windows, doors, energy controls, lighting, energy recovery, energy conservation, alternative energy systems and other projects designed to reduce energy consumption.

The applications are anticipated to be available at the ISBE website once development is complete at the end of summer. Please watch for the availability in upcoming
Special Education Services

State Education Agency (SEA) Determination Information Received

The Illinois State Board of Education received its State Education Agency (SEA) Determination letter on the implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). Illinois was placed in the “Needs Assistance” category with several other states. In the determination letter, Illinois was commended for achieving high levels of compliance for State Performance Plan (SPP) Indicators 9 (disproportionate representation in special education), 10 (disproportionate representation in specific disability categories), 11 (child find timelines), 12 (early childhood transition), 16 (compliant timelines), 17 (due process hearing timelines) and 20 (timely and valid data submissions).

The department’s determination is based on the totality of the State’s data and information, including the State’s FFY 2008 Annual Performance Report (APR) the revised SPP, other State-reported data and other publicly available information.

Specific factors affecting the OSEP determination of “Needs Assistance” for Illinois included that the state:

1. Reported 80.26 percent compliance for Indicator 15 (timely correction of noncompliance), with progress from 76.2 percent reported the previous year.

2. Reported outstanding findings of noncompliance from FFY 2006 under Indicator 15.

Illinois’ determinations for FFY 2005, 2006 and 2007 were also “Needs Assistance.” In accordance with section 616(e)(1) of the IDEA and 34 CFR 300.604, if a State is determined to need assistance for two consecutive years, the Secretary must take one or more of the following actions:

1. Advise the State of available sources of technical assistance that may help the State address the areas in which the State needs assistance.

2. Direct the use of State-level funds on the area or areas in which the State needs assistance.

3. Identify the State as a high-risk grantee and impose special conditions on the State’s Part B grant award.

Pursuant to these requirements, the Secretary has advised the State of available sources of technical assistance related to Indicator 15 (timely correction of noncompliance). Illinois must report in its FFY 2009 Annual Performance Report (APR) submission on the technical assistance resources from which the State received assistance, as well as report to OSEP by October 1, 2010, how the technical assistance selected by the State is addressing the factors contributing to the ongoing noncompliance.

Professional Development

Registration Under Way for Middle School/High School RtI Summit

Illinois ASPIRE has opened registration for the two-day Middle School/High School Response to Intervention (RtI) Summit. This workshop will be offered in three locations across Illinois:

- Sept. 27 and 28: Collinsville
- Sept. 28 and 29: East Peoria
- Sept. 29 and 30: Naperville

On Day 1 of each workshop, Dr. Kevin Feldman will be speaking on adolescent literacy, literacy across the content areas, student engagement techniques and differentiation. Feldman is the Director of Reading and Early Intervention with the Sonoma County Office of Education (SCOE). On Day 2, Dr. George Batsche will guide middle and high school teams through a trouble-shooting process that allows them to problem-solve about difficulties, celebrate successes and think ahead for sustainability of their RtI infrastructure. Bastche is coordinator of graduate studies in School Psychology at the University of South Florida and collaborates with the Florida Department of Education on RtI implementation. Both speakers have extensive experience discussing RtI and related topics on a national level.

Registration is open to district and school teams of up to five people. It is recommended that teams be comprised of one or more administrators, teaching staff and related services staff. Registrants must be able to attend both days of the workshop. Registration is available via the following links:

The registration deadline is Sept. 10, 2010. The cost of the two-day workshop is $20 per participant for both days. Further payment information can be found on the Two Rivers website (see link above).

Questions can be directed to Rhonda Mooberry at rmooberry@peoriaroe48.net (preferred) or 309-673-1040.

State Police Training Session Advised for Those in Education Involved in Hiring

The Illinois State Police will conduct extensive training on Sept. 28, 2010, at the Knights of Columbus, 2200 South Meadowbrook Road in Springfield. Some of the training topics include:

- Role of the Bureau of Identification
- Name-based vs. fingerprint-based inquiries
- Conviction vs. non-conviction records
- New legislation
- Fingerprint quality
- Understanding and correcting errors
- How to interpret a rap sheet
- Sex offender information

This training would be helpful for anyone in a local education agency responsible for hiring or dismissing personnel, local government, health-care workers and general employment staff.

The link to the registration form along with complete training information can be accessed at http://www.isp.state.il.us/crimhistory/crimhistoryhome.cfm.

Nutrition

Carol M. White Physical Education Program Grant Applications Due July 19

The Carol M. White Physical Education Program (PEP) supports local education agencies and community-based organizations in their efforts to initiate, expand or enhance physical education programs for students in kindergarten through the 12th grade.

Through this program, grantees are expected to help students make progress towards meeting state standards for physical education, and are encouraged to propose research-based projects that reflect integrated, comprehensive approaches to lifelong physical fitness and healthy eating habits. Grantees use program funds to provide teacher training, develop and implement physical education and nutrition education curricula, conduct fitness assessments and purchase equipment.


Summit on Aging and Education

Directory of Best Practices and Great Ideas for Intergenerational Programs

In preparation for the First Illinois Summit on Aging and Education, a Directory of Best Practices and Great Ideas will be published by the National Governors Association (NGA) Illinois Policy Academy on the Civic Engagement of Older Adults.

Do you have an intergenerational program or activity? Are older adults engaged with students in your school or after school? If so, send a note to generations@law.siu.edu and we will send you a very brief form to share your best practices and great ideas.

Common examples of programs and activities include older persons working as mentors, tutors and sharers of their life experiences and/or students visiting elders, conducting oral histories, planning socials together or providing chore services as part of a service-learning project. We are especially interested in intergenerational leadership, such as younger and older generations developing programs, thinking creatively to address education problems and reaching young and old who are often excluded.

The NGA Illinois Policy Academy on the Civic Engagement of Older Adults was launched in June 2008. Illinois was one of 14 states selected to participate in the project designed to improve the health and lives of older Americans and increase their involvement in service, learning, and work. The summit will take place on Sept. 20, 2010, in Normal.

For more information, visit http://www.solit.siu.edu/GenServeGen.

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