Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

The FY 2011 budget continues to be the main focus of many of us as we work for a clearer understanding of what it will finally contain. It is currently a moving target which I hope we can pin down with more certainty within the next few days.

Earlier this month, Governor Quinn announced that he would provide an additional $60 million to education for specific line items. This additional funding from the Governor’s discretionary funds is in addition to the previously announced $200 million to prevent cuts to early childhood and bilingual programs, and allows for the restoration of some funding for programs previously reduced or eliminated.

As all of the pieces to the puzzle come into place I anticipate that the final reduction from FY 2010 will be approximately $240 million. I know you are in the midst of putting together your budget and I have been asked many times for guidance as you go through this process. I can only tell you that I would anticipate the funding delays we have experienced in the past two years to continue in FY 2011.

Not surprisingly, I would encourage you to rely primarily on your local funds. I would still count on your receipt of General State Aid in a timely manner, but with respect to all other payments from the State, I would plan on receipt to be as late or later than was the case for this past fiscal year.

Chris

Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

- **Migrant Education Program application deadline** – July 15
- **PSAE Assessment Correction window closes** – July 19
- **PSAE rescore requests due** – July 19
- **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
• Physical education exemption report deadline – Aug. 30
• 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

PSAE Data Corrections

It’s that critical time of year when PSAE assessment results are being processed. PSAE 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 PSAE is 4 p.m. Monday, July 19, 2010. This includes the “On or Before May 1” fields. Failure to make corrections during this window will not be grounds for appeals later. After July 19, the demographic and score data for PSAE will be considered final. 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 rescres from non-Chicago Public Schools (non-CPS) must be received in the Assessment division by 4 p.m. Monday, July 19, 2010. CPS must submit their requests through the CPS central office by 8 a.m. Monday, July 19, 2010.

AYP Appeals

The 2010 School/District AYP status reports for all schools/districts are posted. The AYP status reports for elementary/middle schools/districts are final. The AYP status reports for high schools/districts should be considered final unless schools request rescoring or make further corrections related to AYP data elements. High 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 No Child Left Behind law and the State Accountability statute and rules allow schools and districts to appeal their Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) status if the district has questions regarding the accuracy of the determination. Appeals should be based on statistical and substantive issues that could not have been resolved during the data correction periods and for which there is an available remedy. The AYP appeal process cannot be used to correct data that could have been addressed during the correction process. (Schools and districts have multiple opportunities throughout the year to ensure student demographic information is correct.) Also, the appeals process can not be used to request changes to the legal requirements for calculating AYP (e.g., minimum subgroup size, safe harbor’s application to subgroups only, full academic year definition, etc.) or to challenge the applicable law. Each appeal will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by ISBE staff and by the Appeals Advisory Committee, if necessary. If you have a valid appeal, it must be filed within 30 days of release of the AYP status report on IWAS or by Sept. 1, 2010, whichever is later. Procedural guidance, a sample timeline and forms for the appeal process are available at http://www.isbe.net/assessment/pdfs/appeals_status.pdf.

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 June’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.

Rules and Waivers

Friday, Aug. 13, Deadline for Fall 2010 Waiver Report

The fall deadline for submission of waiver requests to the Illinois General Assembly is Oct. 1, 2010. In order to
meet that deadline, applications for waivers of School Code mandates to be considered by the General Assembly during the Fall 2010 session must be sent to the State Board postmarked by Friday, Aug. 13, 2010.

Note: Requests to modify the School Code, or to waive or modify rules of the State Board of Education, are not subject to this deadline. Such applications are reviewed for approval or disapproval by the State Board of Education. Moreover, in the majority of cases holiday modifications are no longer required, nor are most waiver requests for parent-teacher conferences. Please call up the link below for more details.

For detailed information on the waiver process, please go to http://www.isbe.net/isbewaivers/default.htm or call Winnie Tuthill at 217-782-5270.

**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 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*

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**Educator and School Development**

**Physical Education Exemption Report Deadline Coming Up**

105 ILCS 5/2-3.97 of the School Code requires the State Board of Education to submit a physical education exemption report to the Illinois General Assembly and Governor on or before Jan. 30 of every odd-numbered year for the immediately preceding school year ending on June 30. This report is to include the general nature and manner of operation of the individual physical education exemptions granted by each local board of education for public school students as stated in 105 ILCS 5/27-6. These allowable exemptions include:

- Ongoing participation in an interscholastic athletic program (grades 11 and 12);
- enrollment in academic classes that are required for admission to an institution of higher learning, provided that failure to take such classes will result in the pupil being denied admission to the institution of his or her choice (grades 11 and 12);
- enrollment in academic classes that are required for graduation from high school, provided that failure to take such classes will result in the pupil being unable to graduate (grades 11 and 12);
- enrollment in an ongoing marching band program for credit (grades 9-12);
- enrollment in a Reserve Officer’s Training Corps (ROTC) Program sponsored by the school district (grades 9-12); and
- utilization of the time set aside for physical education for special education support and services if the student’s parent or guardian agrees this is needed (grades 3-12).
The form is now available via IWAS for your use in documenting this information for the school year that ended June 30, 2010.

If you have questions regarding this report, please contact Patrick Murphy in the Educator and School Division at 217-782-2948 or by e-mail at pmurphy@isbe.net. The deadline to complete the form is Aug. 31, 2010.

Nutrition

Electronic Direct Certification System Now Available for 2010-11 School Year

The Electronic Direct Certification System is available for school year 2010-11. All schools participating in the National School Lunch Program must access this system. Once enrolled, students are located in the Electronic Direct Certification System, households must be notified. Schools may use the Direct Certification Sample Letter (ISBE 69-15) available in both pdf or Microsoft Word on the website listed below. Households that have been notified of free meal benefits due to direct certification are not required to be provided a Household Eligibility Application (HEA). Completing the required direct certification of students before the distribution of HEA will help to minimize duplicate applications from households already approved for free meal benefits.

All public schools should access their annual file as soon as possible. All LEAs (public and non public) participating in the School-Based Child Nutrition Programs can complete sponsor upload files or single child lookups at this time.

Further guidance on the direct certification system, including a recorded webinar, guidance document and sample forms for school year 2010-11, including the Direct Certification Sample Letter (ISBE 69-15), are available at http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/dcs.htm.

The Certification and Verification workshops (July 2010) and Basic Training workshops (September and October 2010) will provide training on the electronic direct certification system. To register, visit http://webprod1.isbe.net/cnscalendar/asp/EventList.asp.

If you have any questions regarding the direct certification process or the direct certification system, contact the Illinois State Board of Education, Nutrition Programs Division at (800) 545-7892 in Illinois or (217) 782-2491. Staff can also be reached via electronic mail at cnp@isbe.net.

HealthierUS School Challenge Applications Available Online

Consider taking the HealthierUS School Challenge this school year. With recent modifications to the criteria, more schools are realizing they meet the nutrition and physical activity requirements that make them eligible for the monetary incentives, which are: $2,000 for the Gold of Distinction level, $1,500 for the Gold level, $1,000 for the Silver level and $500 for Bronze recipients.


Kudos to Illinois’ two Silver level HealthierUS School Challenge recipients: Ridgeview Elementary School from Ridgeview Community Unit School District 19, and Bushnell-Prairie City Elementary School from Bushnell-Prairie City Community Unit School District 170.

Special Education Services

Maintenance of Effort and IDEA Webinar Scheduled for July 22

Registration is under way for the Maintenance of Effort (MOE) and IDEA Webinar, which is set for 2-3 p.m. Thursday, July 22, 2010. Space is limited. Reserve a seat at https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/136080936.

In this webinar, presenters will discuss the newly revised process for determining compliance with federal MOE requirements. The presentation will include details regarding the revised MOE worksheets, ISBE calculation, relation to the Annual Financial Report (AFR) and the completion of the MOE page in the FY11 IDEA Part B application. Related issues will also be discussed and time will be allotted for questions and answers.

After registering, participants will receive a confirmation e-mail containing information about joining the Webinar.

System requirements for PC-bases attendees: Windows 7, Vista, XP, 2003 Server or 2000 required. For Macintosh-based attendees: Mac OS X 10.4.11 (Tiger) or newer required.
School Support for All Schools

Sign Up for Charter Starter Webinar From the Illinois Network of Charter Schools


This interactive webinar will provide the information you need to begin planning a high-performing charter public school in an Illinois community.

- Understand the process and requirements for charter school start-up in Illinois.
- Gain a roadmap for designing an excellent school.
- Learn about common stumbling blocks and how to overcome them.
- Get answers to your pressing questions.

This session is designed to complement Paving a New Path: A Guidebook for Illinois Charter Public School Development. Filled with examples, best practices and practical advice, Paving a New Path is an essential guide for every step of the charter development process. Visit the Web site above to download a free PDF version or order a hard copy in conjunction with webinar registration.

Questions? Contact Anne Levy Brown at alevybrown@incschools.org or 312-235-0798, ext. 18.

Department of Central Management Services

Mandatory Software Update Announced for Automated External Defibrillators

On June 21, the Illinois Department of Central Management Services made a blanket notice to all State of Illinois Joint Purchasing registrants of a voluntary recall notice related to automated external defibrillators (AEDs) available through the State of Illinois’ contracts with Cardiac Science. The involved contract numbers are 4013248 and 4015895.

Within the last few days, Cardiac Science released a mandatory software update for all affected models:

If you purchased any units under either of these contracts, it is strongly recommended that you act in accordance with Cardiac Science’s recommendations.

Devices included in the initial medical recall were those manufactured between August 2003 and August 2009. To identify whether any of your devices were affected, you can visit http://www.cardiacscience.com/aed175. If so, you will be able to download a software update that will enhance the device’s self-test capability and further reduce any risk associated with this issue (according to Cardiac Science, reducing the risk of malfunction to 1 in 1,800,000). Additionally, Cardiac Science can be contacted at 877-901-1788.

Funding and Disbursement Services

State and Federal Grant Administration Policy and Fiscal Procedures Handbook

The Division of Funding and Disbursement Services has updated the State and Federal Grant Administration Policy and Fiscal Procedures Handbook. You are encouraged to access the new handbook at http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/fiscal_procedure_handbok.pdf and distribute to all staff who handle grant programs. Please pay special attention to the policy statements on pages 3-4 as they seem to generate the most questions each year. The primary changes in this version include:

- New language and procedures for calculating and returning interest income on Federal grant programs. (Page 7)

- Per Public Act 96-0795 effective July 1, 2010, state grants in excess of $25,000 must have quarterly expenditure reports filed to reflect the progress of the grant program. For program consistency purposes, all state grants that currently require an expenditure report will be expanded to quarterly reporting. (Page 12)

- New deadlines for submitting quarterly expenditure reports has been moved up from 30 days to 20 days following the end of each quarter. (Page 12)

If you have questions regarding the new handbook please contact Kim Lewis or Sally Cray in the Division of Funding and Disbursements at 782-5256.
Curriculum and Instruction

New Guidance on Financial Aid for Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

The U.S. Department of Education’s Application and Verification Guide (AVG) provides instructions and guidance to financial aid administrators and counselors who assist students in filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

The 2010-11 edition of the AVG, which was published June 21, contains important new information regarding unaccompanied homeless youth who wish to pursue an education beyond grade 12. A summary of the unaccompanied homeless youth provisions is available on the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth website at http://www.naehcy.org/higher_ed.html.


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
- 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
  - Sustainable purchasing policies for equipment, furniture, lighting, food, etc.
  - Waste stream audits and incorporation of waste stream policies
  - 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.

School Business Services

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

### 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.

### 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](http://www.isbe.net/hr/Default.htm).

### In the News

**Weekly News Clips**