



Sept. 7, 2010

Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

We have received notification from the federal government that Illinois’ application for Education Jobs Funds has been approved. The U.S. Department of Education approved Illinois’ application for \$415 million that we will be able to make available to districts this month.

We have scheduled an Education Jobs Funds webinar for this Thursday to go over details on how districts will be able to access these funds and also reporting requirements. The webinar is scheduled at 10 a.m. (Note new time) and will be recorded and posted to our Education Jobs Funds page (http://www.isbe.net/arra/html/ed_jobs_fund.htm) so that if you are unable to attend the live webinar or want to review it a second time you will be able to do so at your convenience.

In addition, I know that there are many questions surrounding the use of these funds. We have developed a question and answer document that is available at http://www.isbe.net/arra/pdf/ed_jobs_faq.pdf. These are some of the questions that we have received from districts and stakeholders and we will continue to update the document as we get more questions and answers. We do not have all of the answers at this time. Specifically we are still trying to determine whether or not TRS considers these federal or local funds and will let you know once we have that information.

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Last week, the U.S. Department of Education announced two consortia of states will split \$330 million to develop new generation assessments. The Partnership for Readiness of College and Careers, of which Illinois is a governing member, will receive \$170 million to develop new assessments aligned with the Common Core State Standards in English language arts and mathematics.

The intent is to develop a computer-based assessment system that will measure student progress at several key times throughout the school year, instead of the one-time snapshot. This will allow teachers, administrators and students to get feedback throughout the year and make instructional adjustments and provide additional supports when needed. I would anticipate that these new assessments will be ready in the 2014-15 school year.

I hope you enjoyed the holiday and have a great week.

Chris

Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

- **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

- The school board must hold a public meeting to adopt the school budget on or before Sept. 30. (end of first quarter) (105 ILCS 5/17-1) Within 30 days of adoption, and any subsequent adoption, the annual budgets must be filed with the county clerk. (105 ILCS 5/17-1 and 35 ILCS 200/18-50)
- Deadline to deliver the Annual Financial Report (AFR) /Audit to the Regional Office of Education/ Intermediate Service Center (Cook County) (with the exception of an extension of time granted by the regional superintendent) (105 ILCS 5/3.7 and 105 ILCS 5/3-15.1) – Oct. 15 (Dec. 15 with an approved extension)
- Part 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision) and Part 365 (Children’s Low-cost Laptop Program) – Public comment period ends Oct. 18
- Annual budgets must be filed with the county clerk within 30 days, Oct. 31, of adoption or any subsequent adoption (105 ILCS 5/17-1 and 35 ILCS 200/18-50)
- Annual Budgets must be submitted to ISBE – Oct. 31, annually
- School Mental Health: Strengthening Schools, Supporting Students conference in Springfield – Nov. 9-10
- Deadline for receipt of the Annual Financial Report (AFR) / Audit to ISBE from the Regional Office of Education / Intermediate Service Center (Cook County) (with the exception of an extension of time granted by the regional superintendent) (105 ILCS 5/3.7 and 105 ILCS 5/3-15.1) – Nov. 15 (Dec. 15 with an approved extension)
- Last day for filing the Annual Statement of Affairs (ISBE form 50-37) to ISBE – Dec. 15
- Postmark deadline for waiver applications to be considered by the General Assembly in Spring 2011 – Jan. 7

Educator and School Development

Supplemental GSA Expenditure Plans Due Oct. 30 for Some School Districts

The majority of Illinois school districts receive Supplemental General State Aid (SGSA) due to the percentage and number of disadvantaged, low income, students attending the district. Districts receive SGSA funding through the Poverty Grant Calculation, which is part three of the General State Aid claim. There is not a separate payment for SGSA. The SGSA payments are included within district’s General State Aid payments.

School districts with average daily attendance over 1,000 are required by the school code to file an SGSA Expenditure Plan in advance of the expenditure of SGSA funding. The required SGSA Expenditure Plan must be filed electronically utilizing the ISBE IWAS system. The IWAS system can be accessed through the Illinois State Board of Education’s webpage at <http://www.isbe.net>. The IWAS button is at the top of the page. All pertinent SGSA information is contained on your district’s screen. A brief narrative is required on the first page and a budget breakdown must be listed on the second page. SGSA funding may be expended in numerous ways but must primarily benefit the disadvantaged, low income, students which generate the funding for the district

without supplanting other types of funding already in place.

If you have questions please contact Richard Loman at rloman@isbe.net or 217-782-2948.

School Business Services

Deadline for Capital Needs Assessment Survey Form Scheduled for Oct. 15

Every two years, Public Act 93-0489 requires the State Board of Education and the Capital Development Board (CDB) to file with the Governor and the General Assembly a comprehensive capital needs assessment report of school districts. To meet this requirement, ISBE is requesting all districts to complete and submit the Capital Needs Assessment Survey form by Oct. 15, 2010. ISBE and CDB strongly encourage school districts to complete this form as we utilize all the data received to communicate the capital needs of school districts to the Governor and General Assembly.

If an additional form is needed, it can be accessed on either of the following websites: <http://www.isbe.net/finance/default.htm> or <http://www.cdb.state.il.us/>. Completed surveys can be submitted electronically to finance@isbe.net or by mail to School Business Services (N-330), 100 N. First St., Springfield, IL 62777-0001. Questions regarding the Capital Needs Assessment Survey can be directed to

Christine Kolaz of ISBE School Business Services at ckolaz@isbe.net or 217-785-8779.

A special task force created by House Joint Resolution 45 of the Illinois General Assembly is requesting school districts complete a short survey regarding the type of green sustainability initiatives in which schools are currently participating. The results of the survey will be included in a report to the General Assembly that is focused on the state of green sustainability in Illinois Schools. The link to the online survey is at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/3JJWWV2>. The task force is aiming to gather the data by Sept. 30, 2010. Questions regarding this survey can be sent to Doug Widener, Executive Director, US Green Building Council Illinois Chapter at dwidener@usgbc-illinois.org or 312-245-8300, ext. 201.

Curriculum and Instruction

Illinois Longitudinal Data System: The Transcript Coding Project

Public Act 96-107 creates the Illinois Longitudinal Data System (ILDS). This law requires Illinois to do the following:

- Implement all of the America COMPETES Act elements;
- Support a broad array of state and district education functions;
- Collect postsecondary data;
- Establish a framework for data sharing to support research evaluation consistent with privacy protection laws; and,
- Set a long-term vision for the state's education data system.

A key tool of the ILDS is the State Student Information System (SIS), which will be expanding in 2010-11 to include additional student data. The Transcript Coding Project, a crucial step in the implementation of the ILDS, will collect information regarding course number, course level, letter grade, course credit, and teacher of record using SIS.

105 ILCS 13/15 of State law requires such data. In part, the state law reads:

(6) Student level transcript information, including information on courses completed and grades earned, from middle and high schools. The State Board shall establish a statewide course classification system... Each school district and charter school shall map its course descriptions to

the statewide course classification system for the purposes of State reporting. School districts and charter schools are not required to change or modify the locally adopted course descriptions used for all other purposes. The State Board shall establish or contract for the establishment of a technical support and training system to assist schools and districts with the implementation of this item (6) and shall to the extent possible, collect transcript data using a system that permits automated reporting from district student information systems.

District staff will match local course numbers to corresponding Secondary School Course Classification System: School Codes for the Exchange of Data codes, provided by the National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data, at <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=200734>. This NCES data handbook outlines a system for assigning standard codes to secondary school courses in 22 major subject areas. It also includes a content description for each course and instructions on how to use the system in coding courses.

ISBE will hold regional training sessions in late October and early November for high school guidance personnel who do the scheduling of students or other school personnel who make student course placement decisions. Districts should plan to send a two-person team to this training. However, it is important that the district representatives have knowledge of the high school course content and course scheduling processes.

ISBE will hold an orientation webinar in early October for districts in order to answer questions. The webinar will be followed by the regional sessions. A list of training sites will be available at <http://www.isbe.net/curriculum/Default.htm>.

If you have questions, contact Marica Cullen, Division Administrator, Curriculum and Instruction, at mcullen@isbe.net or 217-557-7323.

Champaign Educator Wins Illinois History Teacher of the Year Award

The Illinois State Board of Education in cooperation with The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History and the History Channel has selected Christine Adrian of Champaign as the 2010 Illinois History Teacher of the Year. The award is given out every year on a rotating basis between outstanding elementary American History

teachers and middle and high school teachers. This year the award was given to an outstanding middle or high school history teacher in each state.

Christine has been in the education field for over 16 years. Her middle school teaching career has been at Jefferson Middle School in Champaign. Christine has worked with the American History Teachers Collaborative through Urbana District 116, local museums, archives and most recently The Missouri History Museum to create unit lesson plans posted online that teachers across the country can utilize. She has created a student-teacher resource site concerning Abraham Lincoln's history in Champaign County for The Early American Museum in Mahomet. She also has created resources for the local PBS affiliate, worked with the Illinois Rare Book Room archives and spoken at both state and national conferences. In 2009, she received her National Board Certification in Social Science Teaching, received the grand prize award for the History Channel's Lincoln Lesson Plan contest, and was honored with an award for Outstanding Election Project from the League of Women Voters for her school wide 2008 presidential election vote. She is the Social Studies Content Area Chair at her school.

Teachers are selected based on several criteria. One winner was chosen from each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Department of Defense Schools, and U.S. Territories. State winners receive \$1,000 and an archive of books and other resources for their school. Each winner is honored in a ceremony in his or her home state.

Statewide Campaign, Hotline Helps Fight Youth Suicide

National Suicide Prevention Week is Sept. 5-11 with Sept. 9 as World Suicide Prevention Day. Every year, more than 5,000 youth die by suicide in the United States, which is the third leading cause of death for individuals ages 10 to 24. In 2009, 13 percent of Illinois teenagers reported having suicidal thoughts, and 7 percent of teenagers report making a suicide attempt.

When struggling with a mental illness, depression or suicidal ideations, individuals often don't seek help because of the stigma associated with asking for help, limited access to treatment, the shame they feel about having these thoughts and/or no one recognizes their call for help.

The "It Only Takes One" suicide prevention campaign was developed to create an Illinois where no one is

touched by suicide. Its vision is to reduce the stigma of suicide and increase the public's awareness that mental health care is a critical part of health care and a person's overall well-being.

Help promote suicide prevention in your school, during the week of Sept. 5-11, and year-round by visiting <http://www.itonlytakesone.org> and learning about ways to get more involved in the cause.

"It Only Takes One" is supported and funded by the Illinois Department of Public Health and operated by Mental Health America of Illinois. To learn more, visit <http://www.itonlytakesone.org>. For help, call the Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255.

Funding and Disbursement Services

FY 2011 State and Federal Grant Reporting Changes

Effective July 1, 2010, two significant changes will impact reporting requirements for state and federal grants.

Public Act 96-0795 requires that 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. For grants that begin July 1 and end on June 30, the reporting dates will be Sept. 30, Dec. 31, March 31 and June 30, respectively. For projects with an approved extended end date of Aug. 31, an additional report will be required through Aug. 31.

The second significant change will be that the deadline for submitting expenditure reports for state and federal grants will be moved to 20 days following the quarterly reporting period instead of 30 days. This change is due to increased scrutiny of federal cash management procedures identified by an audit conducted by the Federal Office of the Inspector General as well as in the most recent Statewide Single Audit.

- Expenditures reported through Sept. 30 will be due Oct. 20.
- Expenditures reported through Dec. 30 will be due Jan. 20.
- Expenditures reported through March 30 will be due April 20.

- Expenditures reported through June 30 will be due July 20.
- Expenditures through Aug. 31 will be due Sept. 20 (for projects with an approved extended grant period).

If you have questions about these two new requirements, contact Kim Lewis or Sally Cray in the Division of Funding and Disbursement Services at 217-782-5256.

FY 2011 Funding for Children Requiring Special Education Services Calculations

The final FY 2011 Funding for Children Requiring Special Education Services district calculations have been determined and can be accessed at http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/sped_funding11.pdf.

Per Section 14-7.02b of the School Code [105 ILCS 5/14-7.02b], after the block grant allocation for Chicago District 299 is subtracted from the final appropriation, all remaining funding is distributed 85 percent on average daily attendance and 15 percent on poverty as used in the calculation of General State Aid for each school district. In addition, districts eligible for Hold Harmless have been calculated per P.A. 95-0705 (effective Jan. 8, 2008). The language added to Section 14-7.02b states that, for fiscal year 2008 and each fiscal year thereafter, individual school districts must not receive payments under [Section 14-7.02b] totaling less than they received for fiscal year 2007 (commonly referred to as a “hold harmless” provision). However, the language further states that any “hold harmless” funding is to be “computed last and shall be a separate calculation from any other calculation set forth in [Section 14-7.02b].”

The “other calculation” referenced in the new language is the existing split of the entire appropriation – 85 percent based on each district’s average daily attendance and 15 percent on poverty. The change amount between FY 07 and FY 11 has been calculated. A district is eligible for Hold Harmless if the amount calculated is bracketed in the final column on the spreadsheet. Currently, there is no supplemental appropriation to pay the FY 11 Hold Harmless amount.

If you have questions regarding these calculations you can contact Jodi Whitlow at jwhitlow@isbe.net or 217-782-5256.

FY 2011 General State Aid Finalized

Fiscal Year 2011 General State Aid (GSA) calculations have been finalized. Final computations and claim

information can be accessed in GSA Inquiry at <http://webprod1.isbe.net/gainquiry/asp/default.asp>. The foundation level of \$6,119 was utilized and per the schedule in statute, poverty hold harmless was paid the greater of the district’s FY 2011 Poverty Grant or 33 percent of the FY 2003 Poverty Grant. The Aug. 20 payment represents the amount that can be expected for the rest of the fiscal year.

Please note that these calculations and payment schedules DO NOT incorporate the \$415 million in new federal Education Jobs money that will be forthcoming.

If you have any questions about General State Aid or the computations, contact Jim Mathes at jmathes@isbe.net or phone 217-782-5256.

FY 2011 Allocations Available for NCLB Consolidated Application

Final FY11 NCLB allocations for all eligible Local Education Agencies are complete and can be accessed at http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/title_I_proj_fy11.pdf. LEA allocations for Title IIA have not changed. The allocations are also available on the NCLB Consolidated Grant Application allotment page for each LEA.

If you have already received ISBE approval for your NCLB Consolidated Application, you can amend your application for the changes in allocation. Once your final FY10 expenditure reports have been submitted, carryover funds may also be available to your district. If you have not yet applied, or your application is still within the approval process at the district level, you may apply for your additional funds at this time. Please note that the latest date for original submission for NCLB and ARRA-NCLB is Nov. 3, 2010.

Allocations for FY11 Title IID will be made on a competitive basis. After your FY10 final expenditure report for Title IID is submitted, and your LEA has carryover, your LEA must apply for such carryover with an FY11 NCLB Consolidated Application for Title IID. FY10 Title IID carryover cannot be used in conjunction with the FY11 Title IID competitive grant.

No Federal Title IV appropriation was approved this year. Therefore, only Title IV carryover funds will be available. After your FY10 final expenditure report for Title IV is submitted, and IF your LEA has carryover, your LEA must apply for such carryover with an FY11 NCLB Consolidated Application for the remaining Title IV allocation.

ARRA – Title I allocations that remain available to districts are in the form of carryover from FY10 and must be applied for separately in an FY11 ARRA-NCLB Consolidated Application. These funds must be liquidated by Sept. 30, 2011.

Questions regarding the Title I, IIA, and IV programs should be directed to staff in the Innovation and Improvement Division at 217-524-4832.

For questions about the Title IID Technology - Enhancing Education Through Technology formula grants, contact Kathy Barnhart in the Division of Curriculum and Instruction at 217-557-7323 or kbarnhar@isbe.net.

Nutrition

Illinois Awarded Team Nutrition Training Grant

The USDA has notified the Illinois State Board of Education that Illinois has been selected as a recipient of the 2010 Team Nutrition Training Grant. Illinois will receive approximately \$315,000 for a two-year grant. The following three approved initiatives address the overall health and well-being of Illinois children:

- The HealthierUS School Challenge Webinar initiative will encourage Illinois elementary and secondary schools to take the HealthierUS School Challenge and provide school staff with technical assistance to meet Challenge criteria for a healthier school environment.
- The HUSSC Mini-Grants initiative will assist 13 Illinois elementary and/or secondary schools to work toward meeting the HUSSC criteria and submitting successful HUSSC applications by providing the opportunity to be awarded competitive mini-grants of \$3,500 and HUSSC onsite training and technical assistance.
- The Teachers' eCourse initiative will empower K-12 teachers to integrate into their classrooms fun and interactive nutrition education and/or physical activity for students with new educational technologies.

The Illinois Nutrition Education and Training Program staff fulfills the grant responsibilities through ISBE. Watch for upcoming grant opportunities in the "Grants, Awards, and Honors" section of future The Outlook newsletters, located at <http://www.isbe.net/nutrition>.

Special Education Services

School Mental Health Conference Slated for Nov. 9-10 in Springfield

Join school mental health colleagues from across the state Nov. 9-10, 2010, at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel and Conference Center in Springfield for School Mental Health: Strengthening Schools, Supporting Students, the first statewide interdisciplinary conference committed to advancing school based mental health.

Keynote speakers will be Sandra Keenan from Associates in Research and Dr. Marc Atkins from the University of Illinois-Chicago, Institute for Juvenile Research.

This conference will provide an opportunity for educators, family members, school counselors, psychologists, social workers and community mental health providers to come together and discover exciting new approaches to furthering school based mental health.

To register for the conference, go to the following link: <https://events.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oei=dk=a07e2y2ki200660f09c&oseq=a001g9zqdxhi>.

For more information or for questions about the event or how to register, e-mail akirk@voices4kids.org.

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 365. The emergency amendments are posted separately, just below the main document.

Part 365 (Children's Low-cost Laptop Program)

Sets forth the requirements for applying for and criteria for review of proposals submitted for grants under the Children's Low-cost Laptop Act [105 ILCS 65].

Affected Sections: 365.10, 365.20, 365.30, 365.40, 365.50, and 365.60

Effective Date: August 17, 2010, for a maximum of 150 days

Career and Technical Education

Illinois Innovation Talent Program Deadline Extended

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and the Illinois State Board of Education have agreed to extend the Illinois Innovation Talent program deadline.

Applications must now be submitted to both jason.tyszko@illinois.gov and mawillia@isbe.net by noon on Sept. 10, 2010. Schools will be notified of their selection no later than Sept. 22, 2010.

If you have already submitted an application, you have the option of resubmitting an amended application by the new deadline, although this is not a requirement. Should you choose this option, please indicate clearly in an e-mail that the amended application should be reviewed in place of the original submission.

More information is available at http://www.isbe.net/docs/ILIT_2010-2011_School_Application.pdf and http://www.isbe.net/docs/ILIT_2010-2011_School_Application.doc.

Classroom Opportunities

Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum Offers Classroom Connections Program

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield is offering its Classroom Connections Program, which features specific sessions for students in grades 4 through 12. The learning sessions are held in the presidential library classroom and include a tour of the museum.

Teachers can choose such sessions as Exploring History Through Newspapers on Microfilm, Women of the Civil War and Tracking the Underground Railroad.

The Classroom Connection Program is offered on Sept. 29, Oct. 13 and 27, Nov. 10; Jan. 12 and 26, Feb. 9 and 23, March 9 and 23, April 13 and 27, and May 11 and 25. Space is limited to 35 students per day on a first-come, first-served basis.

Advance registration with a \$50 refundable deposit is required. There is no charge for the Classroom Connection Program or the Presidential Museum tour for

school groups with advance reservations. To register, call 217-558-9016 or e-mail randy.wiseman@illinois.gov.

For more information, visit <http://www.presidentlincoln.org/education/home.html> and click “School Programs.”

Webcast on the U.S. Constitution Scheduled for Friday, Sept. 17

Publishing company Hough Mifflin Harcourt and the History Channel will present a webcast for Constitution Day on Sept. 17. “We the People LIVE: A Constitution Day Webcast” will air from 11-11:45 a.m. that Friday.

The 45-minute long free program will air from the Newseum in Washington, D.C., and will include leaders from government, news and entertainment with a series of readings, narrative and a Q & A with students.

Congress passed legislation in 2005 that requires all schools receiving federal money to teach about the U.S. Constitution on Constitution Day, which is celebrated annually on Sept. 17.

Educators can sign up for the free Constitution Day webcast at <http://bit.ly/constitutionday>. The site also features links to additional free classroom resources.

Illinois Attorney General

Internet Safety Training Program Available Online

Attorney General Lisa Madigan and the Illinois State Board of Education have launched an Internet safety training program for Illinois schools, previewing the program’s new training modules.

Educators throughout Illinois participated in the attorney general’s first-of-its-kind webinar last week to introduce educators to the benefits of the training program. Those interested can access the webinar and modules on the attorney general’s Web site at <http://www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov> by clicking on the “Internet Safety” icon.

The Attorney General’s office created the training modules to provide teachers resources to educate and inform students on Internet safety information aimed at three different grade-level groupings: grades 3-5; grades 6-8; and grades 9-12. Each grouping covers topics that young people face online everyday: online exploitation, cyberbullying, sexting and piracy. The modules include

videos, activities and worksheets to assist educators with their Internet safety education efforts.

Additional information on the dangers of cyberbullying is available at <http://ebully411.com>. The Stop Cyberbullying website includes the news and statistics, frequently asked questions and a quiz to test online users' knowledge about cyberbullying. It also features an E-Info Hotline, which is a phone- and Web-based resource staffed by the attorney general's internet safety specialists. More information is available by calling the Hotline at 1-888-414-7678 or by e-mailing info@atg.state.il.us.

Illinois Commerce Commission

Federal and State Telephone Assistance Helps Those in Need Stay Connected

AARP and the Illinois Commerce Commission want residents to “stay connected” and are encouraging those who need phone service but can't afford it to contact their local phone company to sign up for the federal Lifeline or state Link-Up telephone service assistance programs.

Under the federal Lifeline program, telephone customers who participate and are eligible for certain public assistance programs are entitled to receive a basic telephone service discount of \$10 a month. The federal Link-Up America program will pay one-half (up to \$30) of the initial installation fee for traditional land-line telephone service or activation fee for a wireless service for a primary residence. It also allows participants to pay the remaining amount owed on a deferred schedule, interest-free. The state's Link-Up program provides an additional benefit of up to \$12 on installation charges for telephone service to eligible program participants in Illinois.

Lifeline Awareness Week is Sept. 12-18. AARP is joining with the Governor of Illinois, the Illinois Commerce Commission, state agencies and other advocacy groups to remind those who don't have access to local telephone service, help is available.

For more information on the Lifeline and Link-Up telephone assistance programs, visit the Illinois Commerce Commission website at <http://www.icc.illinois.gov/consumer/lifelineandlinkup>.

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

ISBE has posted highlights from last week's education news clips at <http://www.isbe.net/news/2010/newsclips/100907.htm>.