Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

Tomorrow is Election Day and I hope that you and your staff make time to ensure your voices are heard at the polls. Unfortunately, many of us take for granted this right and do not exercise it. Voting in an election is one of the greatest responsibilities we have as a citizenry and the stakes are high for our students and their futures.

Some of us may be disenchanted with the process. We may be tired of the endless commercials or just may plain not like the candidates, but it is better to vote for an individual that may not be your ideal candidate than to not have voted at all. Those who do not vote lose their right to complain about the direction our political leaders may take our state in the future. Please remind your staff of their civic responsibility.

I know a number of schools and districts serve as polling places. This is a valuable service that many in your communities remember and for some of your constituents it may be the only time they enter one of our schools. Thank you for allowing your facilities to be used and please ensure the proper safety precautions are taken to separate students from the general public.

All school and district report cards should have now been made public locally. If your district has not yet released this information, you need to do so immediately. The agency released all report card information on Friday.

Last week the Board met in Springfield and went over Adequate Yearly Progress and State Report Card information. This is the first year that we have had more schools and districts not making AYP than making AYP. This is something that we all knew was coming as we continue to move closer to 2014 and the requirement that 100 percent of students meet and exceed state standards. This should serve as a reminder to work with our federal elected officials to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act sooner, rather than later.


Thanks and have a great week.

Chris

Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

- **Summer School State Aid claims due** – Nov. 1
- **Summer Orphanage Individual claims due** – Nov. 1
- **School Mental Health: Strengthening Schools, Supporting Students conference in Springfield** – Nov. 9-10
- **Illinois Technology Education Conference in Normal** – Nov. 12-13
- **2010-11 Unfilled Positions Survey deadline** – Nov. 15
• Limitation of Administrative Costs Worksheet deadline – Nov 15
• 2010-2011 Health Examination and Immunization Data Collection deadline – Nov. 15
• 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)
• Part 30 (Programs for the Preparation of Principals in Illinois), Part 100 (Requirements for Accounting, Budgeting, Financial Reporting, and Auditing), and Part 675 (Providers of Supplemental Educational Services) – Public comment period ends Nov. 22
• FY11 NCLB Monitoring Instrument – Nov. 30
• FY11 NCLB Title I Comparability Analysis – Nov. 30
• Part 25 (Certification) – Public comment period ends Dec. 6
• Last day for filing the Annual Statement of Affairs (ISBE form 50-37) to ISBE – Dec. 15
• 2010-11 Teacher Service Record data deadline – Dec. 15
• Part 228 (Transitional Bilingual Education), Part 235 (Early Childhood Block Grant), and Part 575 (School Technology Program) – Public comment period ends Dec. 27
• 2010-2011 Nonpublic Registration, Enrollment, and Staff Report deadline – Dec. 31
• 2010-11 Teacher Salary Study Form deadline – Feb. 1
• 2010-11 Eye Examination Data Collection deadline – June 30

Curriculum and Instruction

New Passwords Sent for MyIIRC

On Oct. 29, all district superintendents should have received passwords for MyIIRC by e-mail. This new service of the Illinois Interactive Report Card provides easy access for educators to student-level data and to e-plans using a single password. Superintendents will control distribution of MyIIRC and e-plans access to administrators and teachers in their districts.

With ISBE support, IIRC has offered access to student level data since 2007. About 30 percent of local schools used this service in the past, and MyIIRC benefitted from their many suggestions. MyIIRC's student data resources include a menu of assessments by year, grade and subject; rosters listing individual students, their assessments and their performance; individual student reports that reach across years and locations; and the ability to organize students into classes or groups for analysis of performance over time.

New passwords will be needed for entering MyIIRC and the e-plans. Using a simplified sign-on system, superintendents can assign access to selected educators at the district and building levels. ROEs, ISCs, RESPROMS and Tech Centers also should have received passwords. Note: The old password system will be phased out on Dec. 31, 2010.

Accompanying the passwords, look for an introduction to MyIIRC and a guide to help administrators with the registration process.

Bullying Prevention

U.S. Department of Education Issues New Guidance; Conference in the Works

The U.S. Department of Education has issued new guidance to support educators in fighting bullying. The guidance, in the form of a “Dear Colleague” letter, provides examples of harassment and tells how schools should respond. To read the “Dear Colleague” letter, visit http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/letters/colleague-201010.html.

The Department of Education and the White House also announced preliminary plans to host a conference early next year to raise awareness and to provide tools to students, educators and parents to prevent bullying and harassment. Also in the works by the department are workshops to be held around the country in early 2011.

In addition, President Barack Obama released a personal message to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender teens as part of the It Gets Better Project. The video can be seen at [http://www.whitehouse.gov/itgetsbetter](http://www.whitehouse.gov/itgetsbetter) along with a blog posting by Brian Bond, Deputy Director of the Office of Public Engagement. The It Gets Better Project was prompted by a series of suicides by youth harassed for being gay or perceived as gay.

### Aging and Education

**Discussions Planned as Follow-up to Summit on Aging and Education**

As a follow-up to the Summit on Aging and Education held in September, community college presidents across the state are planning local discussions that target solutions to two economic challenges — dropouts and preventable chronic diseases.

The discussions are sponsored by Generations to Generations, a project developed by the National Governors Association. Other sponsors include the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Department of Aging.

For more information, including a complete list of sponsors, go to the Generations Serving Generations website at [http://www.solit.siu.edu/genservegen/](http://www.solit.siu.edu/genservegen/). The schedule of local discussions, which are planned throughout November and December, is available at [http://www.solit.siu.edu/genservegen/PDF/WEB%20Local%20Discuss.pdf](http://www.solit.siu.edu/genservegen/PDF/WEB%20Local%20Discuss.pdf). Please note that several discussion times have not been decided on yet but will be announced soon.


### Data Analysis and Progress Reporting

**U.S. Department of Education Designates Teacher Shortage Areas**

The U.S. Department of Education approved the following as designated teacher shortage areas for school year 2011-12:

- **Regular Education**
  - *Bilingual Education*

Information on teacher shortage scholarships and applications is available from the Illinois Student Assistance Commission at 800-899-4722.

The above identified shortage areas are also eligible for payment deferral provisions of the Federal Stafford Loan, Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFEL), Federal Supplemental Loan for Students (SLS) and the reduction of teaching obligation under the Paul Douglas Teacher Scholarship Program. Federal Stafford and SLS borrowers who have questions concerning their loans, including the teacher shortage area deferment, should call the Federal Student Aid Hotline at 800-433-3243.

### Health Examination and Immunization Data Collection Deadline Coming Up

The Student Health Data – Immunization system is available in IWAS for school year 2010-11 data submission. Completed reports must be received no later than Nov. 15, 2010.

Links to important related documents are provided below.

- **User Guide:** [http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/Immunization_user_guide.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/Immunization_user_guide.pdf)
- **Immunization and Compliance with State Law:** [http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/immunization_requirements.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/immunization_requirements.pdf)
- **Data Entry Worksheet:** [http://www.isbe.net/research/xls/immunization_worksheet.xls](http://www.isbe.net/research/xls/immunization_worksheet.xls)
- **How to Calculate Actual Unduplicated Count:** [http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/Unduplicated_Count.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/Unduplicated_Count.pdf)
- **Health and Immunization Questions and Answers:** [http://www.dhs.state.il.us/OneNetLibrary/27894/documents/SchoolHealth/FAQ09.doc](http://www.dhs.state.il.us/OneNetLibrary/27894/documents/SchoolHealth/FAQ09.doc)

A report must be submitted for every eligible school, without exception. Schools that are not the home school for any student should submit the report by selecting the option which allows them to declare they have no data to report.
Please share this information with the school nurse or health technician and those submitting the Immunization/Health Examination data to the Illinois State Board of Education. Questions may be addressed to Md. Shafiqul Azam in the Data Analysis and Progress Reporting Division at 217-782-3950 or mazam@isbe.net.

**Webinars**

**New Illinois Learning Standards Webinar Available for Playback**

For those who missed the Oct. 21 webinar on the New Illinois Learning Standards Based on the Common Core, a recording is available online at http://www.isbe.net/asx/ILS_Common_Core_102110.asx.

The webinar was led by Illinois State Board of Education staff to discuss the implementation of the New Illinois Learning Standards based on the Common Core. It provides an overview on agency activities to support district and school level implementation, as well as to provide a timeline for implementation.

For more information and resources on the New Illinois Learning Standards, go to the ISBE website at http://www.isbe.net/common_core/default.htm.

**Early Childhood Administrator’s Webinar Conference Scheduled for Nov. 10**

The Early Childhood Administrators Meeting will be held this year through a webinar on Nov. 10. Both new and continuing program administrators are invited to participate. Information will include updates regarding currently funded programs for 3- to 5-year olds and birth to 3-year-olds along with new information about the FY 2012 grant process. All administrators are strongly encouraged to participate. Reserve your Webinar seat at https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/303053080.

- **Title:** Early Childhood Administrator’s Webinar Conference
- **Date:** Wednesday, November 10, 2010
- **Time:** 9:30-11:30 a.m.

After registering you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the Webinar.

**System Requirements**

- PC-based attendees: Windows 7, Vista, XP or 2003 Server required
- Macintosh-based attendees: Mac OS X 10.4.11 (Tiger) or newer required

**Register for the HealthierUS School Challenge Webinar**

The HealthierUS School Challenge (HUSSC) is a key part of first lady Michelle Obama’s Let’s Move! campaign. The first lady’s goal is to end childhood obesity within a generation.

Are you interested in taking the HUSSC but are looking for more details? Sign-up for the free Go for the Gold: Join the HealthierUS School Challenge webinar, presented by the Illinois Nutrition Education and Training Program. This webinar, funded through a USDA Team Nutrition Training grant, provides school nutrition staff with what it takes to meet the Challenge criteria. Hear success stories from two Illinois schools. Earn one CEU credit.

The free Go for the Gold webinar will be held 2-3 p.m. Nov. 18, 2010. Visit http://www.KidsEatWell.org to register for this webinar.

**Rules and Waivers**

**Invitation to Comment on Rules**

Three 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 228 (Transitional Bilingual Education)**

Defines “instructional costs” for the purposes of bilingual education funding under Article 14C of the School Code (see P.A. 96-1170, effective January 1, 2011).

**Deadline for Public Comment:** Dec. 27

**Part 235 (Early Childhood Education)**

Repeals references in the rules to the Prekindergarten Program for Children at Risk of Academic Failure, as per P.A. 96-944 and P.A. 96-948; eliminates funding for separate parental training programs; and increases from 51 percent to 80 percent the proportion of at-risk or low-income students proposed to be served in a Preschool for All program in order for the applicant to receive priority consideration in the proposal review process.

**Deadline for Public Comment:** Dec. 27
Part 575 (School Technology Program)
Pursuant to P.A. 96-783, effective August 28, 2009, establishes procedures for nonpublic schools, recognized under Part 425 of State Board of Education rules, to participate in the Technology Revolving Loan program, including the process to be used to recover any loan principal and interest due when a nonpublic school closes or otherwise defaults on loan agreement.
Deadline for Public Comment: Dec. 27

Funding and Disbursement Services
ARRA Ed Jobs Reporting – Compensation Funding Start Date Enhancement

The new Education Jobs (Ed Jobs) program has identical reporting requirements as other programs that fall under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Specifically, all local education agencies (LEAs) that are awarded and receive ARRA funds must report full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs funded with ARRA dollars as well as any single vendor payments made in the amount of $25,000 or more. The Ed Jobs program has been assigned revenue code 4880 and is being paid on a reimbursement basis. This means that in order for the LEA to receive Ed Jobs funds reimbursement, a cumulative (i.e. year-to-date) electronic expenditure report must be submitted via the Electronic Expenditure Reporting System in IWAS detailing the amount expended on a cash basis in the appropriate function and object code. If you were unable to attend the Ed Jobs webinar on Sept. 9, 2010 please see the presentation at http://www.isbe.net/arra/ppt/arra_ed_jobs_fund_webinar.pdf.

If the LEA submits or plans to submit an expenditure report requesting reimbursement of qualifying expenditures (i.e. compensation and benefit costs), the ARRA data must be reported in the quarter in which the FTE jobs and vendor payments were funded with Ed Jobs dollars (i.e. Sept. 30, Dec. 31, March 31 or June 30). This is true even if an expenditure report for reimbursement has not yet been filed for the reporting quarter.

SUMMARY OF NEW ENHANCEMENT: To assist the LEA and ISBE reflect when employees were funded with Ed Jobs funds, a new “compensation funding start date” has been added to the electronic expenditure reporting system for the Ed Jobs program. The compensation funding start date entered should be the earliest date the LEA elects to fund an employee with Ed Jobs dollars. This date will be entered once and is critical as it becomes the “start date” for the Ed Jobs funds project and dictates when ARRA data must be reported in the ARRA Reporting System. For example, if the LEA elects on Dec. 1 to submit an Ed Jobs expenditure report requesting reimbursement of qualifying expenditures through Nov. 30 and enters a compensation funding “start date” of Oct. 1, then the LEA must report FTE jobs in the ARRA Reporting System for the period ending Dec. 31 (i.e. Oct. 1-Dec. 31). However, if the LEA enters a compensation funding “start date” prior to Sept. 30, the LEA must report FTE jobs in the ARRA Reporting System for the period ending Sept. 30. This is true for any subsequent quarter. You are cautioned at this time if you choose to fund positions prior to Sept. 30; an ARRA data report must still be submitted for the reporting quarter ending Sept. 30, 2010. This report was due to the federal government Oct. 10, 2010, so reports submitted for the period ending Sept. 30 will be retained for audit purposes.

Once the LEA begins to request Ed Jobs expenditure reimbursement, they are obligated to report ARRA data via the ARRA Reporting System every subsequent quarter, even if no expenditure reports for reimbursement have been submitted in the ARRA reporting quarter, until all funds have been expended and all ARRA data have been reported. To complete the aforementioned example, if the LEA does not request any reimbursement of Ed Jobs expenditures between Jan. 1 and March 31, they must still submit ARRA FTE jobs and vendor data for the March 31 ARRA reporting quarter that no FTE jobs or vendor payments were funded with Ed Jobs dollars during the reporting quarter. The LEA must continue to submit ARRA data reports for each subsequent quarter until all Ed Jobs funds have been expended and all ARRA data have been reported.

If you have further questions or concerns, contact Jim Mathes at jmathes@isbe.net or Marj Beck at mbeck@isbe.net. Both can be reached by telephone at 217-782-5256.

Important Announcement Regarding ‘Bus Trust’ Lease Agreements

In the past few years, the Central States Bus Sales Co. issued what are known as “bus trust” lease agreements with local education agencies that were advertised as agreements to lease buses without interest or finance charges. During the past several months we have met
with representatives from Central States to discuss our concerns with these agreements as amortization schedules did not disclose inherent interest or finance charges that are not claimable on the Transportation Reimbursement claim. Central States has agreed to a revision of these previously issued agreements and will now ensure that invoices clearly establish the sales prices of the buses leased, and the yearly lease payments will be structured to avoid any ambiguity with interest components and rates clearly noted.

Local education agencies that entered into “bus trust” lease agreements with Central States Bus Sales prior to July 1, 2010, will not be penalized on the Transportation claims submitted to ISBE. However, it is expected that all future agreements and subsequent claims will clearly denote interest and finance charges that are not claimable.

If you have questions regarding this issue, please contact Jamie Johnson at jjohnson@isbe.net or phone 217-782-5256.

**Nutrition**

**Food Guidelines – Local Policies Required by Start of 2011**

Per Public Act 96-0349, the Illinois State Board of Education, in conjunction with the Illinois Department of Public Health, has released the Guidelines for Managing Life-Threatening Food Allergies in Illinois Schools. These guidelines were assembled by an ad hoc committee comprised of experts in the field of food allergens, representatives on behalf of students with food allergies, public schools management organizations and two statewide teachers’ organizations. By Jan. 1, 2011, each school board is required to implement a policy based on these guidelines. Also, at least every two years, an in-service training program for school personnel who work with students must be conducted by persons with expertise in anaphylactic reactions and management.

The Guidelines for Managing Life-Threatening Food Allergies in Illinois Schools, which includes checklists for district employees and training resources, is at [http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/food_allergy_guidelines.htm](http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/food_allergy_guidelines.htm). A sample policy and administrative procedure are available through the Illinois Association of School Board’s Policy Reference Education Subscription Service (PRESS). These sample materials were included in Issue 73, August 2010 of PRESS, and have been mailed to all PRESS subscribers. The Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) will also provide these samples complimentary to its member school boards and non-member school boards in Illinois that request them. To make a request for these samples, contact Anna Lovern at the IASB Springfield location at 217-528-9688, ext. 1125 or Laurel DiPrima at the IASB Lombard location at 630-629-3776, ext. 1245.

**Classroom Opportunities**

**International Education Week Kicks Off Nov. 15**

The week of Nov. 15-19 has been declared International Education Week by the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of State. This year’s theme is “International Education: Striving for a Sustainable Future.”

Activities to promote the 11th annual International Education Week and more information is available at [http://www.iew.state.gov](http://www.iew.state.gov). Schools can also post their own celebratory events on this website.

**In the News**

**Weekly News Clips**


**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).