Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

It took a few days longer and was even closer than experts anticipated but the election season has finally come to an end this year. If you’re like me, you’re probably excited to turn on the radio or TV and not be exposed to another campaign advertisement.

It was a difficult campaign season and the education community lost several partners in the legislature. Governor Quinn will retain his position and continue moving forward with his agenda for Illinois. It is a daunting task given the financial crisis.

The Board has worked closely with Governor Quinn and he has supported us as we have moved forward with many of the initiatives that are driving the future of education in Illinois. I think it’s important that we have had and will continue to have his support as we implement critical reforms such as the new Illinois Learning Standards and assessments, reforming principal and teacher preparation programs and creating new evaluation systems that take into account student progress and performance, just to name a few.

The budget making process for state government will be very difficult again for FY 12, especially as we are still dealing with unpaid vouchers from FY 10 and 11. I want to remind you that the unspent funds from state grants do not carryover like federal grants from year to year. If the FY 10 project grant period has expired (e.g. June 30 or Aug. 31, 2010) you may not obligate funds past that date. State FY 10 funds cannot be spent in FY 11.

Currently, we have about 300 local education agencies that have a total of approximately $4.5 million in unspent grant funding in which the project grant period has ended. Technically, the agency should be asking LEA’s to return that funding, however, given the backlog of bills the state owes to districts that seems unfair. We will be working with the Illinois Association of School Administrators to see if there is some legislative relief for districts that would allow them to keep these funds and I will update you on our efforts.

Thursday is Veterans Day. Please take time to honor the men and women who have given so much for our freedom.

Chris

Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

- 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)
- Illinois School Breakfast Week – Nov. 15-19
- Illinois Education and Technology Conference in Springfield – Nov. 18-19
- 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
- Postmark deadline for waiver applications to be considered by the General Assembly in Spring 2011 – Jan. 7
- 2010-11 Teacher Salary Study Form deadline – Feb. 1
- Illinois New Teacher Collaborative’s Induction and Mentoring Conference in Springfield – March 1-2
- 2010-11 Eye Examination Data Collection deadline – June 30

Legal

Performance Evaluation Reform Act Timeline

The Illinois State Board of Education has received many questions about the timeline for school districts to implement performance evaluations for teachers and principals that, among other things, incorporate student growth as a significant factor. We have prepared a document that we hope addresses many of those questions: [http://www.isbe.net/PEAC/default.htm](http://www.isbe.net/PEAC/default.htm). See “New PEAC Timeline Without Race to the Top.” If you have any further questions about this timeline, though, please contact Patrick Murphy, Division Administrator, Educator and School Development, at 217-782-2948 or pmurphy@isbe.net.

School Business Services

Limitation of Administrative Costs Worksheet Deadline Coming Up

Reminder: School districts must submit the completed Limitation of Administrative Costs Worksheet to the Illinois State Board of Education’s School Business Services Division by Nov. 15, 2010.

A copy of the worksheet can be accessed at [http://www.isbe.net/sfms/AdminCaps/AdminCaps.htm](http://www.isbe.net/sfms/AdminCaps/AdminCaps.htm).

Additionally, the Limitation of Administrative Costs Worksheet is included in the Illinois School District Annual Financial Report – June 30, 2010 (ISBE 50-35). If a completed Limitation of Administrative Costs Worksheet is submitted along with the school district’s Annual Financial Report, a separate worksheet does not also have to be submitted. Please note that the worksheet included in the School District Budget Form July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011 (ISBE 50-36) is a working document for local use only and will not be accepted for official submission of the Limitation of Administrative Costs Worksheet.

If you have any questions, contact Michelle Heninger, School Business Services Division, at 217-785-8779 or mheninge@isbe.net.

Funding and Disbursement Services

Clarification Issued on Bus Trust Lease Agreements

On Oct. 20, a message was distributed regarding Bus Trust Agreements issued by Central States Bus Sales Co.
A few questions arose from that e-mail that warrants further clarification.

The original message stated that districts that had entered into bus trust agreements with Central States prior to July 1, 2010, would not be penalized on the Regular/Vocational Transportation claims. That statement is still true; however, districts that elect to modify or extend their current agreements with Central States will be subject to the new provisions of separating finance and interest charges for the years that are extended. Districts are only held harmless for current agreements until their expiration. Further, if External Assurance field auditors are able to secure documentation of finance and interest charges from the bus manufacturer that were not originally disclosed, these costs are non-claimable and not exempt from being considered as questioned costs.

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

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**Curriculum and Instruction**

**Illinois Education and Technology Conference Coming Up in Springfield**

Online registration for the Illinois Education and Technology Conference is open through Wednesday, Nov. 10. The 17th annual conference is set for Nov. 18-19 in Springfield. To register and for more information, go to http://www.il-edtech.org/.

This conference offers teachers, technology coordinators, administrators, curriculum/media specialists, special education instructors, technical staff, and others interested in improving the quality of education, an opportunity to gain information and exchange ideas on the application of educational technology in our schools.

For a list of presentations and to view the conference program, visit http://www.il-edtech.org/index.php?smenu=notes&page=ci.

Registration is $170 for the two-day conference or $95 for either Thursday, Nov. 18, or Friday, Nov. 19. Registration after the close of business on Nov. 10 will be on-site with payment required.

**New Passwords Sent for MyIIRC**

District superintendents should have received an announcement last week about how to access the new MyIIRC secure login feature for their district- and school-level users.

All users of student data and e-plans, please note that current password access will remain in place through Jan. 31, 2011, while the new login system is brought to scale. To use the current password system for access to student data or e-plans, go to the school or district profile page and click on the grey link buttons in the upper right of the page.

Roll out of MyIIRC to ROEs, RESPROs, LTCs will be staged in two weeks, beginning Nov. 15.

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**Nutrition**

**Illinois School Breakfast Week Scheduled for Nov. 15-19**

On Oct. 15, 2010, Gov. Patrick Quinn signed an Illinois School Breakfast Week (ISBW) proclamation, in recognition of the impact school breakfast makes on students’ academic achievement, strongly encouraging Illinois sponsorship of the School Breakfast Program (SBP) as well as to increase student participation in the SBP.

ISBW is celebrated Nov. 15-19, 2010, in conjunction with American Education Week, annually. For information on American Education Week 2010, visit http://www.nea.org/aew/index.html. To view the proclamation, go to http://www.isbe.net/nutrition, click on NSLP, National School Lunch Program, and then scroll down to Spotlight on Schools.

Kudos to the 3,000 plus schools offering school breakfast every school day!

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**Those Who Excel**

**Meet Annice Brave, the 2010-11 Illinois Teacher of the Year**

Annice Brave, a 23-year teaching veteran, has been named the 2010-11 Illinois Teacher of the Year. Annice teaches English and journalism at Alton High School. She is also the department head of the English department and was the first teacher in her district to obtain National Board Certification. In addition, she is a member of the
Board of Examiners for the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education.

Annice holds a Bachelor of Arts in mass communication and a Master of Science in education both from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. She did not intend to become a teacher but the birth of her children helped her come to the realization that “educating America’s children is too important to leave to amateurs.”

She serves as the adviser for RedBird Word, the student newspaper; Calliope, a fine arts magazine at the school; and RedBird Media Group, which includes WLCA 89.9-2 HD broadcast three days a week and Channel One News Broadcast two days a week.

If you would like to have Annice share her insight into the wonderful world of teaching please contact her at abrave@altonschools.org or 618-474-2700.

Due to budget constraints, funding for the Illinois Teacher of the Year has been cut. This fund allowed the Teacher of the Year to leave the classroom for a semester and travel across the state speaking to students, teachers, administrators, community organizations, etc. Annice is in the classroom this semester but she is available to speak at your function for a stipend that can be used to cover her travel expenses.

**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](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.

**Educator and School Development**

**Registration for Illinois New Teacher Collaborative Conference Under Way**


This conference will examine how the use of the Illinois Induction Program Continuum can better new teacher induction statewide. The conference brings together from around the state those interested in new teacher induction and mentoring programs for team building exercises, program development and sharing opportunities. The conference is appropriate for those with programs in the varying stages of development (from beginning to developed).

Please consider attending this annual event. For more information or to register for the conference, visit the Illinois New Teacher Collaborative website at [http://intc.education.illinois.edu/conference](http://intc.education.illinois.edu/conference).

**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 web site 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:

- **Special Education**
  - Learning Behavior Specialist I (LBS I)
- **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.

### 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](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*

### Classroom Opportunities

#### Annual National Radon Poster Contest Under Way

Students ages 9 to 14 are eligible to enter the annual National Radon Poster Contest. Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that can reach dangerous levels in buildings. The contest aims to raise awareness so that families can protect themselves.

The American Lung Association in IL, the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Radon Program, Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago, Southern Illinois Radon Awareness Task Force and University of Illinois Extension are partnering with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to sponsor the contest.

The winning poster will be distributed during National Radon Action Month in January 2012, and the winning student and their family will travel to Washington, D.C. for an award ceremony. Other prizes include savings bonds for regional and state level winners.
Posters are due to local University of Illinois Extension offices or to the Illinois Emergency Management Agency on or before March 1. For more information, visit http://takeactiononradon.illinois.edu/resources/contest, e-mail cindy.ladage@illinois.gov or call 800-325-1245. The web site includes rules, submission forms and fact sheets on radon to educate students.

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 are available at 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.