Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

The Illinois State Board of Education’s Finance and Audit Committee will host the fifth of its six public hearings on the Fiscal Year 2012 education budget tonight in DeKalb. The previous four hearings have been well attended and I encourage you to consider providing testimony at either tonight’s hearing or the final one to be held in Champaign on Tuesday, Nov. 30. If you are unable to attend any of the hearings, you may also provide your comments via e-mail at isbefy12@isbe.net.

The Board needs to hear your voice as it develops its budget request for FY 2012, especially given the challenges that we face. Currently, the state owes schools $618 million from FY 2010 and $580 million from FY 2011.

While it is my hope that we will see additional revenues in FY 2012, we will not see the end of this fiscal crisis in the near future. With that in mind, I wanted you to be aware of a change in the way in which early childhood grants will be awarded in FY 2012. Due to the uncertainty in funding and a revision proposed in the rules governing the Preschool for All Children program, we will be moving away from using a continuation process for early childhood programs that had previously been awarded a grant and will instead require all applicants to complete a competitive grant proposal for FY 2012. (You may review the proposed rulemaking at http://www.isbe.net/rules/proposed/default.htm.)

By moving to a competitive grant process, we will be able to maximize the funding that this program receives, which will allow us to maintain high-quality prekindergarten instruction and effectively target those students who are highest at risk. Programs that currently have an early childhood grant or those that received one in FY 2010 will be able to apply under this competitive process.

It is our intention that, if we receive an appropriation in FY 2012 to fund all grants that meet the minimum criteria in this competition, all will be funded. However, if we do not receive sufficient funding to meet all requests, we will award grants to the proposals receiving the highest scores in the review process until the appropriation is exhausted. By awarding grants in rank order, we will ensure that the value of individual programs will not be diminished due to insufficient funding, which would only serve to drag down the quality of this program.

Finally, today is School Board Members Day in Illinois and Wednesday is Paraprofessional and School-related Personnel Day. These are two members of our education community that often times don’t get the recognition they deserve for the commitment they give to our students. Please, take some time this week to recognize these important members of your local school communities.

Have a great week and to all of you, thanks for your hard work for our kids.

Chris
Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

- 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
- Illinois Young Authors’ Conference – May 21
- 2010-11 Eye Examination Data Collection deadline – June 30

Nutrition

HealthierUS School Challenge Mini-grants Now Available

The Illinois NET Program award 13 competitive mini-grants of $3,500 to elementary and secondary schools that wish to participate in the HealthierUS School Challenge (HUSSC). The grants are made possible through a USDA Team Nutrition Training grant.

The HUSSC is a voluntary recognition program from the U.S. Department of Agriculture that recognizes schools across the nation for excellence in supporting student wellness. Earlier this year, first lady Michelle Obama incorporated the HUSSC into her Let’s Move! campaign to raise a healthier generation of kids.

For eligibility criteria and more details, visit http://www.kidseatwell.org. The deadline is Jan. 14, 2011.

Illinois School Breakfast Week Starts

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!
Illinois Education Research Council

Principals Asked to Participate in Survey

The Illinois Education Research Council (IERC) is conducting an online survey to help learn about principals’ management practices and job preferences. Principals are encouraged to complete the survey that takes 10 to 20 minutes to complete.

Responses will be used only for research purposes and will remain anonymous. Those who complete the survey by the deadline, Nov. 19, will be entered into a drawing to win one of two $500 Amazon.com gift cards to be given away.

If you have not already received an e-mail invitation for the survey, contact the council at (866) 799-4372 or ierc@siue.edu. If leaving a voice message, be sure to leave your name and e-mail address so an invitation can be sent.

Curriculum and Instruction

Annual Illinois Young Authors’ Conference Scheduled for May 21

The 37th annual Illinois Young Authors’ Conference will be held May 21, 2011, at Illinois State University in Bloomington-Normal. Students in kindergarten through eighth grade are eligible to participate.

For more information on the conference, visit http://www.isbe.net. Conference guidelines and registration information will be available after Nov. 16, 2010.

Contact Christina Podraza of the Illinois Language and Literacy Council at epodraza@isle202.org if you are interested in volunteering for the conference or have any further questions.

Illinois Education and Technology Conference Coming Up in Springfield

The 17th annual Illinois Education and Technology Conference is set for Nov. 18-19 in Springfield. For more information, go to http://www.il-edtech.org/. Online registration is now closed but there will be on-site registration available with payment via check required.

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.

New Passwords Sent for MyIIRC

District superintendents should have received an announcement recently 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 this week.

Rules and Waivers

Notice of Completed Rulemaking

Please be advised that two sets of amendments recently adopted by the Illinois State Board of Education are 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 either to Part 1 or Part 226.

Part 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision)
Incorporates the Common Core State Standards for English language arts and mathematics into the State Goals for Learning.
Affected Section: I.Appendix D
Effective Date: Oct. 28, 2010

Part 226 (Special Education)
Makes numerous revisions related to changes in state law and federal regulations, including setting forth a process for a district’s withdrawal from a special education joint agreement.
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.

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

Professional Development

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Offers Free Webinar

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention is offering a free webinar for educators and other school personnel. The 60-minute webinar will include the use of a film, “More Than Sad: Teen Depression.”

The webinar will be held seven times with a limit of 250 registrants for each offering. Here is a list of times and links to register:

- Nov. 16, 7 a.m., https://afsp.omnovia.com/register/24701287519911
- Nov. 17, 10 a.m., https://afsp.omnovia.com/register/43161287520127
- Nov. 30, 9 a.m., https://afsp.omnovia.com/register/95791289578971
- Dec. 7, 9 a.m., https://afsp.omnovia.com/register/80571289581034
- Dec. 9, 1 p.m., https://afsp.omnovia.com/register/53811289581864

For more information, visit the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention’s web page at http://www.afsp.org, call (888) 333-2377 or e-mail bcurran@afsp.org.

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.

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/101115.htm.

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.