Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

This past weekend I attended the fall policy meeting of the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). Much of the weekend was devoted to discussing Elementary and Secondary Education Act Reauthorization, moving forward with implementing new standards and the development of new assessments. Bill Gates addressed the chiefs on Friday and discussed his interest in working with education now and in the future. You may watch his speech at the following link: [http://sites.kzoinnovations.com/ccssoapf2010/](http://sites.kzoinnovations.com/ccssoapf2010/).

At the meeting, I was elected to be President of the CCSSO. This will be in addition to my duties as State Superintendent and the term is only for one year. It will mean some additional effort, but I believe the extra time it may take will benefit our students.

This is a critical time for education, with reforms occurring on the national and state levels at a pace that I have never seen before, and not sure we will ever see again. I believe that our best chance at seeing any change to NCLB will be during the next 12 months. If it doesn’t occur, then we move into another Presidential election cycle and the likelihood that the Congress will act upon reauthorization will be dim.

I believe it’s in our state’s best interest to have Illinois sitting at the table as it is set for reauthorization. CCSSO has taken on a greater importance on the national level in the development of the Common Core Standards and having Illinois in a leadership position within that organization will allow us to better articulate our agenda for meaningful flexibility, reducing the punitive nature of NCLB and moving more toward rewarding schools that are showing growth.

I know this is a busy week for all of you as you prepare to shutdown school for the long holiday weekend, host a turkey tourney or maybe go to the state football championships. Whatever you’re doing, I hope you’re able to enjoy some time with family and friends.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Chris

Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

- 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
• National School Lunch and National School Breakfast verification summary report submission 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
• Local policy based on the Guidelines for Managing Life-Threatening Food Allergies submission deadline – Jan. 1
• Postmark deadline for waiver applications to be considered by the General Assembly in Spring 2011 – Jan. 7
• HealthierUS School Challenge (HUSSC) mini-grant application deadline (www.kidseatwell.org) – Jan. 14
• 2010-11 Teacher Salary Study Form deadline – Feb. 1
• 2010-11 Noncertified Staff Salary Study 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

Department of Public Health

Important Public Health Notice
Issued Regarding Norovirus

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) has noted a marked increase in the number of reported outbreaks of Norovirus in schools and daycare facilities this fall. The Norovirus is a very contagious acute gastrointestinal virus characterized by diarrhea, vomiting, and stomach pain.

IDPH has released guidance concerning limiting the spread of the virus and exclusion recommendations for children and staff in schools and daycare facilities. The guidance is posted on the Illinois State Board of Education’s website and can be accessed directly at http://www.isbe.net/esd/pdf/Norovirus.pdf.

Innovation and Improvement

ISBE Applies for Waivers Regarding FY 2011 School Improvement Grants

As part of the FY 2011 School Improvement Grants (SIG), authorized under section 1003(g) of Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (Title I or ESEA), ISBE is applying for the following waivers that will be applicable to those local education agencies (LEAs or districts) and schools that apply for and are approved for the competitive subgrants. The State believes that the requested waivers will increase its ability to implement the SIG program effectively.

Waiver 4: School Improvement timeline waiver
Would permit LEAs to allow their Tier I, Tier II and Tier III Title I participating schools that will fully implement a turnaround or restart model beginning in the 2011-2012 school year to “star over” in the school improvement timeline.

Waiver 5: Schoolwide program waiver
Would permit LEAs to implement a Schoolwide program in a Tier I, Tier II and Tier III Title I participating school that does not meet the poverty threshold and if fully implement one of the four school intervention models.

Waiver 6: Period of availability of FY 2009 carryover funds waiver
Would extend the period of availability of FY 2009 carryover school improvement funds for the SEA and all of its LEAs to Sept. 30, 2014.

If additional waivers are prepared, we will post them on the website and include a notification in the Weekly Message. Please send any questions or concerns on this matter to nelb@isbe.net.

External Assurance

NCLB Monitoring Instrument and NCLB Title I Comparability

This is a reminder that the FY11 NCLB Monitoring Instrument and Title I Comparability are due Tuesday, Nov. 30. All districts receiving NCLB funding are required to submit the documents every year.

The Title I Comparability analysis will load your previous year’s data as it relates to teacher’s names and positions if you used the “pupil/staff” ratio in your comparison. Something new: You may now view your previous year’s submittal to review what you submitted in the past. Districts that are “exempt” may simply select
the “Exempt” radio button and then “Submit.” Districts requiring a comparison must submit analysis showing all affected schools as comparable by the due date. Non-compliant districts will have their Federal funding frozen and should expect to receive a notice of recovering any expended funds in schools that remain non-comparable.

The deadline is drawing closer and there are several hundred districts that yet to start their Title I Comparability document or their NCLB Monitoring Instrument for FY11.

If you have questions concerning the Title I Comparability or the Monitoring Instrument, contact Paul Williams, External Assurance, at 217-782-7970 or pwilliam@isbe.net.

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**Funding and Disbursement Services**

**Updated School Vehicle Use Guidance Document Available Online**

Please click on the following link at http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/school_vehicle_guidance.pdf to access guidance on the allowable use of school vehicles for pupil transportation purposes. The guidance includes information on distinguishing types of transportation routes, types of vehicles used for pupil transportation, including school buses and updated information regarding multi-function (white) activity buses. The guidance also provides information regarding proper licensure for drivers of school vehicles and claimable cost on the Annual Pupil Transportation Reimbursement Claim.

If you have questions regarding the guidance, please contact Cinda Meneghetti, Funding and Disbursement Division, at 217-782-5256 or cmeneghe@isbe.net. If you have questions regarding the claimable cost for vehicles and other costs reported on the Annual Pupil Transportation Reimbursement Claim, please contact Jamie Johnson, Funding and Disbursement Division, at 217-782-5256 or jjohnson@isbe.net.

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**Curriculum and Instruction**

**Children’s Low-cost Laptop Program Request for Proposal Available Online**

The Curriculum and Instruction Division has published a request for proposal (RFP) entitled “Children’s Low-cost Laptop Program” located on the Curriculum and Instruction webpage at http://www.isbe.net/curriculum/default.htm.

The Children’s Low-cost Laptop Act [105 ILCS 65/5] authorizes a two-year pilot program designed to provide a low-cost laptop computer to each student, teacher and relevant administrator. Proposed programs must focus on the pedagogical shift for teachers and students in their daily teaching and learning practices. The RFP outlines specific eligibility criteria.

For additional information, please contact Kathleen Barnhart at kbarnhar@isbe.net.

**Comprehensive Literacy and Illinois Reading Recovery Conference Set**

The Illinois Reading Recovery Center at National-Louis University is sponsoring the 2011 Comprehensive Literacy and Illinois Reading Recovery Conference set for Jan. 12-14 at the Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile, 540 N. Michigan Ave.

The 20th annual Illinois Comprehensive Literacy and Reading Recovery Conference provides professional development opportunities for K-8 educators. Conference sessions will emphasize the dynamic, continuous relationship between school literacy curriculum and the educational agencies and policies that influence systemic renewal and Response to Intervention approaches. Comprehensive literacy approaches support student achievement across the grades and across all content areas.

For the conference schedule and registration information, visit http://www.nl.edu/rrconf.

Contact Christina Podraza of the Illinois Language and Literacy Council at cpodraza@lisle202.org if you are interested in volunteering for the conference or have any further questions.

**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.
Nutrition

Verification Summary Report for Lunch and Breakfast Programs Due By Dec. 15

As required by U.S. Department of Agriculture regulations, all local education agencies (LEAs) that participate in the National School Lunch and/or National School Breakfast programs are required to have completed verification activities no later than Nov. 15.

Once the verification process has been completed, LEAs must submit results of verification by using the online verification summary report (VSR). The VSR is to be submitted to the Illinois State Board of Education no later than Dec. 15.

For instructions on how to access and complete the verification summary report, please visit http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/pdf/vsr_instructions.pdf.

For questions or guidance on the verification process, please call 800-545-7892 or visit our website at http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/forms_sbn.htm.

Local Policies on Managing Food Allergies Due by Jan. 1

As a reminder, each school board is required to implement a policy based on the Guidelines for Managing Life-Threatening Food Allergies by Jan. 1, 2011.

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.

Access the guidelines and instructions on how to obtain a sample policy and administrative procedures at http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/food_allergy_guidelines.htm.

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.

Special Education Services

Screening, Assessment and Support Services Update

Screening, Assessment and Support Services (SASS) provides intensive mental health services for children and youth who may need hospitalization for mental health care. When a child is at risk to himself or others, and any time you or others think a child is having a mental health crisis, the CARES line can be contacted.

Please take note and remind your schools: It is neither appropriate nor legal for schools to tell parents that they need to have their child screened before they will be allowed to return to school.

For more information regarding the appropriate use of SASS and the CARES line, please link to http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=30884.

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. 29, 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.
### 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](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: 1.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.


*Effective Date: Oct. 28, 2010*

### 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](https://afsp.omnovia.com/register/24701287519911)
- Nov. 17, 10 a.m., [https://afsp.omnovia.com/register/43161287520127](https://afsp.omnovia.com/register/43161287520127)
- Nov. 30, 9 a.m., [https://afsp.omnovia.com/register/95791289578971](https://afsp.omnovia.com/register/95791289578971)
- Dec. 7, 9 a.m., [https://afsp.omnovia.com/register/80571289581034](https://afsp.omnovia.com/register/80571289581034)
- Dec. 8, noon, [https://afsp.omnovia.com/register/28571289581698](https://afsp.omnovia.com/register/28571289581698)
- Dec. 9, 1 p.m., [https://afsp.omnovia.com/register/53811289581864](https://afsp.omnovia.com/register/53811289581864)

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

### 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).

### Career and Technical Education

#### New Berlin High School Students Qualify for National Knowledge Bowl Competition

New Berlin High School Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) students have been provided the opportunity to be in Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA). Connie Komnick, family and consumer sciences teacher and FCCLA adviser, has an outstanding history of developing leaders. Most recently, a team of four FCCLA members, Sara Hulett, Kristen Komnick, Stacy Mabie and Courtney Schroeder, competed at the regional FCCLA cluster meeting in St. Louis, where they
qualified to advance to the national level in the FCCLA Knowledge Bowl competition.

The competition is designed to challenge students’ knowledge of all aspects of Family and Consumer Sciences and utilizes online testing, timed-written tests and head-to-head competition. The next step in the FCCLA Knowledge Bowl competition will be held in Anaheim, Calif., at the National FCCLA Leadership Conference in July. FCCLA is the career and technical student organization for family and consumer sciences and is an integral component of the curriculum.

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.