State Superintendent Christopher Koch’s letter will return next week.

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Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

- ISBE Parent Involvement Regional Summits registration deadline – April 25
- Illinois School Wellness Conference in Decatur – May 3
- ISBE Parent Involvement Regional Summit, Oak Lawn (Ill.) Hilton – May 5
- ISBE Parent Involvement Regional Summit, Lisle (Ill.) Hilton – May 6
- ISBE Parent Involvement Regional Summit, Abraham Lincoln Hotel & Conference Center in Springfield – May 9
- ISBE Parent Involvement Regional Summit, Williamson Co. Pavilion in Marion – May 17
- Illinois Young Authors’ Conference – May 21
- Illinois New Teacher Collaborative Beginning Teacher Conference – June 28
- 2010-11 Eye Examination Data Collection deadline – June 30
- 2011 Bilingual Education Program Delivery Report deadline – June 30
- Prekindergarten At-Risk Program Record and the Preschool For All Program Record deadline – June 30
- 2010-11 Early Childhood – Parent Evaluations/Demographics survey deadline – July 15
- Postmark deadline for waiver applications to be considered by General Assembly in Fall ’11 – Aug. 12
- 2010-11 Teacher Service Record submission deadline – Aug. 15
- 2010-11 High School Students Taking Community College Courses system district-level data submission deadline – Sept. 15

Educator and School Development

Listing of Certified Mentoring Providers Available for First-year Principals

Per PA 94-1039, school districts are charged with the responsibility of ensuring each first year principal in Illinois is mentored by a qualified, highly-trained mentor. To guarantee new principals receive the mentoring needed, school districts may contract for mentoring services with an ISBE certified Mentoring Provider best suited to meet their needs.

A complete listing of certified Mentoring Providers approved to offer mentoring services as well as information about the INPM Program can be found at [http://www.ilprincipalmentoring.org](http://www.ilprincipalmentoring.org). Please note that mentoring is for those who will be in their first year as a building principal, not for experienced principals new to your district.

As the ISBE Program Manager for the INPM Program, the Illinois Principals Association is asking for your assistance to enhance planning for the 2011-12 school year. Per Section 35.20 a) of INPM Rules and Regulations:

Reminder: No later than June 30, each district superintendent shall report to the State Superintendent of Education, or to the State Superintendent’s designee, the name(s) of first-year principal(s) who are expected to be working in the district in the coming school year, administrative certificate numbers, and assigned
school(s) of the individual(s) chosen. If you have not already done so, send these names in as soon as possible.

Though hiring for the 2011-12 school year continues, please e-mail the name(s) of any first year principal(s) new to the profession you have hired to Lynne Woodrum at lynne@ilprincipals.org as soon as possible. You will receive additional e-mail reminders as the June 30 deadline approaches. Any additional new principals employed before or after the June deadline are to be reported at the time of employment.

Thank you for your leadership and assistance to ensure that new principals receive the support they need to be successful in their first year and beyond.

Illinois New Teacher Collaborative Beginning Teacher Conference Set

Registration for the second annual Illinois New Teacher Collaborative Beginning Teacher Conference “Y2: Moving Beyond Survival” is now open.

The conference, set for June 28 in Champaign, is open to teachers completing their first year of teaching in Illinois. This conference has no registration fee and hotel rooms are provided by INTC thanks to the sponsorship of the State Farm Companies Foundation.

If you know of first-year teachers who may be interested in attending this conference, they can find more information about the conference and register at http://intc.education.illinois.edu/page/intc-beginning-teacher-conference.

Curriculum and Instruction

‘After a Suicide: A Toolkit for Schools’ Available Online

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and the Suicide Prevention Resource Center have announced the release of “After a Suicide: A Toolkit for Schools.” The free, online resource was developed with national experts to help schools cope in the aftermath of a suicide.

The 49-page document includes guidelines for action, do’s and don’ts and covers such topics as helping students cope, working with the community, bringing in outside help and more. To view and download the toolkit, go to http://www.afsp.org/files/Surviving/toolkit.pdf.

Additional resources and programs for schools from the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention are available at http://afsp.org/schools.

School Business Services

Be Sure to Verify Qualifications of CPA Firms for LEA Audits

It is that time of year to begin preparing for the Local Education Agencies (LEA) audit. When accepting bids from a Certified Public Accounting (CPA) firm, please be sure to verify the qualifications of the firm as part of the decision making process by performing the following:

1. Request the most current review and acceptance/completion letter from the audit firm.
2. Obtain the firm’s license number and review the expiration date. Determine if the firm’s license is still in effect. Determine if there has been any disciplinary action.

Information regarding the status of the license is available from the Illinois Division Professional Regulation (http://www.idfpr.com/dpr/default.asp).

An LEA knowingly or unknowingly engaging an unqualified auditing firm for the audit of the Annual Financial Report (AFR) will have the LEA’s AFR returned. The LEA will be required to engage a qualified auditing firm to complete an audit. The additional cost for the audit will be the responsibility of the LEA.

If you have any questions regarding this requirement, please contact Toby Turek or Debbie Hemberger in the School Business Services Division at (217) 785-8779 or e-mail them at rturek@isbe.net or dhemberg@isbe.net.

2012 APC – College and Career Success for All Students Program Grant Webinar

Schools and districts interested in applying for the 2012 Advanced Placement Classroom (APC) – College and Career Success for All Students Program Grant are invited to participate in an informational webinar from 11 a.m. to noon on May 2, 2011.

Schools with a 40 percent or more low income population interested in developing or expanding a Pre AP/AP program or enhancing a program already in place may apply for the grant (feeder school data can be used to meet the 40 percent criteria). The goal of the grant is to recruit and increase the number of low income students participating in Pre AP/AP classes. Schools and districts
can use money from the grant to train teachers in Pre AP/AP instruction, increase the number of classes offered, purchase materials needed for Pre AP/AP classes and provide tutoring opportunities. Twenty percent of the grant must go to College Board trainings and workshops.

The webinar will cover eligibility guidelines, the application process, timelines and fiscal information. Questions can be directed to Mike Hatfill at dhatfill@isbe.net. Register at https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/462280433.

High School Students Invited to Join ISBE Advisory Council

The Illinois State Board of Education is accepting applications for the Student Advisory Council for the 2011-12 school year. There are 10 openings on the 15-member council. Any Illinois public school student who will be a sophomore, junior or senior is eligible to apply.

The Student Advisory Council was created in 1975 to bring student concerns to the attention of ISBE. Each year, the Student Advisory Council presents research and makes policy recommendations to the board. Council members attend board meetings and sessions of the General Assembly. Through this experience, students will gain an understanding of the educational issues facing Illinois schools.

An application is available online at http://www.isbe.net/SAC/default.htm. It must be returned to the State Board of Education by 4 p.m. Friday, May 27, 2011. The mailing address is: Illinois State Board of Education, Curriculum and Instruction, 100 N. First St, C-215, Springfield, IL 62777.

Activities of the Student Advisory Council in 2010-11 are contingent upon final state budget allocation. For more information, contact the division of Curriculum and Instruction at (217) 557-7323.

Special Education

Online Survey for Special Education Directors, District Superintendents

The Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) are taking steps to ensure that students who are in the care of DCFS are provided with timely and appropriate educational services at all times. We are requesting your input regarding if and where problems occur when attempting to enroll and provide regular and/or special education services to students who are in the care of DCFS. This includes students in foster care as well as those living in residential treatment facilities.

District superintendents and special education directors will be receiving an online survey in the next week. The survey should take no more than 10 minutes to complete and will ask for the role of the person responding. Therefore, feel free to pass the survey on to whoever is appropriate. We are looking for as much input as possible, so more than one person in the district can respond. For more information, please contact Sarah Sebert at ssebert@isbe.net.

Survey results will be used to develop a guidance document clarifying the roles and responsibilities of both education and DCFS personnel in the enrollment and education of youth in care.

National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day Scheduled for May 3

National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day is a day to join the Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration, communities, organizations, agencies and individuals nationwide in raising awareness that positive mental health is essential to a child's healthy development from birth and that children with behavioral health needs can thrive in their communities.

This year, the national theme will focus on building resilience in young children dealing with trauma. To learn more, visit http://www.samhsa.gov/children.

Innovation and Improvement

ISBE Seeking Applicants for the Consolidated Committee of Practitioners

The Illinois State Board of Education is currently seeking interested applicants to serve as a member of the Consolidated Committee of Practitioners. The Consolidated Committee of Practitioners, by Federal law, is to advise the Illinois State Board of Education on the implementation of programs under the Elementary and Secondary Act to ensure high quality services are available for all students, especially those most in need. The committee consists of representatives from local education agencies, superintendents, administrators, teachers, parents, local school boards, private school entities, public school personnel and practitioners from all parts of our state.
The Consolidated Committee of Practitioners is seeking to fill the vacancies within the areas of parents, private school officials, teachers, administrator of NCLB programs and vocational educators. If you are interested, please submit a Letter of Interest and Resume to Cheryl Ivy, Principal Consultant, Illinois State Board of Education, Innovation and Improvement Division, N-242, Springfield, IL 62777-0001. Your information should be received no later than May 6, 2011.

### Nutrition

**Dairy Fully Fueled Tour Accepting Applications From Eligible Schools**

The St. Louis District Dairy Council is accepting applications for the third annual Dairy Fully Fueled Schools Tour. Dairy Fully Fueled is an innovative and interactive program designed to give students a unique experience of the power of healthy eating. The fall tour aims to reward Illinois schools for their efforts toward building healthier student bodies with a day of physical activity, fun, games and nutrition know-how.

Funded by local dairy farmers, the tour has visited more than 70 local schools who have demonstrated their commitment to building healthier student bodies. Applications are open to schools in the 81 Illinois counties served by St. Louis District Dairy Council.

The application deadline is April 30. Check out [http://www.dairyfullyfueled.com/dairy/Index.asp](http://www.dairyfullyfueled.com/dairy/Index.asp) for application materials and video highlights from last year’s school tour, which reached more than 15,000 students.

### Educational opportunities

**NBC News Plans Town Hall Meeting as Part of Weeklong Tour in Chicago**

The first week of May, NBC News is taking its Education Nation On the Road to Chicago. A Teacher Town Hall Meeting at 1 p.m. Sunday, May 1, helps kick off the week of dedicated coverage and events.

The town-hall meeting will be moderated by NBC 5 Chicago’s Allison Rosati and MSNBC’s Tamron Hall. Educators across the state can participate in the discussion online. Register for the live chat at [http://chicagoteacherlivechat.eventbrite.com/](http://chicagoteacherlivechat.eventbrite.com/).