Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

Last week was a very busy legislative week for the Illinois education community. The House sent to Governor Quinn what is one of the most important pieces of education reform to ever come out of Springfield and the budget process hit full stride as members work to complete an FY 2012 budget prior to the end of May.

Members of the House voted to pass Senate Bill 7 with only one member voting against it and one voting present. The legislation continues the momentum for education reform that has been building during the past couple of years, which included the establishment of the Illinois Longitudinal Data System, passage of the Performance Evaluation Reform Act, and adoption of the internationally benchmarked, new Illinois learning standards.

SB 7 impacts all aspects of the education system in Illinois, requiring training for board members, providing teachers and students with an opportunity to give input on the instructional climate in buildings and allowing for greater transparency in contract negotiations. In addition, it makes performance a primary criterion in layoffs, ties tenure and certification to performance and streamlines the process for tenured teacher dismissals.

SB 7 has gained national attention for the sweeping changes it makes and for the way the legislation all came together — as a cooperative process with all parties at the table. It’s truly amazing and something that would not have been imagined just five years ago. It now goes to Governor Quinn for his signature. You can read the full text of SB 7 at http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/billstatus.asp?DocNum=7&GAID=11&GA=97&DocTypeID=SB&LegID=53964&Ses

Also last week the House and Senate continued their work towards developing a new FY 2012 budget by passing their own, competing versions. We have concerns with the budget from each chamber. The Senate version of the FY 12 budget contains a reduction in Mandated Categoricals that could jeopardize some of our federal funds, and the House version reduces General State Aid by $150 million. We will continue to work in the coming weeks with legislators and their staffs to try to minimize the overall repercussion to schools in the final version that passes as session comes to an end. I encourage you to reach out to your local legislators so that they understand how their schools will impacted in their districts back home. You can access the House budget proposal at http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/billstatus.asp?DocNum=327&GAID=11&GA=97&DocTypeID=HB&LegID=56109&Ses

Finally, last week the local school board in East St. Louis voted to accept an intergovernmental agreement with the State Board to cede much of its authority to the state. This district has been failing its students for years and drastic steps had to be taken. This is the second such district intervention this year (the other being in the Lake County district
of North Chicago) and as we move forward and build capacity to intervene in failing districts, I anticipate developing more of these types of agreements. I am interested in hearing your thoughts on this and may be asking for expertise and assistance in the future.

Have a great week.

Chris

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**Upcoming Dates and Deadlines**

- ISBE Parent Involvement Regional Summit, Williamson Co. Pavilion in Marion – May 17
- Illinois Young Authors’ Conference – May 21
- ISBE Teacher of the Year/Those Who Excel nomination deadline – June 3
- Application deadline for Regional Safe Schools Program – June 13
- Illinois New Teacher Collaborative Beginning Teacher Conference – June 28
- 2010-11 Eye Examination Data Collection deadline – June 30
- Dental Data Collection system – Open for data entry through 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
- ISBE’s Transition Institute in Bloomington – Sept. 19-21

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**Career and Technical Education**

‘Using Data for Student Success’ Summit Scheduled for June 24

The Illinois State Board of Education, the Illinois Community College Board and the Illinois Board of Higher Education are working together to host the summit “Using Data for Student Success: Understanding the High School-to-College Success Report.” It is scheduled for 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, June 24, 2011, at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield.

What is the High School-to-College Success Report? It is a report that can facilitate dialogue and partnerships between secondary and postsecondary institutions by providing a snapshot of data and information about first-time, full-time freshmen students attending public universities and colleges in Illinois.

The summit is designed for superintendents, principals, regional superintendents, guidance counselors, CTE regional staff, curriculum directors and more in K-12; and presidents, chief academic officers, deans and enrollment and admissions management in higher education.

Registration and additional details are forthcoming. Watch for announcements on ISBE’s website, [http://www.isbe.net](http://www.isbe.net), and in the Weekly Message.

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**School Business Services**

School District/Joint Agreement Budget Forms Available Online

Now available at the School Business Services Division website are FY2012 School District/Joint Agreement Budget forms (ISBE Form 50-36/50-39) with related additional information and instructions.

**At the website:** FY 12 School District/Joint Agreement Budget Forms, [http://www.isbe.net/sfms/budget/default.htm](http://www.isbe.net/sfms/budget/default.htm)
**Data Analysis and Progress Reporting**

**Dental Data Collection System Now Open on IWAS**

The Dental Data Collection system is open for data entry May 16 through June 30, 2011. The data must be submitted online using IWAS. Once logged into IWAS, the dental link (Student Health Data – Dental) will appear on the System Listing page under ‘Annual.’ If you do not see the “Student Health Data – Dental” link, please call the ISBE Helpdesk at (217) 558-3600.

**URLs for important documentation are listed below:**


**2010-11 End of Year Report Open in IWAS**

The 2010-11 End of Year Report is open in IWAS for submission of district- and school-level data. All public school districts, special education cooperatives and other-state-funded district-level entities that operate public schools, as well as regional offices of education that operate regional programs, need to submit data. The deadline for submitting the 2010-11 End of Year Report in IWAS is Aug. 15, 2011.

Your cooperation in submitting accurate data in a timely manner is greatly appreciated. Questions about the data to be submitted should be referred to Niann-Tsyr Chern in the ISBE Data Analysis and Progress Reporting Division at (217) 782-3950.
Special Education

ISBE’s Second Annual Transition Institute Scheduled for Sept. 19-21

The Illinois State Board of Education will host the second annual Transition Institute from Sept. 19-21, 2011, at the Doubletree Hotel in Bloomington. The Transition Institute is sponsored by ISBE in collaboration with Illinois State University’s Department of Special Education and the National Secondary Transition Technical Assistance Center (NSTTAC).

Monday, Sept. 19, will be a one-day activity for teams who participated in the 2010 institute and will include content sessions and team planning time to review and update action plans. Tuesday, Sept. 20, and Wednesday, Sept. 21, will be a two-day event for district teams new to the institute and will include content sessions, team planning time and opportunities to talk to content experts and presenters. The focus of the institute is to assist selected school teams in reviewing their district’s transition-related data, learning from content experts and engaging in a facilitated action planning process in order to improve and/or scale-up implementation of transition-focused planning and education. Priority will be given to those districts who have been working with ISBE staff on the IND 13 Determination or Data Verification Audit.

Please “save the date” for this opportunity to hear from state and national transition experts and to engage in focused conversation and planning time with colleagues. There is no registration fee and food will be provided. Information about the agenda and the registration process will be coming soon.

For further information, contact Sue Walter at swalter@isbe.net or (618) 651-9028, Melanie Fleenor at mfleenor@isbe.net or Todd Williams at todwilli@isbe.net or (217) 782-5589.

Registration Under Way for Annual Special Education Directors’ Conference

Registration for the annual Special Education Directors’ Conference is now open. The conference will be held July 20-22, 2011, at the Peoria Civic Center.

Please take a few moments to read through the registration document attached or view online at http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/conf/2011/registration.pdf. The only significant change for this year is that the conference fee has been increased to $120.

The keynote speaker for Thursday, July 21, will be Melinda Jacobs, Esquire. Jacobs is an attorney in private practice who has worked in the field of special education law since 1985. Since 1996, she has exclusively represented school systems in special education matters pursuant to the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and related laws. Jacobs formerly served as an attorney in the Office of Special Education Programs for the Tennessee Department of Education and as Associate Publisher for Education and Disability Publications for LRP Publications. Her “down to earth” and practical presentation style, combining humor and song, makes legal information accessible and understandable for educators, parents and other professionals in the field.

The special guest speaker on Friday, July 22, will be LeDerick Horne. Horne discovered his gift for poetry while attending college in central New Jersey. Early on in his career as a poet, he helped organized several open-mics in central Jersey and performed at many venues throughout the Tri-State area. In the late 1990s, Horne and two other New Jersey writers formed a group called The Trinity Poets. Over the past few years, Horne has become a nationally recognized motivational speaker and advocate for people with disabilities. He now uses his poetic talent to help empower and educate people who attend his presentations.

Please continue to check the ISBE website at http://www.isbe.net for further information on the conference program, schedule and other details. Please access http://webapps.isbe.net/ISBEConference/ to go directly to the conference registration site.

Application Deadline for Regional Safe Schools Program is June 13

The Illinois State Board of Education has released the application for FY 2012 Regional Safe Schools Program (RSSP), which offers alternative education to expulsion eligible or multiple suspended students in grades 6-12. Eligible applicants are identified in Article 13A of the School Code. They are Regional Offices of Education, Intermediate Service Centers and Chicago Public Schools.

The Regional Safe Schools Program application can be accessed at http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/html/regional_safe_schools.htm. The deadline is June 13. If you have questions about the RSSP application,
Funding and Disbursement Services

Deadline for Final FY 11 State and Federal Grant Amendments and End Date Extensions

Many State and Federal grant projects are approaching a June 30 end date for obligating FY 2011 grant funds. Please be advised that per Policy Statements #2 and #3 on Page 3 of the State and Federal Grant Administration Policy and Fiscal Requirements and Procedures, http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/fiscal_procedure_handbook.pdf, all State and Federal project end date extension requests and final budget amendments must be received by the agency no later than 30 calendar days prior to the end date of the project.

Final amendments for State and Federal grants with a Project End Date of June 30, 2011, must be received by ISBE no later than May 31, 2011. For those grants with a Project End Date of Aug. 31, 2011, the last day amendments will be accepted is Aug. 1, 2011. However, budget increases for state funded grant projects must be received by June 30, even if the project end date has been extended. For grant applications in the electronic Grants Management System (eGMS), the deadline is also referenced on the Program Overview page under “Amendment Due Date.”

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR ARRA PROGRAMS:
The final State Education Agency obligation date for the ARRA programs below administered by ISBE is Sept. 30, 2011. Local education agencies (LEAs) must follow the policy deadlines above for submitting amendments and/or requesting an end date extension past June 30. LEA project extensions will only be granted on an as needed basis for activities and new obligations that may occur past the current project end date. No extensions will be allowed after Sept. 30. If you do not intend to fully obligate and expend the ARRA funds due to your LEA, please contact your program consultant immediately.

- Title I Low Income Delinquent – Revenue Code 4853, CFDA #84.394
- Title I School Improvement – Revenue Code 4854, CFDA #84.394
- IDEA Part B Preschool – Revenue Code 4856, CFDA #84.392
- IDEA Part B Flow Through – Revenue Code 4857, CFDA #84.391,
- Title II D Enhancing Education Through Technology – Revenue Code 4861, CFDA #84.386
- McKinney Vento Homeless Education – Revenue Code 4862, CFDA #84.387

FY 2012 Federal Grants – Cash Management Policy Change Webinar

On May 5, 2011 the Division of Funding and Disbursements conducted a webinar to update all local education agencies of the cash management changes that will be implemented beginning with FY 2012 Federal grants. For those that were unable to attend the webinar, it is now posted and can be viewed on the Division of Funding and Disbursements web page, which can be found at http://www.isbe.net/funding/default.htm under “Current News.”

A copy of the slide presentation from the webinar can be accessed at the following link: http://www.isbe.net/funding/ppt/2012_fed_reimb_webinar_pres050511.pdf. If you have further questions, please contact Kim Lewis, klewis@isbe.net; Sally Cray, scray@isbe.net; or Marj Beck, mbeck@isbe.net, at (217) 782-5256.

U.S. Department of Education

Guidance Letter on Student Residency and School Enrollment Issued

This new U.S. Department of Education letter informs school districts and state education agencies about their obligations under federal law to provide equal educational opportunities to students residing within their school district. The letter includes an explanation of the types of information that districts may lawfully collect from students and families (e.g., birth certificates to establish age of a child and telephone bills and lease documents to prove residency within a district), and the types of information that districts are prohibited from using as a basis to deny school enrollment to a child (e.g., a foreign birth certificate, or lack of a social security number).

School Support Services for All Schools

Linda Tomlinson, left, of the Illinois State Board of Education and Deborah Meisner-Bertauski, right, of the Illinois Board of Higher Education received the Ben. C. Hubbard Leadership Award from Illinois State University.

ISBE’s Linda Tomlinson Presented With Education Leadership Award

Linda Tomlinson, assistant superintendent at the Illinois State Board of Education, was presented with the Ben C. Hubbard Leadership Award on May 1 by the Educational Administration and Foundations Department at Illinois State University. Also honored was Deborah Meisner-Bertauski, associate director at the Illinois Board of Higher Education. The award recognizes the achievements of Illinois citizens who have promoted, championed or achieved one or more significant goals benefiting education in the state.

Tomlinson and Meisner-Bertauski were recognized for their work on the redesign of all principal preparation programs across Illinois through the passage and implementation of Public Act 096-0903.

A news release from the university stated, “For six years Linda Tomlinson and Debbie Meisner-Bertauski have brought together more than 1,300 stakeholders to discuss what future principals should learn to meet the challenges of 21st century schools. This ISBE-IBHE effort serves as an example of positive collaboration among state agencies. The Department’s Hubbard Leadership Award recognizes their leadership, dedication, and service to Illinois education.”

Ben C. Hubbard was the dean emeritus of the College of Education at Illinois State University from 1979-1982 and served as a professor of educational administration from 1961-1982, receiving recognition as a distinguished university professor. He also served as the research director for the Illinois School Problems Commission from 1964-1981.


Rules and Waivers

Notice of Completed Rulemaking

Please be advised that an amendment recently adopted by the Illinois State Board of Education is now in effect. These rules have been posted on the agency’s website at http://www.isbe.net/rules. Please choose “Rules Currently in Effect” and scroll to Part 151.

Part 151 (School Construction Program): Incorporates “green” building standards for any school construction projects for which school districts make application on or after July 1, 2009, as per P.A. 96-37.

Affected Sections: 151.30
Effective Date: April 25, 2011
Early Childhood

FY 12 Prevention Initiative Technical Assistance and Training RFP Released

The Prevention Initiative Technical Assistance and Training Request for Proposals (RFP) was released May 9, 2011. The purpose of the RFP is to identify a qualified entity to coordinate and deliver statewide training and technical assistance services as outlined in this RFP to the recipients of Prevention Initiative grants. Proposals must be received at ISBE no later than 4 p.m. on June 23, 2011.

The RFP is available at [http://www.isbe.net/earlychi/html/birth-3.htm](http://www.isbe.net/earlychi/html/birth-3.htm). The RFP can also be obtained by contacting the Early Childhood Division at (217) 524-4835.

Professional Development

Principals Sought to Participate in Pilot Certification Program

Experienced Illinois principals are encouraged to participate in a free professional growth opportunity offered by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS). As part of the development of National Board Certification for Principals, NBPTS is conducting a second round of national field testing. This field test will be on program components of NBPTS over an 18-month period beginning September 2011. A representative sample of Illinois principals will be part of this round of the field test. Participants may attain NBPTS certification following completion of the pilot.

Principals that participate will benefit from learning and reflection that research suggests can lead to improved practice throughout their schools. Any current Illinois principal with a minimum of three years experience as a principal is eligible to participate. Principals who applied during the last pilot but were not selected are encouraged to again apply for this pilot.

Interested principals should visit [http://www.nbptsprincipals.org](http://www.nbptsprincipals.org) and read the information contained in links on the home page. After reviewing this information, interested principals can click on “Apply Now” to complete the application. The recruitment period will end on May 31, and principals will be notified as to whether they were selected to participate from June 1-15.

Selection of pilot participants will be done by Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) and NBPTS. Registration to participate does not guarantee selection in the pilot. After indicating an interest to participate, contact Kathy O’Neill at [kathy.oneill@sreb.org](mailto:kathy.oneill@sreb.org) or Melinda Mollette at [melinda.mollette@sreb.org](mailto:melinda.mollette@sreb.org) if you have additional questions.

Parent Workshops on Response to Intervention Set for Next Month

The Illinois Parent Training and Information Centers (PTICs) are partnering with Illinois ASPIRE to provide workshops for parents on response to intervention (RtI). Each PTIC will hold three workshops in June, each in a different location, as detailed below. Please note that the morning workshop on June 18 will be presented in Spanish.

- **June 9, 2011**: Jefferson High School, Rockford, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- **June 21, 2011**: Woodruff High School, Peoria, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- **June 28, 2011**: McKendree University, Lebanon, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

- **June 18, 2011**: The "New Cicero" Community Center, Cicero, 9-11 a.m. (Spanish) and noon to 2 p.m. (English)
- **June 25, 2011**: University Center of Lake County, Grayslake, 10 a.m. to noon

Registration is required, and additional details may be obtained by contacting the PTIs by phone and/or visiting their web sites (see above). We ask that district and school administrators disseminate this information to parents in their local communities.

Illinois Troops to Teachers Program Helps Veterans and School Districts

Illinois Troops to Teachers assists eligible military personnel transitioning to a new career as public school teachers. The program educates participants on the requirements for Illinois teacher certification and provides information on teaching degree programs and alternative paths to certification. Illinois Troops to Teachers also assists participants in locating employment opportunities in K-12 public schools.
Troops to Teachers is a U.S. Department of Education and Department of Defense program, managed by the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES).

Eligibility requirements and registration forms for the program are available at the Illinois Troops to Teachers website, [http://www.iltroops.org](http://www.iltroops.org). The national Troops to Teachers site is [http://www.proudtoserveagain.com](http://www.proudtoserveagain.com). Contact Troops to Teachers for more information on certified veterans in your district. Emily Siefken, Troops to Teachers program manager, can be reached at (312) 814-7204 or emily.siefken@illinois.gov.

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**Student Opportunities**

**Students Receive Awards From Illinois Environmental Protection Agency**

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency presented Environmental Excellence Awards to four Illinois students at the State Science Exposition held May 7 in Champaign. The competition, hosted by the Junior Academy of Science, focuses on projects that promote and enhance the protection and care of the environment.

Brady Holst of Southeastern High School in Augusta was presented with the Outstanding Achievement award in the senior division (grades 9-12). Second place in the senior division went to Bana Zayyad of Aqsa School in Bridgeview.

Elizabeth Ringhausen of St. Francis/Holy Ghost School in Jerseyville received the Outstanding Achievement award in the junior division (grades 7 and 8). Alex Chovan of Wallace Grade School in Ottawa was the second-place winner.

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**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).