Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

Today is the final scheduled day in the spring session for the legislature and the budget picture is becoming a bit clearer. The General Assembly has passed a spending plan for FY 2012 (FY12) that reduces General State Aid by about $150 million, but protects maintenance of effort requirements that allow us to capture federal funding for programs such as Special Education and Career and Technical Education.

The Senate has proposed an additional $430 million in an amendment to House Bill 2189, a capital appropriation bill. The Senate’s amendment would, among other things, restore General State Aid funding to the FY 2011 (FY11) level of $4,600,305,100. The House of Representatives would need to approve this additional spending measure today, before they adjourn.

We’ll have additional information on the FY 12 budget as it becomes available but I also want to make you aware of some issues with the current FY 11 budget.

Last week I was informed of the Governor’s Office of Management and Budget’s intention to prevent the Illinois State Board of Education from vouchering the FY 11 fourth quarter regular transportation payment. This would not be a delay as you have seen with the first three payments, but rather would be an elimination of funding.

We have been working with the Governor’s Office to underscore the importance of these transportation funds to school districts and thereby avoid any such reduction. Once we have a final notification we will let you know, however, I wanted you to be aware that this was being considered.

Congratulations to Mrs. Fran Wachter’s seventh-grade class at Creal Springs Elementary in Marion Community Unit School District 2. They are the winners of the first Disney Planet Challenge, an environmental contest for middle school students. Their winning entry, “Wetland Warriors — Restoring Health to Our Wetlands,” focused on restoration work in a local wetland.

Finally, I hope you enjoyed the Memorial Day weekend.

Have a great week!

Chris

Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

- ISBE Teacher of the Year/Those Who Excel nomination deadline – June 3
- Registration deadline for the Coalition for Illinois High Schools’ annual High School Challenge Conference – June 4
- Application deadline for Regional Safe Schools Program – June 13
• “Using Data for Student Success: Understanding the High School-to-College Success Report” Summit in Springfield – June 24
• 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

Funding and Disbursement Services

**Fiscal Year 2012 Title I and IIA Projected Allocations**

Projected FY12 Title I and IIA allocations have been calculated for school districts. A statewide summary is at [http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/nclb_allocations12.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/nclb_allocations12.pdf). These allocations will be updated when the final grant award is received from the U.S. Department of Education this fall.

The FY 12 NCLB district allocations are being prepared for the electronic Grants Management System (eGMS). Please watch for an IWAS e-mail in the near future when these allocations are available to you for application in FY 12.

For programmatic questions regarding your Title I and Title IIA allocations, please contact the Division of Innovation and Improvement at (217) 524-4832.

For Title I funding questions, contact Sally Cray in Funding and Disbursements at (217) 782-5256 or via e-mail at scray@isbe.net.

**Rule Change Regarding School Bus Driver Permit Renewal Adopted**

A rule amendment has been adopted for school bus drivers who take their required annual refresher course to keep their school bus driver permit active. Specifically, the amended language allows a school bus driver to take the annual refresher course requirement up to 60 days before their annual refresher date without changing the annual refresher date. For example, if the refresher course was taken on Aug. 15, 2010, they would need to attend another refresher course before Aug. 15, 2011.

Under the new rule, the driver can take his or her refresher course as early as June 17, 2011 (60 days before Aug. 15, 2011) without changing the annual refresher course date of Aug. 15. However, per the example given above, if the driver takes the refresher course after Aug. 15 or 61 days before Aug. 15 then the annual refresher date will change to the new date.

You can locate the amended language for the annual refresher course date requirement at Title 92: Transportation, Chapter II: Secretary of State, Part 1035 School Bus Driver Permit, Section 1035.30 Training ([http://www.ilga.gov/commission/jcar/admincode/092/092010350000300R.html](http://www.ilga.gov/commission/jcar/admincode/092/092010350000300R.html)).

Questions regarding this issue can be directed to Cinda Meneghetti, Division of Funding and Disbursement Services at (217) 782-5256.

No Child Left Behind

**Registration Under Way for NCLB Technical Assistance Workshops**

ISBE staff from the Innovation and Improvement and External Assurance Divisions invites you to attend one-day NCLB technical assistance workshops being offered in Marion, Springfield, Urbana, Rock Falls and Lombard this summer. Workshop topics include the NCLB Consolidated Application, services to students attending private schools, External Assurance reviews, Public School Choice (PSC), Supplemental Educational Services (SES) and schoolwide programs. There is no fee to attend, and lunch will be provided.
Completion of the annual NCLB Consolidated Application and providing equitable services to students attending private schools can prove to be complicated and challenging. Specific topics will include, among others, how to report Title I set asides, calculate equitable private school allocations, enter correct fiscal function and object codes, write expenditure descriptions and itemizations, write appropriate goals and activities, provide appropriate consultation with private school officials, and determine allowable costs for targeted assistance programs and schoolwide programs. In addition, common findings from the External Assurance Division will be discussed.

Similarly, the provisions of PSC and SES are complicated and challenging for local districts. Choice requires districts to notify parents of the option to enroll their children in schools that are not in improvement status and to provide any required student transportation associated with such a change in building enrollment. SES requires districts to provide free tutoring to low-income students at Title I schools identified to offer SES. The workshop will provide practical guidance on the implementation of these provisions. All approved schoolwide buildings are required to have a plan in place that covers 10 components. This plan has to be approved by the local board and evaluated annually. More details about schoolwide plans will be addressed in this workshop. There will be time for questions and answers at the end of each session.

Please consider attending. For more information about these workshops, including instructions for registering, visit http://www.isbe.net/grants/pdf/nclb_workshops.pdf. The registration deadline is June 13.

**Career and Technical Education**

**CTE Special Populations Leadership Project RFP Released**

The Career and Technical Education (CTE) Special Populations Leadership Project Request for Proposals (RFP) was released May 27, 2011. The purpose of the RFP is to establish a project to provide statewide professional development and technical assistance to educators for the improvement of instructional services for special populations’ learners, with an emphasis on the recruitment and retention of students preparing for a non-traditional career field.

Proposal applications must be received at ISBE no later than July 20, 2011. The RFP is available at http://www.isbe.net/career/html/perkins.htm.

**RFP for Facilitating Coordination in Agricultural Education Project**

The Illinois State Board of Education is releasing a Request For Proposal (RFP) for the Facilitating Coordination in Agricultural Education (FCAE) project. Eligible applicants are public universities and community colleges that offer an Agricultural Education program of study (see eligibility requirements). The goal of this ISBE project is to address Section 2-3.80 of the School Code [105 ILCS 5/2-3.80] establishing Agricultural Education programs in the curriculum of public schools, prekindergarten through adult. As part of its responsibilities for agricultural education, ISBE in coordination with the Illinois Committee for Agricultural Education (ICAE) and the Illinois Leadership Council for Agricultural Education (ILCAE), must:

- develop a curriculum and strategy for the purpose of establishing a source of trained and qualified individuals in agriculture;
- promote a strategy for articulating Illinois’ program in agricultural education throughout the public school system; and
- offer a consumer education outreach strategy regarding the importance of agricultural education in Illinois.

The Facilitating Coordination in Agricultural Education project grant will address the aforementioned initiatives through goals identified in the RFP and as have been addressed in previous years. This project will have an impact on the success of agriculture programs and teachers across the state as well as the implementation of State initiatives. The RFP cover letter and application are attached and can also be found on the ISBE website. In order to be considered, the completed proposal is due to the Illinois State Board of Education no later than Thursday, June 30. Please review the RFP for further details at http://isbe.net/funding_opps/htmls/rfp.htm.

**Early Childhood Education**

**Early Childhood Outcomes System Reminder; Deadline Set for July 31**

Please remember to enter exit ratings for children with IEPs receiving early childhood special education services who are exiting the program because they: 1) are moving into general education kindergarten; 2) no longer require special education services; or 3) are turning age 6.
These ratings are to be reported in the Student Information System (SIS). For those children who are being promoted to kindergarten, the exit ratings are required prior to exit. All students must be exited from SIS by July 31, 2011.

For more information regarding reporting, visit [http://www.isbe.net/sis/default.htm](http://www.isbe.net/sis/default.htm) or [http://www.isbe.net/earlychi/html/ec_speced_outcomes.htm](http://www.isbe.net/earlychi/html/ec_speced_outcomes.htm).

**Rules and Waivers**

**Invitation to Comment on Rules**

Four 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 website 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 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision)**

Adds new Section 1.783, which sets forth requirements for administrators of bilingual education programs to take effect July 1, 2014, and makes a companion change in Section 1.705.

**Deadline for Public Comment: July 25**

**Part 25 (Certification)**

Makes numerous changes that address, in part, consideration in the educator preparation program approval process of educator shortage areas and online coursework; clarification regarding subsequent applications from an individual with previous certificate denials, suspensions or revocations; and a reduction in the amount of time for which an candidate’s evaluation or entitlement regarding receipt of a certificate will remain valid (from three years to one).

**Deadline for Public Comment: July 25**

**Part 75 (Incentive Grants for Agricultural Science Teacher Education)**

Sets forth the requirements for application for and award of three grants authorized under Section 2-3.80 of the School Code that provide resources for secondary agricultural education programs, incentives for postsecondary institutions offering agricultural teacher preparation programs, and projects to coordinate and facilitate agricultural education across the state.

**Deadline for Public Comment: July 25**

**Part 228 (Transitional Bilingual Education)**

Addresses the requirements for administrators of bilingual education programs by cross-referencing new Section 1.783 in rules governing Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision (see summary above).

**Deadline for Public Comment: July 25**

**Professional Development**

**Nominations Sought for Award That Honors Educators in Life Sciences**

The iBIO Institute EDUCATE Center is accepting nominations for the 2011 iCON Knowledge Builder Award. Educators from grades 6-12 are eligible to receive the award. The deadline for nominations is July 8, 2011.

The iCON awards are given annually to celebrate the achievements of the most inspired academic, research and business leaders responsible for nurturing education, training and scholarship in the life sciences in Illinois. The award will be presented at the iCON Awards gala on Oct. 6, 2011, at the Field Museum in Chicago.

Selection criteria include demonstrating creativity in teaching and igniting the curiosity for learning and passion for discovery of former students, as measured by their accomplishments. For more information about the awards and to nominate an educator, go to [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=r869vnOv1qfEN7ow_2fFz1Fw_3d_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=r869vnOv1qfEN7ow_2fFz1Fw_3d_3d).

**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.
Family Resource Center on Disabilities, (312) 939-3513, http://www.frcd.org:

- **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 you disseminate this information to parents of students with and without disabilities in your area.

**Summer School Program Study to Utilize ‘The Electric Company’**

WestEd, a non-profit educational research, development, and service agency, is working with PBS to conduct a study in summer school programs utilizing episodes of the popular show “The Electric Company” along with supporting activity plans that are educational and easy to implement. “The Electric Company” aims to wholly engage children between the ages of 6 and 9 while simultaneously teaching the crucial areas of literacy and math. Teachers teaching summer school classes that include students entering second grade are eligible to participate.

Teachers will receive stipends from $400 to $1,000 for participation in the study, and their school will receive $500.

Visit [http://www.wested.org/tec](http://www.wested.org/tec) to learn more about the study and to apply, either as a summer school teacher or as a summer school administrator/district personnel. Space is limited to 20 teachers. Apply by June 1 for the best chance to participate.

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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).

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**In the News**

**Weekly News Clips**