Governor Quinn has appointed a new Chairman to the Illinois State Board of Education. Gery Chico was announced as the new Board Chair this morning.

Chico is a Chicago attorney who has been involved in city government for a number of years, holding a variety of positions including former Mayor Daley’s Chief of Staff. Additionally, he served as the President of the Board of the Chicago Public Schools for six years and more recently, Chairman of the City Colleges. He must be confirmed by the Senate and his term will run until January 2015. Gery brings to this Board many experiences and skills that will be beneficial to the Illinois education community. I very much look forward to working with him and learning from him as we move forward, especially given the challenges and opportunities that we face.

We are reviewing the FY 2012 budget passed by the House, and while it is not good, it could have been much worse. I do not believe that what has passed will be the final budget, but it is the one that we must begin planning to implement. I believe it is quite likely that lawmakers will take additional action on the budget in the veto session or possibly sooner.

In total, the reduction for education is about $170 million with the bulk of that being in General State Aid. Lawmakers decided to keep the Foundation Level at $6,119 but reduced the state’s commitment by $152 million. Early Childhood was also reduced by $17 million.

In addition, lawmakers zeroed out the line that allowed us to provide you with Explore and Plan at no cost to your district. Teacher and principal mentoring were eliminated, Advance Placement was eliminated and the PSAE writing exam is likely to be eliminated. Transportation is scheduled to be funded at nearly $295 million, an increase of nearly 40 percent from FY 11 levels after the Governor’s reserves and the Regional Offices of Education are funded however, at about 11 percent lower than the FY 11 levels after reserves.

The agency’s contractual line items have been reduced significantly, which causes me great concern. My staff and I will begin reviewing how to meet our obligations under this significantly reduced line item. Some examples of our contractual work are our Student Information System, which is crucial to the Longitudinal Data System and many of the reforms we’ve been advancing recently, and the servers that run the computers that allow you to submit electronic reports. In addition, the line item that we use to investigate alleged educator misconduct has been cut in half.

I’d like to express my thanks to all of you who have communicated with your legislators about your priorities, both in the FY 2012 budget and the cuts that were being proposed in transportation for the fourth quarter of FY 2011. Your continued dialogue with lawmakers over the summer months will be important so that they understand the impact these reductions will have on your students and staff.

Finally, we did seek approval to pay fourth quarter Mandated Categoricals from the Education Assistance Fund, which would have expedited the payment, similar to what happened last year. The provision to allow for this authority was included in Senate Amendment 1 to House Bill 2189, to which the House of Representatives did not concur.
Thanks for all you do during these challenging times for our students.

Chris

Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

- **Application deadline for Regional Safe Schools Program** – June 13
- **E-Report Card deadline** – June 20
- **“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
- **Part 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision), Part 25 (Certification), Part 75 (Incentive Grants for Agricultural Science Teacher Education), and Part 228 (Transitional Bilingual Education)** – Public comment period ends July 25
- **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

Data Analysis and Progress Reporting

### Administrator and Teacher Salary and Benefits – School Year 2011 Report

Sections 10-20.47 and 34-18.38 of the School Code [105 ILCS 5/10-20.47 and 5/34-18.38] require school districts to report administrator and teacher salary and benefits to the Illinois State Board of Education:

> “Each school board shall report to the State Board of Education, on or before July 1 of each year, the base salary and benefits of the district superintendent [or the general superintendent of schools or chief executive officer] and all administrators and teachers employed by the school district. For the purposes of this Section, “benefits” includes without limitation vacation days, sick days, bonuses, annuities, and retirement enhancements.”

To comply with this law, school districts are required to submit to ISBE the following data for each individual employed as an administrator and/or teacher during school year 2011:

- **Name**: Legal last name, first name, and middle name
- **Position**: Main position, i.e., District Administrator, Other Administrator, or Teacher
- **Title**: Title for main position (optional)
- **Base Salary**: Dollar amount of base salary for all positions combined
- **FTE (Full-Time Equivalency)**: FTE for all positions combined, counted in hundredths
- **Vacation Days**: Number of vacation days awarded this school year
- **Sick Days**: Number of sick days awarded this school year
- **Bonuses**: Dollar value of bonuses
- **Annuities**: Dollar value of employer-provided qualified and nonqualified annuities
- **Retirement Enhancements**: Dollar value of employer-provided retirement enhancements
- **Other Benefits**: Dollar value of other benefits provided by employer

The data must be submitted via the “Administrator and Teacher Salary and Benefits” system in IWAS. The system will be open for school year 2011 data entry starting Thursday, June 16, and the deadline to submit is
Friday, July 1 (11:59 p.m.). The salary and benefits data you report are to include known payments through June 30, 2011, on all forms of compensation received by an individual.

Through June 15, district administrators and other authorized users can access the system to visit a “Preparing for Submission” page. The page contains specific information about the data to be submitted and the required file upload process. ISBE strongly suggests downloading and using the Excel spreadsheet template that includes the proper headers and cell formatting required for your file to upload. You can use the Excel spreadsheet to gather and compile your data. After saving as a CSV file, you can upload to ISBE once the system opens for data entry on June 16.

Questions can be directed to Mark Hobneck in the ISBE Data Analysis and Progress Reporting Division at (217) 782-3950. Please note that this is a separate data collection from the Teacher Service Record (TSR), which has different data requirements and reporting timelines.

Special Education

Request for Sealed Proposals Released for SPDG Project Evaluation Services

On May 25, 2011, ISBE issued a Request for Sealed Proposals (RFSP) seeking applications from eligible bidders to provide evaluation services for the five-year State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG). Eligible bidders include institutions of higher education, applied research centers, professional and private organizations, and other entities with a strong working knowledge of implementation of response to intervention (RtI) in elementary and secondary schools and with extensive experience and expertise in designing and conducting rigorous large-scale evaluations of educational programs and federally-funded projects. As specified in the RFSP, proposals must be received by mail or in person in the Fiscal and Procurement Division of ISBE no later than 4 p.m. CDT on July 8, 2011.

The RFSP may be accessed via the Illinois Department of Central Management Services’ Procurement Bulletin website at http://www.purchase.state.il.us. Please note that only registered users on the Illinois Procurement Bulletin site may download solicitations. Anyone may register by clicking on the “Registration” link at the top of the homepage of the website. Once registered, you will be able to download the RFSP by clicking on the “IllinoisBid” link and then on Reference #22021789, at which point you will be prompted to enter your username and password.

Please direct all questions to the contact person specified on Page 8 of the RFSP and in accordance with the requirements delineated therein.

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. 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 class 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/092/09201350000300R.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.

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**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 or http://www.isbe.net/earlychi/html/ec_speced_outcomes.htm.

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**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; choose “Proposed Rules and Amendments.” Please submit any comments or suggestions to rules@isbe.net.

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**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*

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**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*

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**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*

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**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*

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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.

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**In the News**

**Weekly News Clips**