I know there continues to be great concern about the status of the last regular transportation payment scheduled for this current fiscal year. Late last month, the Governor’s Office of Management and Budget (GOMB) put a reserve on that final payment. In conversations with the GOMB staff, they indicated that it was possible they would use that funding to capture additional Medicaid funds, but that was only an option.

Unlike the first three payments, where we have vouchered funds and there have been significant delays in district receipt of funds, if GOMB maintains that reserve, it means those funds would be eliminated. In more recent conversations that we have had with GOMB staff, they have told us that the reserve was just looked at as a possible option, and that it is their intent to make the fourth quarter regular transportation payment during the lapse period, before the end of the calendar year. I know many of you voiced your concerns to elected officials and while state budget officials say this was only one option that was under consideration, I believe it is important that you made known the local impact of these budget reductions that were being considered.

Today Governor Quinn signed what may be one of the most influential pieces of legislation to impact education in our state in decades. Senate Bill 7 is the culmination of many months of work from a wide variety of stakeholder groups that will impact all facets of Illinois’ education community.

It will require training for board members, provide teachers and students with an opportunity to give input on the instructional climate in buildings and allow 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 came together — as a cooperative process with all parties at the table. I recently spoke with U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan and he said that he plans to tout our reforms here in Illinois as a national model.

I also want to make you aware of some conversations that are occurring on the national level. Secretary Duncan has indicated that if Congress is unable to pass a reauthorization for No Child Left Behind, the administration will begin to pursue a policy of flexibility from current accountability standards (http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0611/56730.html). I am currently the President of the Council of Chief State School Officers, the national organization for state superintendents, and it is our position that reauthorization of NCLB needs to be a first priority. However, if Congress is unsuccessful, we support a system of waivers that would provide additional flexibility for states and districts while still maintaining a high standard of accountability. I would also recommend to our Illinois State Board of Education that Illinois pursue some sort of waiver should reauthorization fail.

Finally, this week the State Board of Education is joining with our partners at the Illinois Education Association and the Illinois Federation of Teachers to recognize some of our state’s finest teachers. The Exemplary Teacher Recognition
awards single out 22 educators from specific subject matter areas. They were selected by their respective professional organizations as leaders in their particular specialties.

The State Board also selects a Teacher of the Year as part of our Those Who Excel banquet in the fall, however, we wanted to expand our recognition of excellence in teaching and I want to thank the IEA and IFT for making this possible.

Have a great week!

Chris

Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

- E-Report Card deadline – June 20
- 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
- 2011 Illinois Immunization and Communicable Disease Conference in Bloomington – Aug. 8-9
- 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

U.S. Department of Education

2011 Investing in Innovation Grant Competition Kicks Off

The U.S. Department of Education’s has announced details for the 2011 Investing in Innovation (i3) grant competition: The second round of i3 makes $150 million available to individual school districts, consortia of districts and non-profit organizations in partnership with districts or groups of schools. Grants will be available within the same three categories as in round one:

- up to $25 million each for scale-up grants to applicants with the strongest evidence and track record of success;
- up to $15 million each for validation grants to verify effectiveness of programs with moderate levels of evidence; and
- up to $3 million each for development grants to support new, high-potential practices whose impact should be studied further.

Grant recipients will be required to secure private sector matching funds of 5 percent, 10 percent, or 15 percent, respectively.

Three absolute priorities remain from last year’s grant competition: supporting effective teachers and principals, implementing high standards and quality assessments, and turning around persistently low-performing schools. For this year’s competition, the department has included two new absolute priorities focusing on achievement and high school graduation rates in rural schools and promoting science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education. All applicants must address one of these five areas of reform. In addition, competitive preference will be given to applications that demonstrate
support for improving early learning outcomes, increasing college access and success, addressing the unique needs of students with disabilities and limited English proficient students, or improving productivity or technology.

The department plans pre-application workshops and webinars. For more information, visit http://www2.ed.gov/programs/innovation/. Applicants are encouraged to submit a notice of intent to apply by June 23, and applications are due on Aug. 2. Awards will be made no later than Dec. 31.

The U.S. Department of Education is seeking peer reviewers from a variety of backgrounds and professions for the competition. For more information, go to http://www2.ed.gov/programs/innovation/2011/call-for-peer-reviewers.html.

Educational Community in the Midwest Invited to Identify Needs for Report

The Midwest Regional Advisory Committee for the U.S. Department of Education is seeking input on educational needs for a report to be delivered to the U.S. Secretary of Education.

The Midwest RAC has identified seven priority areas of concern and begun to define specific needs in the priority areas, as well as strategies for addressing the needs. The priority areas of concern are: school readiness; teacher and leader effectiveness; family engagement; student support services related to the emotional, social, behavioral, health and cultural needs of students; student engagement; English language learner populations; and instructional resources and supports.

Below are questions concerning educational needs in the Midwest. Please respond to the questions of most interest or relevance to you.

- What do you think about the above list of priority concerns? Please offer an overall assessment and/or your ideas for refining the list.
- What else would you add to this list of priority concerns? Why?
- What do you consider the most important educational concerns in Illinois or the Midwest? Why?
- Based on your perspective, what are the policy and practice needs in any of the above or other priority areas of concern?
- What are your ideas for how to meet the identified needs?

Post your comments online for the Midwest region on the RAC website: http://www.seiservices.com/rac. You will have the option of uploading relevant documents to the website to accompany your comments. Register at the above web address to listen in on one or both webinars of the RAC and contribute comments for the committee to consider afterwards. The first webinar will be held noon to 2 p.m. June 14 and the second webinar (noon to 2 p.m.) is set for June 21.

For questions and additional details, contact Diane Rutledge at drutledge@ludaschools.org or (217) 725-3016.

Legal

Amount of Time Retired Teachers Can Work in Schools Changing

Beginning July 1, 2011, the number of days a retired teacher can work in a school without impairing their retirement status will be reduced to 100 days (500 hours) from 120 days (600 hours). This change occurs after the expiration of statutory language in the Illinois Pension Code (40 ILCS 5/16-118). A day is considered five hours.

Attempts in the legislature fell short this spring to reauthorize the 120-day maximum for 10 years. The 100 day limit was increased to the 120 maximum from July 1, 2001, through June 30, 2011 by Public Act 92-416.

No Child Left Behind

Adequate Yearly Progress Status Reports Available Soon for Review

AYP status reports will be released shortly and districts will begin reviewing their results. AYP status released via IWAS is final unless the data are changed during the correction process or rescoring is requested. In addition, testing irregularity investigations may result in changes even after the closing of the correction window.

The No Child Left Behind law and the State Accountability statute and rules allow schools and districts to appeal their Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) status if the district has questions regarding the accuracy of the determination. Appeals should be based on statistical and substantive issues that could not have been resolved during the data correction periods and for which there is an available remedy. The AYP appeal process
cannot be used to correct data that could have been addressed during the correction process. (Schools and districts have multiple opportunities throughout the year to ensure student demographic information is correct.) Also, the appeals process can’t be used to request changes to the legal requirements for calculating AYP (e.g., minimum subgroup size, safe harbor’s application to subgroups only, full academic year definition, etc.) or to challenge the applicable law.

Each appeal will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by ISBE staff and by the Appeals Advisory Committee, if necessary. If you have a valid appeal, it must be filed within 30 days of release of the AYP status report on IWAS or by Thursday, Sept. 1, 2011, whichever is later. Procedural guidance, a sample timeline and forms for the appeal process are available at http://www.isbe.net/ayp/pdf/appeals_status.pdf.

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

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 226.

**Part 226 (Special Education):** Sets the qualifications for qualified workers and noncertified employees for which reimbursement may be requested under Section 14-13.01 of the School Code, as per P.A. 96-257, effective August 11, 2009.

**Affected Sections:** 226.800, 226.820, 226.850 and 226.860

**Effective Date:** May 26, 2011

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English Language Learning

**Migrant Education Program Application Available Online**

The Migrant Education Program application for the 2011-12 fall and regular school year is available on the Division of English Language Learning Web page at http://www.isbe.net/bilingual/htmls/migrant.htm.

Funding is available under Title I, Part C of No Child Left Behind (NCLB) for supplemental academic and support services in school districts with qualifying migrant children and youth. The deadline for submitting the application is Friday, July 1, 2011.

Children ages up to 21 years old who have not graduated from high school may be eligible for the program if they have moved within the past three years across state or school district lines with a parent or guardian or on their own to obtain temporary or seasonal work in agricultural production, fishing or food processing industries.

A certified recruiter must document that children qualify as migrant students. ISBE can assist districts with this process. For more information, contact Beth Robinson at (312) 814-3850.

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Rules and Waivers

**Notice of Completed Rulemaking**

Please be advised that amendments recently adopted by the Illinois State Board of Education are now in effect.
• **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.

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**Special Education**

**RFSP 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](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.

An optional bidders’ webinar for the RFSP will be conducted at 10 a.m. June 17, 2011. Interested participants are asked to register at [https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/277531737](https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/277531737). Questions about the RFSP can also be submitted in writing. Please direct all such questions to the contact person specified on Page 8 of the RFSP and in accordance with the requirements delineated therein.

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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 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).

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**Professional Development**

**Registration Under Way for Immunization and Communicable Disease Conference**

The 2011 Illinois Immunization and Communicable Disease Conference is set for Aug. 8-9 in Bloomington at
the Marriott Hotel & Conference Center. The conference is sponsored by the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Illinois Public Health Association.

The conference will cover the latest information on diagnosis, treatment and prevention of many communicable diseases. Health-care professionals throughout the state, including those in school health services, are encouraged to attend. Continuing education credits are available for various professions.

The early registration cost is $100; after July 15 the cost increases to $125. For more information, visit http://www.ipha.com/tabs/events/eventdetails.aspx?EventId=182. For questions, contact the event coordinator, Angie Wanger of the Illinois Public Health Association, at (217) 522-5687 or awanger@ipha.com.

**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.

**In the News**

**Weekly News Clips**