Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

- 2010-11 Early Childhood (Prevention Initiative and Parental Training Programs Only) – 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
- Application deadline for the 2012 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program Grants – Aug. 8
- 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
- School Safety Conference in Hillside – Sept. 8
- 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

Assessment

Posting of 2011 PSAE Scores Delayed Because of Flooding

Scores for the 2011 PSAE were originally scheduled to be posted by Tuesday, July 12, 2011. Due to severe spring flooding experienced by many southern Illinois school districts, additional PSAE makeup testing was allowed to take place one week later than the original makeup testing dates. As a consequence of this late testing, the reporting of all PSAE scores will also occur one week later than scheduled.

PSAE scores are now scheduled to be posted in ISBE’s Student Information System no later than Tuesday, July 19, 2011. Consequently, the PSAE Assessment Correction window will be extended to Tuesday, July 26, 2011. Please note that if scores are able to be posted prior to the new date of July 19, 2011, the Assessment Correction window will still be extended to Tuesday, July 26, 2011. Final PSAE scores are now scheduled to be posted by Aug. 8, 2011.

ISBE apologizes for any inconvenience this may cause. Questions regarding PSAE can be directed to Megan Forness at (217) 782-4823 or psae@isbe.net.

Funding and Disbursement Services

Claimable Pre-kindergarten Students on Nonexclusive Transportation Routes

Please be advised that PA 96-1264 effective Jan. 1, 2011, allows for pre-kindergarten students who are transported on nonexclusive routes to be claimable for transportation. Specifically the language states, “When calculating the reimbursement for transportation costs, the State Board of Education may not deduct the number of pupils enrolled in early education programs from the number of pupils eligible for reimbursement if the pupils enrolled in...
the early education programs are transported at the same time as other eligible pupils.”

Please note that this new language does not allow any prekindergarten students to be claimed who are transported on exclusive pre-kindergarten routes. The new law only provides for pre-kindergarten students to be claimed on Jan. 1, 2011, and after who are “transported at the same time as other eligible pupils” (e.g. transported on a regular route with a sibling).

Pursuant to this law, when reporting pre-kindergarten pupils on the 2010-11 Pupil Transportation claim payable in FY 2012, districts should report the following:

**Line 3 – Pre-kindergarten Headcount** – Number of pre-kindergarten pupils enrolled to be transported (Regular Route-Not Exclusive);

**Line 5** – Total number of days pupils are enrolled to receive regular transportation – prior to Jan. 1, 2011, days should be reported on Line 5(b) – Regular Education Pre-kindergarten Pupils; however, the days enrolled after Jan. 1, 2011, should be reported on Line 5(a) – Pupils residing 1.5 miles or more or on Line 5(d) – Pupils residing less than 1.5 miles with an approved Serious Safety Hazard;

**Line 13 – Total nonreimbursable miles.** Mileage is still reported on line 13(b) – Total Prekindergarten miles prior to Jan. 1, 2011. After Jan. 1, 2011, the mileage for pre-kindergarten students on nonexclusive transportation routes should be reported on Line 10 (a) – Total regular route miles.

If you have any questions, please contact Jamie Johnson via telephone at (217) 782-5256 or via e-mail at jjohnson@isbe.net.

**Fiscal Year 2012 Federal Reimbursement Procedures Update – Cooperatives/EF-E**

After the FY 12 Federal Grant Cash Management Changes webinar conducted on May 5 (available at http://www.isbe.net/funding/ppt/2012_fed_reimb_webinar_pres050511.pdf), questions were received regarding whether a special education or education for employment cooperative could utilize the preferred reimbursement method by reporting the cash basis expenditures of their respective member districts on the cooperative’s expenditure report.

In consultation with ISBE audit staff, it was clarified that on a true cash basis of accounting, the cooperative must reimburse their member districts for eligible expenditures first before requesting reimbursement. This clarification may hamper the ability of some cooperatives to utilize the preferred reimbursement method and will result in moving to the modified advance method of funding. For more details as to the modified advance process, please see slides 12-16 of the May 5 webinar. Please keep in mind that ISBE will voucher FY 12 federal grant payments each Wednesday as expenditure reports are submitted. The time line for receipt of federal funds is three to five business days. This may assist cooperatives with their decision to report via the preferred reimbursement method.

If you have further questions regarding this issue, please contact Kim Lewis (klewis@isbe.net) or Sally Cray (scray@isbe.net) in the Division of Funding and Disbursement Services at (217) 782-5256.

**FY 2012 Federal Grants Reimbursement Policy Change – Implementation**

Please be reminded that comprehensive changes have been implemented to all Federal grant based programs beginning July 1, 2011 (FY 2012). To review the changes implemented by the Division of Funding and Disbursement Services please review the May 5, 2011, webinar, 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). The phone number is (217) 782-5256.

**Federal Interest Income – Quarterly Reminder**

The Code of Federal Regulations, Title 34-Education, Part 80 Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Governments, Subpart C-Post Award Requirements, Section 80.21 Payment, requires grantees and subgrantees to promptly, but at least quarterly, remit interest earned on advances to the appropriate federal
agency. The grantee or subgrantee may keep interest amounts up to $100 per year for administrative purposes.

To ensure compliance with federal administrative requirements, local education agency fiscal officials should develop internal controls and a sound methodology to calculate and return, at least quarterly, interest earned in excess of $100 on federal program funds. Interest calculation methodologies must be based on actual, not estimated, interest earnings on federal funds. Further details as to how federal interest should be calculated and remitted can be found on Pages 7-9 of the State and Federal Grant Administration Policy and Fiscal Requirements and Procedures, which can be accessed at http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/fiscal_procedure_handbook.pdf.

Interest should be returned using the following guidelines:

- Checks for interest earned should be made payable to the Illinois State Board of Education.
- Checks should not include the return of unexpended disbursements from the Illinois State Board of Education. Even though unexpended disbursements and interest payments are made payable to the Illinois State Board of Education, separate checks should be issued for both.
- Checks should be accompanied by a statement identifying the program and the program year from which the interest was earned.

All checks must be mailed to: Illinois State Board of Education, Funding and Disbursements Services Division (E-320), 100 N. First St., Springfield, IL 62777-0001.

**Innovation and Improvement**

**Grant Readers Sought for 21st Century Community Learning Center Program**

ISBE’s Innovation and Improvement Division is seeking additional grant readers for the FY 2012 21st Century Community Learning Center (21st CCLC) Program grant competition. Preferred grant readers must have after school experience and knowledge in after school programming and/or community based programming that serves school age students, grantsmanship experience, previous grant reading experience, 21st CCLC experience and knowledge, program management and experience with schools and districts.

Readers will need to be available Aug. 15-19, 2011, to read the Request for Proposals (RFP). Readers will be required to participate in a training that will be delivered via a webinar on July 29, 2011. Readers will read and score their assigned applications, which will be sent to the readers through a web-based system. Access to a computer with Internet capability will be necessary. An honorarium will be provided. Once selected, readers will be required to sign a confidentiality agreement, a memorandum of understanding and complete a conflict of interest questionnaire.

To be considered for this opportunity please send a letter of interest and resume or curriculum vitae by July 12, 2011, to Tammy Greco, Principal Consultant, Illinois State Board of Education, Innovation and Improvement Division, 100 N. First Street, Springfield, Illinois 62777-0001 or via e-mail at 21stcclc@isbe.net. Contact Tammy Greco with questions at (217) 524-4832.

**Apply for a 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program Grant**

The Illinois State Board of Education’s Innovation and Improvement Division is pleased to announce the release of the FY 2012 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program (21st CCLC) Grants Request for Proposals (RFP). Applications must be received no later than 5 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 8, 2011.


**Technical Assistance:** The technical assistance bidder’s webinar will be conducted from 12:30 to 4 p.m. on Wednesday, July 6, 2011. This informational webinar will relate to the specific proposal requirements. Registration information is available at http://www.isbe.net/grants/html/webinar.htm#1003tech. The webinar will be archived after July 7 at http://www.isbe.net/grants/html/webinar_archive.htm.

A bidder’s conference will also be held from 12:30 to 4 on July 7, 2011 at the Illinois State Board of Education, 100 N. First St., Springfield. To register for the bidder’s conference, send an e-mail to 21stcclc@isbe.net indicating the names of who will be attending.

**Background Information:** Through a competitive grant process, approximately $15 million is available in FY
2012 to fund academically-focused after-school programs that will serve schools with a high concentration of low-income students (defined as not less than 40 percent of students being eligible for free or reduced-price lunch).

Eligible applicants are public and private entities, including local education agencies (LEAs), such as public school districts, public university laboratory schools approved by ISBE, charter schools, area vocational centers, regional offices of education and intermediate service centers; community-based organizations (CBO), including faith-based organizations (FBO); and other public and private entities.

A consortium of two or more eligible applicants may also submit a proposal as a joint application. Previously funded grantees are eligible to apply as well as new applicants.

A competitive priority will be given to applicants that propose to serve students in poverty who attend schools in need of improvement, are one of the persistently lowest performing schools from the Tier I or Tier II list at http://www.isbe.net/sos/htmls/sip_1003.htm and that submit a joint application between at least one LEA receiving funds under Title I, Part A and at least one public or private community organization, propose to implement innovative best practices, and propose to serve middle and high school students.

More information is available at www.isbe.net/21cclc. Deadline is 5 p.m. on Aug. 8, 2011. For more information on the 21st CCLC grant, contact Tammy Greco at (217) 524-4832 or 21stcclc@isbe.net.

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