Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

Some of our year-round schools are already back in session and I know many of you host summer camps. During this time of high heat and humidity, please make sure you, your staff and any students remain hydrated and take frequent breaks to cool off.

I know many of you want to know your projected General State Aid (GSA) payments for the coming school year to clear up your district’s financial picture. Unfortunately, GSA payment calculations have not yet been finalized for FY 2012. ISBE staff are working through data quality issues with regards to equalized assessed valuation and tax rate information, as well as reviewing attendance data recently submitted through the GSA claims. Until we have accurate data, final payment calculations cannot be completed.

The first GSA payment for FY 2012 is to be processed on Aug. 10 and it is my hope that we will have the FY 2012 payment calculations finalized by this time. If we still do not have accurate data necessary to finalize these payments then we will likely use last year’s GSA payment until we are able to complete the process and make adjustments going forward. Once the FY 2012 GSA calculations have been completed for the school year, we will post them on our website and let you know through the Weekly Message and your district’s GSA contact.

The Comptroller’s office has begun releasing third quarter Mandated Categorical payments. March Special Ed Transportation and Personnel Reimbursement are being released and we anticipate that the remainder of the third quarter MCATS will be released next week. Currently, the state of Illinois owes schools almost $700 million and the state’s total backlog of bills is in excess of $3.2 billion.

I also want to make you aware of some personnel moves at the agency. John Evans is joining us as the new Assistant Superintendent for Standards and Assessments. He comes to us from the University of Illinois and we have worked with him previously on assessments, the longitudinal data system development and technology infrastructure. He is replacing Connie Wise who retired from our agency after 40 years.

Also, Kay Henderson who oversaw our Early Childhood Division during its time of explosive growth retired at the end of June. We are currently searching for her replacement and Cynthia Zumwalt is leading Early Childhood on an interim basis.

We thank both Connie and Kay for their fine service to ISBE and wish them well.

Finally, U.S. Senator Mark Kirk has expressed an interest in trying to work with districts that are interested in developing Chinese language immersion programs. Having Chinese speaking students is not a requirement for an immersion program; any district that is interested in developing an immersion program would be eligible. If you have such a program or are interested in developing one, please let Melina Wright, Supervisor in the agency’s Innovation and Improvement Division, know of your interest. You can contact her at mewright@isbe.net.

July 26, 2011
Thanks and have a great week.

Chris

Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

- 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
- Affidavit of School Treasurer Bonds submitted by Regional Superintendents/Intermediate Service Centers – Sept 1
- 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
- 2011-12 School District Budget form – Adopted by Sept. 30 and due to ISBE by Oct. 30
- 2010-11 LEA Annual Financial Report – Due to ROEs/ISCs Oct. 14 and due to ISBE Nov. 15 (with the exception of those who received an “Extension of Time” approval letter)

School Business Services

Requirements Regarding School Treasurer Bonds

Section 3-8 and Section 8-2 of the School Code (105 ILCS 5/3-8 and 105 ILCS 5/8-2) require Regional Superintendents of Schools to file an affidavit with the Illinois State Board of Education showing which treasurers of school districts in their region are properly bonded. This affidavit must be filed before Sept. 1 of each year. Copies of the actual school treasurer bond should not be filed with ISBE.

Section 8-2 of the School Code (105 ILCS 5/8-2) requires each treasurer of a school district to be properly bonded. The penalty of the bond shall be 25 percent of the amount of all bonds, notes, mortgages, moneys and effects of which the treasurer is to have custody at any given time. The bond shall be increased or decreased from time to time, as the increase or decrease of the amount of notes, bonds, mortgages, moneys and effects may require. The bond shall be payable to the township trustees of schools over the district or payable to the school board of the district, whichever is applicable. The bond shall be filed with the Regional Superintendent of Schools. School districts should not file a copy of their bonds with ISBE.

For additional information on the State Board of Education interpretation of this Section, please refer to the State Superintendent’s Weekly Message for May 3, 2010, and May 11, 2010, which can be accessed at http://www.isbe.net/board/archivemessages/archivemessage.htm.

Section 3-8 of the School Code (105 ILCS 5/3-8) describes the duties of the Regional Superintendent of Schools upon receipt of the treasurer bonds. When the bond of any school treasurer is filed with the Regional Superintendent of Schools, the Regional Superintendent shall carefully examine it. If the bond is found to be in all respects according to law and the sureties sufficient, the Regional Superintendent shall endorse his/her approval and file it with the papers of his/her office. If the bond is in any respect defective, or if the sureties are insufficient, the bond shall be returned for correction.

In Cook County, the responsibilities and duties of the Regional Superintendent of Schools detailed in Section 3-8 and Section 8-2 of the School Code (105 ILCS 5/3-8 and 105 ILCS 5/8-2) will be assumed by the respective Intermediate Service Center.

An electronic version of the Affidavit, and other information, can be found online at www.isbe.net/sfms/html/t_bonds.htm.

Please contact Michelle Heninger, School Business Services Division, at (217) 785-8779 or mheninge@isbe.net with any follow-up questions.
U.S. Department of Education

Rural Education Resources Page Now Available Online

The U.S. Department of Education recently launched a Web page aimed at improving communication and outreach to rural America. The site features rural education information and resources, including the White House Rural Champions of Change. The White House program highlights a different person each week making a difference in their community. Visit ED’s Rural Education Resources page at [http://www.ed.gov/rural-education](http://www.ed.gov/rural-education).

For those interested in serving as a peer reviewer for the Promise Neighborhoods grant competition, please review the Promise Neighborhoods Call For Peer Reviewers at [http://www2.ed.gov/programs/promiseneighborhoods/2011/peer-reviewers.html](http://www2.ed.gov/programs/promiseneighborhoods/2011/peer-reviewers.html). The document covers qualifications and instructions for submitting an application. Promise Neighborhoods is a competitive grant program that supports cradle-to-career services designed to improve educational and developmental outcomes for students in distressed urban and rural neighborhoods. Peer reviewers with experience in rural education are always needed. Applications are due by Aug. 8, 2011. More information is available on the Promise Neighborhoods program Web page at [http://www2.ed.gov/programs/promiseneighborhoods/index.html](http://www2.ed.gov/programs/promiseneighborhoods/index.html).

Special Education

2011-12 Planning Calendar for Special Education Directors Now Available

The Illinois State Board of Education Special Education Services and Supports Division is pleased to announce the release of the 2011-12 Planning Calendar for Special Education Directors. This resource was developed by ISBE in collaboration with Dr. Gineen O’Neil, director of Southwest Cook County Association for Special Education. We hope that this resource will assist administrators by raising awareness of the various data reporting and submission requirements related to IDEA.

This document does not replace any official notifications of deadlines and requirements; instead it is intended to be used as an additional resource to assist district and Special Education cooperative administrators. Several web-based resources are listed on the last page of this document to provide links to the official up-to-date information regarding deadlines and requirements across the agency.

The 2011-12 Planning Calendar for Special Education Directors is available under the “What’s New” section at [http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed](http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed).

Directors of Special Education Asked to Complete Brief Survey

The Philip J. Rock Center and School is conducting a brief survey for directors of special education regarding services for children with sensory (vision-hearing) and additional significant disabilities.

The Philip J. Rock Center and School is a state-funded program providing residential school and limited outreach services for families and schools in Illinois that have children who are deaf-blind. Children do not have to be totally deaf and totally blind to qualify, but must have a combined vision-hearing loss.

More information is available at [http://www.project-reach-illinois.org/prc.html](http://www.project-reach-illinois.org/prc.html).

The survey will help set priorities to expand the services of the school and service center. The survey takes about 3 to 10 minutes. Complete the survey at [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DD3HG5Y](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DD3HG5Y).

Changes Announced for National Instructional Materials Access Center

The Special Education and Support Services Division has made changes to the number of Authorized Users (AUs) for the National Instructional Materials Access Center (NIMAC). Any district/teacher that needs materials from the NIMAC for their students who are blind/visually impaired or have a print disability may contact one of the four state-approved AUs listed below:

1. Illinois Instructional Materials Center
2. Infinitec
3. Learning Ally (formally RFB&D)
4. Bookshare

For more information about the state-approved AUs and their contact information, please visit [http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/html/nimas_nimac.htm](http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/html/nimas_nimac.htm).

A guidance document defining NIMAS, NIMAC and other key terms associated with the NIMAS mandate was released in January 2011. The document provided sample

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**Nutrition**

**Details on the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act Available on the ISBE Website**

The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 makes many important improvements to the Child Nutrition Programs. To assist schools with implementation, the Nutrition Programs Division at the Illinois State Board of Education has recently updated a summary of the sections of this act that impact school-based programs at [http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/hunger_free.htm](http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/hunger_free.htm) (click on School-Based Child Nutrition Programs).

If you have questions, please contact us at (800) 545-7892 or cnp@isbe.net.

**Additional Information Available on USDA’s Community Eligibility Option**

As schools within Illinois evaluate their option to apply for the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Community Eligibility Option (CEO) for School Year 2011-12, we would like to share some additional information with you regarding CEO participation and the impact on Title I funds.

The U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) recently released a letter outlining guidance for schools and local educational agencies (LEAs) that may be considering CEO for their schools and districts. This letter is available on our website at [http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/pdf/usde_ceo_ltr_052011.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/pdf/usde_ceo_ltr_052011.pdf).

In addition to this information, staff with the USDA, working directly with the USDOE, have provided the following information:

- The number of children receiving free or reduced school lunch does not impact LEA awards of Title I Part A funds.

In general, the number of students in a school district who receive free or reduced school lunch has no impact on the amount of Title I, Part A funds a school district receives. The primary factors in determining a school district’s Title I, Part A allocation are the Census Bureau’s annually-updated estimate of the number of children ages 5-17 residing in families below the poverty line in each school district and each State’s per-pupil expenditures that the States report to USDOE’s National Center for Education Statistics. School lunch data do not factor into either of these data elements.

LEAs typically use school lunch data to distribute Title I, Part A funds within the LEA. This is why the letter focused on within-LEA allocations and not an LEA’s total allocation.

The following USDOE guidance explains how Title I, Part A funds flow from ED to SEAs to LEAs: [http://www.ed.gov/programs/titleiparta/seaguidanceforadjustingallocations.doc](http://www.ed.gov/programs/titleiparta/seaguidanceforadjustingallocations.doc).

Finally, we continue to receive questions from schools regarding the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) E-Rate Program and the impact of CEO on that program. As soon as information is available regarding this, we will post to our website. Please continue to share your questions and concerns with our office regarding CEO. This is a great opportunity for many schools within Illinois, and we want to ensure that you have the best information available to make an informed decision if participation in CEO is right for your schools and community.

The Community Eligibility Option website including application materials for the State of Illinois is [http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/nslp_hhfka_implementation.htm](http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/nslp_hhfka_implementation.htm). Please contact the Nutrition Programs Division staff of the Illinois State Board of Education at (800) 545-7892 or via electronic mail at cnp@isbe.net with any questions.

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**Health resources**

**Grants to Help Clinics Provide Health Services at Schools**

The Health Resources and Services Administration awarded $95 million to programs across the U.S., including 17 from Illinois. For more information, visit [http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2011pres/07/20110714a.html](http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2011pres/07/20110714a.html). The awards, which are provided by the Affordable Care Act, will help clinics expand and provide more health care services at schools nationwide. Here are the Illinois recipients:
• Circle Family Healthcare Network Inc., Chicago, $500,000
• Evanston Township High School, $72,826
• Rural Health Inc. in Anna, $264,423
• University of Illinois at Chicago/Board of Trustees, $479,818
• Access Community Health Network, Chicago, $192,322
• Alivio Medical Center, Chicago, $500,000
• Community Health Improvement, Decatur, $95,050
• Heartland International Health Center, Chicago, $299,537
• Lawndale Christian Health Center, Chicago, $250,000
• Macoupin County Public Health Department, Carlinville, $440,000
• Near North Health Service Corp., Chicago, $137,300
• Rush University Medical Center, Chicago, $211,581
• Shawnee Health Service and Development Corp., Carterville, $59,748
• Visiting Nurse Association of Fox Valley, Aurora, $272,823
• Winnebago County Health Department, Rockford, $17,136
• Jackson Park Hospital Foundation, Chicago, $224,169
• Kankakee School District 111, $500,000

AED’s carry the potential to save the lives of children and young athletes.

**Illinois Alliance to Prevent Obesity Publishes Newsletter**

The Illinois Alliance to Prevent Obesity recently published a newsletter aimed at helping create opportunities for more physical activity in schools and better physical education programs. The alliance cites statistics showing Illinois ranked third among states with the most obese and overweight children per capita.

The newsletter includes information on the recent work of the Illinois Enhanced P.E. Task Force, which is chaired by ISBE’s Dr. Christopher A Koch, State Superintendent of Schools.

The newsletter is available online at [http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs070/1103010793095/archive/1106519318810.html](http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs070/1103010793095/archive/1106519318810.html).

**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).

**In the News**

**Weekly News Clips**


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**NASPE Backs the Use and Placement of Defibrillators on School Campuses**

The National Association for Sport and Physical Education (NASPE) stresses the need for automated external defibrillators (AEDs) in all schools and at all school-sanctioned athletic events and venues in a newly released position statement.


NASPE’s National Standards for Sport Coaches, [http://www.aahperd.org/naspe/standards/nationalStandards/SportCoaches.cfm](http://www.aahperd.org/naspe/standards/nationalStandards/SportCoaches.cfm), states that coaches should “recognize injuries and provide immediate and appropriate care.” Early, immediate use of CPR and