Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

Early childhood education has been on the minds of many of you, lately, especially since we announced the results of our recent competitive Early Childhood grant program. We have enjoyed sizable state investments in early childhood education for many years but now, more than ever, as we have seen reductions in our Early Childhood areas, we need to make sure we have an efficient and well coordinated system.

Illinois is pursuing additional funding from the U.S. Department of Education through the recently announced Early Learning Challenge. Our goal in pursuing these funds, is to design a system, from birth through school entry, that more tightly coordinates all early learning initiatives paid for with state and federal dollars, better facilitates transitions of students, and ensures our work force has the skills and knowledge to maximize overall child development, language and numeracy skills, and social and emotional development. Part of this plan will be to ensure that we are measuring the readiness of all students as they transition into kindergarten. This data can help ensure that more children are receiving timely interventions and support at home before they come to school. I will be updating you on our efforts to secure this grant.

Late last week Governor Quinn amendatorily vetoed SB 1744, which removes provisions in the school code that allow for the first and last days of the school year to be less than five hours. As it was written, the legislation had an immediate effective date, but the agency and other stakeholders requested the Governor use his amendatory veto power to change the effective date to July 1, 2012. The Governor’s action means implementation will not begin until the 2012-13 school year.

Finally, Governor Quinn signed legislation aimed at reducing the reoccurrence of concussions in student athletes. HB 200 requires that athletes who have received a concussion will not be allowed to return to play or practice until they are evaluated and receive written clearance from a medical professional. It also requires school boards to develop policies to educate coaches, students and their parents to recognize the signs of a concussion and the risks associated with it.

The Illinois High School Association has a variety of resources on concussions on its Sports Medicine page at http://www.ihsa.org/initiatives/sportsMedicine/index.htm. Check under “Recent Announcements” for the latest, including guidelines for management of concussion in sports and a video on the National Federation of State High School Associations’ Return to Play Policy.

Have a great week.

Chris

Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

- 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 annual Pupil Transportation Reimbursement Claim 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

Data Analysis and Progress Reporting

2010-2011 Teacher Service Record – Spring Data Collection Reminder

This is a reminder that the deadline to submit 2010-11 Teacher Service Record (TSR) data is Aug. 15, 2011. The deadline is firm since ISBE has immediate TSR data usage needs. It is critical for districts to submit complete and accurate TSR data, including actual salaries (i.e., total creditable earnings); missing or incomplete data will affect state totals and averages. For the spring data collection, you must do the following by Aug. 15:

- Make necessary educator updates.
- Submit 2010-11 salaries. Please note that salaries can only be submitted through the “Submit/Update Teacher Salary” wizard.

Questions about the 2010-11 TSR spring data collection can be directed to the ISBE Data Analysis and Progress Reporting Division at tsr@isbe.net or (217) 782-3950. On Monday, Aug. 15, division staff will be available to respond to e-mails and take calls until 4 p.m. CDT.

Funding and Disbursement Services

2010-11 Annual Pupil Transportation Reimbursement Claim Due Aug. 15

This is a reminder regarding the 2010-11 annual Pupil Transportation Reimbursement Claim. Per statute, the claim is due to the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) on Aug. 15. There are no provisions in the School Code for granting extensions beyond the statutory due date; therefore, all claims must be received on or before Aug. 15, 2011. The submit button on the review and submit screen will be removed at 12:01 a.m. on Aug. 16, 2011.

It is imperative that each LEA submit a claim by midnight on Aug. 15, 2011. There will be a correction period available in early October to make necessary changes to the submitted claim.

Please refer to the 2010-11 Pupil Transportation Reimbursement Claim Instructions, available at http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/pupil_reimburse_instruct.pdf, for assistance in completing the claim.

If you have questions regarding the Pupil Transportation Claim, please contact Jamie Johnson at (217) 782-5256 or via e-mail at jjohnson@isbe.net.

Effective Date for Senate Bill 1744 Amended by Governor to July 1, 2012

Senate Bill 1744 removes the provision in Section 18-8.05 (F)(2)(b) that allows attendance to be less than five clock hours on the opening and closing of the school term. The bill, which passed both houses and was awaiting Gov. Pat Quinn’s signature, had an effective date of June 30, 2011. The governor amended the bill to change the effective date to July 1, 2012. Provided the General Assembly takes action to accept this veto in the fall session, this bill will become law and will take effect beginning with the 2012-13 school year.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact Marj Beck mbeck@isbe.net or phone (217) 782-5256.

Curriculum and Instruction

FY 12 School Technology Revolving Loan Applications

The FY 12 School Technology Revolving Loan Program (STRLP) application materials for eligible districts and schools have been posted to ISBE’s webpage at
http://www.isbe.net/curriculum/elearning/html/revolving_loan.htm. This year the loan will be for school districts serving grades K-8. Applications will be accepted through Dec. 1, 2011.

The loans will be awarded on a first come, first serve basis. The School Technology Revolving Loan Program (STRLP) is a three-year loan with a 2 percent interest rate. The amount which each district is eligible to apply is listed under “Eligible Applicants.”

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.

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. 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.
**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.

**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, $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

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

**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**