Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

As many of you are probably aware, we currently have a situation where we have no authority or funds in our budget to pay salaries for the Regional Superintendents and their assistants. I firmly believe that Illinois must have a strong regional delivery system in order to support local educators as they implement our aggressive education reform agenda. The Illinois State Board of Education simply cannot provide the same service currently available through the 44 Regional Offices of Education and the three Intermediate Service Centers.

These Regional Superintendents and their assistants are in a very difficult situation. They have been working without pay since July 1 and like all of us, they have families to support and bills to pay. We are working with the Regional Superintendents and the Governor’s Office of Management and Budget to explore all possible options to pay a salary to the Regional Superintendents and alleviate their immediate hardship until the situation is resolved. Despite all of this uncertainty, these locally elected officials continue to report to work in order to meet the needs of their districts and I want to thank them for their personal and professional commitment to our education community.

This year we have taken some additional steps to be more proactive in our quality control efforts for our assessments. Previously, our efforts were complaint driven or self-reported from districts. This year, in an effort to increase accountability, transparency and public confidence in our testing system, I decided to initiate a multi-component analysis of state assessment results.

In cases where our analysis of multiple components presents a red flag, we will work with the local district to determine what may have occurred. This is not designed as a “gotcha” mechanism or an attack on those districts and schools that have worked so hard to successfully raise achievement; in fact, I believe this additional quality control will reaffirm that the overwhelming majority of us are committed to transparency and accountability and doing right by our students.

I also want you to be aware that we have finalized the General State Aid calculations and they will be ready for the first payment on Aug. 10. As noted previously, the amount appropriated in the FY 12 budget for GSA is approximately 5 percent less than what is needed to meet the foundation level. We will provide payments as we have in the past, not prorating individual payments but reducing the final payments by the amount of the shortfall. Additional detail on this follows the column, but in many cases districts will not receive their final June GSA payment, unless a supplemental appropriation is passed.

Finally, August is National Immunization Awareness Month. The Illinois State Board of Education and Illinois Department of Public Health are working together to remind parents of the importance of having their children immunized. We have been working with media to get this message out and have developed a joint letter that you can
send to parents to remind them. You can review and download the letter from our Website at http://www.isbe.net/board/supt/pdf/isbe_idph_immun_ltr0811.pdf.

Thanks and have a great week.

Chris

Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

- 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
- 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)
- FY 12 School Technology Revolving Loan Program (STRLP) application deadline – Dec. 1

Funding and Disbursement Services

**FY 2012 General State Aid Finalized**

The Fiscal Year 2012 General State Aid (GSA) calculations have been finalized. The first FY 2012 GSA payment will be made on Aug. 10. The $6,119 GSA foundation level was utilized in the GSA calculation based on a total budgeted FY 2012 appropriation of $4,448,104,514. The final GSA net entitlement based upon local tax revenue and average daily attendance information calculated to $4,679,299,867, leaving a shortage of $231,195,353. This shortage requires a proration of 95 percent, which has been applied towards the gross entitlement for each school district and regional office. The 95 percent proration is not being proportionally applied over the entire year. Consistent with prior years, the entire reduction is instead being applied in full to the last scheduled payments in June. For most districts, it eliminates the June 20 payment entirely. Final computations and individual claim information for school districts and regional offices can be accessed in GSA Inquiry at http://webprod1.isbe.net/gsainquiry/asp/default.asp.

If you have any questions about General State Aid or the computations, please contact Jim Mathes at jmathes@isbe.net or phone (217) 782-5256.

**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.

**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_instruction.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.

PARCC

Feedback Sought on Model Content Frameworks for Common Core Standards

On Aug. 3, the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers released draft model content frameworks for public review. The model content frameworks identify the main ideas in the Common Core State Standards for each grade level and will help determine the focus for various assessments being developed.

The draft frameworks in English language arts/literacy and mathematics will be posted on the PARCC Website at http://www.parcconline.org/parcc-content-frameworks until Aug. 17. Feedback is sought from K-12 educators, curriculum and assessment experts and other stakeholders via a survey at the site listed above. All feedback will be reviewed and final model content frameworks will be released in the fall.

PARCC is 24-state consortium working to develop common assessments, which is funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The alliance is led by the member states and Achieve, a nonprofit group that aims to align K-12 education policies with the demands of employers and the postsecondary community. Visit http://www.parcconline.org for more information.

Special Education

Registration Under Way for 2011 ISBE Transition Planning Institute

Registration is now open for the second annual Illinois State Board of Education Transition Planning Institute set for Sept. 20-21, 2011, at the Doubletree Hotel in Bloomington. The Transition Institute is sponsored by ISBE in collaboration with Illinois State University Department of Special Education and the National Secondary Transition Technical Assistance Center (NSTTAC).

This two-day event is for district teams who are new to the Transition Planning Institute and will include content sessions, team planning time and opportunities to talk to content experts and presenters. The focus of the institute is to assist selected school teams in reviewing their district’s transition-related data, learning from content experts and engaging in a facilitated action planning process in order to improve and/or scale-up implementation of transition-focused planning and education. Priority will be given to those districts who have been working with ISBE staff on the IND 13 Determination or Data Verification Audit. There is no registration fee and food will be provided.


For further information, contact Sue Walter at swalter@isbe.net or (618) 651-9028, Melanie Fleenor at mfleenor@isbe.net or Todd Williams at todwilli@isbe.net or (217) 782-5589.

Legal

New Law Allows School Districts to Charge More for Driver’s Education

Under Illinois law, school districts have been able to charge a fee not to exceed $50 to students who participate in a driver’s education course, unless a student is unable to pay for the course, in which event the fee must be waived. Public Act 97-145, signed by the governor on July 14, 2011, amends Section 27-24.2 of the School Code [105 ILCS 5/27-24.2] to allow a district to increase this fee to an amount not to exceed $250 (but must continue to waive the fee for students unable to afford the course).

Please note, however, that this increase in the fee that may be charged for driver’s education does not allow districts, in determining a reasonable fee, to include any portion of the salaries or benefits of school district personnel providing driver’s education in that equation.

Districts that wish to increase the fee for driver’s education to the new limit of $250, and that wish to use
salaries and benefits to justify the cost of this increase, will need to seek a waiver of rules (Section 252.30(a)(3)) from the State Board of Education to allow for consideration of personnel costs in setting the district’s fee. Information on the waiver process can be found online at [http://www.isbe.net/isbewaivers/default.htm](http://www.isbe.net/isbewaivers/default.htm) or call Rules and Waivers at (217) 782-5270.

Districts with an approved waiver from the General Assembly to raise fees above the former $50 limit set in the School Code will continue to hold that waiver until its expiration date. At that time, districts will face three possible situations:

- Districts intending to charge $250 or less, and not planning to use salary or benefits costs in their fee calculations, will not need to apply for a waiver, but will need to hold a public hearing and set the new fee via board resolution in accordance with PA 97-145.

- Districts intending to assess a fee of $250 or less, and planning to use salary and benefit costs in their fee calculations, will need to seek a waiver of rules from the State Board of Education allowing them to include such costs in their calculations.

- Districts choosing to request driver’s education fees above $250 will need to continue to seek a waiver of the School Code (105 ILCS 5/27-24.2) from the Illinois General Assembly. Districts should note the timelines that govern submission of such waiver requests (see the Website link above), since a waiver may not be implemented by a district until it has been approved by the General Assembly.

**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](mailto: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.

**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](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.

Student Opportunities
Application Available for U.S. Senate Youth Program and Hearst Scholarship

Information for the U.S. Senate Youth Program and Hearst Scholarship is available online at http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/html/hearst.htm. Each high school will receive a mailing from the state superintendent about the program and scholarship during the second week in August.

The first phase of this program brings two students from each state to Washington, D.C., March 3-10, 2012, to participate in the U.S. Senate Youth Program (USSYP).

Delegates will be immersed in Washington activities throughout their weeklong stay. The William Randolph Hearst Foundation will pay all expenses for the week, including transportation, hotel and meals.

The second phase awards both recipients a college scholarship of $5,000. The Hearst Foundation requires that to obtain scholarship funds, a student must, within two years after high-school graduation, enroll at an accredited college or university in the U.S. The student is encouraged to include courses in government or related subjects to his or her undergraduate program.

In addition to the application in the August packet, applications can be obtained on the Illinois State Board of Education Web site at http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/hearst_brochure.pdf. A hard copy must be received by ISBE no later than 5 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2011.

More information on this program can be obtained at http://www.hearstfdn.org/ussyp/, or contact Sally Veach, principal education consultant, at (217) 782-5589 or sveach@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