Last week brought some good news on multiple fronts. The U.S. Department of Education (USED) released its list of Blue Ribbon Schools. 305 schools nationally are being recognized by the USED for high student achievement levels or for exemplary work in narrowing the achievement gaps. In Illinois, 19 schools were singled out for Blue Ribbon status, and we send our congratulations to all of them. You can find the announcement and listing of all the Blue Ribbon schools at http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/us-secretary-education-arne-duncan-recognizes-305-schools-2011-national-blue-rib.

Also, the Comptroller’s Office has made or is making payments of the June MCATs. Last week, $93 million in Special Education personnel funding was released and $73 million in Special Education transportation funding was released. Currently, the state backlog for education funding stands at about $430 million, $248 million is owed to schools from last fiscal year and $182 million is owed to schools to date in FY 12. The overall state backlog of bills stands at approximately $3.7 billion.

As part of his American Jobs Act, President Obama has proposed providing significant federal funding for school building renovation and modernization projects. The total amount being proposed nationwide for school building improvements is $25 billion, with an additional $5 billion for community college infrastructure upgrades. Here in Illinois, the proposal would mean approximately $1.1 billion for building improvements in K-12 facilities. You can access more information on this program at http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/09/13/fact-sheet-repairing-and-modernizing-americas-schools.

Finally, I wanted to let you know that we are establishing a Kindergarten Individual Development Survey (KIDS) Advisory Committee comprised of early childhood experts who will assist us as we move forward with recommendations for developing a comprehensive kindergarten readiness assessment process.

The KIDS Advisory Committee will guide our efforts as we consider survey tools and potential improvements to existing testing instruments; provide background, research and advice on communications planning, professional development training, and financial resource needs; and offer expertise on how to best build a high quality data system that will support and improve children’s learning.

Committee members have been identified and are being confirmed. A meeting schedule will be posted on the Kindergarten Corner Website, http://www.isbe.net/earlychi/html/kindergarten_corner.htm.

Have a great week.

Chris
Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

- Illinois Association of Title I Directors fall conference in Springfield – Sept. 21-22
- Illinois Alliance of Administrators of Special Education fall conference in Tinley Park – Sept. 22-23
- “How Can I Help? The Summit on Aging Education and Service” in Normal – Sept. 26
- Parent Involvement Regional Summit in Lisle – Oct. 3
- ARRA FTE jobs and vendor data for the quarter ending Sept. 30 due at ISBE – Oct. 5
- National Dropout Prevention Conference in Schaumburg – Oct. 9-12
- ISBE offices closed for Columbus Day – Oct. 10
- Parent Involvement Regional Summit in Marion – Oct. 11
- Parent Involvement Regional Summit in Alsip – Oct. 14
- 2011 Reduction in Force Survey deadline – Oct. 17
- 2011-12 School District Budget form – Adopted by Sept. 30 and due to ISBE by Oct. 30
- Parent Involvement Regional Summit in Springfield – Nov. 1
- National Refugee and Immigrant Conference: Issues and Innovations in Chicago – Nov. 7-8
- 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)
- ISBE offices closed for Thanksgiving – Nov. 24 and 25
- 2012 Illinois Arts Education Week Poster Contest deadline – Nov. 30
- FY 12 School Technology Revolving Loan Program (STRLP) application deadline – Dec. 1
- Postmark deadline for waiver applications to be considered by General Assembly in Spring ’12 – Jan. 13

Public Act 94-1039

An Important Update on the Illinois New Principal Mentoring Program

Per Public Act 94-1039, school districts are charged with the responsibility of ensuring each first year principal in Illinois is mentored by a qualified, highly-trained mentor if adequate state funding has been made available to support the Illinois New Principal Mentoring program. Since funding for the new principal mentoring program was reduced to $1 in the fiscal year 2012 state budget, school districts will not be required to have their first year principals mentored unless funding is restored prior to the start of the calendar year.

School districts may choose, and are encouraged to, continue to provide local district mentoring for new principals in lieu of the state program. Please contact the mentoring provider in your area to learn more about new principal mentoring options that may be available. (http://www.ilprincipalmentoring.org/contact_info/Provider%20Contact%20Page.html) ISBE will continue to update school districts about the Illinois New Principal Mentoring program as information becomes available.

2011 Reduction in Force Survey Now Available on IWAS

The 2011 Reduction in Force Survey is available on IWAS. The deadline for districts to submit this report of tenured and non-tenured teacher dismissals due to reduction in force is Oct. 17, 2011. Per Section 10-20.26 of the School Code, the survey also requests information on the number of teachers rehired and positions eliminated.

Your timely response to this data collection is greatly appreciated. Please note that the Oct. 15 deadline in statute falls on a weekend this year. For this reason, the deadline to submit has been moved to the next ISBE business day after the weekend, i.e., Oct. 17. If you have questions about the survey, please contact Niann-Tsyr Chern in the Data Analysis and Progress Reporting Division at (217) 782-3950 or nchern@isbe.net.

Funding and Disbursement Services

Child Nutrition Claims – Due Date Changes

In June 2011, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) provided clarification to the Child Nutrition Program Regulations and 60-90 Day Claim Guidance in regards to claim due dates. Previously the Illinois State
Board of Education (ISBE) instructed program sponsors that all original claims must be submitted within 60 calendar days after the end of the claiming month and that upward revised claims must be submitted within 90 calendar days after the end of the claiming month in order to be paid with program funds.

The USDA has clarified that federal regulations require ALL valid final claims to be submitted no later than 60 calendar days following the last day of the full month covered by the claim. This means that all original claims and upward revisions are due within 60 calendar days. Downward revisions may continue to be submitted at any time.

Effective with October 2011 claims, all original claims and upward revised claims must be submitted by sponsors within 60 calendar days of the end of the claiming month in order to be paid with program funds.

### CLAIM DUE DATES

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<th>Claim Month</th>
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If you have any claim questions, please contact Funding and Disbursements staff at (217) 782-5256.

### Updated Handbook for Federal and State Grant Recipients Available Online

The Division of Funding and Disbursement Services have made extensive changes to the State and Federal Grant Administration Policy, Fiscal Requirements and Procedures handbook, which can be accessed at [http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/fiscal_procedure_handb k.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/fiscal_procedure_handb k.pdf). The grants handbook is a useful reference document for state and federal grant recipients on a variety of general grant related issues. The handbook does not replace or supersede any unique program requirements, statute or rules.

Highlights of the major changes include:

- New glossary of acronyms and grant terms (Pages 2-5)
- Revisions to Grant Policy Statements (Pages 6-7)
- New language on state and federal payment schedules and expenditure reports (Pages 15-17)
- New language on supporting documentation for salaries and wages per Federal OMB Circular A-87 (Page 30)
- New language on time and effort reporting (Pages 31-33)
- New section on Grant Funds Recovery Act (Pages 39-40)
- New section on supplement vs. supplant and maintenance of effort (Pages 43-45)

If you have questions, contact Kim Lewis at klewis@isbe.net or Sally Cray at scray@isbe.net or (217) 782-5256.


American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs and vendor data for the quarter ending Sept. 30, 2011, is due at the Illinois State Board of Education on or before Wednesday, Oct. 5.

ARRA data reporting includes two primary elements: the number of jobs funded in the reporting quarter with ARRA dollars and a single payment made to a vendor, using ARRA dollars, in the amount of $25,000 or more. All ARRA data must be reported via the ARRA Reporting System in IWAS. Please refer to the ARRA Reporting Instructions at [http://www.isbe.net/arra/pdf/arra_reporting_inst.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/arra/pdf/arra_reporting_inst.pdf) for detailed reporting procedures.

ARRA data must be reported regardless of whether any jobs were funded or any payments were made to a vendor of $25,000 or more in the reporting quarter. Please follow these three steps below to properly calculate the jobs FTE that must be reported for the period ending Sept. 30.

- **Step 1:** Determine the number of hours in a full-time schedule for ARRA funded employees between July 1 and Sept. 30 (i.e. an employee works 40 hours a week for 13 weeks, the quarterly hours in a full-time schedule is 520 hours). Note: This figure may change depending on the type of employee.
- **Step 2:** Determine the number of hours employees were paid with ARRA funds for the reporting quarter ending Sept. 30.
• **Step 3:** Divide the number calculated in Step 2 by the quarterly hours in a full-time schedule calculated in Step 1. This calculation should be performed for each employee funded with ARRA dollars. The formula for reporting can be represented as:

\[
\text{Total Number of Hours ARRA Funded Within Reporting Quarter} \div \text{Quarterly Hours in a Full-Time Schedule} = \text{FTE}
\]

Sept. 30 ARRA data must be reported for the following ARRA programs if your LEA has been awarded or received funds:

- **Title I Low Income** – Revenue Code 4851, CFDA #84.394
- **Title I Low Income Neglected** – Revenue Code 4852, CFDA #84.394
- **Title I Low Income Delinquent** – Revenue Code 4853, CFDA #84.394
- **Title I School Improvement** – Revenue Code 4854, CFDA #84.394
- **Title I School Improvement (1003g)** – Revenue Code 4855, CFDA #84.388
- **IDEA Part B Preschool** – Revenue Code 4856, CFDA #84.392
- **IDEA Part B Flow Through** – Revenue Code 4857, CFDA #84.391
- **Title II D Enhancing Education Through Technology** – Revenue Code 4861, CFDA #84.386
- **McKinney Vento Homeless Education** – Revenue Code 4862, CFDA #84.387
- **Education Jobs Fund Program** – Revenue Code 4880, CFDA #84.410 (If compensation and/or benefits have been or will be requested for employees from July through September)

If you have any questions, contact Funding and Disbursement Services at (217) 782-5256.

**EDUCATION JOBS ARRA REPORTING REMINDER – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY:** If the LEA has submitted or plans to submit an expenditure report requesting reimbursement of qualifying expenditures (i.e. compensation and benefit costs) between July 1 and Sept. 30 the full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs and vendor data must be reported for the period ending Sept. 30 even if an expenditure report for reimbursement has yet to be filed for that reporting quarter. For example, if the LEA is going to submit in mid-October an Ed Jobs expenditure report requesting reimbursement of compensation and benefits expended during the reporting quarter ending Sept. 30, the LEA is required to report FTE jobs and vendor data to ISBE on or before the required ARRA reporting deadline of Oct. 5 even though the expenditure report has not yet been submitted by the LEA. This is true for any subsequent quarter.

Further, once the LEA begins to request Ed Jobs expenditure reimbursement they are obligated to report ARRA FTE jobs and vendor data via the ARRA Reporting System every subsequent quarter until all Ed Jobs Funds have been requested and reported, even if no expenditure reports for reimbursement have been submitted in the current ARRA reporting quarter. For example, if the LEA requested reimbursement and reported ARRA data through June 30 but has no Ed Jobs expenditures between July 1 and Sept. 30, they must still submit ARRA FTE jobs and vendor data for the Sept. 30 ARRA reporting quarter that reflects that 0 FTE jobs or vendor payments were funded with Ed Jobs dollars during the reporting quarter. Again, the LEA must continue to submit ARRA data reports for each reporting quarter, beginning with the quarter in which the compensation funding start date occurs until all Ed Jobs funds have been requested and reported.

If you have further questions or concerns with the Ed Jobs program contact Jim Mathes at jmathes@isbe.net or Marj Beck at mbeck@isbe.net. Both can be reached at (217) 782-5256.

**Selected ARRA Programs Final Obligation Date Sept. 30, 2011**

The final date for grant recipients that have been awarded funds under selected programs for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) is Sept. 30, 2011. This date is applicable to all grant recipients with active FY 2011 projects that were provided project date extensions to Sept. 30. However, if an ARRA grant recipient with a FY 2011 project that ended June 30 or Aug. 31 has unexpended funds that could be obligated by Sept. 30, please contact the Division of Funding and Disbursement Services at 217-782-5256 to request an extension to obligate those funds. It is critical that all activities and final ARRA obligations occur on or before Sept. 30. Extensions past Sept. 30 cannot be granted. Any unexpended funds reflected on final expenditure reports must be returned. The list of the ARRA programs that will expire are provided below with the ARRA program name, followed by the revenue codes, and the corresponding federal CFDA #.
• **Title I Low Income**: Revenue Codes 4851, 4852, 4853, 4854; Federal CFDA# 84.389
• **Sp Ed IDEA Part B Preschool**: Revenue Code 4856; Federal CFDA# 84.392
• **Sp Ed IDEA Part B Flow Through**: Revenue Code 4857; Federal CFDA# 84.391
• **Title II D Technology**: Revenue Code 4861; Federal CFDA# 84.386
• **McKinney Vento Homeless**: Revenue Code 4862; Federal CFDA# 84.387

To assist you with what constitutes an obligation please see below:

- **If the obligation is for**: Acquisition of real or personal property. **The obligation is made**: On the date on which a written commitment to acquire the property has been made.
- **If the obligation is for**: Personal services by an employee. **The obligation is made**: When the service has been performed.
- **If the obligation is for**: Personal services by a contractor (not an employee). **The obligation is made**: On the date on which a binding written commitment to obtain the services has been made.
- **If the obligation is for**: Performance of work other than a personal service. **The obligation is made**: On the date on which a binding written commitment to obtain the work has been made.
- **If the obligation is for**: Public utility service. **The obligation is made**: When the service is received.
- **If the obligation is for**: Travel. **The obligation is made**: When the travel is taken.
- **If the obligation is for**: g) rental of real or personal property. **The obligation is made**: When the property is used.
- **If the obligation is for**: h) a preagreement cost that was properly approved by the State. **The obligation is made**: When the preagreement costs were approved by the State.

If you have any questions, contact ISBE’s Division of Funding and Disbursement Services at (217) 782-5256.

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**CDC**

**School Health Guidelines to Promote Healthy Eating and Physical Activity**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Division of Adolescent and School Health recently released the School Health Guidelines to Promote Healthy Eating and Physical Activity. This new resource updates and combines previous guidelines last published in the 1990s. Schools play a critical role in improving the dietary and physical activity behaviors of students and the critical health outcomes and diseases they influence, such as obesity, diabetes and heart disease.

Developed in collaboration with nutrition and physical activity experts across the nation, the guidelines identify the most effective policies and practices schools can implement to help young people adopt and maintain healthy eating habits and a physically active lifestyle. CDC synthesized research and best practices related to promoting healthy eating and physical activity in schools, culminating in nine guidelines. These guidelines were informed by the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, the Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans and the Healthy People 2020 objectives related to healthy eating and physical activity among children and adolescents (including associated school objectives).

Collectively, the nine guidelines serve as the foundation for developing, implementing, and evaluating school-based healthy eating and physical activity policies and practices for students. Individually, they emphasize and address:

- Coordination in developing, implementing, and evaluating healthy eating and physical activity policies and practices.
- School environments that support healthy eating and physical activity.
- Healthy food choices at school.
- Comprehensive physical activity programs with quality physical education.
- Health education that provides students with the knowledge, attitudes, skills, and experiences they need for healthy eating and physical activity.
- Health, mental health, and social services to address healthy eating, physical activity, and related chronic disease prevention.
- Partnering with families and community members to develop and implement healthy eating and physical activity policies, practices, and programs.
- Providing a school employee wellness program that includes healthy eating and physical activity services.
- Employing qualified individuals, and providing professional development opportunities for staff working in school health-related positions.
Each of the guidelines is accompanied by a set of strategies that can help schools work toward achieving each guideline. Although the ultimate goal is to implement all nine guidelines, not every strategy will be appropriate for every school, and some schools, due to resource limitations, might need to implement the guidelines incrementally.

Bullying Prevention

Coalition Working to Implement Task Force’s Recommendations

Gov. Quinn signed the Illinois Prevent School Violence Act amendments just in time for the 2010-11 school year. Now, efforts are under way continuing to implement the act’s important tenets, which include the first-ever definition of bullying in Illinois law, enumerated categories of students particularly vulnerable to bullying, and an expansion of the law’s reach to include private, non-religious schools. For a copy of the act, go to [http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/96/PDF/096-0952.pdf](http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/96/PDF/096-0952.pdf).


The Prevent School Violence Illinois coalition, a group of organizations across the state committed to effective bullying prevention and intervention, has taken up the work of implementing the task force’s recommendations by raising awareness, connecting stakeholders, and providing expertise and resources. Drawing from the recommendations, the coalition recognizes:

- That bullying negatively affects every person within a school community and the climate of the school community itself;
- That bullying prevention is most effective when it accounts for the unique issues of a particular school community;
- That the impacts of systemic issues (e.g., racism, classism, religious bias, adultism, disability discrimination and homophobia) contribute to negative environments for youth and adults;
- That Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) is as important as math and English; and
- That overreliance on punitive school discipline detracts from a school community’s ability to provide optimal conditions for learning and development and must be replaced by restorative measures.

For more about Prevent School Violence Illinois, contact Sarah Schriber at sarah@illinoissafeschools.org or (312) 368-9070, ext. 323.

Special Education

Public Act 97-0284 Addresses 70/30 Rule in Regards to Speech/Language Students

Due to the passage and immediate implementation of Public Act 97-0284, districts will no longer have to include students with an eligibility of Speech/Language only when determining the composition of a classroom for the purpose of meeting the 70/30 rule, provided each student meets the following criteria:

- The student must be receiving only speech services outside of the general education classroom.
- The instruction provided the student in the general education classroom does not require modification.

Those districts with classrooms not meeting the 70/30 rule even after excluding Speech/Language students from the count of students with individualized education plans (IEPs) will still need to apply for a deviation. In completing the required documentation, districts will still be required to include information regarding Speech/Language students for data-gathering purposes only. Instructions and the form for completing a deviation request can be found at [http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/34-38_deviation_70-30.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/34-38_deviation_70-30.pdf). Please direct any questions to Betty Hendrickson at bhendric@isbe.net or Jason Pals at jpals@isbe.net or call (217) 782-5589.

Career and Technical Education

Webinar on High School to College Success Report to be Held Oct. 11

The Webinar “Illinois High School to College Feedback Report 101: An Introduction to the New Illinois High School to College Success Report” is set for 1:30-2:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 11.

In June 2011, the Illinois State Board of Education, the Illinois Community College Board and the Illinois Board of Higher Education released the first High School to
College Success Report. This presentation will cover the origin, scope, and uses of this report.

For more information and to register, visit https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/913636961.

**Nutrition**

**Applications Available Online for Share Your Breakfast Grants**

Targeting schools with 50 percent or greater free-and reduced-price eligibility, competitive grants ranging from $750-$1,000 are available through Kellogg’s and Action for Healthy Kids Share Your Breakfast program.

The primary goal is to increase the average daily participation in breakfast of the grantees by 25 percent. A secondary goal is to mobilize parents and youth as advocates and implementers of the school breakfast initiatives through Action for Healthy Kids’s core school health programs, Game On! The Ultimate Wellness Challenge, Fuel Up to Play 60, and Students Taking Charge.

A Webinar on this grant opportunity is set for 3-4 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 21, 2011. The due date to submit the application is Sept. 30. Visit the following Website to register for the Webinar and complete the application: http://www.actionforhealthykids.org/campaigns/breakfast/.

**Innovation and Improvement**

**ISBE's 2011 Parent Involvement Regional Summits Return in October**

The Illinois State Board of Education's Division of Innovation and Improvement is pleased to announce the 2011 Fall Parent Involvement Regional Summits to be offered at four Illinois locations. The Regional Fall Summits, created for Title I School Teams, have been developed to assist districts and schools in the development and planning of strategies that sustain parent partnerships and to improve skills that join families and schools on a common path to student achievement.

**Summit 2:** This working session will resume the work started in the spring summits. Using data specific to each school, this session will lead the school’s team through an evaluative action planning process and the development of a ready-to-implement plan that will satisfy family engagement requirements for school improvement planning. Break-out sessions will serve elementary, middle school and high school levels with practitioners from the spring Summits returning to provide support.

**Participants will:**

- Take away ready-to-implement strategies for family engagement.
- Build a network of support for future work in family engagement.
- Gain experience in tools and processes that will assist in future school improvement planning.

**NOTE:** School teams must complete the assignment from the spring summits prior to attending the fall summits. The assignment can be found at http://www.illinoisparents.org/isbesummitinfo.htm.

School Title I Teams should include administrators, school faculty and parents who are not employees of the school or district which they represent. Fall summit dates and times are listed below:

- Monday, Oct. 3 – Lisle Hilton, Lisle
- Tuesday, Oct. 11 – Williamson County Pavilion, Marion
- Friday, Oct. 14 – DoubleTree, Alsip
- Tuesday, Nov. 1 – Springfield Hilton, Springfield

All sessions are from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. with check-in beginning at 9 a.m. Lunch will be provided. Schools can register their teams of two or more for one of the sessions at http://webapps.isbe.net/ISBEConference or www.IllinoisParents.org Please note the registration closing dates below.

- Lisle – Extended to Sept. 26
- Marion – Sept. 28
- Alsip – Sept. 28
- Springfield – Oct. 17

The Illinois State Board of Education’s Parent Involvement Regional Summits are the collaborative work of The Academic Development Institute, Great Lakes West Comprehensive Center and the Illinois Parent Information Resource Center (PIRC).

**Illinois Arts Education Week**

**K-8 Public and Private School Students Invited to Participate in Poster Contest**

Illinois public and private school students in grades kindergarten through eighth-grade are eligible to enter
the 2012 Illinois Arts Education Week Poster Contest. Illinois Arts Education Week is set for March 12-18 next year, as designated by Gov. Pat Quinn. The poster contest is sponsored in cooperation with the Illinois Alliance for Arts Education and the Illinois State Board of Education.

The winner of the annual contest is featured on a poster to celebrate Illinois Arts Education Week. Last year’s winner was Nicole Maslow of Hinsdale South High School SD 86. High school students competed last year in the poster contest and will again next year in the alternating contest. This year’s theme is “Be Art Smart” and should represent the four art areas of dance, drama, music and visual arts.

For details on criteria and how to enter, visit http://www.isbe.net/curriculum/html/arts_week.htm. The deadline to enter is Nov. 30. Questions should be directed to Cornelia Powell at cpowell@isbe.net or (217) 557-7323.

Rules and Waivers

Notice of Completed Rulemaking

Please be advised that three rulemakings specific to special education certification are now in effect. These rules have been posted on the agency’s website at http://www.isbe.net/rules. Please choose “Rules Currently in Effect” and then scroll to Parts 25, 28 and 226.

P.A. 97-461 (SB 1794), effective August 19, 2011, authorized the State Board of Education to use peremptory rulemaking to put into the Illinois Administrative Code policies and guidelines ordered by the federal court in what is commonly referred to as the Corey H. matter. The changes made in Parts 25 and 226 incorporate four sets of guidelines (“25 Appendix C”, “226 Final Transition Rules”, “25 Final Transition Rules” and “Section 25.805”) as they were ordered by the court. In addition, standards for the certification of special educators can be found in new Part 28. To review each of these policies and guidelines, collectively referred to as the “transition rules”, go to http://www.isbe.net/rules/archive/default.htm, “Rules Affected by Federal Court Action.”

The changes made in the rules by these policies and guidelines implement the system of cross-categorical certification that was ordered by the court in 2001 and 2002. Since this system has been in place since that time, no changes will be required in educator preparation programs or in criteria for obtaining special education certification as a result of these rulemakings.

A brief description of the changes in each of the rules and a list of the sections affected is provided below.

**Part 25 (Certification):** Incorporates the system of certification for special education personnel ordered by the federal court beginning in 2001, which represent the way in which special education staff is currently certified. Incorporates and clearly expresses the policies and guidelines the court ordered to be implemented within the context of the current language of the rules, as described below:

- P.A. 93-679, effective June 30, 2004, eliminated the requirement that each school district have a local professional development committee (LPDC), as well as the requirement for the LPDC to approve a teacher’s plan for continuing professional development, and placed in statute a key component of Corey H. policies and guidelines regarding the percentage of activities that both special education teachers and general education teachers must devote to special education topics during each five-year renewal cycle;
- P.A. 95-793, effective August 8, 2008, eliminated continuing education units (“CEUs”) from the choices available to teachers to meet continuing professional development requirements; and
- Previous streamlining affected the way in which certain of the requirements of the “transition rules” have been placed in Sections 25.11, 25.805 and 25.880.


**Effective Date:** August 22, 2011

**Part 28 (Standards for Certification of Special Educators):** Establishes standards for all special educators and for each type of endorsement for which a special educator may apply, which were to be incorporated into preparation programs that prepare special education personnel, and beginning on January 1, 2003 (or another date as stated in the rules), reflected in the content of examinations that candidates must pass in order to receive a particular special education endorsement.
Effective Date: August 22, 2011

Part 226 (Special Education): Aligns Part 226 to the system of certification for special education teachers that is set forth in Part 25, as described above.

Affected Sections: 226.800, 226.810, 226.820, and 226.840
Effective Date: August 22, 2011

### School Opportunities

#### Recycling Competition Kicks Off Next Month

Keep America Beautiful is holding a nationwide recycling competition for K-12 schools. The Recycle-Bowl is separated into two divisions, the Competition Division and the Open Division. Schools can choose to register for either, based on eligibility requirements and the school’s ability to meet division standards.

The registration deadline is Oct. 10, and the competition kicks off Oct. 17. For official rules and more information, visit [http://recycle-bowl.org](http://recycle-bowl.org) or e-mail info@recycle-bowl.org. Keep America Beautiful, which was established in 1953, is a volunteer-based community action and education organization. To learn more, visit [http://www.kab.org](http://www.kab.org).

#### Professional Development

#### National Refugee and Immigrant Conference Coming Up in Chicago


This conference is a collaboration of the Illinois State Board of Education, the Illinois Department of Public Health, the Illinois Department of Human Services, Chicago Public Schools, The Center/Adult Learning Resource Center, Heartland Health Outreach, Heartland Alliance for Human Needs and Human Rights, Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights and the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago.

Conference sessions include:

- preschool and K-12 educational issues for refugee and immigrant students,
- health care,
- family support services,
- employment,
- citizenship education and immigration reform.

The registration fee is $250 for both days or $125 per day.

For more information, including the conference overview and registration packet, go to [http://www.thecenterweb.org/alrc/refugee.html](http://www.thecenterweb.org/alrc/refugee.html). If you have any questions regarding the conference, contact Lynn Osheff at (224) 366-8632 or by e-mail at losheff@cntrmail.org.

#### Student Opportunities

#### Annual Prudential Spirit of Community Awards Honor Top Student Volunteers

Illinois students in grades 5-12 can apply for the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, which will honor two top youth volunteers from each state and the District of Columbia.

The deadline to apply for the 17th annual awards is Nov. 1 with winners to be announced Feb. 7. The top middle school and high school volunteer from Illinois will have an opportunity to travel in the spring to Washington, D.C.

The awards are presented by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals. Last year’s Illinois winners were Elizabeth Lee of Bloomingdale and Glennita Williams of South Holland.

Young volunteers can apply online at [http://spirit.prudential.com](http://spirit.prudential.com) or at [http://www.principals.org/spirit](http://www.principals.org/spirit). A paper version of the application form for those without Internet access is available by calling (877) 525-8491 toll free.

#### Publishing Company Offers Scholarship for Create-A-Greeting Card Contest

The Prudent Publishing Co. is holding its fifth annual Create-A-Greeting Card Scholarship Contest. The winner receives a $10,000 scholarship, and a $1,000 prize goes to the winner’s school. The deadline to enter is Jan. 14,
High school students (ages 14 or older) are eligible to compete. (College students and military personnel are also eligible.) Contest participants should register at http://www.gallerycollection.com/greetingcardscontests.htm. Visit the Website for complete rules and sample cards.

**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**