Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

Late last week President Obama announced his plans to allow states to seek waivers to the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) or the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). It is very likely that we will seek a waiver to NCLB. Philosophically we support the broad principles that have been outlined thus far, but we really do need to see the details and determine the type of flexibility for which we would be eligible, as well as, any and all requirements that need to be put in place by the State and school districts in exchange for such flexibility.

I was at the White House when the President made his announcement, and he made it clear that the goals for ESEA will remain high. He stressed the need to have rigorous standards to challenge students and educators alike to increase America’s global competitiveness. Many of you are aware that some feel that the President has overstepped his authority and is trying to circumvent the Congress to modify existing law through the waiver process. My preference remains a newly authorized ESEA; however, short of reauthorization I believe we must explore a waiver opportunity.

The U.S. Department of Education (USED) has outlined areas specifically in which they want to move education through the waiver process, which include requiring states seeking waivers to:

- Adopt college and career ready standards and assessments;
- Develop a new generation of accountability, recognition and support systems; and
- Improve evaluation of principal and teacher effectiveness.

I believe that Illinois is well-positioned to receive a waiver. USED has said that waivers will be available in several areas, but most notably we would have the ability to seek flexibility from: the 2013-14 requirement of 100 percent of students meeting and exceeding state standards; district and school improvement requirements; and additional uses of federal funds.

We have received more than 550 responses to our survey (http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ESEAWaivers) seeking input from the field as to where you would like to see changes in ESEA. I encourage you to continue to provide input in response to that survey instrument for the next couple of weeks, as we receive additional guidance from the USED. So far, your responses have tracked very closely with the flexibilities that are being offered. More than half of you have said that you favor flexibility for a new accountability model, which is more realistic based on student growth and you also favor additional flexibility to utilize Title I funds for more school-wide activities.

We will be working with the USED staff over the next couple of weeks to better understand the waiver process and we will also continue to analyze the applications to determine what will be required from the state and districts if we do seek a waiver so that we know what our options are and how it will impact our students and educators here in Illinois.

Have a good week.

Chris
Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

- Parent Involvement Fall Summit, Hilton Lisle – Oct. 3
- 21st CCLC New Grantee Workshop, Bloomington Marriott Convention Center – Oct. 4
- ARRA FTE jobs and vendor data for the quarter ending Sept. 30 due at ISBE – Oct. 5
- 21st CCLC New Staff Workshop, Bloomington Marriott Convention Center – Oct. 5
- 21st CCLC Fall Workshop, Bloomington Marriott Convention Center – Oct. 6
- 21st CCLC Project Directors Meeting, Bloomington Marriott Convention Center – Oct. 6
- National Dropout Prevention Conference in Schaumburg – Oct. 9-12
- ISBE offices closed for Columbus Day – Oct. 10
- Parent Involvement Fall Summit, The Pavilion Marion – Oct. 11
- Parent Involvement Fall Summit, Double Tree Alsip – Oct. 13
- 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 Fall Summit, Hilton Springfield – Nov. 1
- Parent Involvement Regional Summit in Springfield – Nov. 1
- National Refugee and Immigrant Conference: Issues and Innovations in Chicago – Nov. 7-8
- Gifted Advisory Council ISBE Springfield Office – Nov. 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
- FY12 NCLB Monitoring Instrument – Nov. 30
- FY12 NCLB Title I Comparability Analysis – Nov. 30
- 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

PEAC

Educators Invited to Upcoming Public Forums Scheduled Across the State

Teachers and administrators can weigh in on recommended changes to their evaluation systems at upcoming forums to be held across the state. Meetings will be held from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the following cities:

- Oct. 6: Elgin, Auditorium, Elgin High School, 1200 Maroon Drive
- Oct. 11: Lombard, Glenn Westlake Middle School, 1514 S. Main St.
- Oct. 17: Belleville, Belleville-East Campus, 2555 West Boulevard
- Oct. 25: Marion, meeting site to be determined
- Oct. 27: Bloomington, meeting site to be determined

Additional forums will be held in Chicago and Rock Island – exact dates and sites to be determined.

The 90-minute sessions will provide a chance for educators to learn what the state’s Performance Evaluation Advisory Council of educators and experts has recommended. Participants will have an opportunity to share their thoughts with leaders of the Illinois State Board of Education before the new rules are drafted.


U.S. Department of Education

President Obama to Deliver Annual Back-to-School Speech on Sept. 28

President Barack Obama will deliver his third annual Back-to-School Speech at 12:30 p.m. CDT on Wednesday, Sept. 28, 2011. The president will speak at Benjamin Banneker Academic High School in Washington, D.C. Information on a live stream of President Obama’s Back-to-School Speech will be coming soon at [http://www.whitehouse.gov/back-to-school](http://www.whitehouse.gov/back-to-school).
Schools across the country can watch the speech live on MSNBC as a special feature of NBC News’ “Education Nation” – part of NBC’s weeklong commitment to education reports and programming across the network’s shows and platforms beginning Sept. 25. In past years, President Obama has encouraged students to study hard and take responsibility for their education, urging students to set goals, to believe in themselves, and to be the authors of their own destinies.

External Assurance

NCLB Monitoring Instrument and NCLB Title I Comparability

The FY12 NCLB Monitoring Instrument is available for completion and submission in the IWAS system. The due date is Wednesday, Nov. 30.

All districts receiving NCLB funding are required to submit the document every year. As before, the previous year’s information will be imported to the document and the district should ensure its accuracy before submitting. Each “Comment/Proof Indicator” should contain documents that support your answers.

There is a sample list of proof indicators on the External Assurance Web site at http://www.isbe.net/ea/htm/proof_indicators.doc.

The Title I Comparability analysis will load your previous year’s data as it relates to teacher’s names and positions if you used the “pupil/staff” ratio in your comparison. This application is also located on the IWAS system, districts that are “exempt” may simply select the “Exempt” radio button and then “Submit.” Their submittal requirements will have been met when the superintendent submits it.

Districts requiring a comparison will have all of their district’s school buildings imported from the FY12 NCLB Consolidated Application. Districts will have to account for all of their buildings through exclusions or in a comparison with other schools of similar student enrollment and grade spans. The written procedures and board approved equivalency policies and salary schedules for districts will need to be added in their appropriate window. Current student enrollment for each building will need to be supplied for any of the comparison ratios you select to use.

Districts will need to define the various comparison classifications. For example if a district has both large and small elementary schools with similar grade spans, they may define both in the system to avoid comparing larger and smaller schools in the same comparison. Classifying the buildings according to enrollment size should be based on the larger schools having at least twice the enrollment size of the other schools with a similar grade span. A “User’s Guide” is located on the menu bar of the comparability application and on our External Assurance Website.

All districts receiving Title I funds must complete the document. Failure to comply will result in program funds being frozen and a recovery of expenditures of Title I funds in buildings where they are determined to be non-comparable.

If you have questions concerning the Title I Comparability or the Monitoring Instrument, contact Paul Williams, External Assurance, at (217) 782-7970 or pwilliam@isbe.net.

Data Analysis and Progress Reporting

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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If you have any claim questions, call (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_handbook.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/fiscal_procedure_handbook.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)

Questions? Contact Kim Lewis at klewis@isbe.net or Sally Cray at scray@isbe.net or (217) 782-5256.

**Sept. 30, 2011, ARRA Jobs and Vendor Data Due Oct. 5, 2011**

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:

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

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, 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 services 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, call (217) 782-5256.

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](mailto:sarah@illinoissafeschools.org) or (312) 368-9070, ext. 323.

**Special Education**

**Timely and Meaningful Consultation Documentation Reminder for Districts**

It’s the time of the year when districts should be planning to complete its annual timely and meaningful consultation (“TMC”) with private schools and families of home-schoolers with disabilities. Please remember that this is a requirement for any district that has known home-school students and private school students with disabilities regardless of whether your district has funds to expend on such students. Also, please note the requirement to provide families in your district with a public notice of the TMC requirement even if you do not have any private schools in your district. The specific steps for conducting TMC can be found in our guidance memos located at [http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/Memo_08-2_Clarification.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/Memo_08-2_Clarification.pdf), [http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/guidance_06-3.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/guidance_06-3.pdf) and [http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/guidance_06-2.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/guidance_06-2.pdf). The affirmation form can be accessed at [http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/pvtschAppA.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/pvtschAppA.pdf).

Please plan on completing your TMC by no later than Oct. 15, 2011, and submitting your documentation of the TMC by Nov. 1, 2011. For questions, contact Special Education Services at (217) 782-5589.

**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. 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’ 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).

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.

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 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.

Professional Development
Annual Statewide Child Abuse Prevention Conference Coming Up

Registration is open for the 17th annual Statewide Child Abuse Prevention Conference, which is set for Oct. 20 and 21 in Springfield. This year’s conference is titled “Safe and Healthy Children – Making the Investment.”

The conference features four plenary sessions and 21 breakout sessions addressing current and emerging issues in the field of child development and wellbeing. The conference is for professionals working with children and families in any related field – education, early childhood, social work, healthcare, counseling, law enforcement, home visiting and more.


School Opportunities
Schools Encouraged to Participate in International Walk to School Day

The 15th annual International Walk to School Day is set for Wednesday, Oct. 5. The event aims to encourage safer and improved routes to school, healthier habits and environmental concern.

This event is organized by the National Safe Routes to School Program. Details and resources related to the event are available at http://www.walktoschool.org and http://www.dot.il.gov/green/IWTSD.html. In Illinois, the event is sponsored by the Illinois New Principal Mentoring Program and IDOT’s Green Initiative. Schools are encouraged to inform IDOT of their plans to participate. Contact IDOT at william.e.hall@illinois.gov or (815) 434-8520.

Schools that plan to participate in the event are encouraged to spend time instructing students on pedestrian and bicycle safety prior to International Walk to School Day. Additional information on bicycle and pedestrian safety is available through the Illinois Department of Transportation Website at http://www.dot.il.gov/bikemap/itlist.html.
National Refugee and Immigrant Conference Coming Up in Chicago


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. If you have any questions regarding the conference, contact Lynn Osheff at (224) 366-8632 or losheff@cntrmail.org.

Student Opportunities

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.) Participants should register at http://www.gallerycollection.com/greetingcardscontests.htm. Visit the Website for complete rules.

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.

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.

Apply at http://spirit.prudential.com or http://www.principals.org/spirit. A paper version of the application form is available by calling (877) 525-8491.

In the News

Jacksonville’s Don Jolly Named Illinois History Teacher of the Year

The Illinois State Board of Education and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History has selected Don Jolly of Jacksonville as the 2011 Illinois History Teacher of the Year. Jolly is a sixth-grade teacher at Our Saviour School in Jacksonville, where he has served as geography team coach, organizes the school’s annual Geography Bee, and co-chairs the biannual History Fair.

Jolly graduated from Macalester College in St. Paul, Minn., and received a Master of Arts in Germanic studies at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. Don was selected as a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer to Sierra Leone, where he served as a secondary school teacher from 1969 to 1972. Following his return to Jacksonville, Don began his lengthy teaching career of over 30 years at Jefferson and South Schools in Jacksonville Public School District 117. Jolly has served on the board of the Illinois Council for the Social Studies and was president in 2010. In 1996, he received the local Bill Russell Award for Innovative Teaching. In 2005, he was a recipient of a community Those Who Care Award. The Illinois Council for the Social Studies honored Don with its Excellence in Social Studies Teaching Award in 2007, and, in 2008, Don received the prestigious Golden Apple Illinois Award for Excellence in Teaching.

The winner of the National History Teacher of the Year Award will be announced soon. The award is sponsored by the Gilder Lehrman Institute, the History Channel and Preserve America. For more information, visit http://www.gilderlehrman.org/education/htoy_overview.php.

Weekly News Clips


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.