Members of the Illinois State Board of Education met last week in Bloomington for their annual strategic planning session and September Board meeting. They were able to review elements of ISBE’s strategic plan (http://www.isbe.net/reports/strategic_plan11.pdf), and also to discuss pursuing a possible waiver to No Child Left Behind. While the preference remains to see a new law, the consensus of the group is to move forward with exploring the possibility of a waiver. I will have more on that in the weeks ahead as more information becomes available and we begin to develop our plan, which we will likely submit in February.

The Board also approved nine individuals to become the initial members of Illinois’ State Charter School Commission. This group’s primary responsibility will be to consider the appeals of charter proposals that have been denied, revoked or not renewed by a local school board, ensuring to only authorize quality charter schools and reject those that are inadequate. The process at the local level will remain the same; those entities interested in starting a charter school will need to apply to and work with local districts first, and only if they are denied can they appeal to the State Charter School Commission (which serves a very similar role to that played in the past by the State Board).

In addition to authorizing charter schools, the Commission must monitor the performance and legal compliance of each charter school authorized by the Commission and determine if the charter merits renewal, nonrenewal or revocation. The Commission must also produce a report every two years on best practices in charter school authorizing, including evaluating applications, oversight and renewal of charter schools.

The initial appointments made by the Board to the State Charter School Commission include:

- Paul Swanstrom, former Superintendent, Joliet Township High School District 204, Crete
- Sean Denney, lobbyist, Illinois Education Association, Evanston
- Mike Jacoby, Executive Director, Illinois Association of School Business Officials, DeKalb
- Jaime Guzman, Chief Advisor to the Board of Trustees, City Colleges of Chicago, Chicago
- Glen Barton, former Chairman and CEO, Caterpillar Inc., Peoria
- Greg Richmond, President and CEO, National Association of Charter School Authorizers, Chicago
Commission members will serve on staggered terms of office beginning with initial 2-, 3-, and 4-year terms (after which all terms will be 4 years). Their terms are scheduled to begin Nov. 1, 2011.

Have a good week.

Chris

**Upcoming Dates and Deadlines**

- Parent Involvement Fall Summit, Hilton Lisle – Oct. 3
- 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
- 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
- Supplemental General State Aid (SGSA) plan deadline – 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
- 2011-12 Unfilled Positions Survey deadline – Nov. 15
- 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)
- 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
- Nonpublic Registration, Enrollment, and Staff Report deadline – Dec. 31
- Postmark deadline for waiver applications to be considered by General Assembly in Spring ’12 – Jan. 13
- 2011-12 Teacher Salary Study data form deadline – Feb. 1
- 2011-12 Noncertified Staff Salary Study survey – Feb. 1

**Funding and Disbursement Services**

**Fiscal Year 2012 Supplemental General State Aid Plans Due Oct. 30**

Per Section 18-8.05(H)(3) of the School Code, school districts with an average daily attendance of more than 1,000 are required to submit a Supplemental General State Aid (SGSA) plan to the Illinois State Board of Education on or before Oct. 30 for the use of the funds resulting from the supplemental General State Aid for the improvement of instruction in which priority is given to meeting the education needs of disadvantaged children.

The SGSA plan for qualifying districts must be filed electronically via the ISBE IWAS System. The SGSA system is now open for fiscal year 2012. Critical
information is pre-populated for each district. A brief narrative is required along with a budget breakdown of the SGSA funds. SGSA funds may be expended in various ways but must primarily benefit disadvantaged, low income students that generate the district funding without supplanting other funds already in place.

If you have questions regarding the SGSA program, please contact Jim Mathes in the Division of Funding and Disbursement Services at jmathes@isbe.net or (217) 782-5256.

Preliminary Fiscal Year 2012 Mandated Categorical Prorations

Preliminary prorations have been calculated for all 2010-11 mandated categorical claims that will be vouchered in FY 2012. Payments are vouchered quarterly on or before Sept. 30, Dec. 30, March 30 and June 20 each fiscal year per statute. The first quarter September payment for each local education agency (LEA) was vouchered Sept. 26 and can be found in the Financial Reimbursement Information System Inquiry, which can be accessed at http://webprod1.isbe.net/FRISInquiry/.

The proration percentages reflected below are preliminary because the 2010-11 LEA claims for all these programs will be opened in early October future for correction. Final prorations and remaining quarterly payments will be calculated in December. If you have questions regarding this information, contact the Division of Funding and Disbursements at (217) 782-5256.

- Special Education Personnel – 100 percent
- Special Education Private Facility – 89.6 percent
- Special Education Funding for Children Requiring Special Education Services – 100 percent
- Special Education Transportation – 100 percent
- Regular/Vocational Transportation – 74 percent

2011-12 Nonpublic Registration, Enrollment, and Staff Report

The Nonpublic Registration, Enrollment, and Staff Report (87-01) for school year 2011-2012 is now available in IWAS at https://sec1.isbe.net/iwas. Completed reports must be received by ISBE no later than Dec. 31, 2011.

Nonpublic schools that have registered with ISBE at least once in the past must submit their data online via IWAS. Nonpublic schools that have never registered with ISBE must submit data using the paper form 87-01 available at http://www.isbe.net/research/htmls/np_entity.htm.

Public district administrators should communicate with nonpublic school administrators within their district boundaries and encourage them to submit registration, enrollment, and staff data. A portion of the public district funding allocation calculated for the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) uses nonpublic enrollment data that are reported voluntarily by nonprofit elementary and secondary schools.

Nonpublic schools seeking recognition: You must submit your Nonpublic Registration, Enrollment, and Staff Report before you can apply for recognition.

Questions can be directed to Md. Shafiqul Azam in the ISBE Data Analysis and Reporting Division at (217) 782-3950.

2011-12 Teacher Salary Study Form Now Available on IWAS

The 2011-12 Teacher Salary Study data form is now available on IWAS. The deadline for districts and other local education agencies that employ teachers to complete and submit the form is Feb. 1, 2012. You will also need to provide a copy of your salary schedule/policy and negotiated agreement, unless you

Example for completing the survey: http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/2007_ncss_instruct.pdf

The deadline date for submission is Feb. 1, 2012. Districts with fewer than 1,000 enrolled students as of the last school day in September 2010 may ignore this message.

Questions can be directed to Md. Shafiqul Azam in the ISBE Data Analysis and Reporting Division at (217) 782-3950.
have done so already in a prior year and they are still in effect. Please send copies to the Data Analysis and Progress Reporting Division at this address: Illinois State Board of Education, 100 N. First St., S-284, Springfield, IL 62777.

If you do not employ teachers this school year, click on the appropriate button and log off; you do not need to complete the form. Questions about completing the form can be directed to Ms. Niann-Tsyr Chern in the Data Analysis and Progress Reporting Division at (217) 782-3950 or nchern@isbe.net.

2011-2012 Unfilled Positions Survey Now Available in IWAS

The 2011-2012 Unfilled Positions Survey is now available in IWAS for data entry. The deadline for completing the survey and submitting it to ISBE is Nov. 15, 2011. Districts are to report the number of budgeted positions they were unable to fill as of Oct. 1, 2011. All districts are required to complete the survey, even districts that did not have any unfilled positions. To avoid duplicating unfilled positions reported by public school districts, other reporting entities (e.g., special education cooperatives) should only report their unfilled employee positions.

Questions about the survey content can be directed to Jim Sweeney in the ISBE Data Analysis and Progress Reporting Division at jsweeney@isbe.net.

Special Notice

Collecting Household/Student Socioeconomic Information

This notice is being provided to assist schools and districts in reporting income status (FRL/Low Income) for students in their schools or districts that:

- Do not participate in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), or
- Do participate in the Community Eligibility Option Program (CEO) under the NSLP

The purpose of this notice is to provide schools and districts that meet one of the above criteria with information about how they may collect household/student socioeconomic information for state or federal programs that may require such information.

Collection of Socioeconomic Status: Numerous state and federal programs utilize household/student income eligibility status at an aggregate as well as individual level. Available at http://www.isbe.net/sis/pdf/69-72_hshld_income.pdf, is an Income Benefit Application Form to assist schools and districts that do not participate in the NSLP or that do participate in the CEO program under the NSLP.

This form may be provided to all households/students for whom the school/district does not already have income eligibility information. The socioeconomic data determined by use of this Income Benefit Application Form can be used to indicate the socioeconomic status of individual students in the Student Information System (SIS), other state and federal programs, assessments and fee waivers.

In utilizing the income information provided by each household/student, the school/district should determine socioeconomic status by utilizing the federal Income Eligibility Guidelines for School Year 2012, located at http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/governance/notices/iegs/iegs.htm.

If you have questions regarding this notice or the determination of socioeconomic status based on the Income Benefit Application Form, contact Matt Vanover in ISBE’s Public Information Division at (217) 782-4648.

Those Who Excel

Annual Banquet Sells Out

The Those Who Excel banquet set for Saturday, Oct. 22, at the Bloomington-Normal Marriott Hotel and Conference Center is at maximum capacity. No additional tickets are available. We apologize for any inconvenience. Thank you for your participation and support.


Curriculum and Instruction

Carol M. White Physical Education Program Grant Recipients Recognized

The U.S. Department of Education awarded 76 grants totaling $35 million to Local Education Agencies (LEAs)
and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) who plan to implement comprehensive, integrated physical activity and nutrition programs for their students through the Carol M. White Physical Education Program (PEP). Grant recipients must implement programs that help students make progress toward meeting their state standards for physical education. We congratulate the Illinois schools and CBO receiving funding:

- Waukegan CUSD 60, $341,858
- Frida Kahlo Community Organization, $560,269
- Meridian Community Unit School District 223, $388,900

**RFP Released Regarding Illinois Mathematics and Science Partnerships**

The Illinois State Board of Education has released an RFP for a partnership comprised of a high-need LEA, IHE faculty from the departments of education, science, technology, engineering, and/or mathematics and membership from scientists, mathematicians, engineers, or other professionals from businesses, industries, not-for-profit organizations, and/or for-profit organizations with demonstrated interest in improving the quality of mathematics teachers. The partnership may also include membership from Regional Offices of Education (ROEs) and Intermediate Service Centers (ISCs). The partnership will design and implement professional learning programs that effectuate sustainable improvement in mathematics education, specifically focused on grade 6 through grade 12. The primary focus of the program design will be to provide teachers an opportunity to strengthen their subject matter knowledge, skills and attitudes as they begin the transition from the Illinois Learning Standards to the New Illinois State Learning Standards Incorporating the Common Core – Mathematics.

The RFP is available at the following site: [http://www.isbe.net/curriculum/html/math.htm](http://www.isbe.net/curriculum/html/math.htm).

For more information, contact Gil Downey in the Curriculum and Instruction Division at gdowney@isbe.net or (217) 557-7323.

**Nutrition**

**Schools Encouraged to Celebrate First National Farm to School Month**

October marks the first National Farm to School Month. In 2010, Congress passed a bill making October Farm to School Month. What are you doing to celebrate in your school? Farm to school can vary from serving local fresh produce in school meals, to school gardens, to education in the classrooms. This year’s theme is “Bring a Farmer or Chef to School.” Invite a local farmer or master gardener to visit your school and teach children about agriculture or invite a local chef to teach children about cooking with local fresh produce.

Here are some resources:

- The University of Illinois Extension Office is a great resource for schools. For more information on their services and locations, visit [http://web.extension.illinois.edu/state/](http://web.extension.illinois.edu/state/).
- The Let’s Move Campaign has a Chefs Move to Schools program, in which chefs that are interested in educating children on nutrition and food can sign up to volunteer their time. To view this list, visit [http://www.letsmove.gov/chefs-move-schools](http://www.letsmove.gov/chefs-move-schools).
- General information: [http://www.farmtoschoolmonth.org](http://www.farmtoschoolmonth.org)

Whether your school already implements farm to school or not, October is a great month, to either kick start farm to school or celebrate the accomplishments that your school has already achieved. If you are having any great Farm to School events, we would love to hear about them, contact Lindsay Blough at lblough@isbe.net.

**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.


**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.


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.

**Rules and Waivers**

**Invitation to Comment on Rules**

Several proposed rulemakings recently reviewed by the Illinois State Board of Education are available for public comment. The proposals have been posted on the agency’s Website at [http://www.isbe.net/rules](http://www.isbe.net/rules); choose “Proposed Rules and Amendments.” Please submit any comments or suggestions to rules@isbe.net.

**Part 425 (Voluntary Registration and Recognition of Nonpublic Schools)**

Incorporates modifications requested by representatives of religious schools in the State related to timelines for receipt of registration and recognition materials, and addresses various staff concerns over administration of the nonpublic school recognition program.

*Affected Sections: 425.20, 425.30, 425.40, 425.50*

*Deadline for Public Comment: Nov. 28, 2011*
Special Education

Conference on Best Practices for NonPublic Special Education Programs Coming Up

Registration is open for the fifth annual Conference on Best Practices for Nonpublic Special Education Programs, which will be held Nov. 15-16 at the Oak Lawn Hilton.

Go to http://webapps.isbe.net/ISBEConference/ to register. Click on “Schedule at a Glance” for an overview of the conference. The hotel has a block of rooms reserved for the conference. That information can be found in the brochure on the registration page.

Questions? Contact Paul Nijensohn at pnijenso@isbe.net or Sarah Sebert at ssebert@isbe.net.

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/guidance_06-3.pdf and 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.

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.

Thomas Lay Burroughs Award

Nominations Sought for Award to Honor Outstanding School Board President

The Illinois State Board of Education invites you to nominate your local board president for the Thomas Lay

Burroughs Award for the State's Outstanding School Board President.

This award was created in 1991 in memory of the late ISBE chairman and is presented each November at the IASB/IASA/IASBO conference in Chicago. This year, the conference will be held on Nov. 18-20 and the award will be presented that Sunday morning (Nov. 20).

Nominations should be submitted as indicated below by the close of business on Oct. 14, 2011. You can send your nomination to Jean Ladage via e-mail to jladage@isbe.net. Please indicate in the subject line of the e-mail: Burroughs Nomination. If you have questions, call Jean Ladage or Marsha Moffett at (217) 557-6626. For nomination information and format please go to http://www.isbe.net/pdf/burroughs_award.pdf.

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 Safe Routes to School 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/litlist.html.

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.


**Student Opportunities**

**Chicago TIBETcenter Organizes Essay Contest for 11th-Graders**

Eleventh-graders in Illinois are eligible to take part in an essay contest sponsored by the Chicago TIBETcenter. Three winners will be selected to each receive a $1,000 prize and an invitation to attend and read their essay during the Dalai Lama’s public talk set for April 26 at Loyola University Chicago.

The essay topic, which was selected by the Dalai Lama, is “How can an attitude of non-violence counteract the prevalence of violence in our families, in our communities, and in international relations; and how can we as individuals cultivate and promote such an attitude?”

The deadline for essay submissions is Jan. 31. For complete rules and additional information, visit [http://tibetcenterchicago.org/High_Schools.html](http://tibetcenterchicago.org/High_Schools.html). In addition, Illinois high school principals can request one of a limited number of tickets available for one of their students to attend the April 26 event. Visit the Website above for details.

The Chicago TIBETcenter ([http://www.TIBETcenterchicago.org](http://www.TIBETcenterchicago.org)) is a not-for-profit Tibetan art and cultural organization.

**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](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](http://www.isbe.net/hr/Default.htm).