Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

I attended the first Performance Evaluation Advisory Council (PEAC) evaluation feedback forum last week in Waukegan. The forum, the first of eight meetings throughout the state this month, was an opportunity for teachers, principals and other administrators to get additional information on the work the PEAC has been doing since the January 2010 passage of the Performance Evaluation Reform Act and also to give their thoughts on how to incorporate student growth as a significant factor in teacher and principal evaluations.

The PEAC is using these educator forums to help guide them in the recommendations that they will be making to the Illinois State Board of Education. PEAC intends to make its recommendations to the Board by the end of October. The ISBE will then put administrative rules out for a period of public comment, with a goal of those rules being finalized by early 2012.

Anytime the law requires such sweeping changes to systems such as teacher and principal performance evaluation it increases anxiety for everyone. We want to make sure we do all we can to get it right, and I believe our collaborative process lays the foundation for success. The 33 members of the PEAC have led an open process seeking input from the field, experts and the public. It’s been a challenge, but not an insurmountable one. Your feedback is still needed and I encourage you to attend one of the remaining feedback forums to provide your thoughts to the process and also get questions answered. You can find the dates and locations of the remaining meetings, as well as additional information about PEAC and its work at http://www.isbe.net/peac/.

I also want to remind you that next Friday is Principal Appreciation Day. This is a time where teachers, students, board members and others can take just a few moments to show their appreciation for the work our building instructional leaders do every day. This group of educators truly sets the tone for the educational environment in our schools day in and day out. They drive student success through their leadership efforts and they hold the keys to student achievement. We’ve truly seen the evolution of this position from a building manager to an instructional leader. They play a tremendous role in supporting our students and teachers and deserve a day of their own.

Thanks for all you do, everyday on behalf of the students of Illinois.

Chris

Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

- Parent Involvement Fall Summit, The Pavilion Marion – Oct. 11
• Parent Involvement Fall Summit, Double Tree 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
• 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)
• 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. 1
• 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

ISBE Search for School District Liaison

Request for Sealed Proposal for School District Liaison Posted

The Illinois State Board of Education has released an RFSP for a School District Liaison, which has been posted on the Procurement Policy Board’s website.

The selected contractor will coordinate a local school district ombudsman initiative and serve as the contact for program coordination services and site visits with local school districts, including without limitation, local school districts with persistently low-performing schools. In addition, he or she shall collect and monitor data and performance objectives for school districts under state oversight and present and share such information with state and local personnel as appropriate. The contractor will also provide technical assistance and other support services to school boards, school district superintendents, school district senior leadership, regional offices of education and higher education, etc., on fiscal, compliance, and other issues, and perform such other tasks as may be assigned by the state superintendent or his designee. The contractor shall be primarily located at the ISBE facility in Springfield, Illinois, unless assigned elsewhere by the state superintendent or his designee.

The School District Liaison is solicitation number 22022627. Registration on the Illinois Procurement Bulletin is required for a potential bidder to view the RFSP, download files that accompany the solicitation or receive automatic e-mail notifications for addendums, award postings etc. Register at http://www.purchase.state.il.us/ipb/registration.nsf/RegMainFrameset?OpenFrameset.

Career and Technical Education

Workshops on Common Core and the High School to College Success Report

The Illinois Community College Board, the Illinois Board of Higher Education and the Illinois State Board of Education will host four workshops throughout the state this November.

These workshops will focus on Common Core College Readiness Standards and the High School to College Success Report, and will facilitate collaboration, as well as, further examine and identify collaborative opportunities between secondary and postsecondary institutions. Teams consisting of secondary and postsecondary representatives are encouraged to attend. Register at http://iccdbsrv.iccb.org/reachingthegoal/register.cfm.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND THE WORKSHOPS?
• K-12 – Superintendents, Principals, Regional Superintendents, Guidance Counselors, CTE Regional Staff, Curriculum Directors, etc.
• Higher Education – Presidents, Chief Academic Officers, Deans, Enrollment/Admissions Management, etc.

WHEN? All workshops are scheduled from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Here are the dates and locations:
• Nov. 1, Moraine Valley Community College
• Nov. 2, Malcolm X College
• Nov. 7, Richland Community College
• Nov. 8, Southwestern Illinois College

NOTE: These workshops will assume you have previewed the following informational materials:

1) The High School to College Success Report webinar, which is being held on Oct. 11. Reserve your webinar seat at https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/913636961. An archived version of the webinar will be available soon after the live event. If you attended the summit in June, you do not need to view this webinar.

2) Introductory Common Core materials. Pay particular attention to the two webinars located at the following website under Common Core Facts on the right side of the screen: http://www.isbe.net/common_core/default.htm. There are a number of other items in this section that include basic information on common core.

Assessment

2012 and 2013 Assessment Dates Now Available Online

Assessment testing dates for ISAT, PSAE, IAA, and ACCESS for Spring 2012 and Spring 2013 are available online at http://www.isbe.net/assessment (click on 2012 or 2013 on the right side under Quick Reference Charts).

Assessment Network Training: 2012 ISAT and IAA

The Assessment Network Web site hosted by Pearson will be open from Oct. 31, 2011, to Dec. 21, 2011. This is the Web portal that allows districts and Chicago schools to do the following for the 2012 administration of ISAT and IAA:
• Verify ISAT and IAA test material quantities,
• Order ISAT special format tests like reader scripts and Braille forms,
• Verify or correct the District/Chicago school ISAT and IAA Coordinator information,
• Verify or correct the mailing address for receipt of ISAT and IAA test materials,
• Place additional orders after receipt of initial shipment of test materials.

There will be two Webinar training sessions for the Assessment Network.
• Tuesday, Oct. 25, 10-11:30 a.m.
• Tuesday, Nov. 8, 1:30-3 p.m.

Registration information for these Webinars will be posted next week on the ISAT and IAA Web sites at http://www.isbe.net/assessment/isat.htm and http://www.isbe.net/assessment/iaa.htm.

PSAE Examination: 2012 Establishment Meeting

The week of Oct. 3, 2011, ACT sent school principals an establishment mailing. This mailing contains directions for establishing the school to be a PSAE test site and how to appoint PSAE testing staff for spring 2012.

This establishment mailing also contains important information about how to order PSAE test materials and how to view a PSAE Test Administration Training Webinar. Please visit the PSAE website (http://www.isbe.net/assessment/psae.htm) to view information included in this establishment mailing (under the heading “2011-2012 Information for PSAE Test Supervisors/Accommodations Coordinators”).

Ordering ACCESS Test Materials

Test material ordering begins Monday, Oct. 17, 2011, for the ACCESS for ELLsTM assessment. All students with limited English proficiency in Illinois publicly-funded schools are required to participate. Instructions will be sent via email from the test vendor, MetriTech [(800) 747-4868]. Please ensure that appropriate district staff email addresses are updated in MetriTech’s ACCESS Coordinator list.

For more information, visit MetriTech’s ACCESS website at https://www.metritech.com/wida/login.aspx

Join the Assessment Listserv

To join the Assessment Listserv, through which the division sends periodic updates, please visit http://www.isbe.net/assessment and click on “Join the
Nutrition

National School Lunch Program
Verification Completion Deadlines

Each year local education agencies (LEAs) that participate in the National School Lunch and/or Breakfast Programs are required to have completed verification activities no later than Nov. 15 in preparation for completing the online verification summary report that is due Dec. 15.

Verification Timeline:

- **Oct. 1** – Count number of approved applications on file by category, and begin verification process. For school year 2011-12, Oct. 1 falls on a weekend day. This count should be taken no later than the morning of Oct. 3.
- Prior to doing the application count, LEAs should access the Electronic Direct Certification system to directly certify any students currently eligible for free or reduced price meals through use of a household eligibility application (HEA). Students that can be directly certified should not have their HEA included in the Oct. 1 application count.
- **Last operating day of October** – Count number of ALL free and reduced-price eligible students by category.
- For the 2011-12 school year, LEAs will need to provide separate student counts by site for Direct Certified students, and separate student counts by site for all other Categorically Eligible students (Foster child, homeless, migrant, runaway, Head Start, or Even Start). Counts for students that were approved for free or reduced benefits based on a household eligibility income or SNAP/TANF application can continue to be counted as they have been in previous years. Student counts will be needed for the Verification Summary Report (VSR). All schools and/or districts will need to provide student counts, including Community Eligibility Option and Provision schools and/or districts.
- **Nov. 15** – Ensure verification process is complete.
- **Dec. 15** – Deadline to submit VSR.

Verification efforts are not required:

- For children certified under the Direct Certification Process including children documented as foster child, migrant, runaway, homeless or Head Start.
- For children in residential child care institutions (RCCIs) except for locations that have applications for day students attending the institution.
- In schools only participating in the Special Milk Program and/or Illinois Free program.
- In schools in which all students are served with no separate charge for food service and no special cash assistance is claimed; i.e., non-pricing programs claiming only the paid rate of reimbursement.
- In LEAs in which all schools participate in Provisions 1, 2 or 3, except in those years in which applications are taken for all students in attendance; i.e., the base year. Appropriate student counts are still required.
- In LEAs in which all schools participate in the Community Eligibility Option. Appropriate student counts are still required.

For questions or guidance on the verification process, visit [http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/forms_sbn.htm](http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/forms_sbn.htm) or call (800) 545-7892.

Free Training Available to Support Healthy School Meals and School Wellness Policies

Final federal rules for healthier school meals will soon be published. Proposed rules for new requirements for school wellness policies and national nutrition standards for all food sold and served in schools during the school day will also soon be available for comment. The Illinois Nutrition Education and Training Program’s free workshops, webinars and online training programs can help teachers, school foodservice staff and school wellness teams take steps to prepare for these upcoming changes. In addition, Illinois NET training and assistance is also available to school wellness teams striving to be recognized in the HealthierUS School Challenge. For a complete list of available training programs, visit [KidsEatWell.org](http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/forms_sbn.htm).

Scheduling a training program at your school is easy. Just call Illinois Nutrition Education and Training at (800) 466-7998. You can also tap into the variety of resources available at [KidsEatWell.org](http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/forms_sbn.htm) under the Healthy Schools tab, which includes Nutrition Education, School Wellness Policies and School Meals pages.
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.

With the expectation of continued budgetary challenges for P-12 education in Illinois, the Classrooms First Commission, chaired by Lt. Gov. Sheila Simon, is collecting innovative and practical ideas for improving school and district efficiency while preserving and enhancing classroom learning opportunities for students.

Suggestions may address individual schools, districts, multiple districts, regions or the state as a whole. The more survey responses the commission receives, the more informed its recommendations will be.

Access the survey at [http://www.ltgov.il.gov](http://www.ltgov.il.gov) to submit ideas. Suggestions can be entered one at a time, with no limit to how many surveys may be completed.

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

Data Analysis and Progress Reporting

2011-12 Noncertified Staff Salary Study
The Noncertified Staff Salary Study survey is now available in IWAS for submission of 2011-2012 school year data. URLs for two useful documents are provided below.


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.

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 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. Nian-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.

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.


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.

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 http://www.isbe.net/curriculum/html/math.htm. For more information, contact Gil Downey at gdowney@isbe.net or (217) 557-7323.

Special Education

Screening, Assessment and Support Services (SASS) Update

SASS provides intensive mental health services for children and youth who may need hospitalization for mental health care. When a child is at risk to himself or others, and any time you or others think a child is having a mental health crisis, the CARES line can be contacted. Please take note and remind your schools: It is neither appropriate nor legal for schools to tell parents that they need to have their child screened before they will be allowed to return to school.

For more information regarding the appropriate use of SASS and the CARES line, go to http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=30884.

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/ISBECconference/ 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.

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; 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

School Health Issues

Office of the Illinois General Announces Availability of Epinephrine Auto-Injectors

Dey Pharma is offering its EpiPen 2-Pak and EpiPen Jr 2-Pak (epinephrine) Auto-Injector 0.3/0.15 mg at a discounted price of $112.10 each to all public and private pre-school, kindergarten, elementary, middle and high schools in the U.S.

EpiPen Auto-Injectors are now exclusively available in the EpiPen 2-Pak or EpiPen Jr 2-Pak packaging configurations in the U.S. Each EpiPen 2-Pak contains two EpiPen Auto-Injectors and a training device. The training device contains no drug product or needle. Schools can obtain EpiPen 2-Paks and EpiPen Jr 2-Paks by following these steps:

- Obtain a valid prescription for EpiPen 2-Paks or EpiPen Jr 2-Paks.
- Call Cindy Holt at BioRidge Pharma at (973) 845.7600 to request an order form or go to the BioRidge Pharma website at http://www.bioridgepharma.com and click on

For more information, contact Dey Pharma at (973) 845.7600 ext. 6078.
the Dey EpiPen School Price Discount Program banner to download an order form.

- Fax the completed order form with a copy of a valid prescription to BioRidge Pharma, Attn: Cindy Holt at (973) 845.1088 or scan and email it to info@bioridgepharma.com.
- BioRidge Pharma will find a pharmacy near your school that is able to fill the prescription and forward the copy of your prescription to the pharmacy.
- The pharmacy will notify you when the EpiPen 2-Paks or EpiPen Jr 2-Paks can be picked up at the pharmacy. Be sure to bring the original prescription with you to turn in to the pharmacy.
- Your school (or school district) will pay the pharmacy the reduced price for the EpiPen 2-Pak or EpiPen Jr 2-Pak.

For additional information or questions, contact Dey Pharma customer service at (800) 395-3376.


District Opportunities

**Illinois Response to Intervention Network to Focus on SSOS Districts**

In June of this year, ISBE awarded a grant to Lee/Ogle ROE 47 to implement the Illinois Response to Intervention (RtI) Network. Funded under Illinois’ State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG) from the U.S. Department of Education, the Illinois RtI Network will provide standardized professional development, technical assistance and coaching to district and school teams and parents throughout the state. These services will focus on improving student performance in grades K-12 through the implementation of a multi-tiered system of instruction, intervention and assessment, including RtI, with an emphasis on:

- Administrative leadership;
- Scientific, research-based reading and math curricula and instruction at grades K-12;
- Data-based decision making;
- Universal screening and progress monitoring; and
- Parent involvement.

Over the last few months, ROE 47 has worked with ISBE’s SPDG Project Director and other ROEs across the state to hire staff for the Illinois RtI Network. These regionally-based staff will be working with district teams to support implementation of a multi-tiered system of student supports as part of the district and school improvement process. This work will be coordinated with the Statewide System of Support (SSOS) and other ISBE initiatives, including but not limited to, the Illinois PBIS Network, Project CHOICES and the Parent and Educator Partnership.

With staff now in place, the Illinois RtI Network is ready to proceed with the identification of school districts to participate in the project. Initially, the districts served by the project will be those that are on improvement or corrective action status under SSOS and have a high percentage (40 percent or more) of students from low-income backgrounds. To solicit the participation of districts that meet the criteria delineated above, within the next two weeks the Illinois RtI Network will be providing information directly to district superintendents about the district selection process. It is expected that the network will be able to serve approximately 63 of these districts during the current school year.

Illinois RtI Network staff contact names, email addresses and phone numbers for the district selection process will be provided when the information referenced above is disseminated to each eligible district. In the interim, questions about the Illinois RtI Network or the district selection process may be directed to Dr. Pamela Radford, Statewide Project Administrator for the Network, at pradford@west40.org or to Kathryn Cox at ISBE (kcox@isbe.net).

**Internet Program**

**Cable Company Unveils Discounted Internet Service for Low-Income Families**

The Federal Communications Commission joined Comcast at a recent event in Washington, D.C., to announce the cable company’s Internet Essentials program, which aims to provide discounted broadband service to low-income Americans.

“We know that the three biggest barriers to broadband adoption are cost, digital literacy and relevance – that many Americans don’t see broadband as relevant to their lives,” said FCC chairman Julius Genachowski. “By helping to close the adoption gap, this program will prepare the next generation, create new opportunities for...
more jobs and economic growth, and will make a positive difference in the lives of many Americans.” Comcast’s Internet Essentials will provide families with children eligible for a free lunch under the National School Lunch Program with low-cost Internet service, affordable computers and digital literacy training. Comcast offers the Internet service to eligible customers for $9.95 a month, plus tax, promising no price increases, activation or equipment rental fees. Budget computers are also available at initial enrollment for $149.99 plus tax.

For complete eligibility details and additional information, visit http://www.internetessentials.com. The site includes a link for educators, community organizations and others to share the program offer with their communities.

Professional Development

National Association for Multicultural Education to Hold Conference in Chicago

The National Association for Multicultural Education’s annual conference is scheduled for Nov. 2-5 in Chicago. The conference is intended for students, teachers and administrators to learn ways to incorporate multicultural education into their curriculum and methods to decrease achievement gaps.

For more information, visit http://nameorg.org. The National Association for Multicultural Education is a non-profit organization that advances and advocates for equity and social justice through multicultural education.

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?”

In the News

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.