Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

This week during its October meeting the Board will review Report Card data. Specifically, members will be reviewing publicly and releasing to the media statewide test score averages as well as information about statewide numbers for Adequate Yearly Progress. The numbers again support our case for seeking a waiver from the onerous labels of No Child Left Behind.

While members will be discussing statewide numbers, they will not be discussing specific school information. Individual schools and districts may release their report card information to the public at anytime and must do so by Oct. 31. As in years past, we have already made available to members of the media Report Card information on an embargoed basis. That publication embargo will lift on Oct. 31 when we will make all Report Card information available on our website.

Later this week, we will submit to the U.S. Department of Education our application for the Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge (ELC). We are working with the Illinois Department of Human Services (DHS), Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), the Illinois Early Learning Council (IELC) and outside consultants to develop the application and will be seeking $70 million.

Our application is designed to provide consistency and ensure improvement in the quality of Early Childhood programs by focusing on educational and developmental components, family support and staff competency. By working collaboratively with DHS, DCFS and the IELC, we will ensure that Illinois has a coordinated system of high-quality early learning and development services available, particularly for children and families considered to be at risk.

Additionally, a portion of the grant will be used to continue the agency’s efforts to develop and implement a kindergarten readiness survey to continually measure a student’s progress during the kindergarten year. The survey is meant to provide parents and schools with information about a student’s development and will not be a timed, bubble filling exercise. Our Board has proposed administrative rules for public comment whereby, starting in the 2014-15 school year, any school district that offers kindergarten (whether full or half day) would be required to administer the Kindergarten Individual Development Survey, or KIDS, as long as sufficient funding is provided by the State for both administration and professional development.

Finally, on Saturday we will recognize nearly 200 individuals for their service to Illinois students at our 37th annual Those Who Excel Awards. These 198 exemplary teachers, administrators, student support personnel, educational service personnel, community volunteers, board members and teams are each beacons of light in our education community. The evening will culminate with the naming of our 2011-12 Illinois Teacher of the Year. The event is sold out and promises to be an exciting evening.

Have a great week.

Chris
Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

- **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
- **2011-12 Immunization/Health Examination Data Collection 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
- **Part 25 (Certification) and Part 375 (Student Records)** – Public comment period ends Nov. 28
- **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
- **2011-2012 Teacher Service Record data deadline** – Dec. 15
- **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
- **2011-12 Eye Examination Data Collection deadline** – June 30

Finance and Audit Committee

**ISBE to Hold Series of FY 2013 Budget Hearings Across the State**

The Illinois State Board of Education’s Finance and Audit Committee will host a series of hearings on the FY 2013 budget over the next several months. The public is invited to attend. Please check back to the ISBE calendar and meetings website for updates to the following schedule of hearings: [http://isbe.net/calendar/default.htm](http://isbe.net/calendar/default.htm).

Those wishing to participate in these hearings may sign-in upon arrival at each location. Please provide 15 copies of written testimony and provide cost estimates (including a detailed budget) for programs being discussed. Please address how proposed programs align to the Board’s Strategic Plan Goals.

- **GOAL 1:** Every student will demonstrate academic achievement and be prepared for success after high school.
- **GOAL 2:** Every student will be supported by highly prepared and effective teachers and school leaders.
- **GOAL 3:** Every school will offer a safe and healthy learning environment for all students.

Here are the dates, location and time of the meetings scheduled:

- **Wednesday, Oct. 19:** Springfield, ISBE, Board Room, 100 N. First St., 4-6 p.m.
- **Monday, Oct. 24:** Edwardsville, Jon Davis Wrestling Center, 6168 Center Grove Road (Across the street from the high school), 3-5 p.m.
- **Thursday, Oct. 27:** Champaign, Ford Counties Regional Office of Education, Robeson Pavilion Room A & B, Champaign Public Library, 200 W. Green St., 3-5 p.m.
- **Tuesday, Nov. 1:** Wheeling, Wheeling School Dist. 21, Admin Office, 999 W. Dundee Road, 3-5 p.m.
- **Tuesday, Nov. 29:** Chicago, James R. Thompson Center, Room 16-503, 100 W. Randolph, 3-6 p.m.

The Finance and Audit Committee FY 2013 Budget Hearings will be accessible to persons with disabilities. Persons planning to attend who need special accommodations should contact the Board office no later than the day before the meeting they wish to attend. Contact the Superintendent's office at the State Board of

Education: Phone, (217) 782-2221; TTY/TDD, (217) 782-1900; fax, (217) 785-3972.

Individuals unable to attend the budget hearings can send e-mail to isbefy13@isbe.net, which will be monitored by agency staff to receive additional testimony.

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.

Data Analysis and Progress Reporting

2011-12 Immunization/Health Examination Data Collection

The Student Health Data – Immunization system is now available in IWAS for school year 2011-2012 data submission. Completed reports must be received by ISBE no later than Nov. 15, 2011. Below are links to important related documents. Please use them for assistance with submitting your data.

- Immunization and Compliance with State Law: http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/immunization_requirements.pdf
- How to Calculate Unduplicated Count: http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/Unduplicated_Count.pdf
- Data Entry Worksheet: http://www.isbe.net/research/xls/immunization_worksheet.xlsx
- Health and Immunization Questions and answers: http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=32907

A report must be submitted for every eligible school, without exception. Schools that are not the home school
for any student should submit the report by selecting the option which allows them to declare they have no data to report.

Please share this information with the school nurse or health technician and those submitting the Immunization/Health Examination data to the Illinois State Board of Education. Questions can be directed to the Data Analysis and Progress Reporting Division at (217) 782-3950.

2011-12 Eye Examination Data Collection

The Student Health Data – Vision system is now available in IWAS for school year 2011-2012 data submission. Completed reports must be received by ISBE no later than June 30, 2012.

Below are links to important related documents. Please use them for assistance with submitting your data.

- **User Guide:** [http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/vision_iwas_guide.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/vision_iwas_guide.pdf)
- **Data Entry Worksheet:** [http://www.isbe.net/research/xls/eye_exam_wksht.xls](http://www.isbe.net/research/xls/eye_exam_wksht.xls)
- **Information Sheet:** [http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/eye_examinations.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/eye_examinations.pdf)

A report must be submitted for every eligible school, without exception. Schools that are not the home school for any student should submit the report by selecting the option which allows them to declare they have no data to report.

Please share this information with the school nurse or health technician and those submitting the Eye Examination data to the Illinois State Board of Education. Questions can be directed to the Data Analysis and Progress Reporting Division at (217) 782-3950.

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.

- **Example for completing the survey:** [http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/2007_ncss_instruct.pdf](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.

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](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](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 Service Record Open in IWAS

The 2011-2012 Teacher Service Record is now open for districts and other reporting entities to provide data on full- and part-time employees working as of Oct. 1, 2011, in a position that requires a teaching, administrative or school service personnel certificate issued by the Illinois State Board of Education. This includes any retiree
working in a position requiring certification, performing duties other than as a substitute.

The deadline for submitting these data is Dec. 15, 2011.

Questions about completing the Teacher Service Record can be directed to the ISBE Data Analysis and Progress Reporting Division at tsr@isbe.net or (217) 782-3950.

Rules and Waivers

Invitation to Comment on Rules

Two 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 25 (Certification)
Addresses approval of speech-language pathology programs, requires educator preparation programs to address the State Board’s social and emotional learning standards, and implements several pieces of recently enacted legislation. 
Deadline for Public Comment: November 28

Part 375 (Student Records)
Clarifies school district and nonpublic schools’ requirements under the Illinois Student School Records Act (105 ILCS 10) relative to the retention, maintenance, and transfer of student records. 
Deadline for Public Comment: November 28

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.


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

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.

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).

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 Student Assessment Listserv” on the right side under Resources.

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.kidseatwell.org).

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 under the Healthy Schools tab, which includes Nutrition Education, School Wellness Policies and School Meals pages.

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**Classrooms First Commission**

**School and District Efficiency Survey Under Way Online**

Do you have ideas for how public schools and districts can be more efficient?

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.

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**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](http://www.bioridgepharma.com) and click on
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).

**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.

Illinois Service Resource Center
Support Available for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students

ISBE’s Illinois Statewide Technical Assistance Center (ISTAC) is comprised of several projects that provide onsite support and training for educators. The Illinois Service Resource Center is the ISTAC component that provides behavioral support at all three tiers of the RTI model for students who are deaf and hard of hearing.

Free services include data collection coaching, support in developing classroom-wide behavior support programs, training and follow-up coaching on FBA/BIP, classroom observation and facilitation of home-school teams for students needing intensive level support, home visits with families, free online CPDUs, and a library by mail that includes return postage.

For more information on ISRC, visit http://www.isrc.us.

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.

Discussion on Dyslexia Set for Nov. 1 in Joliet

An informational discussion on dyslexia will be held 6:30 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 1, at the University of St. Francis Recreation Center, 500 Wilcox St., Joliet. Registration is under way. The free event, titled “Dyslexia: Translating Scientific Practice Into Legislative Action – It’s Time!,” is presented by the University of St. Francis and state Reps. Pam Roth and Linda Chapa LaVia. CPDUs are available. The discussion features Dr. Sally Shaywitz and Dr. Bennett Shaywitz, both of the Yale Center for Dyslexia and Creativity.


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.