Our Board reviewed statewide Report Card data last week during its regular monthly meeting. This was a good opportunity for us to begin diggin into data and thinking about what our No Child Left Behind waiver proposal will look like. We know that 80 percent of districts and 65 percent of schools not making Adequate Yearly Progress is unjustifiably insulting and not an accurate or realistic reflection of the work going on in our schools.

The average score on the ISAT increased to 82 percent meets/exceeds (m/e) this year from 80.9 m/e last year. There were increases in all ISAT tests except for sixth and seventh grade math and seventh grade science, which had slight declines. The composite score on the PSAE dropped 2.5 points from the previous year and all subject scores were down as well. We believe that reduction is primarily due to an administrative rule adopted by ISBE better ensuring that for 2011, and all future years, all 11th-graders take the state assessment. The rule resulted in an increase of about 12,500 PSAE test takers from 2010 to 2011.

I continue to be concerned about the disconnect between the ISAT and the PSAE. Simply put, we know the PSAE is a much more difficult test measuring college and career readiness goals and the ISAT is not as challenging. As we move to implement the rigorous Common Core learning standards and the new assessments based on those standards, the alignment between elementary and high school assessments will be more congruent. In the meantime, we must find a bridge in our assessment system to better align these tests. Any waiver application we submit to the U.S. Department of Education will include some type of back mapping to offer a more accurate comparison of our current ISAT and PSAE scores.

It’s worth noting that we have seen some closure of the achievement gap at the elementary level at the same time that we see an increase in our minority and low-income populations. Since 2006, the percent of African-American students meeting or exceeding proficiency standards on the ISAT has increased by 11 points while Latino students have increased their performance by 2.5 points. The percent of students with IEP’s meeting benchmarks has increased by 5 percent and low-income students posted an 8.1 point gain.

Finally, congratulations to Josh Stumpenhorst who was named the 2012 Illinois Teacher of the Year. He is a sixth-grade teacher at Lincoln Junior High School in Naperville Community School District 203 and was chosen from nine finalists. Mr. Stumpenhorst is in his ninth year of teaching. He coaches basketball and track and works closely with the student council and computer club.

Again, congratulations to Mr. Stumpenhorst, all of the finalists for Teacher of the Year and the other entire educators honored at Saturday’s Those Who Excel banquet. Being in the same room with that many people committed to providing the best education possible to Illinois’ students is truly energizing.
Thanks for all you do for honor students every day.

Chris

Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

- **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
- **Conference on Best Practices for Nonpublic Special Education Programs registration deadline** – Oct. 31
- **Parent Involvement Fall Summit, Hilston Springfield** – Nov. 1
- **Parent Involvement Regional Summit in Springfield** – Nov. 1
- **National Refugee and Immigrant Conference: Issues and Innovations in Chicago** – Nov. 7-8
- **21st CCLC Full Service Community Schools “How to” Orientation Kaskaskia College, Centralia** – Nov. 8
- **21st CCLC New Grantee Workshop, Marriot Convention Center, Normal** – Nov. 9
- **21st CCLC Fiscal and Evaluation Workshop, Marriot Convention Center, Normal** – Nov. 10
- **21st CCLC Full Service Community Schools “How to” Orientation Holiday Inn, Rockford** – Nov. 15
- **21st CCLC Full Service Community Schools “How to” Orientation Comfort Inn, Orland Park** – Nov. 17
- **Limitation of Administrative Costs Worksheet deadline** – Nov. 15
- **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), Part 375 (Student Records), and Part 425 (Voluntary Registration and Recognition of Nonpublic Schools)** – 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
- **Gifted Advisory Council ISBE Springfield Office** – Dec. 5
- **2011-2012 Teacher Service Record data deadline** – Dec. 15
- **Part 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision) and Part 151 (School Construction Program)** – Public comment period ends Dec. 19
- **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
- **Deadline to submit written opt-out petition to regional superintendent of schools for Summer Food Service Program mandate (Public Act 096-0734)** – Jan. 15
- **Part 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision) and Part 235 (Early Childhood Block Grant)** – Public comment period ends Jan. 30
- **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

School Business Services

**Limitation of Administrative Costs Worksheet Deadline is Nov. 15**

Section 17-1.5 of the School Code requires school districts to limit the growth of “administrative” expenditures to a maximum of 5 percent from one fiscal year to the next. School districts must file the Limitation of Administrative Costs Worksheet with the Illinois State Board of Education’s School Business Services Division by Nov. 15, 2011.

A blank Limitation of Administrative Costs Worksheet is at [http://www.isbe.net/sfms/AdminCaps/AdminCaps.htm](http://www.isbe.net/sfms/AdminCaps/AdminCaps.htm).
Additionally, the Limitation of Administrative Costs Worksheet is included in the Illinois School District Annual Financial Report – June 30, 2011 (ISBE 50-35). If a completed Limitation of Administrative Costs Worksheet is submitted along with the school district’s Annual Financial Report, a separate worksheet does not also have to be submitted. Please note that the worksheet included in the School District Budget Form July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012 (ISBE 50-36) is a working document for local use only and will not be accepted for official submission of the Limitation of Administrative Costs Worksheet.


Districts exceeding the limitation may amend their budgets prior to June 30, 2012, to become in compliance with the limitation. Districts unable to amend their budgets would have to waive the limitation in order to become in compliance. School districts with administrative expenditures in the 25th percentile or below (4th quartile) may waive the limitation following a public hearing and with the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the members of the school board. Any district waiving the limitation shall notify ISBE within 45 days of such action. If a school district that is ineligible to waive the limitation by board action exceeds the limitation solely because of circumstances beyond the control of the district and the district has exhausted all available and reasonable remedies to comply with the limitation, the district may request a waiver from the General Assembly pursuant to Section 2-3.25g of the School Code. Procedures for requesting a waiver in accordance with Section 2-3.25g of the School Code can be found at http://www.isbe.net/isbewaivers/default.htm.

Quartile rankings for all school districts and a sample waiver resolution for qualifying districts can be accessed at http://www.isbe.net/sfms/AdminCaps/AdminCaps.htm.

If you have any questions, contact Michelle Heninger, School Business Services Division, at (217) 785-8779 or mheninge@isbe.net.

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**Curriculum and Instruction**

**2011-2012 ISBE Technology Plans Writing Guidance Webinar Scheduled for Oct. 27**

If your district has a technology plan that will expire on June 30, 2012, please note that there is a new technology plan template on the IIRC. ISBE will be conducting a webinar to guide districts through the new template and provide writing guidance.

The 2011-2012 ISBE Technology Plans Writing Guidance webinar is set for 1-2 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 27. Space is limited. Reserve your webinar seat at https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/460140976. This webinar will provide a walkthrough of the new, streamlined, Technology Integration Plan template and provide writing guidance for districts submitting a 2011-2012 Technology Plan.

**System Requirements**: For PC-based attendees, Windows 7, Vista, XP or 2003 Server; for Macintosh-based attendees, Mac OS X 10.5 or newer.

**Illinois Secretary of State**

**School District Library Grant Application Available**

Applications are being accepted for the FY 2012 School District Library Grant. Applications and all other information concerning the grant can be found at http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/what_we_do/schoolpercapgrant.html.

This year’s deadline to submit the grant application and signature page is Dec. 30. For questions concerning the grant, please contact Robert Jones at rjones1@ilsos.net or (217) 785-1168, or Becky Hunter at bhunter1@ilsos.net or 217-782-7849.

**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.
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 remaining meetings scheduled:

- **Monday, Oct. 24:** Edwardsville, Jon Davis Wrestling Center, 6168 Center Grove Road, 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.

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**PEAC**

**Survey on Recommended Changes to Educator Evaluation Systems**

Can't attend a regional meeting to discuss Illinois' recommended changes to educator evaluation systems? Teachers and school leaders can still learn about and help shape the Performance Evaluation Advisory Council's draft recommendations to the Illinois State Board of Education for revamping educator evaluations. View the presentation on potential changes to teacher and principal evaluations; this is the same presentation used in regional meetings. Then, share your opinions on the proposed evaluation systems by taking the online survey. Both are available at [http://bit.ly/pxL96K](http://bit.ly/pxL96K).

Hundreds of educators from across the state have attended meetings to learn about developing new evaluation systems, voice questions and concerns and take in this survey. Additional forums are scheduled for Oct. 25 in Marion, Oct. 26 in Rock Island and Oct. 27 in Bloomington.

Your input is critical to create a system that will improve educators' professional development, provide meaningful feedback, and give teachers the tools to help every child achieve. Have a question or comment? Email peacinfo@isbe.net.

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**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.

- **User Guide:** [http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/Immunization_user_guide.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/Immunization_user_guide.pdf)
- **Immunization and Compliance with State Law:** [http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/immunization_requirements.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/immunization_requirements.pdf)
- **How to Calculate Unduplicated Count:** [http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/Unduplicated_Count.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/Unduplicated_Count.pdf)
- **Data Entry Worksheet:** [http://www.isbe.net/research/xls/immunization_worksheet.xlsx](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](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 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](mailto:tsr@isbe.net) or (217) 782-3950.

### Nutrition

**School Meal Service Procurement – The Invitation for Bid and Contract Process**

This training is designed to assist school food authorities (SFAs) who currently contract or are seeking to contract for school meal services with a food service management company or meal vendor in meeting all requirements associated with the Invitation for Bid and Contract process. Participants will better understand the three-step document submission and review process and receive training in developing Invitation for Bid and contract documents that meet federal and state regulations and statutes.

The training is presented in three separate webinar sessions and participants should try to “attend” all three sessions. All SFAs conducting a new procurement or considering contracting for school meal services are highly encouraged to participate in the training. Participants must be employees of the school food authority (school or district).

Pre-registration is required and is available on the Nutrition Programs Division website at [http://www.isbe.net/nutrition](http://www.isbe.net/nutrition).

**Session 1:** The “Appetizer” — Introduction and General Requirements, 1-3 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2011

**Session 2:** The “Entree” — Invitation for Bid and Contract Prototype, 1-3 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2011

**Session 3:** The “Side Dishes” — Attachments and Exhibits, 1-3 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2011

### Special Education

**Registration Deadline Oct. 31 for the Fifth Annual Conference on Best Practices for NonPublic Special Education Programs**

Registration closes Oct. 31 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/](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.

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**Rules and Waivers**

**Invitation to Comment on Rules**

Four 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 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision)**

Responds to several recently enacted statutes, particularly proposing a process to approve entities that will provide training for school board members, as is required under P.A. 97-8, effective June 13, 2011.

*Deadline for Public Comment: December 19*

**Part 151 (School Construction Program)**

Add special education cooperatives to the entities eligible to apply for energy efficient grants under the School Construction Program, a change made by P.A. 97-205, effective July 28, 2011.

*Deadline for Public Comment: December 19*

**Part 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision)**

Proposes that starting in the 2014-15 school year, any school district that offers kindergarten (whether full or half day) be required to administer the Kindergarten Individual Development Survey, or KIDS, and to participate in pilot administrations of the survey in the two years previous to full implementation (if chosen), unless a school district can provide evidence of capacity issues that would prevent participation.

*Deadline for Public Comment: January 30*

**Part 235 (Early Childhood Block Grant)**

Addresses numerous requirements related to coordinating the administration of the programs funded under the block grant with those early childhood initiatives offered through other state agencies, including participation in a quality rating system and an electronic personnel registry.

*Deadline for Public Comment: January 30*

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**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](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*

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**U.S. Departments of Education and State**

**Annual International Education Week Kicks Off on Nov. 14**

The 12th annual International Education Week starts Nov. 14. This year's theme is International Education: Inspiring Students Locally to Succeed Globally. International Education Week is a joint initiative of the U.S. Departments of Education and State. This annual initiative aims to promote international understanding and build support for international educational exchange by encouraging the development of programs that prepare Americans to live and work in a global environment and attract future leaders from abroad to study in the United States.

“President Obama and I are passionate about providing all of our children with an education that will enable them to succeed in a globally competitive economy where knowledge and innovation are more important than ever,” stated U.S. Secretary of Education Arne
Duncan in a recent letter. “And, with the world's economies and societies becoming more and more interdependent, it is almost impossible to distinguish between domestic and international issues.” Visit http://www2.ed.gov/about/inits/ed/internationaled/iew.html to read it in its entirety.

Additional information, including a list of ways to get involved and more, is available on the Department of State’s website at http://iew.state.gov/index.cfm#nogo.

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**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.

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**Classroom Opportunities**

**Illinois First Amendment Center Offers Free Materials for Educators**

The Illinois First Amendment Center in Springfield has free materials available for all grades that teach awareness, understanding and appreciation for the First Amendment. Many of the materials are paired with curriculum guides vetted by educators. Available materials include posters (including student-designed posters), videos (for both high school and lower grades), coloring books, flash cards, curriculum guides and more. All of the materials are free and many can be downloaded online at http://www.ifac.us.

For items that must be mailed, the Illinois First Amendment Center charges a nominal postage fee to cover actual postage. There are no shipping/handling charges. All of the materials may be previewed online at www.ifac.us and either downloaded or ordered from the website. For additional information, contact David Porter at dporter@illinoispress.org.

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**Student Opportunities**

**Entries Sought for Illinois Work Zone Safety Calendar Contest**

The Illinois Department of Transportation is asking elementary students in kindergarten through sixth grade to help promote work zone safety through art. IDOT, the Illinois State Board of Education, the American Traffic Safety Services Foundation and the Illinois Chapter of the American Traffic Safety Services Association are sponsoring the seventh annual Illinois Work Zone Safety Calendar Contest.

This year’s theme is “See Orange. Slow Down. Save Lives.” There are three categories for the competition divided by grades: K-1, 2-4 and 5-6 grades. Each school must select the top four posters from each category (12 posters total) and submit them to IDOT by Nov. 30. Children are eligible to participate in the contest even if their school chooses not to participate. The child’s parent or guardian can submit the drawings to IDOT.

The top 30 entries, 10 from each category, will move on to a judging panel who will determine the 12 finalists to be displayed in the 2013 Illinois Work Zone Safety Calendar. The top two finalists in each category will move on to compete in a national calendar contest.

For more information, go to http://www.dot.state.il.us/trafficsafety/WZS/WZScontest.html or contact IDOT’s contest coordinator, Jessica Keldermans, at (217) 785-3062.

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**Professional Development**

**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.
For more information, visit Dyslexia in Illinois at [http://dyslexiaill.wordpress.com](http://dyslexiaill.wordpress.com), the Yale Center for Dyslexia and Creativity at [http://dyslexia.yale.edu](http://dyslexia.yale.edu), the Illinois branch of the International Dyslexia Association at [http://www.readibida.org](http://www.readibida.org) and the Learning Ally at [http://learningally.org](http://learningally.org).

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**In the News**

**Weekly News Clips**


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**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).