Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

I am relieved that a legislative solution was finally worked out to pay our Regional Superintendents and their Assistants. I thank them for their dedication and willingness to serve under these very difficult circumstances.

The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC), the multi-state assessment consortium of which Illinois is a Governing State, has released the Model Content Frameworks that will be used to guide and develop items and the design for the new assessments to be administered in 2014-15. These frameworks are an additional tool that you can use as you move forward in the implementation of the Common Core State Standards.

The Model Content Framework was developed by writers of the Common Core and state content experts, with valuable feedback from more than 1,000 teachers, principals, superintendents and others who responded during the August public comment period. The frameworks are currently in English Language Arts and Math and are intended to be flexible and adaptive to on-going input and future changes to the standards. While the main purpose for the Model Content Frameworks is to provide guidance to development of the assessments, they can also be a valuable tool as content is developed and districts put in place curriculum to meet the Common Core. You can access the frameworks at www.parcconline.org/parcc-content-frameworks.

On Friday members of the State Board will perform an initial review of administrative rules for the development and implementation of new teacher and principal performance evaluations. The State Board’s approval will allow the proposed rules to be published for public comments. The rules being proposed are a result of the Performance Evaluation Review Act.

Members of the statutory Performance Evaluation Advisory Council (comprised of teachers, administrators and others representing educational organizations in the State) have been meeting since early last year to develop these proposed rules, which are focused on providing valid and reliable evaluation systems for teachers, principals and assistant principals that incorporate student growth and professional practice. You can find out more about this process at http://www.isbe.net/PEAC/default.htm.

The Triple-I conference is this weekend so the Board will be meeting in Chicago. An audiocast of the meeting will be available on the ISBE website. Once the Board has approved the initial rules for review there will be a 45-day public comment period, or in this case, mid-January.

Have a great week.

Chris

Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

- **21st CCLC Full Service Community Schools “How to” Orientation Holiday Inn, Rockford** – Nov. 15
- **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)
- **Annual Financial Report (AFR) (ISBE Form 50-35) Submission Due** – Nov. 15
21st CCLC Full Service Community Schools “How to” Orientation Comfort Inn, Orland Park – Nov. 17
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
Annual Statement of Affairs (ISBE Form 50-37) Submission: Posted in newspaper by Dec. 1 and submitted to ISBE by Dec. 15
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
Certificate of Tax Levy (ISBE Form 50-02) – Must certified and submitted to the county clerk by Dec. 26
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

Funding and Disbursement

**FY 2012 Supplemental ARRA Education Jobs Funds Available**

The U.S. Department of Education has notified the Illinois State Board of Education that supplemental Education Jobs (Ed Jobs) funds in the amount of $6,136,142 are available for eligible Illinois local education agencies (LEAs). The supplemental Ed Job funds are in addition to the initial Ed Jobs grant award of $415,397,841 that was allocated to eligible LEAs in August 2010. The supplemental Ed Jobs funds are subject to the same requirements as the initial Ed Jobs funds. Please see further details at http://www.isbe.net/arra/pdf/arra_ed_jobs_supp_msg_fy12.pdf.

Preliminary FY 12 supplemental allocations have been calculated for all eligible LEAs which can be accessed at http://www.isbe.net/arra/pdf/arra_ed_jobs_prelim_lea_all_oc_fy12.pdf. In accordance with federal guidelines and to facilitate responses of acceptance or refusal of the supplemental Ed Jobs funds, we are requiring all eligible LEAs to access the ARRA – Ed Jobs Supplemental Funds system in IWAS to formally accept or refuse the supplemental funds. On the Intent to Apply page, the administrator must select “yes” or “no” if the LEA wishes to accept or refuse the supplemental Ed Jobs funds. This review and response must be submitted on or before Monday, Nov. 21, 2011.

If you have questions regarding this message or the ARRA – Ed Jobs Supplemental Funds, please contact Jim Mathes (jmathes@isbe.net) or Marj Beck (mbeck@isbe.net) in the Division of Funding and Disbursement Services at (217) 782-5256.

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 a Webinar training session for the Assessment Network from 1:30 to 3 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 8. Registration information for this Webinar is posted on the ISAT and IAA Websites at http://www.isbe.net/assessment/isat.htm and http://www.isbe.net/assessment/iaa.htm.

School Business Services

Reminders For Upcoming Deadlines

Annual Financial Report (AFR) (ISBE Form 50-35)
Submission Due Nov. 15, 2011: School District/Joint Agreements AFRs must be submitted to ISBE no later than Tuesday, Nov. 15, 2011. This excludes those districts/joint agreements with approved extensions until Dec. 15, 2011. For more details and instructions see the following website: http://www.isbe.net/sfms/afr/afr.htm.

Annual Statement of Affairs (ISBE Form 50-37)
Submission: School districts/joint agreements must display specific pages in the district’s/joint agreement’s local newspaper by no later than Thursday, Dec. 1, 2011. The form must also be submitted electronically to ISBE by no later than Thursday, Dec. 15, 2011. For more details, specific pages to be displayed in the newspaper and ISBE submission instructions see the following website: http://www.isbe.net/sfms/afr/asp.htm.

Certificate of Tax Levy (ISBE Form 50-02) must be certified and submitted to the county clerk by no later than Monday, Dec. 26, 2011. For more details, the form and instructions see the following website: http://www.isbe.net/sfms/afr/ctl.htm.

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.

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.

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

U.S. Department of Education
Soliciting feedback on state’s waiver to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)

ISBE is seeking an Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) waiver from the U.S. Department of Education. Please submit any comments on this waiver to nclb@isbe.net by November 21. ISBE hopes that by soliciting this waiver from the U.S. Department of Education, students of Illinois will be better served. The following is a brief summary of the request:

- Waive the period of availability of FY 2009 funds under state-administered Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) programs. The extended authority to obligate these funds would enable ISBE and its sub-recipients to increase the quality of instruction for students, improve their academic achievement, and continue to assist the same populations served by the programs for which this waiver is being requested in accordance with applicable program requirements.

The full waiver request can be found here: [http://www.isbe.net/nclb/pdfs/waiver_request_fy09_110911.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/nclb/pdfs/waiver_request_fy09_110911.pdf). Questions on this waiver should be directed to nclb@isbe.net.

USDA Foods and Illinois Commodity System Training Available Via Webinar

On Dec. 15, 2011, ISBE will offer USDA Foods and Illinois Commodity System training via webinar. The webinar will focus on the Illinois Commodity System, placing the annual commodity order, diversions to processors, Department of Defense (DOD) fresh fruit and vegetable program, and additional monthly processes aimed at teaching better management of commodity entitlement. Registration is required.

Visit the food distribution website at [http://www.isbe.net/business.htm](http://www.isbe.net/business.htm) for a registration link for this information packed webinar.

**Date:** Thursday, Dec. 15, 2011  
**Time:** 2-3:30 p.m.  
**Note:** This is a time change from what was originally posted in the November 2011 Outlook.

Special Education

**Illinois Assistive Technology Program**

During the IEP process, assistive technology must be considered for every child and then provided by districts if required in a child's IEP to access a free and appropriate public education (FAPE).


For additional information regarding assistive technology, please contact Special Education Services Division, Illinois State Board of Education, at (217) 782-5589.

‘Practical Guidance on Section 504: Developing a Defensible Plan’

The Special Education Leadership Academy is presenting a workshop designed for staff who are in the position of developing, monitoring, supervising or implementing the components of a 504 Plan. Section 504, as a federal civil rights law, has sweeping implications for all schools. In light of the new legislation requiring Section 504 Plans under the Care of Students with Diabetes Act, increased attention can be anticipated in the area of compliance. Topics to be discussed and covered include eligibility, child find obligations, evaluation, the components of a 504 Plan,
procedural safeguards, discipline and recent legislation/case law.

Upcoming workshops are scheduled in Fairview Heights on Nov. 14 and Champaign on Nov. 15. Registration starts at 8 a.m. and the program is from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The workshop is partially funded by IDEA Discretionary funds from the Illinois State Board of Education. For more information, including on how to register and details about the presenters, go to http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/sela_504_wksp_flier.pdf.

### Career and Technical Education

#### PLTW STEM Education Fund

Project Lead the Way (PLTW), through its PLTW STEM Education Fund (PSEF) is connecting companies, foundations, and philanthropic organizations seeking to impact STEM education with schools interested in providing their students with an innovative, high quality STEM education program. PLTW is committed to assisting schools interested in implementing PLTW curriculum with an opportunity to apply for funding.

The application is currently open for schools seeking to implement the Pathway to Engineering (PTE) high school program or the Gateway to Technology (GTT) middle school program during the 2012-13 school year. The PSEF involves a competitive grant process. Successful applicants will have visited at least one other PLTW school, prepared a PLTW program budget, lined up potential community partners, and developed a computer lab that meets PLTW requirements. To access the online application and more information, visit http://www.pltw.org/getting-started/pltw-stem-education-fund.

The deadline for applications is Jan. 20, 2012. PLTW will notify schools in March 2012 regarding the status of its application.

#### Grant Awards

School districts interested in starting a high school Pathway to Engineering (PTE) program are eligible for start up funds of up to $35,000, over three years. High schools must commit to implementing a minimum of four courses, a minimum of one each year, to be eligible for this funding.

School districts interested in starting a PLTW middle school Gateway to Technology (GTT) program are eligible for start up funds of up to $20,000, over two years. Design and Modeling (DM) and Automation Robotics (AR) are required units.

#### Use of Funds

Grant funds are restricted to training costs for teachers (no stipends) and the required equipment and supplies for the GTT program and the foundation PTE courses: Introduction to Engineering Design (IED) and Principles of Engineering (POE) and one of the following specialty courses Digital Electronics (DE), Computer Integrated Manufacturing (CIM), Civil Engineering and Architecture (CEA), Aerospace Engineering (AE), Biotechnical Engineering (BE), and Engineering Design and Development (EDD). Funds may be used to purchase the teacher laptop, lab printer, and digital projector and screen. Grant funds are not be used for renovations, lab/student computers, network infrastructure, or items listed in the PTLW purchasing manuals as “Optional.”

For more information regarding PLTW STEM Implementation Fund and the PLTW Model Grant Program, visit http://grants.pltw.org or email Arvetta Jideonwo at ajideonwo@pltw.org. For information regarding PLTW programs, please visit http://www.pltw.org. For information on PLTW in Illinois, contact Brenda Pacey, PLTW Affiliate Director, at bpacey@uillinois.edu; Steve Parrott, PLTW State Leader, at sparrott@isbe.net; or Terri Schulz, PLTW National Director, at tschulz@pltw.org.

### Educator and School Development

#### Seventh Annual Induction and Mentoring Conference Scheduled for Feb. 22-23


The conference, which is titled “Staying Committed to New Teacher Induction,” will examine how district and school personnel can make a difference in a new teacher’s career, even in tough times. Quality induction programs accelerate new teacher development and assist new teachers in their knowledge, skill, effectiveness and professional development, which, in turn, impact student achievement and success. This conference will provide practical and standards-based ideas about induction resources, evaluation, program goals and design. Conference sessions will help both established and new induction and mentoring programs improve, learn from other programs and develop a network of contacts to pave the way for new teachers’ success.
Conference registration is $50, and substitute reimbursement and CPDUs are available. For more information or to register for the conference, visit http://intc.education.illinois.edu/conference.

Office of the Governor

Illinois’ Educational Opportunities for Military Children Commission Under Way

Last year, Illinois joined the Military Interstate Children’s Compact Commission, a national initiative aimed at easing transitions for military families. As a signatory, Illinois agreed to create a body to review issues pertaining to military families and their experience with the education system in our state. The group convened its first meeting on Oct. 25 to identify the challenges facing students of Illinois’ military families and begin developing next steps for addressing them. In accordance with the authorizing legislative language, this group will operate under the oversight of the P-20 Council, which will assist with the coordination of state agencies, local government and military installations in an effort to best meet the needs of those who serve our country.

For more information, visit the P-20 Council website at http://www2.illinois.gov/gov/P20/Pages/EOMCC.aspx.

School Opportunities

Annual Great Central U.S. ShakeOut Draws Attention to Risk of Earthquake

In April 2011, more than 3 million people across the region participated in the first-ever Great Central U.S. ShakeOut. More than 257,000 of these participants were Illinoisans, including 187,456 schoolchildren throughout Illinois.

Based on that success, this public earthquake preparedness drill is now planned as an annual event, and the next one is scheduled for 10:15 a.m. on Feb. 7, 2012. This “Drop, Cover and Hold On” drill will be conducted simultaneously with seven other states in the Central U.S. to draw attention to the earthquake hazard in this region.

The Illinois Emergency Management Agency is encouraging schools and other organizations to participate in the 2012 ShakeOut drill. Log on to the ShakeOut website (http://www.shakeout.org/centralus/) to obtain details and reference materials and to register for the drill.

If schools cannot participate on Feb. 7, they may select another day to conduct a “Drop, Cover and Hold On” drill. If you select another day, your organization should still register on the ShakeOut website.

For more information, contact Kate Mackz at IEMA at (217) 785-9925 or kate.mackz@illinois.gov.

Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network Provides Free Safe Space Kits

The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network is offering a Safe Space Kit to district superintendents, and junior high, middle school and high school principals. The resource provides guidance, information and resources for educators to serve as allies to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender youth. This effort has been underwritten by a grant from the Pepsi Refresh Challenge.

GLSEN is providing up to 750 free kits on a first come, first serve basis. To learn more and access a code to receive a kit, go to http://www.safespacekit.com. The opportunity is limited to one kit per school. Find your school by entering your zip code, then follow directions to send a kit. If you cannot find your school, email safespace@glsen.org with your information and they will send a kit. If you find that your school has already received a kit the name will be grayed out. At checkout, after inputting your name and address, you will see the "grant code" field, enter ILBEh75.

Gov. Quinn Invites Illinois Students to Partner With Sister Schools in China

During Gov. Pat Quinn’s recent trade mission to Asia, he signed a memorandum of understanding creating the Sister Schools Initiative recognizing the important role of education in securing economic well-being. This agreement provides an opportunity for Illinois schools to partner with their Chinese counterparts promoting cultural and linguistic appreciation amongst the next generation of global citizens.

Participating classes will be connected with a class of a similar age group from the Zhejiang Province to engage in classroom collaborations. How classes choose to connect is flexible in order to accommodate the interests
and abilities of participants but exchanges could range from shared lesson plans and class blogs to email “pen pal” exchanges to student or faculty exchanges.

For more information or to sign-up to participate, visit the P-20 Council website at http://www2.illinois.gov/gov/P20/Pages/sister-school-registration.aspx.

Educator Opportunities

Nominations Sought for History Teacher of the Year Awards

Do you know an outstanding teacher passionate about American history? Gilder Lehrman History Teacher of the Year Award nominations honoring middle and high school teachers can be made now at http://www.gilderlehrman.org/nhtoy. State winners each receive $1,000, and the national winner receives $10,000. All winners receive an archive of materials for their school library, donated in their honor. All full-time educators who teach American history are eligible.

Nominations can be made by a student, parent, colleague, principal or school administrator familiar with the teacher's work. The nomination deadline for the 2012 award is Feb. 1. The award is sponsored by the Gilder Lehrman Institute, Preserve America and the History channel. One winner will be chosen from each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, U.S. Territories and Department of Defense schools. These winners will be considered for the national award.

For more information, visit the website above or contact the National History Teacher of the Year coordinator at nhtoy@gilderlehrman.org or (646) 366-9666, ext. 28.

Applications Available for Mining Awareness Educator Award

Each year, the Interstate Mining Compact Commission (IMCC) presents the Mining Awareness Educator Award. The award is given to an individual school teacher or school from an IMCC member state (which includes Illinois) that has achieved excellence in the following categories:

- promoted environmental stewardship while enhancing the understanding of issues associated with mining and natural resource development.
- created unique educational materials or curriculum demonstrating the production and/or use of minerals and associated environmental protection.

These criteria may be met through classroom and/or out-of-classroom (i.e. field trips, mine tours, etc.) activities. The deadline to apply is Feb. 1. For more information, visit http://www.imcc.isa.us/Awards.htm.

In the News

Illinois School Library Media Association Honors Former ISBE Board Member

The Illinois School Library Media Association recently presented Joyce Karon, current Illinois P20 Council Member and P20 Liaison to the Longitudinal Data System, with the 2011 Illinois School Library Media Association Lifetime Membership Award.

Karon received her award at an awards banquet during the annual ISLMA conference on Oct. 28. The Lifetime Membership Award is highly selective, and only given at the discretion of the ISLMA board. The award is designed to honor and recognize individuals for distinguished and exceptional service to the association and the library community.

In the course of her career, Karon has worked as a school librarian and coordinator of Library Media Services in the Barrington Community Unit School District 220, served two terms on the Illinois State Board of Education, acted as the ISBE liaison to the Illinois Board of Higher Education, participated in NASBE Study Groups on Early Childhood and Secondary Education, and served on the Illinois State Library Advisory Council. She has worked to ensure funding for Illinois school libraries by drafting legislation for the Illinois School District Library Grant and served on an ISBE Task Force to draft guidelines for Illinois School Library Media Programs. Karon is also a past ISLMA Polestar Winner for her outstanding contributions to school library media programs in Illinois.

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.