Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

On Friday the Illinois State Board of Education approved for public comment proposed rules that will help effectuate the transformation of teacher and principal evaluations here in Illinois. The proposed rules provide the structure upon which districts will build performance evaluation systems that incorporate student growth as a significant factor as well as a research based framework for reviewing effective practice.

My thanks to the statutory Performance Evaluation Advisory Council, made up of teachers, principals and other administrators from throughout the state, for their leadership and professional advice. The PEAC has been meeting monthly since April 2010, held eight public forums in October and November throughout the state, and gathered online input from educators and the public. In total, more than 2,300 people provided feedback and helped shape the process. Some of the highlights of the proposed rules include:

- Starting September 2012, all teachers and principals/assistant principals must be rated as Excellent, Proficient, Needs Improvement or Unsatisfactory.
- Starting September 2012, the evaluations of all principals/assistant principals must include student growth as a significant factor.
- Teacher evaluations incorporating student growth as a significant factor will be phased in, starting with at least 300 schools in Chicago in September 2012 and the remaining Chicago schools in September 2013. All schools in the state must incorporate student growth as a significant factor in teacher evaluations by September 2016.
- Tenured teachers will be evaluated at least every other year, however, tenured teachers evaluated as “Needs Improvement” or “Unsatisfactory” must be evaluated the following year.
- Student growth must count for at least 25 percent of the evaluation for the 2012-13 and 2013-14, then at least 30 percent starting in September 2014.
- Starting in 2012-13, all evaluators must be pre-qualified and then retrained every five years.

As noted above, districts will be required to incorporate a research based professional framework to evaluate teachers for effective instruction. A recent study by the University of Chicago Consortium on School Research showed a direct connection between teachers who scored highest in these frameworks and student growth, and that students in the study with the lowest growth were in classrooms led by teachers who scored lower on the frameworks. The Consortium study focused on the Charlotte Danielson Framework for Teaching, which is the framework recommended by PEAC. (http://ccsr.uchicago.edu/content/publications.php?pub_id=161)

You may view the complete text of the proposed rules (Part 50 Evaluation of Certified Employees) and provide public comment at http://www.isbe.net/rules/proposed/default.htm. The public comment period will run through Jan. 17.
As we prepare for Thanksgiving, I wanted to make you aware that Governor Quinn will once again be returning to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany to deliver handmade cards to our soldiers. You and your students may participate by sending handmade cards to the Governor’s Office in Springfield or Chicago.

**Chicago-Area cards may be mailed to:**
The Office of Governor Pat Quinn  
Attn: Amy Amizich  
James R. Thompson Center  
100 West Randolph Street, Suite 16-100  
Chicago, IL 60601

**Downstate Cards may be mailed to:**  
Office of the Governor Pat Quinn  
Attn: Donna Dalton  
207 State House  
Springfield, IL 62706

Any questions about Governor Quinn’s Holiday Card to Illinois Heroes Overseas program can be directed to Amy Amizich at (312) 814-1083.

Happy Thanksgiving,

Chris

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**Upcoming Dates and Deadlines**

- **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 50 (Evaluation of Certified Employees under Article 24A of the School Code)** – Public comment period ends Jan. 17
- **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

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**Rules and Waivers**

**Invitation to Comment on Rules**

A rulemaking recently reviewed by the Illinois State Board of Education is available for public comment. The proposal has 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 50 (Evaluation of Certified Employees under Articles 24A and 34 of the School Code)**

Sets forth requirements specific to the Performance Evaluation Reform Act of 2010 (P.A. 96-861, effective January 1, 2010), P.A. 97-8 (SB 7), effective June 13,
2011, and P.A. 97-217, effective July 28, 2011; the proposed rules address performance evaluation systems that incorporate the use of data and indicators on student growth to rate the performance of teachers, principals and assistant principals.

**Deadline for Public Comment: Jan. 17**

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### Early Learning Budget Hearing

**First Ever Joint Early Learning Budget Hearing to be Held for FY 2013**

The Illinois State Board of Education, in cooperation with the Office of the Governor and Departments of Human Services and Children and Family Services is hosting Illinois’ first coordinated Early Learning Budget Hearing.

The hearing will bring together the relevant state agencies to better coordinate the resource request for Early Learning in fiscal year 2013. The hearing will be held at 3 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 29, in Chicago.

- **What:** Joint FY 2013 Early Learning Budget Hearing
- **When:** 3 to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 29
- **Where:** Room 16-503, James R. Thompson Center, 100 West Randolph St., Chicago

The Illinois State Board of Education’s Finance and Audit Committee conducts public hearings each year to gather opinions about the education needs and priorities at the local level as they prepare the following year’s education budget request.

The Early Learning Budget Hearing is the last in a series of five budget hearings ISBE has held around the state. The State Board of Education generally recommends an education budget in January, several months prior to any General Assembly action on the next fiscal year’s budget. The board can only make a recommendation. The governor and legislators must determine how to generate revenue and set the final budget.

ISBE has already held FY 2013 budget hearings in Springfield, Edwardsville, Champaign and Wheeling this fall.

Those who are unable to attend one of the five public hearings are encouraged to email any guidance or feedback to ISBE at isbefy13@isbe.net.

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### Special Education

**Materials from 2011 Nonpublic Special Education Conference Available Online**

The 2011 Nonpublic Special Education conference materials are now available online at [http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/html/workshop_conf.htm#np](http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/html/workshop_conf.htm#np). Archived presentations of all past conference sessions can also be found at this website.

This year’s event turned out to be a great success. Nearly 280 guests from 10 different states enjoyed a collection of 25 sessions covering topics such as: Transition, Family Unification, Specific Strategies for Students on the Autism Spectrum, Staff Support, Parent’s Perspectives with Therapeutic Programming, Trauma Informed Care, and Infusing Technology with Special Education Curriculum.

Both private and public school administrators were able to network and dialogue regarding how to best serve students in private special education placements.

A special thanks to our musical guests, Vision Quest, from the Chicago Lighthouse who again provided the outstanding musical entertainment.

**TEACH Video Released**

The TEACH campaign ([http://teach.gov](http://teach.gov)) is an initiative of the U.S. Department of Education designed to raise awareness of the teaching profession and get a new generation of teachers to join the ones who are already making a difference in the classroom. The Office of Special Education Programs recently helped to produce a special education teacher recruitment video that can be viewed at [http://www.youtube.com/teachgov](http://www.youtube.com/teachgov).

**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...
Career and Technical Education

Curriculum Revitalization Project Will Help Find Lesson Plans Aligned to Common Core

ISBE’s Curriculum Revitalization Project provides online curriculum free of charge to all Illinois CTE teachers via http://www.mycaert.com. We are pleased to announce an important development regarding the curriculum materials: Teachers will soon have a powerful new tool to locate and document the Common Core State Standards embedded in the CTE materials featured in Mycaert. Effective Jan. 1, users will be able to search and locate lesson plans that have been aligned to Common Core Mathematics and English Language Arts standards.

For more information, contact Mark Williams or Dora Welker in the Career and Technical Education Division at (217) 782-4620.

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 oe_fy12.pdf. In accordance with federal guidelines and to facilitate responses of acceptance or refusal of 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.

U.S. Department of Education

Feedback Sought on Elementary and Secondary Education Act Waiver

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 Nov. 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. Questions on this waiver should be directed to nclb@isbe.net.

Department of Natural Resources

Scholarship and Grant Opportunities Available

The DNR Division of Education is working in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program and the Illinois Conservation Foundation to expand the Schoolyard Habitat Action Grant program. Due to this partnership, the maximum available funds per Schoolyard Habitat Action Grant application is increasing to $1,000. The grant program provides funds to establish or enhance wildlife habitat on school grounds or other public places.
and is available to teachers, youth group leaders and nature center personnel. Butterfly gardens, rain gardens, prairie plots and wetlands are just some of the projects that qualify. Visit [http://dnr.state.il.us/education/CLASSRM/grants.htm](http://dnr.state.il.us/education/CLASSRM/grants.htm) to access the application form. The application deadline is Nov. 30, 2011.

**Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip Grant program:** This grant program can provide funding for teachers and students to visit the natural wonders of our state. Teachers may apply for up to $500 to be applied toward transportation and substitute teacher costs. Complete instructions and application forms are available at [http://dnr.state.il.us/education/CLASSRM/grants.htm](http://dnr.state.il.us/education/CLASSRM/grants.htm). The application deadline is Jan. 31, 2012.

**Conservation Achievement Scholarships:** The Illinois Conservation Foundation will honor high school seniors who have demonstrated outstanding efforts to preserve, protect, enhance and or promote Illinois’ natural resources with the awarding of three Conservation Achievement Scholarships. One $5,000 scholarship, one $3,000 scholarship and one $2,000 scholarship are available. The applicant must be an Illinois resident and a senior at an Illinois high school during the 2011-12 school year. Voluntary, effective contributions to the Illinois’ natural resources throughout the applicant’s high school enrollment must be documented. The application form can be accessed at [www.ilcf.org/scholarships/default.aspx](http://www.ilcf.org/scholarships/default.aspx). Applicants must be received by Nov. 30, 2011. For information, email donna.ferguson@illinois.gov or call (217) 785-2003.

### 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/](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](mailto: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](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.

### 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](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:

- provided educational outreach in an innovative manner that increases the level of understanding in the classroom and community about mining and its impacts.
- 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](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](http://www.isbe.net/hr/Default.htm).