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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Editor’s note: State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch’s column is set to return next week. Have a good week.

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Assessment

PARCC Model Content Frameworks and Webinars Now Available

PARCC Model Content Frameworks in Math and English/Language Arts were recently released. In addition, Achieve recently produced two Webinars about the Content Frameworks.

To view the PARCC Model Content Frameworks and Webinars, please visit http://www.parcconline.org/parcc-content-frameworks.
Senate Bill 7

Reminder Regarding Establishment of a Reduction in Force Joint Committee

Section 24-12(c) of Senate Bill 7 (Public Act 97-8, effective June 13, 2011) requires that each school district and special education joint agreement use a joint committee composed of equal representation selected by the school board and its teachers (or if applicable the exclusive bargaining representative of its teachers) to address certain matters related to reductions in force. The RIF Joint Committee must be established and the first meeting must occur on or before Dec. 1, 2011. The number of individuals on the Joint Committee is to be determined by the school district and union, if one exists, or teachers, provided that there must be an equal number selected by each party.

A copy of Senate Bill 7 can be seen at http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/97/SB/PDF/09700SB0007lv.pdf. The Illinois State Board of Education will post an updated Frequently Asked Question on Senate Bill 7 and the Performance Evaluation Reform Act later this week at http://www.isbe.net/peac/ along with additional resources.

Early Childhood Education

Building Stronger Connections With Local Head Start Agencies

Every school district in Illinois is supported by a local Head Start program. To find the Head Start agencies in your area, go to the Illinois Head Start Association website at http://ilheadstart.org. Head Start agencies provide comprehensive (social services, health and parent engagement) and educational services to pregnant moms, babies, toddlers, preschoolers and their families, who live in poverty. Federal regulations require Head Start agencies to coordinate with school districts to promote the effective movement of children into the school system and increase continuity of pedagogy and support services. The school readiness agenda focuses on the importance of creating better continuity across Head Start and the early years of elementary school.

The emphasis on school readiness requires Head Start to establish school readiness goals with their local school district(s) to help prepare children to be successful when they enter school. Ongoing communication between local schools and Head Start that exchanges information about children and programs and aligns services for early learning, health and family engagement will create more continuity for children and families. Research and experience have taught us that when children’s experiences build on what has come before and connect to what comes next, they are more likely to be successful long-term learners.

This national effort recognizes the importance of creating more comprehensive systems of education that are linked from one stage of learning to the next — reducing the chances that children will be lost along the way and increasing opportunities for positive academic, social, and economic outcomes. We hope that you will support this national effort by engaging with local Head Start agencies to positively impact the school readiness and long-term success of children in your community.

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; 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

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.

### 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. 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) 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.

### 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.mycert.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 Mycert. 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.

### 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 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. 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. Applicants must be received by Nov. 30, 2011. For information, email donna.ferguson@illinois.gov or call (217) 785-2003.

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**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.