Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

Last week I had the opportunity to testify before the Senate committee responsible for overseeing the Senate’s education budget process. I have now testified before committees in both chambers of the General Assembly and already laid significant groundwork with meetings with various committee members and other legislators. Members have been generally supportive of the work being done by the Illinois State Board of Education, Illinois school districts, and our administrators and teachers, and seem pleased with the progress being made to implement the state’s education reform agenda. The amount of questions during committees has been relatively light, however, we are still truly in the beginning stages of this budget making cycle.

While lawmakers have generally been positive, this is going to be yet another tough year where difficult decisions will have to be made in state spending with pressures from all corners. The State Board of Education has proposed, and I am advocating for, a budget that includes a $265 million or 3.9 percent increase in education funding. Gov. Quinn has proposed a relatively flat budget. However, in crafting an agreed-upon budget, both chambers of the General Assembly will be using anticipated revenue numbers that are $200 million less than the governor’s proposed budget.

As we engage legislators on the state level, I hope that you and your local boards of education are engaging them at home – by, for example, providing them with information and concrete examples of how schools in their legislative districts are being impacted by the proration on General State Aid, and the end of both federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and Ed Jobs funds. Are you making cuts in programs and services? Have you negotiated contracts that reflect the lean times we’re facing? Have you had to scale back on your complement of extracurricular activities? These are the types of real-world impacts that legislators need to know in order to make informed decisions about education funding.

I spent Friday in Danville with Board Chairman Chico and member David Fields. We toured the New Tech High School campus, which emphasizes project-based learning and the use of technology. Later, we recognized Illinois Honor Roll schools from Ford, Champaign and Vermilion counties.

Finally, this week is Illinois Arts Education Week. We’ll be recognizing Reese Dannenfeldt, a fifth-grader at Copeland Manor Elementary School in Libertyville School District 70, who was chosen as the winner of a 2012 statewide poster contest. Reese’s drawing features a child painting with musical notes and dancers in the background. You can see the winning entry at http://www.isbe.net/grants/arts_week/default.htm. Congratulations to Reese, her instructor, Cindi Sartain, and all of the students and teachers who participated in the contest and are celebrating Illinois Arts Education Week.

Have a great week!

Chris
Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

- **Overview of SIG 1003(g) Intervention Models and Grant Requirements webinar** – March 14 (Register at [https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/582815441](https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/582815441))
- **Migrant Education Program grant application deadline** – March 15 (Application available at [http://www.isbe.net/bilingual/htmls/migrant.htm](http://www.isbe.net/bilingual/htmls/migrant.htm))
- **Part 226 (Special Education) and Part 575 (School Technology Program)** – Public comment period ends March 26
- **Part 51 (Dismissal of Tenured Teachers under Article 24 and Dismissal of Tenured Teachers and Principals under Article 34 of the School Code)** – Public comment period ends April 2
- **Truants’ Alternative and Optional Education Program (TAOEP) Request for Proposal (RFP) deadline** – April 20 (RFP can be found at [http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/html/taoep.htm](http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/html/taoep.htm))
- **New Part 475 (Contested Cases and Other Formal Hearings), Repeal of existing Part 475 (Contested Cases and Other Formal Hearings), and Repeal of Part 485 (Appeal Proceedings before the State Teacher Certification Board)** – Public comment period ends April 23
- **Maintenance Grant Program application deadline** – May 1
- **Action for Healthy Kids’ School Grants for Healthy Kids application deadline** – May 5 ([http://www.actionforhealthykids.org/upcoming-events/grant-opportunities/school-grants-for-healthy.html](http://www.actionforhealthykids.org/upcoming-events/grant-opportunities/school-grants-for-healthy.html))
- **ISBE offices closed for Memorial Day** – May 28
- **2011-12 Eye Examination Data Collection deadline** – June 30
- **ISBE offices closed for Independence Day** – July 4
- **2011-12 Regional Safe Schools Program (RSSP) student reporting deadline** – July 31
- **ISBE offices closed for Labor Day** – Sept. 3
- **ISBE offices closed for Columbus Day** – Oct. 8

Innovation and Improvement

**Important Announcement Made Regarding Fiscal Year 2012 Final Title I Allocations**

Revised final grant awards for Title I were received across the nation earlier this year. As a state, our entire allocation decreased $931,123. ISBE has calculated revised FY 2012 allocations for all districts. To negate the impact to districts, ISBE has used reallocation funds to balance each district allocation to their original allocation, which we provided last fall. This has eliminated the need for every district to amend down their currently approved application. So no amendments will be needed for districts for these revised FY12 allocations.

If you want to calculate your own projected allocations for FY 2013, based on these preliminary allocations, please use the following link: [http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/nclb_revised_final_alloc_12.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/nclb_revised_final_alloc_12.pdf). These revised final allocations will be used for calculating excess carryover into FY 13.

Please contact Funding and Disbursements with questions or concerns at (217) 782-5256.

**Parent Survey for Supplemental Educational Services Eligible Schools**

The Center for Research in Educational Policy (CREP) at the University of Memphis conducts an annual evaluation on behalf of ISBE of Supplemental Educational Services (SES). As many of you are aware, SES is a component of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as reauthorized by the No Child Left Behind Act, which provides extra academic assistance for students from low-income families attending designated Title I schools (those in their second year of school improvement, in corrective action, or in restructuring status).

The evaluation conducted by CREP assists ISBE in monitoring the effectiveness of providers approved to offer SES in the state of Illinois. The primary components of the evaluation are: SES student achievement outcomes, SES student attendance and the perceptions of parents with children attending SES. Parental feedback plays a critical role in the evaluation of SES providers. Increasing the level of input from parents, through increasing the survey response rate, will ensure the evaluation contains accurate and reliable information.
Later this month, schools that are designated SES-eligible will begin receiving boxes containing parent surveys in English and in Spanish and instructions for returning surveys. Please share this information with your schools and emphasize the importance of the survey distribution and return in an effort to increase the rate of survey submissions.

For questions or additional information regarding the parent survey, contact Beth Murphy of the Center for Research in Educational Policy at the University of Memphis at kmurphy3@memphis.edu or (866) 670-6147. For general SES questions, contact Gary Greene at (312) 814-3989 or ggreene@isbe.net.

**Overview of SIG 1003(g) Intervention Models and Grant Requirements**

Join us for the Overview of SIG 1003(g) Intervention Models and Grant Requirements webinar on March 14. Space is limited. Reserve your webinar seat now at [https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/582815441](https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/582815441).

This introductory webinar is designed for schools that are eligible to apply for the SIG 1003(g) grant. Staff from Innovation and Improvement will explain the requirements of the four intervention models required under the grant, i.e. turnaround, transformation, restart and closure. Additionally staff will provide a general overview of the grant application process, requirements for working with a pre-approved lead partners and the grant application timeline.

Participants are encouraged to review earlier SIG 1003(g) RFPs and related resources at [http://www.isbe.net/sos/htmls/sip_1003.htm](http://www.isbe.net/sos/htmls/sip_1003.htm). Here are the webinar details:

**Title:** Overview of SIG 1003(g) Intervention Models and Grant Requirements  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012  
**Time:** 1:30-3 p.m.  
**System Requirements:** Windows 7, Vista, XP or 2003 Server required for PC-based attendees. Mac OS X 10.5 or newer required for Macintosh-based attendees.

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**Special Education**

**Information on the Truants’ Alternative and Optional Education Program RFP**

Bidders’ conferences for the Truants’ Alternative and Optional Education Program (TAOEP) Request for Proposal (RFP) will be 8:45 to 10:15 a.m. Friday, March 9, at the Doubletree Hotel and Conference Center, Brickyard Rooms IV and V, 10 Brickyard, Bloomington, and through a webinar from 1 to 3 p.m. Thursday, March 15.

To register for the webinar, go to [https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/519868681](https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/519868681). The deadline for submitting the TAOEP RFP is Friday, April 20. The FY 2013 TAOEP RFP can be found at [http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/html/taoep.htm](http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/html/taoep.htm).

For additional information, contact Sally Veach in the Special Education and Support Services Division at (217) 782-5589 and sveach@isbe.net.

**State Board Seeks Public Comment on FFY 2012 Draft IDEA Part B Application**

ISBE’s Division of Special Education Services has completed the grant application under Part B of IDEA as amended in 2004. Upon receipt and approval of the required assurances, certifications and information in the application, the state is eligible to receive Part B funds.


The plan includes a checklist of assurances that Illinois has policies and procedures in effect to comply with the requirements of the December 2004 amendments to IDEA. Where Illinois is not in compliance with the IDEA amendments of 2004, a date is given by which Illinois assures that policies and procedures will be in effect. The plan for expenditure of state-level IDEA funds by category is also a component of the state plan.

Written comments will only be accepted March 30 to April 30. To submit a written comment, go to [http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/IDEA_PartB_FFY12_comment.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/IDEA_PartB_FFY12_comment.pdf).

In addition, public comments can be emailed to partbapplication@isbe.net or mailed to: David Andel, Division Administrator, Illinois State Board of Education, Division of Special Education Services, 100 N. First St. – N-253, Springfield, IL 62777-0001.
Interested persons can review a copy of the plan and comment form in the Information Center, First floor South of the Illinois State Board of Education, 100 N. First St., Springfield.

**Nutrition**

**Action for Healthy Kids Announces Details for Grant Opportunities**

Action for Healthy Kids recently announced their School Grants for Healthy Kids opportunity for next school year. Grant awards will range from $1,000 to $5,000 (average $2,000) to more than 500 schools nationally. The deadline to apply is May 5.

Two different grant opportunities are available for Illinois schools meeting the eligibility requirements.

School breakfast program creation and/or expansion (alternative breakfast programs and universal breakfast programs): Schools receiving this grant must realize an increase in Average Daily Participation (ADP) of SBP by 25 percent as well as provide information to students/parents on the nutrition and calories of foods available at breakfast.

The second grant opportunity includes three focuses: summer feeding program creation and/or expansion, providing healthier foods in competitive food venues, and providing access to healthy foods.

Trainings on Game On! The Ultimate Wellness Challenge, Fuel up to Play 60 and Students Taking Charge (grades 7-12) will be available via webinar or local in-person workshops.

To be eligible, your school must participate in both the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program and have a free/reduced price eligibility greater than 50 percent. Priority will be given to schools with 500 or more students. Two webinars are scheduled to learn more about the grant opportunity, March 20 and March 27 from 2-3 p.m. Register at [http://www.actionforhealthykids.org/upcoming-events/grant-opportunities/school-grants-for-healthy.html](http://www.actionforhealthykids.org/upcoming-events/grant-opportunities/school-grants-for-healthy.html).

**SY2012-2013 Meal Pattern Question and Answer Webinar Scheduled for March 21**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has released the nutrition standards for school meals beginning with school year 2012-13. The new standards were designed to align school meals with the most recent nutrition recommendations and current capabilities of schools. The Nutrition Programs Division of the Illinois State Board of Education presented a webinar on the USDA Food Based Meal Pattern Overview for School Year 2012-2013 on Feb. 22. This recorded webinar as well as the PowerPoint presentation used for this webinar are available on our website. (See link below.)

Another webinar for Illinois schools on this topic is planned for 1:30 p.m. March 21. The webinar will provide a brief overview of the new meal pattern with a focus on question and answers submitted by schools since the earlier webinar regarding overall implementation. Space is limited. Register online at [https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/173745472](https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/173745472). If you are unable to attend the webinar, this webinar will be recorded and available for viewing on ISBE’s website shortly after the live webinar is presented.

The USDA currently has a number of resources available for schools to utilize to help them prepare for changes that are to be put into place for 2012-13. The resources include:

- Final Rule: Nutrition Standards in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs
- School Meals Sample Menus – One Week - Elementary School only
- New Meal Patterns and Dietary Specifications Chart
- Implementation Timeline
- Policy Memo SP 10-2012: Questions and Answers on the Final Rule

To access these resources, as well as the ISBE recorded webinar and PowerPoint presentation, visit our website, [http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/nslp_hhfka_implementation.htm](http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/nslp_hhfka_implementation.htm). If you have any questions, please contact our office via email at [cnp@isbe.net](mailto:cnp@isbe.net) or via telephone at (800) 545-7892.

**First Choice: A Procurement Training for School Food Service Training Announced**

The Nutrition Programs Division of the Illinois State Board of Education is happy to announce a training opportunity related to general food service procurement planned for June 2012. Trainers with the National Food Service Management Institute (NFSMI) will be in Illinois to offer the 2 1/2 day First Choice Procurement Training at two locations: June 5-7, 2012, in Springfield and June 12-14 in Joliet. Space is limited. Register online at [http://webprod1.isbe.net/enscalendar/asp/eventlist.asp](http://webprod1.isbe.net/enscalendar/asp/eventlist.asp).
The second edition of the First Choice: A Purchasing Manual for School Food Service (available online at http://www.nfsmi.org/ResourceOverview.aspx?ID=64) will be used for this training. The second edition updates procurement information and integrates food safety information to assist purchaser in establishing procedures to assure receipt of a safe product. Procurement requirements will be explained including steps in purchasing, regulations, market place environment, product movement, bid units, specifications, brand approval, obtaining prices, monitoring cost, product testing, receiving and storage and purchasing cooperatives.

Questions related to this training can be addressed to Chad Martel at cmartel@isbe.net or (800) 545-7892.

**Community Eligibility Option Webinar for New Applicants Scheduled for March 27**

Community Eligibility Option (CEO) is an alternative to collecting, approving and verifying household eligibility applications for free and reduced price eligible students in high poverty local educational agencies (LEAs) for schools participating in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs.

For a LEA to be eligible to use CEO for school year 2012-13, the LEA must have one or more school that has an identified student percentage of 40 percent or greater as of April 1, 2012. The identified student percentage is NOT the same as the total number of students eligible for free and reduced-price meals. Identified student counts ONLY include the following:

- Directly certified students and extension of direct certification benefits to other household members
- Homeless students certified as such by the district liaison
- Migrant youth certified by local officials
- Runaway youth certified by local officials
- Head Start students
- Pre-K Even Start students, and
- Foster children, certified based on documentation from the foster child case worker.

The LEA and school must agree to offer all enrolled students breakfasts and lunches at no cost (free) and cover any cost above the federal reimbursement received with non-Federal funds. CEO is approved for four successive school years, with an option annually to return to traditional meal counting and claiming procedures.

Reimbursement for schools participating in CEO is based on claiming percentages (Free and Paid only) derived from the percentages of identified students multiplied by a USDA established factor.

ISBE’s Nutrition Programs Division will host a CEO webinar for new applicants from 2-3:30 p.m. March 27. This webinar will provide interested sponsors general information about CEO, how to determine the “identified student” number as well as application information. Register for this webinar at https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/608304953. If you are unable to attend the webinar, this webinar will be recorded and available for viewing on ISBE’s website shortly after the live webinar is presented.

The CEO application for SY2012-13 (July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013) will be available online on April 1. The application must be completed and returned to ISBE for review by the close of business June 29.

For more information about CEO, including the USDA Fact Sheet about this option, visit our website at http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/nslp_hhfka_implementation.htm. If you have any questions, please contact our office via email at cnp@isbe.net or (800) 545-7892.

**Rules and Waivers**

**Invitation to Comment on Rules**

Several 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 Web site at http://www.isbe.net/rules; choose “Proposed Rules and Amendments.” Please submit any comments or suggestions to rules@isbe.net.

**New Part 475 (Contested Cases and Other Formal Hearings):** Replaces existing Part 475, which is proposed for repeal, to respond to P.A. 96-431, effective August 8, 2009, and to reorganize the Part to better align to the sequence of steps inherent in the hearing process and separate into two subparts the processes for hearings held before the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board and those held before the State Superintendent. Public comment period ends April 23, 2012.

**Part 485 (Appeal Proceedings before the State Teacher Certification Board):** Repeals Part 485 pursuant to P.A. 96-431, which removed the authority previously held by the regional superintendent to initiate a hearing and suspend certificates for up to one year and
of the State Superintendent to suspend certificates for up to five years, making appeals before the State Teacher Certification Board unnecessary.

Public comment period ends April 23, 2012.

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**PARCC**

**PARCC Releases Invitation to Negotiate to Engage Educators**

The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC), a 24-state consortium working together to create next generation assessments in English language arts and mathematics, has released through the Florida Department of Education, PARCC's fiscal agent, the Educator Leader Cadre, Meeting Logistics and Meeting Content Services Invitation to Negotiate (ITN). The Educator Leader Cadres (ELC) are a major part of PARCC's ongoing work to engage educators in the implementation of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and the development and implementation of the PARCC assessments.

To read more from the PARCC news release, go to [http://www.parcconline.org/parcc-releases-itn-engage-educators](http://www.parcconline.org/parcc-releases-itn-engage-educators). For those interested in Illinois, send a letter of interest and resume by March 15 to Susie Morrison, ISBE Deputy Superintendent, at smorriso@isbe.net.

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**Educator Certification**

**Taskforce Asks Superintendents to Complete Survey on Sexual Abuse Prevention Programs**

The taskforce created by Erin’s Law, (Public Act 096-1524) requests superintendents’ assistance in the following short survey. As the final report is prepared, the taskforce would like to identify districts that currently offer sexual abuse prevention programs and understand how such programs are structured across the state. Thank you in advance for your participation in our data collection survey. The survey can be found online at [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ZCT57Z9](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ZCT57Z9). Survey responses are due by March 19.

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**Educational Surrogate Parent Program**

**FY 13 Educational Surrogate Parent Program Training and Recruitment RFP Released**

The educational Surrogate Parents Program Request for Proposals (RFP) was released Feb. 17. The purpose of the RFP is to identify a qualified entity to coordinate the statewide training and recruitment of volunteers willing to serve as Educational Surrogate Parents as outlined in this RFP. Proposals must be received at ISBE no later than 4 p.m. on March 16. The RFP is available at [http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/html/surrogate_parent.htm](http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/html/surrogate_parent.htm). The RFP can also be obtained by contacting the Special Education Division at (217) 782-5589.

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**Illinois Association of School Business Officials**


The Illinois Association of School Business Officials is asking for all school district transportation directors to complete a short survey regarding current transportation policies and procedures for their respective district. The data collected through this survey will be summarized and presented during the annual IASBO conference in May at the Transportation Professional Development Committee’s “Best Routing Practices” session. Participation in this survey is requested and appreciated.

Please click on the following link to complete the survey: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/routingbestpractices2012](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/routingbestpractices2012).

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**Response to Intervention**

**Registration Open for RtI Professional Development Trainings**

The following Response to Intervention (RtI) Professional Development Trainings are available for registration. Rooms are available under RtI at participant’s expense at each site. Continental breakfast, lunch and beverages will be provided. There is no cost associated with workshop attendance but each participant must register. Five CPDU are available for credit per day. Each participant will receive a flash drive with access to all seven modules, including the PowerPoint presentations and handouts. More workshops will be available in June throughout the state as well.

Encouraged to attend are K-12 grade: administrators, curriculum directors, special education directors, school psychologists, teacher leaders, math and reading specialists, special education teachers, English language learner teachers, general education teachers and content area teachers.
These modules were designed to provide guidance for districts to fully implement the Response to Intervention process. We strongly suggest all participants register for the two-day overview and then take either the two-day literacy or math training. The literacy and math trainings are provided on the same day, and each grade band training is presented concurrently. Choose a grade level to attend: K-3, 4-8 or 9-12. However, if a participant would like to register for only the overview or only a math or literacy training, registering for just one module is acceptable.

Registration starts at 8 a.m. and the training workshops will be from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Contact Sarah McCusker, Principal Consultant, at smccuske@isbe.net or (217) 524-4832 with questions. For more information on Response to Intervention visit http://www.isbe.net/RtI_plan/default.htm. Register at http://maconpiattroe.org/joomla15/index.php?option=com_eventbooking&view=category&Itemid=106. Here are the locations:

- **Naperville**: March 29-30 overview and April 16-17 math and literacy; Hilton-Lisle, 3003 Corporate W. Drive 60533; (630) 505-0900
- **Fairview Heights**: March 27-28 overview and April 9-10 math and literacy; Four Points Sheraton, 319 Fountains Parkway; (618) 622-9500
- **Springfield**: March 27-28 overview and April 4-5 math and literacy; Crowne Plaza, 3000 S. Dirksen Parkway; (217) 529-7777
- **Chicago**: April 18-19 overview and April 25 and 26 math and literacy; Marriott Chicago Midway, 6520 S. Cicero Ave.; (708) 594-5500.

**Data Analysis and Progress Reporting**

2011-12 Prevention Initiative – Parent Evaluation is Available on IWAS

The “Prevention Initiative – Parent Evaluation” IWAS system is open for school year 2011-12 data entry. All educational entities that received Prevention Initiative funds this school year to serve at-risk children birth to age 3 (0-3) and their families are required to submit these data to ISBE, per Section 2-3.89 of the Illinois School Code (105 ILCS 5/2-3.89). The deadline for submitting the data is July 2. The user guide for “Prevention Initiative – Parent Evaluation” reporting on IWAS is available at [http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/86-56A_60_Instructions.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/86-56A_60_Instructions.pdf).

Questions about using the “Prevention Initiative – Parent Evaluation” IWAS system should be directed to the ISBE Help Desk at (217) 558-3600. Questions about the data to be submitted should be directed to Dr. Lilibeth Q. Gumia in the ISBE Data Analysis and Progress Reporting Division at (217) 782-3950 or lgumia@isbe.net.

**School Business Services**

**Maintenance Grant Program Applications Available on IWAS**

Application materials for the Maintenance Grant Program are available on the IWAS System. Applications must be submitted to the Regional Offices of Education by May 1. The Maintenance Grant Program is a dollar for dollar state matching grant program providing up to $50,000 for the maintenance or upkeep of buildings or structures for educational purposes. All school districts, cooperative high schools and Type 40 area vocational centers are eligible.

On Feb. 16, Gov. Pat Quinn announced the release of $50 million for the Maintenance Grant Program as a part of the Illinois Jobs Now! Capital Program. The grant application can be found on the IWAS system.

For more information and assistance, go to the School Maintenance Program Grant page on ISBE’s website at [http://www.isbe.net/sbss/smp_grants.htm](http://www.isbe.net/sbss/smp_grants.htm) or contact Kimberly Beachy with the School Business Services Division at (217) 785-8779.

**Student Assessment**

**Survey Under Way for Principals and Teachers on ISAT Testing**

The IL Assessment Consequences Evaluation (IACE) is conducting an online survey to learn about the consequences of ISAT testing from principals’ and teachers’ perspectives. Information gathered from this study may contribute to the development of a long-range strategic plan for the IL Assessment and Accountability Program. A randomly selected sample of principals and teachers (grades 3-8) will be receiving an email with the survey link and are strongly encouraged to participate.
All survey results are confidential. For more details, please contact Katherine Ryan, principal investigator, at (217) 333-7177 or email contact@illinois.edu.

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Student Opportunities

**Jack Kent Cooke Young Scholars Program Seeks Eligible Seventh-Graders**

Applications are available for the Jack Kent Cooke Young Scholars Program, which is a highly competitive national scholarship program open for academically talented seventh-graders. If awarded, the scholar will be given academic and financial support through high school and college.

Only seventh-graders can apply. Students must have A's and B's in core subjects since the sixth grade, Family Adjusted Gross Income must be below $80,000, and parents or guardians of the student do not have a graduate or professional degree.

The deadline to apply is April 16. For more information, visit [http://www.ctd.northwestern.edu/jkc/](http://www.ctd.northwestern.edu/jkc/) and [http://www.jkcf.org/](http://www.jkcf.org/). For questions, contact Tammie Stewart of Northwestern University’s Center for Talent Development at (847) 491-7127 or tammie-stewart@northwestern.edu.

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**In the News**

**Weekly News Clips**

ISBE has posted highlights from last week’s education news clips at [http://www.isbe.net/news/2012/newsclips/120312.htm](http://www.isbe.net/news/2012/newsclips/120312.htm).

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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).