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

Illinois RTI Network Request for Applications – Deadline April 25 (Details at http://www.isbe.net/RTI_plan/default.htm)

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)

Part 226 (Special Education) – Public comment period ends May 7

Application deadline for the Exception to the 1.0 Percent Cap – May 18

Part 25 (Certification), Part 100 (Requirements for Accounting, Budgeting, Financial Reporting, and Auditing), Part 350 (Secular Textbook Loan) and Part 451 (Private Business and Vocational Schools) – Public comment period ends May 21

ISBE offices closed for Memorial Day – May 28

Preschool For All 3-5 grant continuation application deadline – June 5

RTI Professional Development Trainings, Overview, Normal – June 7-8

Those Who Excel/Illinois Teacher of the Year nomination deadline – June 8

RTI Professional Development Trainings, Math or Literacy, Normal – June 14-15

RTI Professional Development Trainings, Overview, Chicago – June 14-15

Prevention Initiative (0-3) grant continuation application deadline – June 19

RTI Professional Development Trainings, Overview, Mount Vernon – June 19-20

RTI Professional Development Trainings, Math or Literacy, Chicago – June 20-21

RTI Professional Development Trainings, Math or Literacy, Mount Vernon – June 26-27


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
• 2011-12 Teacher Service Record reporting deadline – Aug. 15
• Postmark deadline for waiver applications to be considered by General Assembly in Fall ’12 – Aug. 17
• 2011-12 High School Students Taking Community College Courses data submission deadline – Sept. 17

PERA

Webinar on Performance Evaluation Training Scheduled for April 11

The Performance Evaluation Reform Act legislation (Public Act 096-0861) requires: “Any evaluator undertaking an evaluation after September 1, 2012 must first successfully complete a pre-qualification program provided or approved by the State Board of Education. The program must involve rigorous training and an independent observer's determination that the evaluator's ratings properly align to the requirements established by the State Board pursuant to this Article.”

To this end, the Illinois State Board of Education has contracted with the Consortium for Educational Change (CEC) to begin rolling out an online, self-paced training in early May for those persons who will be doing teacher and/or principal evaluation in fall 2012.

A webinar to provide registration information to district superintendents and technical support for district IT personnel who might be supporting district evaluators engaged in the training will be held 10-11 a.m. April 11. To register for the webinar, go to [https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/360580480](https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/360580480). If a person is not able to attend the webinar live, they may view it online starting April 12 at [http://www.isbe.net/PEAC/default.htm](http://www.isbe.net/PEAC/default.htm). The webinar will cover topics related to:

- Introduction of the Growth Through Learning Performance Evaluation System
- Identification and Designation of District Evaluators by District Superintendents
- Overview and Format of the Growth Through Learning Performance Evaluation Training Modules
- Teacher Evaluator Module 2 – Overview of the Teachscape Proficiency System
- IT Requirements and Technology Support
- Next Steps

Because this webinar is expecting to draw a large audience, questions will be solicited through email only.

After the training, an additional FAQ document will be available to answer the questions posed.

Innovation and Improvement

Register for Upcoming Family Engagement Webinars

The Illinois State Board of Education’s Division of Innovation and Improvement has planned a series of 60 minute Family Engagement Webinars as part of a statewide family engagement initiative. Each webinar in the 2012 series will feature practitioners from the 2011 Regional Summits. The practitioners will share their experiences in the successful implementation of evidence-based family engagement strategies in their schools or districts. These sessions are open to district staff, school staff, parent facilitators, and parents.

Information on the upcoming session is given below and you may register by clicking on the registration link below.

**Very Important Parents (VIP): Utilizing Parents during the School Day as a Resource to Improve Reading Outcomes for Students:** 3:30-4:30 p.m. April 26. Reserve a webinar seat now at [https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/239619112](https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/239619112). Adam Zbrozek, the principal of a Title I building in St. Charles Community Unit School District will share how the building has engaged parents in on-site support of reading improvement efforts with students during the instructional day. Mr. Zbrozek will discuss how and why the program was developed, how parents were engaged in the work, what staff development occurred along the journey, lessons learned, and successes. Strategies for embedding a program like this will be shared as well as data showing the impact this program has had on student learning. Participants will hear the benefits of engaging parents during the school day in meaningful work with students. (Adam Zbrozek, Lincoln Elementary School principal, St. Charles SD 303)

**Involving at Risk Families in RtI supports with an ELL Focus:** 3:30-4:30 p.m. May 10. Reserve a seat at
The Individual Problem Solving Team of Oak Terrace School (74 percent low income, Latino, ELL) will share its approach, which involves parents to help close the gap for the most vulnerable students. The documentation of the approach includes a scope of intervention matrix, research from UCLS, referral form and meeting note templates. The processes include the consideration of potential barriers to learning, meeting with families and follow up, community supports, midyear of review of cases and modifying intervention plans. The success of this approach is measured by the achievement of the children and the increased participation of families in our school. (Sandy Anderson, Oak Terrace Elementary principal, District 112)

Data Analysis and Progress Reporting

2011-12 High School Students Taking Community College Courses System Open

The 2011-12 High School Students Taking Community College Courses system is open in IWAS for district-level data submission. The deadline to submit is Monday, Sept. 17, 2012.

Only unit and high school districts need to submit the required data, per Section 2-3.144 of the Illinois School Code. Each district needs to submit a report, even those that did not have any high school students taking community college courses during the 2011-12 school year. In this instance, the district should access the system, click on “No,” and submit the report by Sept. 17.

Questions about the IWAS system should be referred to the ISBE Help Desk at (217) 558-3600, and questions about the information to be entered for this data collection should be referred to Niann-Tsyr Chern in the Data Analysis and Progress Reporting Division at (217) 782-3950.

2011-12 Teacher Service Record – Spring Data Collection Period

The 2011-12 Teacher Service Record is open for districts and other reporting entities to provide data on all full- and part-time employees who worked at any time during the 2011-12 school year in a position that requires a teaching, administrative or school service personnel certificate issued by ISBE. This includes any retiree who worked in a position requiring certification, performing duties other than as a substitute.

This spring data collection period is for educator updates (additions and changes since the fall data collection period) and for 2011-12 salary submissions. The deadline for submitting these data is Aug. 15, 2012. Questions about completing the Teacher Service Record can be directed to the ISBE Data Analysis and Progress Reporting Division at tsr@isbe.net or (217) 782-3950.

Nutrition

Illinois Breakfast Summits to Be Held in Tinley Park and Springfield

Two Illinois Breakfast Summits sponsored by Illinois No Kids Hungry/Share Our Strength, Midwest Dairy Council and ISBE are scheduled for next week. The first is set for 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday, April 17, at the Tinley Park Convention Center. The second summit is slated for 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, April 19, at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel in Springfield.

The purpose of the summits is to find out information about starting up a breakfast program, improve participation in breakfast and to learn about new opportunities for school breakfast in Illinois, including new funding opportunities. This will be your chance to hear from and ask questions of a variety of experts from the Illinois State Board of Education as well as fellow school personnel who have successfully implemented school breakfast programs.

Space is limited. Reserve your spot to attend this free summit today, by registering at http://il.nokidhungry.org.

Webinar on National School Lunch School Year 2012-13 Paid Lunch Equity Requirement

The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 requires school food authorities to ensure there are sufficient funds provided to the nonprofit school food service account for lunches served to students not eligible for free or reduced priced meals. There are two ways to meet this requirement: either through the prices charged for paid lunches or through other non-federal sources provided to the nonprofit school food service account.

ISBE’s Nutrition Programs Division will be hosting a webinar at 1 p.m. CST on April 3, 2012, to discuss the newly released guidance for determining what calculations School Food Authorities must make in order to be in compliance with this requirement for School

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

Rules and Waivers

Reminder: No Waivers Required for School Holidays

In August of 2009, Section 24-2 of the School Code (Holidays) was amended by passage of Public Act 96-640. Districts may make changes to five of the legal school holidays by actions taken by the local board of education, without the need to submit a waiver application to the State Board of Education.

The changes in the law provide that a school board (or other eligible entity) is authorized to hold school; schedule teachers’ institutes; schedule parent-teacher conferences; or schedule staff development activities (including school improvement and inservice training) on the following legal school holidays:

- The birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (third Monday in January);
- The birthday of President Abraham Lincoln (Feb. 12);
- The birthday of Casimir Pulaski (first Monday in March);
- Columbus Day (second Monday in October); and
- Veterans Day (Nov. 11). Reminder: Applicants planning to hold any event at a school on Veterans Day must include a moment of silence at the event to recognize veterans of foreign wars (Public Act 96-84, July 2009).

A school board or other applicant is authorized to take these actions provided that (1) the person/persons honored by the holiday are recognized through instructional activities conducted on that day or, if the day is not used for student attendance, on the first school day preceding or following that day; and (2) the school board or other entity choosing to exercise this authority first holds a public hearing about the proposal (for a school district, the hearing should be held in conjunction with a school board meeting). The school board or other applicant shall provide notice preceding the public hearing to both educators and parents, setting forth the time, date and place of the hearing; describing the proposal for use of holiday(s); and indicating that testimony from educators and parents will be taken on the proposal during the public hearing.

There is no longer any need to submit paperwork from this process to the State Board for approval. Since these actions no longer require a waiver, districts and other applicants do not need to notify their state legislators in advance of their meeting, nor is there a time limit of five years (as there would be using the waiver process).

Please note that if your district has a holiday modification approved by the State Board, it remains in effect until its expiration date.

Any questions can be directed to the Rules and Waivers Division at (217) 782-5270 or waivers@isbe.net.

Notice of Completed Rulemaking

Please be advised that two rulemakings recently adopted by the Illinois State Board of Education are now in effect. These rules have been posted on the agency’s website at http://www.isbe.net/rules. Please choose “Rules Currently in Effect” and scroll to the number of the Part that you wish to review.

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.

Sections Affected: 1.210, 1.420 and 1.705
Effective Date: March 20, 2012

Part 151 (School Construction Program): Adds 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.

Section Affected: 151.200
Effective Date: March 20, 2012

School Business Services

Maintenance Grant Program
Application Deadline is May 1

Application materials for the Maintenance Grant Program were available beginning March 1, 2012, on the IWAS system. Applications must be submitted to the
Regional Offices of Education by May 1, 2012. 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, Governor 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 the ISBE website at http://www.isbe.net/sbss/smp_grants.htm or contact Kimberly Beachy with the School Business Services Division at (217) 785-8779.

**Now Available: School Board Member Training Provider Application**

PA 97-03578, effective June 13, 2011, added Section 10-16a to the School Code (105 ILCS 5/10-16a), which establishes training requirements for school board members. The law requires that the training be conducted by the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) or other entities that the Illinois State Board of Education approves in consultation with IASB.

Entities wishing to receive ISBE approval to provide training can download the application from the School Business Services Division website at http://www.isbe.net/finance/htmls/sb-training.htm. Applications can be submitted through May 1, 2012. Any questions should be directed to Debbie Hemberger or Ken Wargo in School Business Services, at (217) 785-8779. Emails can be sent to finance1@isbe.net.

**Special Education**

**Save the Date: Piecing It All Together Conference Scheduled for April 27**

The Piecing It All Together conference is scheduled for Friday, April 27, 2012, at Moraine Valley Community College in Palos Hills. The conference is titled “Piecing It All Together: How Children’s Mental Health/Mental Illness Affect Home, School & Community.” The keynote, “Integrated Care: Why It Makes Complete Sense for Children & Families,” will be presented by Darcy E. Gruttadaro, J.D., director of the NAMI National Child and Adolescent Action Center.

For more information, visit the NAMI Illinois website at http://il.nami.org/piat.htm. The National Alliance on Mental Illness is a not-for-profit membership organization that aims to improve the lives of individuals and families challenged by mental illness.

**Illinois School Health Center Annual Conference Scheduled for May 8-9**

The Illinois Board of Education is once again sponsoring this year’s Illinois School Health Center Annual Conference, brought to you by the Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health (ICAH) and the Coalition for School Health Centers (ICSHC). This year’s conference, “Sexual Health: Prevention Strategies From Childhood Through Adulthood,” will be held May 8-9 in Peoria at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel.

The conference will serve as an opportunity to network with more than 150 professionals from across the state and to hear information about improving the overall health and wellness of children and adolescents in Illinois. The keynote speaker, Nora Gelperin of Answers at Rutgers University, will address the connection between comprehensive sexual education and academic achievement in adolescents.

To reserve a spot, register by April 30. Registration fees include pre-conference and/or conference workshops and activities, CEUs and CPDUs, meals, and networking reception. Cost of attendance for the full two-day program is $120; May 8 pre-conference only, $25; or May 9 conference only, $95. Register online at http://www.ilmaternal.org/icshc/2012conference/register.html.

**‘Residential Treatment for Youth With Mental Health Needs” Guide Available**

The Residential Treatment Work Group of the Illinois Children’s Mental Health Partnership (ICMHP) has announced that “Residential Treatment for Youth With Mental Health Needs: A Guide for Parents and Guardians” is now available for distribution. The ICMHP, which was created by the Children’s Mental Health Act of 2003, is committed to improving the scope, quality and access of mental health programs, services, and supports for Illinois children.

A presentation on the guide by Residential Treatment Work Group members will be available. Contact Alicia Diebold at adiebold@voices4kids.org or (312) 516-5567 for more information and to schedule a presentation.

1 Percent Exception Application Reminder

If more than 1 percent of your students in grades 3 through 8 and 11 are identified as significantly cognitively disabled, it is time to prepare your district’s application for an exception to the 1 percent cap. If the conditions for the exception are approved, then all progressing and attaining scores earned by students taking the Illinois Alternate Assessment will be counted as proficient in making determinations for school, district, and state AYP.

- K-8 districts: Apply after the ISAT testing is completed (March 19 for most districts).
- High school and K-12 districts: Apply after the PSAE makeup date has passed (May 14).


Office of the State Fire Marshal

Illinois Risk Watch New Community Training Scheduled for May 22 in Dixon

Risk Watch is an unintentional injury prevention program for children pre-k through eighth grade. Unintentional injuries are the No. 1 killer of children in this age group. The program is run through local schools and is matched with local experts such as fire departments, police departments, Red Cross, etc. The Illinois Risk Watch State Board, along with local experts, works with every teacher and community throughout the process, also offering all expenses paid to the annual Illinois Risk Watch Conference.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal will be hosting a free Illinois Risk Watch New Community Training on May 22 in Dixon. This all-day training will feature experts in the Illinois Risk Watch Program and teacher resources. Lunch, curriculum and all program materials are provided for free.

The deadline for registrations is May 15. Register at http://www.sfm.illinois.gov/documents/RWDixonNCTR


IDNR

Environment and Nature Training Institute for Conservation Education Workshops

Registration is under way for upcoming ENTICE workshops from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. ENTICE (Environment and Nature Training Institute for Conservation Education) educator workshops from IDNR offer background information, hands-on activities, lessons, supplemental resources, Continuing Professional Development Units and the opportunity to work with natural resources professionals.

Upcoming workshops are listed below. For more information and to register, visit https://www.enticeworkshops.com.

- The Sangamon River: A Sense of Place (online), April 16-29. Registration will close at 8 a.m. on April 12.
- The Effects of Climate Change on Illinois Plants, Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe, April 28. Registration will close at 8 a.m. on April 19.
- The Microscopic World, II: Ecology, Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, Chicago, May 5. Registration will close at 8 a.m. on April 27.
- Illinois Biodiversity Basics, Fermilab, Batavia, May 12.
- Through the Eyes of a Pollinator, The Morton Arboretum, Lisle, June 16.

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/120409.htm.

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.