June 4, 2012

Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

This was a busy week in Springfield as legislators concluded their final scheduled days in the spring session. However, it’s very likely they will return to the Capitol this summer in a special session to continue their work.

Late last week lawmakers were able to put together a budget for state spending in FY 13. Senate Bill 2413 passed both the House and Senate and will soon be sent to the Governor for signature, including a reduction in education funding of approximately $211 million. While this is a significant reduction, it is not as bad as we had feared it could possibly be, given the dynamics of the final days of session. Much of the budget decision making was based upon significant reductions to Medicaid and changes to the state pension systems. While the Board and I are always concerned with reductions to state spending on education, given the amount of reductions to Medicaid that were made and the fact pension reforms have not been completed, the education budget was spared from even greater cuts.

SB 2413 includes a reduction in General State Aid from the FY 12 levels of approximately $161 million, which translates into about an 89 percent proration of the GSA Foundation Level of $6,119. All Mandated Categoricals were funded at the Board’s FY 13 request, including Transportation, except for Private Tuition, which increased from last year, and the Illinois Free Lunch/Breakfast, which was decreased by the legislature. As has been the case in previous years, some programs were zeroed out, while there was movement in others. A complete comparison of the various budget line items is available at http://www.isbe.net/budget/FY13_budget_compare0512.pdf.

Lawmakers included funding for the Regional Offices of Education for bus driver training and ROE services from state General Revenue. They also included funding for the salaries of Regional Superintendents to be paid from the Personal Property Replacement Tax in FY 13.

The Senate also approved SB 2365, which includes an additional $160 million for early childhood and GSA; however, the House has not acted upon that bill at this time.

As I mentioned above, lawmakers could not come to an agreement on pension reform proposals. This was one of the major priorities they had for this session and one that will impact budgeting for years to come. The Governor has indicated that he will meet with the leaders of the legislative caucuses in the coming days to discuss pensions and that he will likely be calling the General Assembly back into a special session sometime this summer. So, while the session has technically ended, legislative action is by no means over for the year and I encourage you to reach out to legislators as they return to their home districts and let them know the impact their decisions have on their local education agencies.

Have a great week.

Chris
Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

- 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
  (Register for RtI trainings at http://maconpiattroe.org/joomla15/index.php?option=com_eventbooking&view=category&Itemid=106)
- 2011-12 Eye Examination Data Collection deadline – July 2
- Alternative Learning Opportunities Program (ALOP) Continuation Application deadline – July 2, 2012
- 2011-2012 Dental Examination Data Collection deadline – July 2
- ISBE offices closed for Independence Day – July 4
- Part 650 (Charter Schools) – Public comment period ends July 16
- 2011-12 Regional Safe Schools Program (RSSP) student reporting deadline – July 31
- The 2011-12 End of Year Report deadline – Aug. 15
- 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

Assessment

2011-12 ISAT and IAA Preliminary Results Posted

The grades 3-8 and 11 ISAT and IAA preliminary results for the 2011-12 school year are now posted in IWAS. This information is located within the Student Information System (SIS). Please review your data for any errors or omissions. The assessment correction window will close at 4 p.m. on June 18, 2012. There will be no extensions. If you have questions about how to access the data or need help to correct information in the files, please contact the SIS help desk at (217) 558-3600.

Illinois Alternate Assessment Scale Score Changes for 2012

Based on feedback from the U.S. Department of Education’s Peer Review of the Illinois Alternate Assessment (IAA), ISBE modified all items on the 2012 IAA. The modification resulted in a change to the rubric language. The new rubric language applies only to the score point of 4, the highest possible score. Previously, when a student initially responded incorrectly to a task, the student had a second opportunity to respond and possibly receive a score point of 4. The new rubric language removes the option to repeat the task after an incorrect response at a score point of 4.

In September 2011, the Illinois Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) made recommendations to ISBE for the IAA test design based on the modifications needed for the 2012 IAA assessment. This action necessitates changing the IAA scale score range in order to make clear that the 2012 IAA scale scores should not be compared to past IAA scale scores.

Beginning in 2012, the IAA will be reporting scale scores for reading, mathematics and science on the new scale of 801-999. This scale does not allow backward comparisons (by scale score) of students' performance on
the IAA between the 2012 administration and previous administrations. Instead, the reset scale will allow forward comparisons (by scale score) between the 2012 and future administrations of the IAA.

Innovation and Improvement

Illinois Center for School Improvement
Bidder’s Webinar Scheduled for June 11

The Illinois State Board of Education Division of Innovation and Improvement is preparing for the release of the Request for Sealed Proposals (RFSP) for the Illinois Center for School Improvement. ISBE seeks applications from qualified entities to establish the Center for School Improvement and coordinate the work of the various district improvement systems.

The mission of the Center for School Improvement is to provide high-quality, coordinated and consistent support to the current Statewide System of Support (SSOS) to ensure that school districts and schools receive expert, timely and relevant assistance to increase district level capacity to improve student performance. One contract will be awarded to one of the following eligible bidders; institutions of higher education (IHE), regional offices of education (ROEs), intermediate service centers (ISCs), private entities or non-profit organizations that have extensive experience with comprehensive school and district improvement initiatives.

A bidder’s webinar will be hosted by ISBE on Monday, June 11, 2012, at 10 a.m. to discuss the RFSP and answer questions from potential applicants. The bidder’s webinar is not mandatory. Reserve a seat at https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/291360744.

Title: The Illinois Center for School Improvement Bidder’s Webinar

Date: Monday, June 11, 2012

Time: 10 a.m. to noon CDT

Reviewer Request for the Illinois Center for School Improvement

The Illinois State Board of Education Innovation and Improvement Division is seeking highly qualified reviewers to read and score contract applications submitted in response to a request for sealed proposals (RFSPs) to establish the Illinois Center for School Improvement.

Selected reviewers must participate in a web-based training on Center for School Improvement RFSP requirements and the review of applications process prior to receipt of the proposals. ISBE anticipates that reviewers will need to devote approximately 60 hours to this process over a two week period in mid to late July 2012. Reviewers will complete the reading and scoring process and submit their scoring results electronically. Following the individual application reviews, readers must attend one face-to-face consensus meeting in Illinois.

Required Qualifications and Skills: The mission of the Center for School Improvement is to provide high-quality, coordinated and consistent support to the current Statewide System of Support (SSOS) to ensure that districts and schools receive expert, timely and relevant assistance to increase district level capacity to improve student performance. Thus, preferred reviewers may have knowledge and background about Illinois’ SSOS as well as:

- developing and implementing standards-aligned instructional systems aligned to the New Illinois Learning Standards in Mathematics and English Language Arts,
- analyzing data to inform strategic decision-making in the eight essential elements identified for effective school districts and schools, which include: comprehensive planning, conditions for learning, community and family engagement, professional development, leadership, curriculum, instruction and assessment,
- cultivating educator talent and effectiveness, and
- implementing interventions in, and providing intensive supports for, low-performing schools and districts.

Compensation: ISBE will issue a $4,200 honorarium to readers selected for their service and a maximum of $800 approvable travel reimbursement based on Illinois state guidelines (transportation, hotel and per diem).

Contact information: Interested candidates should e-mail Dr. Maureen K. Richel at mrichel@isbe.net to receive the required reviewer application documents.

Common Core Standards

Smarter Balanced and PARCC Issue Guidance for New Instructional Technology Purchases

The Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (Smarter Balanced) and the Partnership for Assessment of
Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) recently issued guidance designed to inform schools and districts as they make annual instructional technology purchases. The guidelines include hardware and operating system specifications covering the vast majority of commercially available computers and tablets.

The full guidelines are available online:

“The specifications released today will help all states match their technology purchases with their needs for instructional use as well as support the types of innovative tasks and items that will be used to make up the PARCC assessment,” stated Wes Bruce, Chair of the PARCC Technology Operational Working Group, in a news release distributed last month. To read more from the press release, go to [http://www.parcconline.org/instructional-technology-purchases-guidance](http://www.parcconline.org/instructional-technology-purchases-guidance).

Smarter Balanced and PARCC are developing next-generation assessments aligned to the Common Core State Standards. ISBE has adopted new Math and English Language Arts standards for K-12 education known as the New Illinois State Learning Standards Incorporating the Common Core. The goal is to better prepare Illinois students for success in college and the work force in a competitive global economy.

### Data Analysis and Progress Reporting

**2011-2012 Eye Examination Data Collection – Deadline Reminder**

The Student Health Data – Vision system opened last fall for 2011-2012 data entry. This is a reminder that the deadline to submit is July 2, 2012. The data must be submitted online using IWAS. Once logged into IWAS, the “Student Health Data – Vision” link will appear on the System Listing page under “Annual.” If you do not see the link, please call the ISBE Help Desk at (217) 558-3600.

Below are links to important related documents. Please use them for assistance with submitting your data.

- **User Guide**: [http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/vision_iwas_guide.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/vision_iwas_guide.pdf)
- **Data Entry Worksheet**: [http://www.isbe.net/research/xls/eye_exam_wksht.xls](http://www.isbe.net/research/xls/eye_exam_wksht.xls)
- **Information Sheet**: [http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/eye_examinations.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/eye_examinations.pdf)

A report must be submitted for every eligible school, without exception. Schools that are not the home school for any student should submit the report by selecting the option which allows them to declare they have no data to report. This option may also be selected by home schools that do not serve kindergarten students and had no
students in grades 1 through 12 enrolling for the first time in an Illinois school.

Please share this information with school nurses, health technicians, and individuals responsible for submitting your vision examination data to the Illinois State Board of Education. Questions may be directed to Dr. Marjurie Ribeiro in the Data Analysis and Progress Reporting Division at (217) 782-3950 or mribeiro@isbe.net.

**Rules and Waivers**

**Notice of Completed Rulemaking**

Please be advised that three sets of amendments recently adopted by the Illinois State Board of Education are now in effect. These rules have been posted on the agency’s Web site at www.isbe.net/rules. Please choose “Rules Currently in Effect” and scroll to applicable Part number.

**Part 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision):** Provides that starting in the 2015-16 school year, any school district that offers kindergarten (whether full or half day) be required to administer the Kindergarten Individual Development Survey, or KIDS, and to participate in pilot administrations of the survey in the three years previous to full implementation (if chosen), unless a school district can provide evidence of capacity issues that would prevent participation.

_Affected Sections: 1.420, 1.APPENDIX D_

_Effective Date: May 21, 2012_

**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 of student growth to rate the performance of teachers, principals and assistant principals.

_Affected Sections: 50.10, 50.20, 50.30, 50.100, 50.110, 50.120, 50.130, 50.200, 50.300, 50.310, 50.320, 50.330, 50.400, 50.410, 50.420, 50.APPENDIX A_

_Effective Date: May 21, 2012_

**Part 575 (School Technology Program):** Provides for additional loan award determination dates and payment dates in an effort to ensure that funds in the Technology Revolving Loan Fund are used expeditiously and for the purposes for which the fund was created.

_Affected Sections: 575.500, 575.600_

**Effective Date: May 21, 2012**

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**In the News**

**Award Recognized Excellence in Science Education for Students With Disabilities**

The Lawrence Scadden Teacher of the Year Award recognizes excellence in science teaching for students with disabilities. The award is open to all current K-12 teachers (general education, special education or science teachers, public or private) who have taught at least five years. Nominees must have made an outstanding contribution to science students with disabilities.

The winner of the Scadden award is expected to attend the National Science Teachers’ Association (NSTA) National Conference on Science Education to accept the award. A check for $1,000 is provided to offset travel expenses to the NSTA conference. For more information, visit http://www.sesd.info/scadden.htm.

**Weekly News Clips**

ISBE has posted highlights from last week’s education news clips at http://www.isbe.net/news/2012/newsclips/120604.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.