I appreciate your cooperation and patience as we continue to work on issues associated with the new teacher and principal evaluation training. We have had numerous calls about technical issues associated with the training. I believe that anytime we have an undertaking as big and technologically complex as this these types of issues will arise. These technological issues are exacerbated in many cases by the disparity in internet connectivity and network settings. We have posted documents to our website that should help you and your staff to insure that your hardware, software and connectivity are suitable for the training and that the settings allow you to access it. You can access the technical guidelines at http://www.isbe.net/peac/html/system-req.htm and you can get additional technical assistance by calling 1-800-416-9734. We are working on ways to improve your ability to access the training and will let you know soon when that becomes available.

Last week you may have noticed that the U.S. Department of Education approved the No Child Left Behind waiver application of five more states. Illinois remains in discussion with the U.S. Department of Education on our waiver application, although we are still not in agreement regarding the timeline for when districts must use student growth in their new local evaluation systems.

The U.S. Department of Education wants all districts implementing the new evaluations in 2014-15, but Illinois law calls for a progressive phase in, with some districts beginning to use the new evaluation system as early as next year and all districts using them by 2016-17. I do not support accelerating the implementation timeline for purposes of receiving the waiver; however, last month we sent out a survey to determine how many districts will be accelerating this timeline voluntarily. We had 417 districts respond to our survey, of which about 45 percent said they would be implementing by 2014-15. We are leaving the survey open a bit longer and if you have not yet responded, please consider doing so in the near future. You may access the survey at http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/7MKNRV3.

Finally, severe heat has had a grip on Illinois and much of the nation. I know many of our schools serve as host to summer camps throughout the summer for a variety of activities. Please take a few moments to touch base with coaches and camp directors to make sure they are taking the necessary precautions to keep our kids safe. Taking just a few extra minutes to speak and plan with staff to deal with the heat can help to prevent a tragedy.

Happy 4th of July! Enjoy your holiday.

Chris
Common Core

PARCC Seeks Feedback on Model Content Frameworks for Mathematics

The state-led Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) is seeking a second round of public comment on the Model Content Frameworks for Mathematics as part of an on-going development process to ensure the frameworks meet the needs of educators, curriculum directors and school leaders.

In November 2011, PARCC released Model Content Frameworks to inform item development and to support implementation of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). That release was based on multiple rounds of feedback, including a public comment period in August 2011. The initial public review resulted in a number of conceptual changes in the frameworks, which are detailed through a recorded webinar and presentations at www.parcconline.org/parcc-content-frameworks.

In addition to seeking another round of comments on the November 2011 draft of the 3-8 Model Content Frameworks, PARCC is also seeking comments on newly created material for high school mathematics. Based on feedback gathered over the academic year, PARCC states have created materials that provide additional specificity around six high school courses. The newly revised high school Model Content Frameworks detail the standards, or parts of standards that make up the two course sequences and would be assessed in each course by the PARCC assessments.


The public comment survey for mathematics will be open until Wednesday, July 11. Users can access the comment survey at www.parcconline.org/parcc-content-frameworks. PARCC will revise the frameworks during the month of July with the goal of releasing final versions later this summer. Once the frameworks are final, PARCC will hold public webinars to walk through the changes. Information about the webinars will be available on the PARCC website later this summer.

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 in May. To read more, go to 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.

### School Business Services

#### Fiscal Year 2013 School District/Joint Agreement Budget Forms Available Online

Now available at the School Business Services Division website are FY 2013 School District/Joint Agreement Budget Forms (ISBE Form 50-36/50-39) with related additional information and instructions.

At the website:
http://www.isbe.net/sfms/budget/default.htm

- Mechanics of the Budget
- Instructions to help to complete the adoption process.
- Links are listed to direct you to the Rules and Public Acts.

School Districts should pay close attention to the deadline date for submitting the electronic FY2013 School District Budget Form in the excel spreadsheet form to Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) by Oct. 30, 2013. The School Code, Section 17-1 (105 ILCS 5/17-1)) requires school districts to electronically submit the adopted annual budget to ISBE; and also requires school districts who adopt an unbalanced budget in the operating funds to complete a Deficit Reduction Plan to balance the budget within three years. The Joint Agreement Budget Form 50-39 is no longer excluded from the state filing requirement and should be filed electronically to ISBE by Oct. 30, 2013.

If you have any questions, contact the School Business Services Division at (217) 785-8779.

### Nutrition

#### Reminder: New HealthierUS School Challenge Criteria Goes Into Effect July 1

Effective July 1, 2012, HealthierUS School Challenge applications submitted will be reviewed using new criteria. Complete HUSSC applications received after June 30, 2012, will be reviewed under the new criteria, which includes breakfast menus, an “other criteria for excellence” category, updated lunch criteria reflecting National School Lunch Program meal pattern requirements, and an Average Daily Participation (ADP) calculation method change.

Schools applying for the HUSSC must participate in the School Breakfast Program. Schools must meet two to eight “other criteria” for different award levels. The criteria include program outreach, physical activity, nutrition education, and school and community involvement in wellness efforts. The ADP will be calculated using attendance rather than school enrollment. For more information, visit http://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/HealthierUS/application.html. Email cnp@isbe.net if you have any questions.

### Funding and Disbursement Services


American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs and vendor data for the quarter ending June 30, 2012, is due at the Illinois State Board of Education on or before Thursday, July 5, 2012. This data is required for all ARRA projects that had activity after March 31, 2012.

ARRA data reporting includes two primary elements: the number of jobs funded in the reporting quarter with ARRA dollars and a single payment made to a vendor, using ARRA dollars, in the amount of $25,000 or more. All ARRA data must be reported via the ARRA Reporting System in IWAS. Please refer to the ARRA Reporting Instructions at http://www.isbe.net/arra/pdf/arra_reporting_inst.pdf for detailed reporting procedures.

**IMPORTANT:** Grant recipients with active ARRA projects must report regardless of whether any jobs were...
funded or any payments were made to a vendor of $25,000 or more in the reporting quarter.

Please follow these three steps below to properly calculate the jobs FTE that must be reported for the period ending June 30.

- **Step 1:** Determine the number of hours in a full-time schedule for ARRA funded employees between April 1 and June 30 (i.e. an employee works 40 hours a week for 13 weeks, the quarterly hours in a full-time schedule is 520 hours). Note: This figure may change depending on the type of employee.

- **Step 2:** Determine the number of hours employees were paid with ARRA funds for the reporting quarter ending June 30.

- **Step 3:** Divide the number calculated in Step 2 by the quarterly hours in a full-time schedule calculated in Step 1. This calculation should be performed for each employee funded with ARRA dollars. The formula for reporting can be represented as:

\[
\text{Total Number of Hours ARRA Funded Within Reporting Quarter} \div \text{Quarterly Hours in a Full-Time Schedule} = \text{FTE}
\]

June 30 ARRA data must be reported for the following ARRA programs for all local education agencies with active ARRA projects after March 31, 2012:

- Title I Low Income – Revenue Code 4851, CFDA #84.394
- Title I Low Income Neglected – Revenue Code 4852, CFDA #84.394
- Title I Low Income Delinquent – Revenue Code 4853, CFDA #84.394
- Title I School Improvement – Revenue Code 4854, CFDA #84.394
- Title I School Improvement (1003g) – Revenue Code 4855, CFDA #84.388
- Title II D Enhancing Education Through Technology – Revenue Code 4861, CFDA #84.386
- Education Jobs Fund Program – Revenue Code 4880, CFDA #84.410 (If compensation and/or benefits have been or will be requested for employees from Apr through June)

If you have any questions, contact Funding and Disbursement Services at (217) 782-5256.

EDUCATION JOBS ARRA REPORTING REMINDER – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY: If the LEA has submitted or plans to submit an expenditure report requesting reimbursement of qualifying expenditures (i.e. compensation and benefit costs) that occurred between April 1 and June 30, the full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs and vendor data must be reported for the period ending June 30 even if an expenditure report for reimbursement has yet to be filed for that period of time. For example, if the LEA is going to submit in mid-July an Ed Jobs expenditure report requesting reimbursement of compensation and benefits expended during the reporting quarter ending June 30, the LEA is required to report FTE jobs and vendor data to ISBE on or before the required ARRA reporting deadline of July 5, 2012, even though the expenditure report has not yet been submitted by the LEA. This is true for any subsequent quarter.

Further, once the LEA begins to request Ed Jobs expenditure reimbursement they are obligated to report ARRA FTE jobs and vendor data via the ARRA Reporting System every subsequent quarter until all Ed Jobs Funds have been requested and reported, even if no expenditure reports for reimbursement have been submitted in the current ARRA reporting quarter. For example, if the LEA requested reimbursement and reported ARRA data through March 31 and after doing so still has unexpended allocation, but has no Ed Jobs expenditures between April 1 and June 30, they must still submit ARRA FTE jobs and vendor data for the June 30 ARRA reporting quarter that reflects that 0 FTE jobs or vendor payments were funded with Ed Jobs dollars during the reporting quarter. Again, the LEA must continue to submit ARRA data reports for each reporting quarter, beginning with the quarter in which the compensation funding start date occurs until all Ed Jobs funds have been requested and reported.

If you have further questions or concerns with the Ed Jobs program, contact Jim Mathes at jmathes@isbe.net or Marj Beck at mbeck@isbe.net. Both can be reached at (217) 782-5256.

**Special Education and Support Services**

**Presentation on Developing Required Summary of Performance Available Online**

A new PowerPoint presentation has been developed to support districts in developing the required Summary of Performance for students with disabilities who are graduating or aging out of secondary education. “The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Summary of Performance: Supporting Students’ Post-

This presentation provides the legal framework and provides practical information as well as strategies for district staff on the development of SOP’s that support students’ successful transition to post-school goals and adult life. Advice on who gets the SOP, how the requirement impacts practice, tips for timing of completion, who should be involved, the connection to student self-advocacy skills, and information on what a well-written SOP should look like are included in the presentation. Viewers can access the slide “note’s” by hovering over the icon in the upper left-hand corner.

For questions, contact Sue Walter, Transition Consultant, at [swalter@isbe.net](mailto:swalter@isbe.net) or (618) 651-9028.

**Registration Under Way for Annual Special Education Directors’ Conference**

The registration for the annual Special Education Directors’ Conference 2012 is now open. The conference will be held July 18-20, 2012 in Springfield.

Each year, the Illinois State Board of Education works toward improving the performance of special education programs and the inclusion of students with disabilities in general education programs throughout the state in relation to our State Performance Plan. Our continuing goal for the conference is to provide districts and cooperatives with the needed information to meet the ongoing compliance issues required by the federal government, along with the best possible learning environment for students with disabilities.

The fee for attendance remains at $120 per person. Registration will close on July 11. Directions for registering can be found at [http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/conf/default.htm](http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/conf/default.htm).

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**U.S. Department of Education**

**Deadline to Apply for 2012 Teacher Incentive Fund Competition is July 27**

School districts, states and not-for-profit organizations are eligible to apply for the 2012 Teacher Incentive Fund (TIF) competition, ending July 27, 2012. This year’s $285 million competition includes a new focus on supporting districtwide evaluation systems that reward success, offer greater professional opportunities and drive decision-making on recruitment, development, and retention of effective teachers and principals. It also invites applications for a separate competition that centers on improving science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) instruction. For more information, go to [http://www2.ed.gov/programs/teacherincentive/](http://www2.ed.gov/programs/teacherincentive/).

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**Rules and Waivers**

**Invitation to Comment on Rules**

Two 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](http://www.isbe.net/rules); choose “Proposed Rules and Amendments.” Please submit any comments or suggestions to [rules@isbe.net](mailto:rules@isbe.net).

**Part 60 (The “Grow Your Own” Teacher Education Initiative):** Repeals Part 60 due to P.A. 96-1393, effective July 1, 2010, which transferred the authority of The “Grow Your Own” Teacher Education Initiative to the Illinois Board of Higher Education. *Public comment period ends August 20, 2012.*

**Part 65 (New Teacher Induction and Mentoring):** Updates the new teacher induction and mentoring program requirements to reflect best practices and to align program quality and improvements, as well as grant continuation, to the Illinois Standards of Quality and Effectiveness for Beginning Teacher Induction Programs and the Illinois Induction Program Continuum. *Public comment period ends August 20, 2012.*

**IDNR**

**Registration Under Way for ENTICE Educator Workshops**

The 2012-13 ENTICE (Environment and Nature Training Institute for Conservation Education) workshop schedule from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources’ Division of Education is available. Go to [https://www.enticeworkshops.com](https://www.enticeworkshops.com) for more information and to register.

ENTICE workshops provide basic information about the topic from resources experts, hands-on activities, supplemental resources and outdoor experiences. All workshops are developed with Illinois learning standards as their foundation. Continuing Professional Development Units are available.

Upcoming workshops include Illinois Prairies at Sugar Grove Nature Center in McLean on July 27 and Introducing Early Childhood Students to Nature on Aug.
11 at Rock Springs Nature Center in Decatur. Visit the website above for a complete list.

**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/120702.htm](http://www.isbe.net/news/2012/newsclips/120702.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](http://www.isbe.net/hr/Default.htm).