Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

We appreciate your support as we continue to make improvements to the new Principal and Teacher Evaluation system training. We have received important and practical feedback from the field and are working with the vendor to incorporate your suggestions and make adjustments to improve the delivery of this training.

We have recently allowed for the addition of a fourth attempt for the Teacher Evaluation Module 2 assessment and have made other modifications to improve the process. So far, more than 1,100 of you have completed the Teachscape training, with about 7,000 more in progress.

We are also working with our contractors to expand the hours for technical assistance. Currently, you may call the Growth Through Learning Help Line at 1-800-416-9734, Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Starting this week, the help line will be operating 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturdays and we are working with the contractor to add more weekend and evening hours in the future.

A review of the help line calls to date shows a significant amount of calls are related to set-up issues, some of which might be addressed if users review the hardware and systems requirements outlined in the following link: [http://www.isbe.net/peac/html/system-req.htm](http://www.isbe.net/peac/html/system-req.htm).

We have also released webinars for several of the Principal and Teacher modules that replicate the training, but in a new format for those who have had difficulty accessing the modules. These webinars are located in each person’s “my course” tab within their Growth Through Learning Illinois account. We appreciate your feedback and will continue to look for ways to improve the delivery of this training. We especially appreciate the collaboration and support from IPA and IASA as we work through these new training expectations.

All districts should have received their third quarter Mandated Categoricals earlier this month. The state’s total backlog of bills is approximately $2.4 billion. The backlog of bills that were processed by ISBE stands at $476 million, with $400 million of that representing the fourth quarter MCAT payments. This is significantly lower than a year ago when the ISBE related backlog was in excess of $1.1 billion and the total backlog was nearly $4 billion.

Have a great week.

Chris

Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

- **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
• Adjusted cohort graduation data deadline – Aug. 17
• Postmark deadline for waiver applications to be considered by General Assembly in Fall ’12 – Aug. 17
• Part 60 (The “Grow Your Own” Teacher Education Initiative) and Part 65 (New Teacher Induction and Mentoring) – Public comment period ends Aug. 20
• ISBE offices closed for Labor Day – Sept. 3
• 2011-12 High School Students Taking Community College Courses data submission deadline – Sept. 17
• Illinois RtI Network statewide conference – Sept. 24-25 (http://www.isbe.net/RtI_plan/default.htm)
• ISBE offices closed for Columbus Day – Oct. 8
• School District/Joint Agreement Budget Form deadline – Oct. 31

Public Act

PA 97-742: 5 Hours of Instruction on First and Last Day of School (Effective June 30, 2013)

Senate Bill 2850 was signed by Gov. Pat Quinn on July 5, 2012, to become Public Act 97-0742 and has an effective date of June 30, 2013. This public act repeals Section 18-8.05 (F)(2)(b) of the School Code, which allows the first and last day of student attendance to be less than 5 instructional hours. Except as otherwise provided in Section 18-8.05 of the School Code, beginning with the 2013-14 school year calendar, for Public School Calendar and General State Aid attendance calculation purposes, days of attendance by pupils, including the first and last day of pupil attendance, shall be counted only for sessions of not less than five clock hours of school work per day. For more detailed information regarding the new public act, please see the following link at http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/pa97-0742guidelines.pdf.

If you have questions regarding this information please contact Marj Beck at mbeck@isbe.net or (217) 782-5256.

Early Childhood

Kindergarten Individual Development Survey (KIDS) Pilot Program in School Year 2012-13

The Illinois State Board of Education is continuing the process of selecting school districts across the state to be a part of the Kindergarten Individual Development Survey (KIDS) pilot program beginning in School Year 2012-2013. KIDS is envisioned as a comprehensive process designed to provide information about children’s competencies across developmental domains over time and to inform whether Illinois’ kindergarteners have the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in school. For ongoing information on the KIDS instrument and process, please visit the Kindergarten Corner-KIDS webpage at http://www.isbe.net/KIDS.

ISBE has selected the WestEd Center for Child and Family Studies (CCFS) as the contractor to provide services related to the development and administration of Illinois KIDS. Training for teachers, administrators and coaches is being provided during the first two weeks in August 2012.

The Early Childhood Division will be taking the lead on the Kindergarten Individual Development Survey (KIDS) implementation work. If you are interested in participating in the KIDS pilot and/or have any questions, please contact the Early Childhood Division at (217) 524-4835.

Updated Allocations for the Preschool for All 3-5 and Prevention Initiative 0-3 Grants

Updated FY 2013 allocations for the Early Childhood Block Grant programs are now available through IWAS for school year 2012-2013 (FY13). The updated allocation is an 8 percent reduction in funding compared to FY12. Recipients of all Early Childhood Block Grant programs funded in FY12 will need to revise and resubmit the FY13 continuation grant application based on these updated allocation amounts.

To notify the Early Childhood Division of changes to your FY13 grant, or if you have any questions, please contact the Early Childhood Division at (217) 524-4835 or by email at earlychi@isbe.net.

School Business Services

Deadline for FY12 Maintenance Grant Expenditure Report Form is July 31

Fiscal Year 2012 Maintenance Grant Expenditure Report forms have been sent by email to all districts that applied for Maintenance Grant Funds by May 1, 2012. Though many applications have been approved, completion of the approval process for the remaining districts will be done in late summer.
ISBE is required to report any expenditures incurred against Grant Applications for FY 2012, even if the application has not been approved or processed. Please complete the expenditure report form and return it to ISBE by July 31, 2012. Forms can be returned by fax to (217) 782-6096 or e-mailed as a PDF to jclinton@isbe.net.

If you have any questions, please contact Kimberly P. Beachy or Karen Shoup at kbeachy@isbe.net or kshoup@isbe.net or (217) 785-8779.

Special Education

IAASE Electronic Membership and Conference Registration Now Available

The Illinois Alliance of Administrators of Special Education is accepting online membership registrations through the IAASE website at http://www.iaase.org. Workshop and conference registrations will be processed through this same link.

By registering online, members receive immediate confirmation and receipts and are able to pay by credit card or select an option to submit a check or purchase order. The organization is making this move to become more environmentally friendly and to provide a responsive service to members. Simply visit the IAASE website and click on “Online Membership and Conference Registration.” Administrators are encouraged to join or renew their memberships prior to registering for fall and winter conferences to receive the conference registration discount.

Note: If you were an IAASE member for the 2011-12 year or attended an IAASE conference you already have an account. Your username is your email address. If you do not remember your specific password you can click on the words “Click here for lost password” and your password will be emailed to you within 10 minutes.

Superintendents, please take a few moments if you have not already done so and visit http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/7MKNRV3 to complete a simple survey to provide us with this information. Thank you.

Professional Development

Registration Reminder: Illinois Response to Intervention Network Statewide Conference

This is a reminder of the Aug. 15, 2012, registration deadline for the Illinois Response to Intervention Network’s statewide conference entitled “Building a Sustainable RtI System.” This two-day conference will be held Sept. 24 and 25 at the Bloomington-Normal Marriott Hotel and Conference Center. Its primary focus is addressing implementation challenges in building a sustainable system of RtI to meet the needs of all students, particularly in the areas of reading and math.

The target audience is district and school administrators and other personnel who are supporting the implementation of RtI at the building and/or district levels. Conference sessions will include elementary and secondary strands at the beginner/intermediate and advanced levels. Through this interactive conference, participants will learn specific coaching tips, strategies and tools to overcoming obstacles in building consensus, developing an infrastructure and sustaining implementation of RtI.

Detailed registration information is available at http://www.isbe.net/RtI_plan/default.htm. Space is filling quickly, so be sure to register soon.

U.S. Department of Education

Green Ribbon Schools Program Features Green Strides Webinar Series

The U.S. Department of Education has scheduled a series of webinars for the Green Ribbon Schools program. The Green Strides Webinar Series aims to help all schools reduce environmental impact and costs, improve health and provide effective education for the challenges of the 21st century.

Upcoming webinars in July feature U.S. Environmental Protection Agency experts and programs. They include:

- “Reducing Environmental Impact and Costs,” 2-3 p.m. July 25
• “Improving Air Quality With Transportation Changes,” 2-3 p.m. Aug. 1.

For more information, go to the Green Ribbon Schools webpage at http://www2.ed.gov/programs/green-ribbon-schools/index.html, and click “The Green Strides Webinar Series” Microsoft Word document under “What’s New?”

Visit the Illinois Green Ribbon Schools webpage at http://www.isbe.net/green_ribbon/.

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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/120716.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.