Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

Last week the U.S. Department of Education approved seven more requests for waivers from some aspects of the federal No Child Left Behind law. This brings the total number of approved waiver requests to 33, with Illinois and four other state requests, currently under review. Additionally, 13 states have decided not to pursue a waiver from NCLB.

Due to the delay in the approval of our NCLB waiver request, we are now seeking a freeze of the Annual Measurable Objectives at the 2010-11 school year levels. Additional information about our AMO request follows this column.

We had originally applied for the waiver in February of this year, building on our state’s bi-partisan education reform agenda. However, ED has put parameters in place for the waiver that require all school districts in a State to implement new teacher evaluation systems and supports by the 2014-2015 school year. Illinois passed a heavily negotiated statute in 2010 that sets forth a staggered implementation date for incorporating student growth into principal and teacher evaluations. Our law is thoughtful and deliberate and we have been moving forward for two years with that staggered implementation schedule.

We are committed to the reform agenda that we have worked on in a bi-partisan manner and will continue to implement many of the reforms outlined in our application. As I have traveled and met with many of you there has been no support to change Illinois law in order to get a federal waiver. If you feel strongly that we should consider altering our teacher evaluation timeline in order to be granted the waiver, please let me know.

The evaluator training effort we have undertaken this summer has proven to be a complex challenge on many fronts. While we have been working thoughtfully for some time to put the evaluator training in place, there have been unforeseen speed bumps that have made it frustrating and I appreciate your patience and cooperation as we move forward. This is one of the reasons that I think the staggered timeline we have in place now will benefit Illinois students in the long run. We will be able to learn from mistakes and improve upon the process, rather than trying to roll it out all at once.

Currently, more than 1,900 of you have completed the Teachscape Module for teacher evaluations and more successfully complete it every day. In addition, more than 800 participants have completed the first module for principal evaluation training. Thank you for your feedback; you are helping us improve the training and the process.

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
- 21CCLC Grants Request for Proposals application deadline – Sept. 18 (http://www.isbe.net/21cclc)
- 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

No Child Left Behind

Illinois State Board of Education Seeks Waiver Regarding AYP Targets

The Illinois State Board of Education is requesting a waiver of section 1111(b)(2)(H) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended, to permit ISBE to use the same AYP targets as in the 2010-11 school year – 85 percent – to make AYP determinations for the 2011-12 school year (instead of 92.5 percent). ISBE believes that allowing Illinois to use the same targets for AYP determinations will help increase the quality of instruction for students and improve the academic achievement of students by removing the pressure of meeting escalating targets so the State can devote necessary time and resources to planning for the implementation of ESEA flexibility.

To read the entire request, please go to http://www.isbe.net/nclb/htmls/waivers.htm. To submit a comment on this request, please send an email to nclbwaiver@isbe.net by July 31, 2012.

Innovation and Improvement

FY 2013 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program Grant

The Innovation and Improvement Division is pleased to announce the release of the FY 2013 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program (21CCLC) Grants Request for Proposals (RFP). Applications must be received no later than 5 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 18, 2012.


Technical Assistance: The technical assistance bidder’s webinar will be conducted on Tuesday, Aug. 7, 2012, from 12:30-4 p.m. This informational webinar will relate to the specific proposal requirements. Registration information is available at http://www.isbe.net/grants/html/webinar.htm. The webinar will be archived after Aug. 13, 2012, at www.isbe.net/21cclc/html/funding.htm.

Background Information: Through a competitive grant process, approximately $15 million is available in FY 2013 to fund academically-focused after-school programs that will serve schools with a high concentration of low-income students (defined as not less than 40 percent of students being eligible for free or reduced-price lunch).

Eligible applicants are public and private entities, including local education agencies (LEAs) such as public school districts, public university laboratory schools approved by ISBE, state-authorized* charter schools, area vocational centers, regional offices of education, and intermediate service centers; community-based organizations (CBO), including faith-based organizations (FBO); and other public and private entities.

A consortium of two or more eligible applicants may also submit a proposal as a joint application. Previously funded grantees are eligible to apply as well as new applicants.
A competitive priority will be given to applicants that propose to serve students in poverty who attend schools in need of improvement, are one of the persistently lowest performing schools from the Tier I or Tier II list (http://www.isbe.net/sos/htmls/sip_1003.htm) and that submit a joint application between at least one LEA receiving funds under Title I, Part A and at least one public or private community organization, propose to implement innovative best practices, and propose to serve middle and high school students. More information is available at www.isbe.net/21cclc. The deadline is 5 p.m. on Sept. 18, 2012.

For more information on the 21st CCLC grant, contact Mike Hatfill at (217) 524-4832 or 21stcclc@isbe.net.

* Refers specifically to charter schools that are authorized by ISBE as opposed to charter schools authorized by LEAs. Charter schools authorized by LEAs are not eligible to apply independently from their authorizing LEAs.

Data Analysis and Progress Reporting

‘Children of U.S. Military Personnel’ System Created in IWAS for Reporting Required Data

Section 22-65 of the School Code [105 ILCS 5/22-65] requires school districts and non-sectarian recognized non-public schools to gather and report to the Illinois State Board of Education information about the status of students’ parents or guardians in regard to whether they are U.S. military personnel who are or expect to be deployed to active duty:

“At the time of annual enrollment or at any time during the school year, a school district or a recognized non-public school, except for sectarian non-public schools, serving any of grades kindergarten through 12 shall provide, either on its standard enrollment form or on a separate form, the opportunity for the individual enrolling the student to voluntarily state whether the student has a parent or guardian who is a member of a branch of the armed forces of the United States and who is either deployed to active duty or expects to be deployed to active duty during the school year. Each school district and recognized non-public school shall report this enrollment information as aggregate data to the State Board of Education.”

ISBE has created a new system in IWAS, the “Children of U.S. Military Personnel” system, for the submission of aggregate data as required by the statute. The system will open Wednesday, Aug. 1 for school year 2012-2013 (SY 2013) data entry. Throughout the year — through June 30, 2013 — data can be entered (or updated as necessary) for the current and the previous month. On July 1, 2013, the system will roll over to the next school year (SY 2014) and data entry will be allowed for July only during the month of July.

The data to be reported for a given month is the count of students enrolled that month for whom the individuals enrolling them chose to disclose that the student has a parent or guardian who is a member of a branch of the armed forces of the United States and who is either deployed to active duty or expects to be deployed to active duty during the school year. If no students are enrolled during a given month — or if students are enrolled during a given month, but the individuals enrolling them 1) chose NOT TO DISCLOSE whether the student has a parent or guardian who is a member of a branch of the armed forces of the United States and who is either deployed to active duty or expects to be deployed to active duty during the school year or 2) disclosed that the student DOES NOT HAVE a parent or guardian who is a member of a branch of the armed forces of the United States and who is either deployed to active duty or expects to be deployed to active duty during the school year — then no data are required to be reported for that month.

For any school district or recognized non-public school that reports data, ISBE will display on its website a cumulative total for the year (through the most recent month for which data entry in the “Children of U.S. Military Personnel” system is closed/no longer allowed). This total will be the overall count of students submitted to ISBE, which will include only those data approved by the district superintendent or nonpublic school administrator for submission to ISBE. Totals of 10 or more will be released to the public; to protect student privacy, totals of less than 10 will display as blank.

District superintendents and nonpublic school administrators will be able to access the new “Children of U.S. Military Personnel” system by logging on to IWAS, clicking on System Listing, and looking under Reporting (Monthly). Others must sign up in IWAS to use the new system. Questions may be directed to the ISBE Data Analysis and Reporting Division at (217) 782-3950.
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.

### Student Opportunities

#### Applications Now Available Online for 2012-13 U.S. Senate Youth Program/Heart Scholarship

The application for the 2012-13 United States Senate Youth Program/Heart Scholarship is now available. A letter from the state superintendent, brochure and application concerning the U.S. Senate Youth Program/Heart Scholarship is sent to high schools in early August. Applications can be obtained from guidance counselors or by clicking on [http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/html/hearst.htm](http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/html/hearst.htm), then select the application in the Resource Box on the right side of the page. Click on the brochure link for a description of the program and associated rules. The application deadline is 5 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 3, 2012.

High school juniors and seniors are eligible to apply for this program. The first phase of this program brings two students from each state to Washington, D.C., March 9-16, 2013, to participate in the U.S. Senate Youth Program (USSYP). Delegates will be immersed in Washington activities throughout their week-long stay.

Visits to the Senate, House of Representatives, Supreme Court and Pentagon are interspersed with time spent at various Smithsonian museums. Delegates will hear policy addresses by senators, cabinet members, officials of various executive departments and others. The William Randolph Hearst Foundation will pay all expenses for the week, including transportation, hotel and meals.

The second phase awards both recipients a college scholarship of $5,000. The Hearst Foundation requires that to obtain scholarship funds, a student must, within two years after high school graduation, enroll at an accredited U.S. college or university. The student is encouraged to include courses in government or related subjects to his or her undergraduate program.

More information on this program can be obtained at [www.hearstfdn.org/ussyp/](http://www.hearstfdn.org/ussyp/). In Illinois, contact Ms. Sally Veach, Principal Consultant, Illinois State Board of Education, Special Education and Support Services (N-243), 100 N. First Street, Springfield, IL 62777-0001. Phone (217) 782-5589 or e-mail sveach@isbe.net.

### Department of Public Health

#### Tdap Vaccination Reminder Posters Available for Download Online

The Illinois Department of Public Health has made available posters in English and Spanish reminding parents and health care providers about the new Tdap requirement this year. The posters are available for download in PDF format at [http://www.isbe.net/school_health.htm#immu](http://www.isbe.net/school_health.htm#immu).

IDPH rules now require students entering sixth and ninth grades to show proof of receiving the Tdap vaccine. The Tdap vaccine is a booster shot for continued protection against tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (whooping cough). IDPH cites recent outbreaks of pertussis in Illinois to stress the need for protection.

For more information, call your local health department or the Immunization Section of the Illinois Department of Public Health at (217) 785-1455.

### 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/.

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/120723.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.