Some of you are already back in school, but for most districts, preparations are underway for the start of the school year in just a few weeks. Wednesday marks the beginning of National Immunization Awareness Month and we’re working with the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) to get the word out about the need to make sure students are vaccinated prior to the start of school.

New IDPH rules require students entering sixth and ninth grades this school year show proof of receiving the Tdap vaccine, a booster shot for continued protection against tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis, commonly referred to as whooping cough. Recent outbreaks in Illinois and nationally of whooping cough have health officials concerned about its further spread.

In addition to immunizations, all students enrolling in kindergarten in a public or private school and any student enrolling for the first time in Illinois (with the exception of preschoolers) must have an eye examination. A complete physical examination is required prior to entering Illinois schools for the first time, prior to the date of entering kindergarten or first grade, prior to entering sixth grade, and prior to entering ninth grade.

We have developed a letter you may print out and send to parents with regards to vaccinations and exams at http://www.isbe.net/school_health.htm.

Earlier this year we discussed sequestration, or automatic federal funding cuts that will go into effect unless Congress sends the President a balanced deficit reduction plan before Jan. 2, 2013. The concern for school districts is that sequestration would affect programs such as Title I, Title IIA, IDEA and Career, Technical and Adult Education.

The U.S. Department of Education (ED) issued a memorandum, assuming the 2013 appropriations for these accounts are structured similarly to past appropriations, stating they will take the sequester from funds that would become available in July 2013 for the 2013-2014 school year, NOT from the 2012 advance appropriations available in October 2012. The calculated sequester amount will be subtracted from the July 2013 funding.

The ED interpretation is that the potential for sequestration should not upset planning and hiring decisions for the upcoming school year. We will monitor this situation closely as it may have a major impact on federal funds we receive in the coming years.

Finally, nearly 2,700 of you have completed the Teachscape Module for teacher evaluations at an average time of approximately 18 hours. However, more than 5,800 of those registered for the training have yet to begin it.

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
- “Exercise Your Mind: Collaborating to Enhance Physical Education in Illinois Schools” webinar – Aug. 17
- 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
- Affidavit of School Treasurer Bonds submitted by Regional Superintendents/Intermediate Service Centers – Sept 1
- 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

School Business Services

Requirements Regarding School Treasurer Bonds

Section 3-8 and Section 8-2 of the School Code (105 ILCS 5/3-8 and 105 ILCS 5/8-2) require Regional Superintendents of Schools to file an affidavit with the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) showing which treasurers of school districts in their region are properly bonded. This affidavit must be filed before Sept. 1 of each year. Copies of the actual school treasurer bond should not be filed with ISBE.

Section 8-2 of the School Code (105 ILCS 5/8-2) requires each treasurer of a school district to be properly bonded. The penalty of the bond shall be 25 percent of the amount of all bonds, notes, mortgages, moneys and effects of which the treasurer is to have custody at any given time. The bond shall be increased or decreased from time to time, as the increase or decrease of the amount of notes, bonds, mortgages, moneys and effects may require. The bond shall be payable to the township trustees of schools over the district or payable to the school board of the district, whichever is applicable. The bond shall be filed with the Regional Superintendent of Schools. School districts should not file a copy of their bonds with ISBE.

For additional information on the State Board of Education interpretation of this Section, please refer to the State Superintendent’s Weekly Message for May 3, 2010, and May 11, 2010, which can be accessed at http://www.isbe.net/board/archivemessages/archivemessage.htm.

Section 3-8 of the School Code (105 ILCS 5/3-8) describes the duties of the Regional Superintendent of Schools upon receipt of the treasurer bonds. When the bond of any school treasurer is filed with the Regional Superintendent of Schools, the Regional Superintendent shall carefully examine it. If the bond is found to be in any respect according to law and the sureties sufficient, the Regional Superintendent shall endorse his/her approval and file it with the papers of his/her office. If the bond is in any respect defective, or if the sureties are insufficient, the bond shall be returned for correction.

In Cook County, the responsibilities and duties of the Regional Superintendent of Schools detailed in Section 3-8 and Section 8-2 of the School Code (105 ILCS 5/3-8 and 105 ILCS 5/8-2) will be assumed by the respective Intermediate Service Center.

An electronic version of the Affidavit, and other information, can be found online at www.isbe.net/sfms/html/rt_bonds.htm.

Please contact Michelle Heninger, School Business Services Division, at (217) 785-8779 or mheninge@isbe.net with any questions.

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

State Performance Plan Indicator 13: Data Verification Process

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires each state to submit a six-year State Performance Plan (SPP) designed to evaluate the state’s efforts to implement the requirements of IDEA and describe how the state will improve its implementation.

A required component of the SPP is improvement activities for each of the 20 indicators. Under direction from the Office of Special Education Programs, the Data Accountability Center, and the Regional Resource Centers, one of the improvement activities included in the SPP under Indicator 13 (Secondary Transition) and Indicator 20 (Timely, Valid & Reliable Data) is the implementation of a data verification process to address the completeness and accuracy of these data. These data are submitted to ISBE through the Funding and Child Tracking System (FACTS) for students with IEPs ages 14½ and above.

Each year, ISBE will implement this data verification process with a randomly selected sample of districts that reported 100 percent compliance for Indicator 13. Districts selected for the 2012 data verification process will be notified by Aug. 1, 2012, and will be required to submit IEPs from the 2011-2012 school year for a randomly selected sample of students. The transition plan components of these IEPs will then be reviewed and ISBE will follow-up with the selected districts.

For more information regarding Indicator 13 and secondary transition planning, please review the technical assistance resources available at http://www.isbe.state.il.us/spec-ed/html/total.htm.

ISBE Receives State Education Agency Determination Letter on IDEA

The Illinois State Board of Education received its State Education Agency (SEA) Determination letter on the implementation of the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). Illinois was placed in the “Needs Assistance” category with several other states. The Department’s determinations are based on the totality of a State’s data and information, including a State’s FFY 2010 Annual Performance Report (APR) and revised State Performance Plan (SPP); information from monitoring, including verification visit findings; and other public information, such as the State’s performance under any existing special conditions on its FFY 2011 grant or a compliance agreement, longstanding unresolved audit findings, and other State compliance with the IDEA.

The specific factors affecting the OSEP determination of “Needs Assistance” for Illinois were: (1) the State’s FFY 2010 data for SPP Indicator 13, which measures compliance with secondary transition requirements, reflect 86.4 percent compliance, and the State did not report that it corrected all FFY 2009 findings of noncompliance as one finding remains open; and (2) the State’s FFY 2010 data for SPP Indicator 17, which measures the timeliness of impartial due process hearing decisions, reflect 58.3 percent.

OSEP also noted areas that reflect a high level of performance in Illinois, including SPP Indicators 4B (suspension/expulsion by race/ethnicity), 9 (disproportionality), 10 (disproportionality in specific disability categories), 11 (evaluation), 12 (transition from Part C to Part B), 15 (correction of noncompliance), 16 (complaints) and 20 (state-reported data).

Project SET Launches Site to Help Youth With Disabilities Transition Beyond High School

Project SET (Seamless Effective Transition), a program supported by funding from the Office of Special Education Programs at the U.S. Department of Education, has launched a new website to support the transition of urban youth with disabilities into post-high school life.

Project SET administrators cite lower high school graduation rates mixed with greater risk of
unemployment, incarceration, and life in poverty as issues that commonly affect youth with disabilities.

Project SET provides information focused on local and state resources for personnel who work with youth and families, updates about transition services, and announcements about community participation to help youth with disabilities and their families. Go to http://projectset.ed.uic.edu for more information.

Physical Education

Web Conference to Help Put Illinois Enhanced P.E. Strategic Plan Into Motion

“Exercise Your Mind: Collaborating to Enhance Physical Education in Illinois Schools,” a web conference, is scheduled for 1-2:30 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 17.

The webinar follows up the release of the Illinois Enhanced Physical Education Strategic Plan, which is available at http://www.isbe.net/EPESP/default.htm. The plan provides a roadmap for implementing the vision that all Illinois K-12 students will participate in daily, high-quality physical education. The strategic plan was produced by the Illinois State Board of Education, the Illinois Department of Public Health, and the Illinois Public Health Institute with input from the Enhanced P.E. Task Force.

The plan states, “High-quality physical education is as important as math, science or any other core subject because it correlates directly to the health and well-being of students for the rest of their lives. P.E. and physical activity have cognitive benefits too, and can make students more receptive to learning.”

The webinar is intended for community members, parents, students, teachers, health departments, school board members, principals, superintendents and local coalitions that want to collaborate to enhance PE. Participants will be able to earn 1.5 CPDU credits. To register for the web conference, go to http://www.iphionline.org.

Innovation and Improvement

Grant Readers Sought for 21st Century Community Learning Center Program

ISBE’s Innovation and Improvement Division is seeking additional grant readers for the FY 2013 21st Century Community Learning Center (21st CCLC) Program grant competition. Preferred grant readers must have after school experience and knowledge in after school programming and/or community based programming that serves school aged students, grantsmanship experience, previous grant reading experience, 21st CCLC experience and knowledge, program management and experience with schools and districts.

Readers will need to be available during Sept. 24-Oct. 1, 2012, to read the Request for Proposals (RFP). Readers will be required to participate in a training that will be delivered via a webinar on Sept. 10, 2012. Readers will read and score their assigned applications, which will be sent to the readers through a web-based system. Access to a computer with internet capability will be necessary. An honorarium will be provided. Once selected, readers will be required to sign a confidentiality agreement, a memorandum of understanding and complete a conflict of interest questionnaire.

To be considered for this opportunity please send a letter of interest, a completed application form, which can be found at http://www.isbe.net/21cclec/PDF/43-44R-fy13-rfp-call-for-reviewers.pdf, and a resume or curriculum vitae by Aug. 10, 2012, to Mike Hatfill, Principal Consultant, Illinois State Board of Education, Innovation and Improvement Division, 100 N. First St., Springfield, IL 62777-0001 or via email at 21stcclec@isbe.net. Contact Mike Hatfill with questions at (217) 524-4832.

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/21ccle/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.

Student Opportunities

Registration Begins Soon for Cyber Foundations High School Competition

Registration begins Aug. 1 for the 2012 Cyber Foundations High School Competition. The national competition for high school students aims to identify future cyber security experts, testing mastery of networking, operating systems and system administration.

The contest offers free web tutorials and awards scholarships and other prizes for top performers. For more information, visit http://www.CyberFoundations.org or contact Sonny Sandelius at ssandelius@sans.org. Registration ends Oct. 15, 2012.

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

The application for the 2012-13 U.S. 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, 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/. In Illinois, contact Ms. Sally Veach, Principal Consultant, Illinois State Board of Education, Special Education and Support Services (N-243), 100 N. First St., Springfield, IL 62777-0001. Phone (217) 782-5589 or e-mail sveach@isbe.net.

Professional Development

‘A Workshop for RN’s Working in the Schools’ Scheduled for Aug. 7-8

Slots are still available for “A Workshop for RN’s Working in the Schools,” which is being offered Aug. 7-8, 2012, by National Louis University. The program is intended to provide information to facilitate the safe practice of nursing in a school setting. This workshop is intended for registered nurses who do not hold Type 73 School Nurse Endorsement.

Learning objectives for the workshop include: 1) Identify state and federal laws that directly affect the practice of nursing in the school setting; 2) Identify health problems specific to the school setting; 3) Apply the nursing process in providing care for injuries and illnesses to students and staff in the school setting; 4) Apply legal resources and references affecting the practice of nursing in the school setting, and 5) Identify resources for protecting the safety of students and staff in the
prevention of violence and the implementation of crisis plans.

Cost is $250 for non-credit and $360 for one-hour college credit. The program will run from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days and is held on the campus of National Louis University in Wheeling. For more information, contact Linda Gibbons at linda.gibbons@nl.edu.

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.

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.

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/120730.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.