Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

Staff has finalized the Fiscal Year 2013 General State Aid (GSA) calculations and the first payment will be made on Aug. 10. The state budget that passed does not include enough funding to meet the $6,119 GSA foundation level established by the General Assembly. Due to this shortfall in funding we have to prorate the gross GSA for each district to $5,733. This will result in a nearly 11 percent reduction from the total necessary to make the $6,119 GSA foundation level. The reduction will be applied proportionally over 22 equal payments from August 2012 to June 2013.

Prorating evenly across all payments is a change from previous years when we would simply reduce the final payments. This change is necessary because proration has increased significantly over the past two years and the 22 equal payments will assist districts in their cash flow projections for Fiscal Year 2013. Last year’s (2012) budget resulted in the partial reduction to the first June payment and elimination of the final June payment. This year, if we do not reduce all payments evenly, districts would not receive either GSA payment in June and only about half of their second payment in May. Additional information on the GSA calculations immediately follows the column.

Administrators continue to make significant progress towards completing the necessary five training modules required for implementing the new teacher and principal evaluations. Currently, 71 percent of teacher evaluators and 56 percent of principal evaluators have started the training. In addition, nearly 36 percent of principal evaluators have completed modules 1, 2 and 3. Nearly a quarter of teacher evaluators have completed modules 1, 2 and 3, with 22 percent having also completed module 4.

I would like to remind you that for those training on the new teacher evaluation system but are not yet required to include student growth in the 2012-13 school year, only modules 1, 2 and 3 must be completed prior to Sept. 1 or until such time as those evaluators plan to do their observation of teachers, which could be at a later date. Module 4 must be completed no later than Nov. 1, 2012; however, its delay in no way should minimize the importance of this module to the overall evaluation process. Principal evaluators must complete the final piece, module 5, by Nov. 1 but teacher evaluators will need only to complete module 5 prior to the use of student growth in your district’s implementation process. This timeline does not include Chicago Public Schools, which will begin implementing the new evaluation systems, including student growth, in the 2012-13 school year and both teacher and principal evaluators must complete all trainings and assessments by Sept. 1, 2012.

Have a great week!

Chris
Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

- The 2011-12 End of Year Report deadline – Aug. 15
- 2011-12 Teacher Service Record reporting deadline – Aug. 15
- Bilingual ESL Program Leadership Institute, Arlington Heights – Aug. 16 (http://www.thecenterweb.org/irc)
- “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
- FY13 annual Bilingual Program Directors’ Meeting in Lisle – Sept. 10-11
- 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

Funding and Disbursement Services

FY 2013 General State Aid Finalized

The Fiscal Year 2013 General State Aid (GSA) calculations have been finalized. The first FY 2013 GSA payment will be made on Aug. 10. The $6,119 GSA foundation level established by the General Assembly was utilized in the GSA calculation based on a total budgeted FY 2013 appropriation of $4,286,752,500.

The final GSA net entitlement based upon local tax revenue and average daily attendance information calculated to $4,805,559,972, leaving a shortage of $518,807,472 resulting in an effective foundation level of $5,733. This shortage requires a proration of 89.16 percent, which has been applied toward the gross entitlement for each school district and regional office. The 89.16 percent proration is being proportionally applied over 22 equal payments scheduled from August 2012 through June 2013.

Final computations and individual claim information for school districts and regional offices can be accessed in General State Aid Inquiry at http://webprod1.isbe.net/gsainquiry/default.aspx.

If you have any questions about General State Aid or the computations, please contact Jim Mathes at jmathes@isbe.net or (217) 782-5256.

Innovation and Improvement

Webinar on School Improvement Grant Process to Highlight East St. Louis Success


The webinar follows the purposeful and persistent journey East St. Louis undertook in planning and writing a successful School Improvement Grant. Their experiences provide a roadmap for other districts who share the vision of creating educational environments of excellence using federal School Improvement Grant 1003(g) funds.

The webinar is intended for superintendents, principals, union members, community members, board of education members, parents and teachers that wish to engage in rigorous and robust school improvement work and qualify to receive School Improvement Grant funds. (For federal guidance, visit http://www2.ed.gov/programs/sif/sigguidance03012012.doc).

The production of this webinar is the result of a coordinated effort between the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Principal’s Association. To register for this web conference, go to https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/830034306.
English Language Learning

**Bilingual and ESL Leadership Institutes and the FY13 Bilingual Program Directors’ Meeting**

There is still time to register for the second of two one-day Leadership Institutes planned by ISBE’s English Language Learning Division. Attendees are meeting in Springfield today (Aug. 14) and will meet in Arlington Heights on Thursday, Aug. 16. In addition, the FY13 annual Bilingual Program Directors’ Meeting is coming up in September.

The Learning Institutes are a new resource for administrators at various levels, including program directors, coordinators and assistant superintendents, who are newer to the bilingual/ESL field. The meeting agenda will focus on meeting federal/state requirements, addressing program timelines and administration procedures, providing resources for program directors, as well as an overview of data-driven bilingual/ESL program design. School district administrative teams of up to three individuals are encouraged to attend. Interested administrators can download a PDF form in order to register for a Leadership Institute at [http://www.thecenterweb.org/irc](http://www.thecenterweb.org/irc). Fax the Leadership Institute registration form to the IRC at (847) 649-0551. There is no charge to attend a Leadership Institute.

The FY13 annual Bilingual Program Directors’ Meeting will be at a new location this year. This required annual meeting will be held at the Lisle/Naperville Hilton in Lisle on Sept. 10-11. Details and registration will be forthcoming.

Additional details and updates on these events, will be published in the HOT TOPICS section at [http://www.isbe.net/bilingual](http://www.isbe.net/bilingual).

Public Schools Recognition Division

**Updated Student Registration and Enrollment Guidance Document Now Available Online**

The Illinois State Board of Education has updated the annual non-regulatory guidance pertaining to residency, enrollment, immigrant pupils, homeless pupils and school fees/waivers. The document may be downloaded on a link from the following website: [http://www.isbe.net/recognition/html/registration_enroll.htm](http://www.isbe.net/recognition/html/registration_enroll.htm).

Given the time of year, our agency has received an increased number of concerns from the field with respect to residency and enrollment. We view enrollment of students as a priority and try to ensure that inquiries are addressed immediately. If you have questions regarding residency requirements and verification, please contact Jeff Aranowski ([jaranows@isbe.net](mailto:jaranows@isbe.net)) or Lynda Vaughn ([lvaughn@isbe.net](mailto:lvaughn@isbe.net)) with any questions or concerns with respect to these issues.

Elementary and Secondary Education Act

**Waiver Request Regarding Adequate Yearly Progress Targets Approved**

The Illinois State Board of Education requested 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.

The waiver request was granted, and the AYP results that were recently released are based on the 2011 AMO targets.

Special Education and Support Services

**Planning Calendar and Data Road Map Updated for the New School Year**

ISBE’s Special Education and Support Services Division is pleased to announce that the “Planning Calendar” and “Data Road Map” have been updated for the 2012-13 School Year. The agency hopes these resources will raise awareness of the various data reporting requirements related to IDEA. These documents do not replace any official notifications of deadlines or requirements; Instead, they are intended to be used as additional resources to assist district and Special Education
cooperative planning. These documents are now available under the “What's New” section at http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed.

‘Health and the Transition to Adulthood: Building the Foundation for Success’

Students with special needs need to obtain the skills necessary for them to maintain optimal health and medical services in adulthood. Providers of services to students enrolled in special education may want to attend the webinar “Health and the Transition to Adulthood: Building the Foundation for Success, which is scheduled for Sept. 20.

Participants will learn ways parents of adolescent students with IEPs are advocating for their children’s health needs to be addressed in transition IEPs. Other questions to be answered: How can the school help my child plan for health care? How will my child's health affect his/her future employment? Does my child know how to explain his/her medical condition?

To reserve a webinar seat, register at https://www4.gotomeeting.com/register/744445399.

- **Title:** Health and the Transition to Adulthood: Building the Foundation for Success
- **Date:** Thursday, Sept. 20, 2012
- **Time:** Noon to 1 p.m. CDT

**Student Assessment**

2012 Prairie State Achievement Examination (PSAE) Final Results Posted Aug. 1, 2012

The final 2012 results for the PSAE are now available online via IWAS, on the ISBE website. The final results are located within the Student Information System (SIS).

If you have any problems accessing the final results, please contact the Illinois State Board of Education’s Help Desk at (217) 558-3600.

**School Safety**

School Safety Conference Set for Sept. 14 in Hoffman Estates

The Illinois State Board of Education, the Archdiocese of Chicago Office of Catholic Schools, RETA Security, the Illinois Terrorism Task Force, East Aurora School District 131 and Proviso Area for Exceptional Children will hold a free school safety conference from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sept. 14 in Hoffman Estates.

Building administrators, district administrators, regional administrators, transportation directors, parties in charge of safety, and police and fire officials are invited to attend. For more information and to register, go to http://www.gbriskcontrol.com/retasecurityregistration/. Registration is open through Sept. 9.

**Growth Through Learning**

Survey Under Way on Auditory and Visual Accommodations for Evaluator Training

Your cooperation and patience is appreciated as we continue to work to improve upon issues associated with the Illinois Performance teacher and principal evaluator training (Growth Through Learning). We have received feedback from several individuals and have worked to incorporate suggestions from the field as we address technical and content related issues associated with the training.

In an effort to address concerns regarding accommodations for administrators with visual or auditory impairments taking the exam, we have initiated conversations with Teachscape to discuss accommodations.

From our conversations we have identified four possible accommodations described below. Knowing the timeline for completion is Sept. 1, 2012, we would appreciate your feedback via the SurveyMonkey link below no later than Aug. 15, 2012. ISBE, in collaboration with Teachscape, will make every effort to provide the necessary accommodations in a timely manner. You are reminded that the Sept. 1, 2012, timeline refers to the date by which administrators must have completed the assessment in order to conduct teacher observations. Your access to Teachscape does not end on Sept. 1, 2012. Should you not complete the assessment by Sept. 1, 2012, you are prohibited from conducting teacher observations until which time you have successfully completed the assessment.

Accommodations discussed to date:

- **For Auditory Accommodations**
  - Add Closed Captioning to the video component of modules of all teacher and student comments.
• Provide an interpreter to sign the audio portion of the video in a small group setting followed by completion of a paper assessment.

For Visual Accommodations
• View using a Smartboard
• Add Screen Reader

To complete the survey and provide your feedback by Aug. 15, 2012, please visit the following link: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TeachscapeAccommodationSurvey.

Data Analysis and Progress Reporting

2011-12 Teacher Service Record – Spring Data Collection Reminder

This is a reminder that the deadline to submit 2011-2012 Teacher Service Record (TSR) data is Aug. 15, 2012. The deadline is firm since ISBE has immediate TSR data usage needs. It is critical for districts to submit complete and accurate TSR data, including actual salaries (i.e., total creditable earnings); missing or incomplete data will affect state totals and averages. For the spring data collection, you must do the following by Aug. 15:

• Make necessary educator updates.
• Submit 2011-2012 salaries. Please note that salaries can only be submitted through the “Submit/Update Teacher Salary” wizard.

Questions about the 2011-12 TSR spring data collection can be directed to the ISBE Data Analysis and Progress Reporting Division at tsr@isbe.net or (217) 782-3950. On Wednesday, Aug. 15, division staff will be available to respond to emails and take calls until 4 p.m. CDT.

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.


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 all respects 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/t_bonds.htm.

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

Rules and Waivers

Notice of Completed Rulemaking

Please be advised that eight 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 100 (Requirements for Accounting, Budgeting, Financial Reporting, and Auditing): Establishes a revenue code for use by school districts receiving funding under the federal Race to the Top 3 initiative. 

**Affected Sections:** 100.130 and 100

**Effective Date:** July 18, 2012

Part 226 (Special Education): Beginning July 1, 2013, limits the conduct of medical reviews to registered nurses who hold school service personnel certificates endorsed for school nurse and individuals licensed to practice medicine in all of its branches; additionally, registered nurses who hold bachelor's degrees and advanced practice nurses can perform that portion of a medical review that does not require educational evaluation or instructional judgment.

**Affected Sections:** 226.840

**Effective Date:** July 18, 2012

Part 350 (Secular Textbook Loan): Repeals Part 350 due to the enactment of P.A. 97-570, effective August 25, 2011, which repeals Section 18-17 of the School Code (secular textbook loan program) and replaces it with the Textbook Block Grant Program.

**Affected Sections:** 350.10, 350.15 and 350.25

**Effective Date:** July 18, 2012

Part 451 (Private Business and Vocational Schools): Repeals Part 451 due to the enactment of P.A. 97-650, effective February 1, 2012, which transferred responsibility for approving and overseeing private business and vocational schools from the State Board of Education to the Illinois Board of Higher Education.


**Effective Date:** July 18, 2012

Part 25 (Certification): Responds in part to P.A. 97-607, which repeals portions of Article 21 of the School Code [105 ILCS 5/21] and establishes the new licensure system under Article 21B of the School Code [105 ILCS 5/21B]; additional changes in response to this legislation are forthcoming.


**Effective Date:** July 23, 2012

Part 25 (Certification): This emergency amendment implements State Board of Education policy adopted in June to allow candidates for educator preparation programs and applicants for educator licenses to use a minimum composite score (as determined by the State Board) on the ACT® in lieu of taking Illinois’ test of basic skills. The rule also allows candidates to use a minimum composite score on the SAT®. The emergency amendment will be in effect for a maximum of 150 days.

**Affected Sections:** 25.720

**Effective Date:** July 24, 2012

Part 226 (Special Education): Responds to several recently enacted public acts (P.A. 97-123, effective July 14, 2011; P.A. 97-227, effective January 1, 2012; and P.A. 97-284, effective August 9, 2011) and eliminates provisions that are obsolete in Sections 226.800(g)(2) and (h)(2) that address requirements for State-approved director of special education, assistant directors, and special education supervisors.

**Affected Sections:** 226.300, 226.730, 226.800, 226.810 and 226.850

**Effective Date:** July 24, 2012

Part 51 (Dismissal of Tenured Teachers under Article 24 and Dismissal of Tenured Teachers and Principals under Article 34 of the School Code): Streamlines the dismissal process to align to the provisions of P.A. 97-8, effective June 13, 2011, and provides for an optional alternative dismissal process, as per Section 24-16.5 of the School Code [105 ILCS 5/24-16.5].


**Effective Date:** July 24, 2012

Thomas Lay Burroughs Award

Nominations Sought for Annual State Contest to Honor Outstanding School Board President

The State Board of Education invites you to nominate your local board president for the Thomas Lay Burroughs
Award for the State's Outstanding School Board President.

This award was created in 1991 in memory of the late ISBE chairman and is presented each November at the IASB/IASA/IASBO conference in Chicago. This year, the conference will be held Nov. 16-18 and the award will be presented Sunday morning, Nov. 18.

Nominations should be submitted as indicated below by the close of business on Oct. 5, 2012.

You may send your nomination to Amanda Elliott via email to aelliott@isbe.net. Please indicate in the subject line of the email: Burroughs Nomination. If you have questions, call Amanda Elliott or Marsha Moffett at (217) 557-6626.

For nomination information and format, please go to http://www.isbe.net/pdf/burroughs_award.pdf.

Nutrition

Midwest Dairy Council Encourages Schools to Fuel Up to Play 60

Through its Fuel Up to Play 60 program, the Midwest Dairy Council offers funding opportunities to K-12 schools. The competitive funding program is designed to help schools jumpstart and sustain healthy physical activity and nutrition improvements, including expanding breakfast programs.

Up to $4,000 is available to schools each school year. Schools must be enrolled as a Fuel Up to Play 60 school and participate in the National School Lunch Program to be eligible for funding. Application deadlines are Oct. 1, 2012, and Jan. 15, 2013. To learn more about the program or to sign your school up, visit www.fueluptoplay60.com.

Professional Development

Illinois Council for Exceptional Children Starts Registration for Fall Conference

The Illinois Council for Exceptional Children (ICEC) will hold its 2012 fall convention Nov. 1-3 in Lisle. The theme for this year’s convention is “The Best of Special Education.”

This year’s keynote speakers include Dr. Vinni M. Hall, a member of the State Board of Education and former president of ICEC. Dr. Hall, who serves as secretary on

Conference Offers Opportunity to Learn Skills Students Need for Apprentice Programs

The Illinois State Apprenticeship Committee will hold a free Counselor Conference on Friday, Sept. 28, at the Operating Engineers Apprenticeship School, 19800 Arsenal Road, in Wilmington. Lunch will be provided at the event, which starts at 8 a.m. with registration.

The conference offers CDPU points with the opportunity to learn skills students need to get into Union Construction Apprentice Programs. While attire is casual, safety is stressed, therefore long pants are required and dangling jewelry should be avoided. Work boots are encouraged and no sandals or other open-toe shoes are permitted.

Some of the trades attending the event include the Operating Engineers Local 150, Laborer’s Apprenticeship Training, Carpenters Training Program, Bricklayers, Electricians, Painter Decorators, Drywall Finishers, Teamsters Apprenticeship Training, Plumbers and Pipefitters.

For more information and to register for the event, contact Johnetta Ryan of the Construction Industry Service Corp. at (630) 472-9411 or johnetta@cisco.org.

Department of Natural Resources

IDNR Shares Information on Connecting Youth to the Outdoors Grant Program

The National Environmental Education Foundation in partnership with the National Fish and Wildlife
Foundation, the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service has announced a new initiative, Connecting Youth to the Outdoors Grant Program, that seeks to catalyze efforts to increase the number of pre-K-12 youth, particularly urban and/or underserved youth, who build a connection with public lands as places for recreating, learning and volunteering. Proposed projects should maximize hands-on outdoor engagement opportunities on public lands, focused on the areas of education, recreation and environmental stewardship.

Grants ranging from $2,500 to $20,000 are available to select applicants. Nonprofit organizations, academic institutions and tribal groups are eligible to apply. Contact the National Environmental Education Foundation for more information and to apply for this funding: http://www.neefusa.org/grants/connecting_youth. The deadline is Sept. 19.

Spanish-Language Activity Books Available

For a short time, non-formal educators in Illinois are being offered the opportunity to order Spanish-language activity books from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) with no shipping fee.

For details visit the online publications order form at http://dnr.state.il.us/Teachkids and click on the “Activity Books” tab. Each Spanish-language activity book description contains the ordering information. This offer is only available for Spanish-language activity books.

In the News

Students Bring Home Awards From SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference

Congratulations to the students from Illinois high school and college technical education programs who brought home awards from the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference, which was held earlier this summer in Kansas City, Mo. Students from across the country competed in 94 hands-on occupational and leadership contests in such areas as robotics, criminal justice, public speaking and aviation maintenance.

Top students competed for gold, silver and bronze medallions, scholarships and other prizes. A complete list of winners from across the state is available at http://skillsusa-register.org/rpts/EventMedalists.aspx. Select Illinois and click View Medalists.

Weekly News Clips

ISBE has posted highlights from last week’s education news clips at http://www.isbe.net/news/2012/newsclips/120813.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.