Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

Governor Quinn re-appointed three members of the Illinois State Board of Education last week. Andrea Brown of Marion, David Fields of Danville and Vinni Hall of Chicago have provided extraordinary service already, and I am thrilled they will continue on the Board as we move forward. Unfortunately, Board member Lanita Koster submitted her resignation after serving four years on the Board. Ms. Koster, who was offered a re-appointment, is stepping down for personal reasons. She brought more than 35 years of educational experience to the state board and brought unique insights from a teachers’ perspective. We are grateful to her dedication and contribution during these past few years of important reform work and wish her well.

The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) has released 26 sample items and task prototypes in both English/Language Arts and Mathematics at representative grade levels as part of the on-going development of assessments aligned to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). PARCC, a consortium of states, aims to provide new state assessments for use in the 2014-15 school year and the group is committed to keeping educators informed throughout the process. I encourage you and your team to review the sample items on the PARCC website at http://www.parcconline.org/. More information follows this column.

We continue to see more administrators complete the necessary professional development for teacher and principal evaluations. More than 76 percent of teacher evaluators and 63 percent of principal evaluators in the state have now started the training. In addition, 44 percent of principal evaluators have completed modules 1, 2 and 3. And 67 percent of teacher evaluators have completed modules 1, 2 and 3, with 39 percent having also completed module 4.

Finally, I wish you all much success as you open school doors and welcome students back to classes in the following days and weeks! The first days of school are always an exciting time for families and educators and I hope that the process goes smoothly.

Thanks,

Chris

Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

- Affidavit of School Treasurer Bonds submitted by Regional Superintendents/Intermediate Service Centers – Sept 1
- ISBE offices closed for Labor Day – Sept. 3
Assessment

PARCC Releases Assessment Prototypes in English/Language Arts and Mathematics

The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC), a consortium of states, has just released 26 sample items and task prototypes in both English/Language Arts and Mathematics at representative grade levels as part of the on-going development of assessments aligned to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS).

These items may help facilitate planning, training and other preparations necessary for the implementation of PARCC assessments in the 2014-15 school year. These prototypes offer a sample of the items and tasks to be released over time and posted to the website, representing the entire range of item types that will be on the actual PARCC assessments, and illustrating important shifts as part of aligning the Common Core Standards and PARCC’s next-generation technology-based assessments. There are three major shifts in the ELA/literacy assessments: increased practice with complex text, use of evidence from text and building knowledge through non-fiction. The major shift in mathematics is a greater focus on three types of tasks: tasks assessing concepts, skills and procedures; tasks assessing the expression of mathematical reasoning; and tasks assessing modeling and application. The PARCC assessments are being designed to determine readiness for college and careers.

To view the assessment prototypes, visit the PARCC website at http://www.parcconline.org/.

2012 State Assessment Score Reports Delivery Schedule

2012 Illinois standards Achievement Test (ISAT) Score Reports: The 2012 ISAT score reports will be mailed to non-Chicago district offices and Chicago schools the week of Aug. 20. Most reports will be delivered by Aug. 24, 2012. All final ISAT data are available in ISBE’s Student Information System (SIS).

2012 Prairie State Achievement Examination (PSAE) Score Reports: The 2012 PSAE score reports were mailed to high school principals on Friday, Aug. 17, 2012, and should arrive the week of Aug. 20. Illinois Goals Reports and WorkKeys reports will be mailed to high school principals by the end of August. Templates for the PSAE and Goals Reports are online at http://www.isbe.net/assessment/htmls/format_guide.htm along with an interpretive guide. All final PSAE data are available in ISBE’s Student Information System (SIS).

2012 Illinois Alternate Assessment (IAA) Score Reports: The 2012 IAA score reports were mailed to District Superintendents, Chicago District 299 School Principals, and School Coordinators the week of Aug. 13, 2012. All final IAA data are available in ISBE’s Student Information System (SIS).

If you have questions about any of these reports, please contact the Illinois State Board of Education’s Assessment Division at (866) 317-6034.
Administration of the Ninth and 10th Grade EXPLORE/PLAN – Fall 2012

We are pleased to announce the availability of EXPLORE/PLAN for all ninth- and 10th-grade students as part of our reform agenda and move toward a growth model of accountability. The new high school assessment plan will provide schools and districts a complete picture of student progress from grades 3 through 11 and provide data for the calculation of student growth.

Please Note: The opportunity to participate in these assessments will be the only state-funded path to administer the EXPLORE and PLAN in the 2012-2013 school year.

High schools are encouraged to complete registration to administer EXPLORE in grade 9 and PLAN in grade 10. Registration opens Aug. 22 and runs through Sept. 28. Test administration must take place Nov. 5-16. The state will pay only for the administration of EXPLORE at grade 9 and PLAN at grade 10.

Schools and districts will receive copies of student, school and district-level reports. These reports will include academic achievement data in English, Mathematics, Reading and Science, as well as data on students’ career aspirations. These data will be valuable in planning programs for individual and groups of students. School- and district-level data will include student performance broken down by subgroups as well as comparisons of students’ curricula and performance on the EXPLORE or PLAN test.

These assessments:
- provide data to help pinpoint student strengths and weaknesses, aligned to college and career ready expectations,
- provide data regarding student preferences for post-high school activities,
- provide the school with information on program effectiveness,
- provide valid and reliable data on student achievement at grades not currently assessed by PSAE.

All orders must be placed by the district under the State Contract Cycle. Following the Ordering Guide (http://www.isbe.net/assessment/pdfs/explore-plan-12-13.pdf) will ensure that orders are placed correctly. Orders placed through the National Ordering Cycle will be billed to the school district and will not be part of the state project. If a school district has ordered EXPLORE for grade 9 or PLAN for grade 10, but has not yet tested, please contact ACT Customer Services at (877) 789-2925 to learn how to ensure correct scoring and billing under the contract.

We encourage your participation in this pilot year of statewide EXPLORE/PLAN administration.


U.S. Department of Education

2012 Race to the Top-District Grant Competition Application Finalized

The U.S. Department of Education has finalized the application for the 2012 Race to the Top-District grant competition, which will provide nearly $400 million to support school districts in implementing local reforms that will personalize learning, close achievement gaps and take full advantage of 21st century tools to prepare each student for college and the careers of their choice.

The Race to the Top-District competition invites applicants to demonstrate how they can personalize education for all students and is aimed squarely at classrooms and the all-important relationship between teachers and students. The competition will encourage transformative change within schools, providing school leaders and teachers with key tools and support in order to best meet their students’ needs.

Applicants from all districts are invited to apply. The Department plans to support high-quality proposals from applicants across a variety of districts, including rural and non-rural, as well as those already participating in a Race to the Top state grant, and districts not currently participating. These 4-year awards will range from $5 million to $40 million, depending on the population of students served through the plan. The Department is expecting to make 15-25 awards.

The Department is requesting interested districts to submit their intent to apply by Aug. 30, and will offer webinars and conference calls over the coming weeks to provide technical assistance. Applications are due Oct. 30, with awards being announced no later than Dec. 31, 2012.

ISBE is pleased that the RTTT-D competition will focus on personalized learning. As a state, we have already invested in efforts to support personalized learning that district RTTT-D applicants may find helpful. We strongly encourage applicants to consider aligning their plans with current state initiatives and to identify ways to leverage state investments. ISBE is interested in playing a supportive role during the application period and then during grant implementation. So that we may be able to identify ways to support RTTT-D applicants, please email David Osta at dosta@isbe.net.

**PERA**

**ISBE Stresses Collaboration on Performance Evaluation Reform Act Implementation**

As we begin the first school year of the implementation of the Performance Evaluation Reform Act (PERA) (Senate Bill 315; Public Act 96-0861), ISBE would like to call attention to the importance of collaboration. Numerous implementation questions and challenges will require close partnership between districts and their teachers and/or exclusive bargaining units. ISBE strongly encourages the establishment of PERA Joint Committees and the start of informal meetings well in advance of implementation. For example, Race to the Top districts will be piloting student growth measures during the 2013-14 school year. Developing the plans for the student growth pilot will require intensive PERA Joint Committee effort and coordination.

For more information about PERA Joint Committees, please refer to the Illinois State Board of Education non-regulatory guidance for PERA and Senate Bill 7 at [http://www.isbe.net/PERA/pdf/pera_guidance.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/PERA/pdf/pera_guidance.pdf). (Question A-38 addresses informal PERA Joint Committee meetings specifically.)

**Funding and Disbursements**

**Interrupted School Days/Heat**

The health and safety of students are a primary concern for every school superintendent. Section 18-12 of the School Code allows the use of Interrupted School Days for “adverse weather conditions,” including extreme heat as well as extreme cold. The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) allows four options with regard to extreme heat:

- Amend the public school calendar to start school at a later date
- Dismiss after 5-clock-hours of instruction
- Utilize an Emergency Day
- Utilize an Interrupted Day

If an Emergency Day is utilized, it is recommended that an Amended Calendar be submitted electronically through IWAS to the Regional Office of Education (ROE) for approval to assure that the most up to date Public School Calendar is available online via the School Calendar Inquiry. If an Interrupted Day is utilized, an Amended Calendar must be submitted electronically through IWAS, within 30 days of occurrence, to the ROE, who will forward it to ISBE for approval as required by statute. The Calendar Code for Emergency Day is ED. The Calendar Code for an Interrupted Day is XID. When amending the calendar code to XID, Student Attendance Time is required to verify a minimum of 1 instructional clock hour was conducted as well as a brief explanation of why the day was interrupted.

ISBE’s policy further states that if the announcement is made in advance (i.e., on the previous day) that school will be closing because of heat on any day or days before 5 clock hours of instruction has been provided an emergency day(s) must be used. You cannot count that shortened day as a full-day of attendance under those circumstances.

At this time, all 2012-2013 Public School Calendars should have ROE approval, making the calendar available for interested parties to view on the ISBE’s School Calendar Inquiry. Per Section 10-19 of the School Code, any changes to the calendar must be approved by completing and submitting an amended calendar via IWAS prior to the change taking effect.

It is our hope that this information is helpful for the upcoming school year. If you require technical assistance or have further questions regarding the public school calendar, please contact your Regional Office of Education or Marj Beck at mbeck@isbe.net or (217) 782-5256.

**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.

Special Education Services

Eighth Annual Transition Conference Scheduled for Oct. 24-26 in St. Charles

The eighth annual Transition Conference for high school aged students and young adults with disabilities, their family members and teachers, vocational professionals, caregivers, health care professionals, college students pursuing careers in special education and community advocates will be held at Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles from Oct. 24-26.

The conference, titled “Stepping Stones of Transition,” will invite participants to imagine the possibilities for students with disabilities in the areas of independent living, education and training, employment, community integration, health care and self-advocacy. Conference sessions will be organized into four tracks: Education, Employment, Community and Healthcare.

For more information and a link to online registration, go to http://www.illinoistransitionconference.org/.

Shared Learning Collaborative Camp Set for Sept. 8-9 in Chicago

You have probably heard the buzz about the Illinois Shared Learning Environment (ISLE) initiative that is currently under development in Illinois. As part of this project, Illinois has joined the multi-state Shared Learning Collaborative (SLC). The SLC is working to make personalized learning a reality for every U.S. student by improving the integration of education technology – reducing educators’ time spent tracking the progress of students, and instantly recommending individualized learning resources for their students. Illinois is participating in the pilot version of the SLC technology, and we want it to work for you. We appreciate your input at this stage of development.

The SLC joins the Illinois education community Sept. 8-9 in Chicago, at the venue “1871 Technology Lab” for an SLC Camp. We need teachers and developers to work together in creating new applications for teaching and learning, and to identify quality online content for the classroom. Everything you need to participate will be provided at this pioneering event, including food and drink. Show up with a passion to revolutionize education, and we’ll connect you with the people to make it happen.

Education Innovators Invited:
- Teachers needed to help design and experiment with developers, and tag open source educational content
- Developers are needed to contribute to SLC applications

What’s on the Agenda – Workshops and Keynotes:
- About the SLC Technology
- Common Core State Standards and the Learning Registry
- Meta-Tagging Educational Content
- Configuring a Development Environment for the SLC
- Getting Started on Your First Application

Visit http://dev.slc.edu.org/slc-camps/slc-camp-chicago for details and to RSVP. Follow on Twitter: #SLCCamp, @SLCEdu.

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

### 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.

### Public Schools Recognition

**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.

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) or Lynda Vaughn (lvaughn@isbe.net) with any questions or concerns with respect to these issues.

### School Business Services

**Reminders on Annual Statement of Affairs, Certificate of Tax Levy and More**

**Annual Statement of Affairs (ISBE 50-37) used by school districts and joint agreements:** Section 10-17 of the School Code requires school boards in Class I counties (all counties except Cook) or the appropriate township treasurer or school board in Class II counties (Cook County) to make available to the public a statement of the affairs prior to Dec. 1 annually by submitting the statement of affairs on the form prescribed by the Illinois State Board of Education for posting on the ISBE’s Internet website, by having copies of the statement of affairs available in the main administrative office of the district, and by publishing in a newspaper of general circulation published in the school district an annual statement of affairs summary.

School districts that serve as the administrative agent for a joint agreement are also subject to the “Statement of
Affairs” requirements listed above with respect to joint agreements that they administer. All “Statement of Affairs” are required to be filed with ISBE by Dec. 15, annually and posted on its website by Jan. 15, annually. ([http://www.isbe.net/sfms/afr/asp.htm](http://www.isbe.net/sfms/afr/asp.htm))

Certificate of Tax Levy (ISBE 50-02) is used by school districts. Section 17-11 of the School Code requires the school board of each district to ascertain as near as practicable, annually, how much money must be raised by special tax for transportation purposes if any, for educational purposes and for operations and maintenance purposes for the next ensuing year. These amounts must be certified and filed with the County Clerk on or before the last Tuesday in December annually. The Certificate of Tax Levy form may be used to meet the requirement of this section. ([http://www.isbe.net/sfms/afr/ctl.htm](http://www.isbe.net/sfms/afr/ctl.htm))

If you have questions concerning either form please contact Toby Turek or Christine Kolaz, School Business Services Division at (217) 785-8779 or email finance1@isbe.net.

ILEARN (Illinois Education Agency Retrieval Network) - Updated with FY2011 Financial Data:
ILEARN now includes the financial data from the FY2011 Annual Financial Reports. The database is updated each year following the completion of the Annual Financial Report processing. ILEARN contains financial, tax, and per pupil data from fiscal years 1997 to 2011 and has been used by many for school district financial studies, comparisons and other inquiries. The database has the capability of comparing financial data of one school district to another school district, one county to another county, and one year to another year for a specific school district. Questions regarding the database can be directed to Toby Turek or Debbie Hemberger, School Business Services Division, at (217) 785-8779 or email finance1@isbe.net.

School District/Joint Agreement Budget Form deadline – Oct. 31: Districts/ Joint Agreements are required to post their budgets for 30 day, a public hearing must be conducted, the school board is to approve by the end of the first quarter, and they must be submitted to ISBE within 30 days of board approval.

Filing deadline for the AFR: Statute requires that the AFR and attachments be filed this year on or before Monday, Oct. 15, 2012, with the appropriate Regional Office of Education/Intermediate Service Center (ROE/ISC). In extenuating circumstances, the Regional Superintendent may grant up to 60 days extension per Section 3-7 of the School Code. If an extension has not been granted, the AFR must be forwarded by the ROE/ISC to ISBE on or before Thursday, Nov. 15, 2012 (Cover page through Page 8 with all signatures, is required to be mailed to the ROE/ISC by Oct. 15, 2012, and the ISBE by Nov. 15, 2012).

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.

For additional information on the State Board of Education interpretation of this Section, refer to the Weekly Message for May 3, 2010, and May 11, 2010, available online at [http://www.isbe.net/board/archivemessages/archivemessages.htm](http://www.isbe.net/board/archivemessages/archivemessages.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 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

Invitation to Comment on Rules

Three 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; choose “Proposed Rules and Amendments.” Please submit any comments or suggestions to rules@isbe.net.

Part 25 (Certification): Allows candidates for educator preparation programs or applicants for certification to submit for consideration a minimum composite score from the ACT® or SAT® that is determined to be a “college ready score” in lieu of passing the Illinois test of basic skills. Public comment period ends October 15, 2012.

Part 75 (Agricultural Education Program): Starting in the FY 2013 grant cycle, revises the process for reporting by grantees regarding the use of funding received under the Incentive Grants for Agricultural Science Teacher Education program due to that grant’s inclusion in ISBE’s Electronic Grant Management System (eGMS). Public comment period ends October 15, 2012.

Part 140 (Calculation of Excess Cost under Section 18-3 of the School Code): Makes two nonsubstantive technical changes in the rules that were requested by the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules. Public comment period ends October 15, 2012.

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.

APPENDIX E
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 25, 2012

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.

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 and Wellness Programs

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,
Environmental Education

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.

Student Opportunities

Applications Available for Conservation Achievement Scholarship Program

The Illinois Conservation Foundation (http://www.ilcf.org/) is accepting applications for the 2013 Conservation Achievement Scholarship program. Three scholarships of $2,000 each will be awarded to outstanding high school seniors in Illinois who have demonstrated effective, voluntary, long-term dedication to the protection, preservation, enhancement and/or promotion of Illinois' natural resources.

The application deadline is Nov. 30, 2012. For additional information, contact the Illinois Conservation Foundation at dnr.icf@illinois.gov.

Professional Development

Registration Extended for Illinois Response to Intervention Network Statewide Conference

In response to district requests, the registration deadline has been extended to Aug. 31, 2012, for the Illinois Response to Intervention (RtI) Network’s statewide conference entitled “Building a Sustainable RtI System.” The two-day conference will be held Sept. 24-25, 2012, 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. Detailed registration information is available at http://www.isbe.net/RtI_plan/default.htm. District teams are encouraged to register soon, as space is filling quickly.

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.
School Access to Emergency Epinephrine Act

Attorney General Lisa Madigan and several collaborating agencies recently announced the release of a “Physician Tool Kit” of forms and instructions for physicians to use as they try to assist schools with standing orders for the life-saving drug epinephrine. At a press conference held Monday, Aug. 13, in Chicago, Madigan and Dr. LaMar Hasbrouck, director of the Illinois Department of Public Health, spoke about Illinois students severely allergic to food and/or insects who might need a dose of epinephrine during the school day. Madigan urged parents to make sure that their students who already have a diagnosis of severe allergy, and have an order to carry epinephrine with them and use it if needed, always have it with them.

“This Illinois law allowing schools to have on hand an emergency dose of epinephrine is intended for those students who have a severe reaction for the first time, or who have somehow misplaced their own epinephrine and do not have it with them at school,” Madigan said.

In order to reduce the cost to the schools, Dey Pharmaceuticals is offering discounted epinephrine, and one company, Mylan, is offering four free epinephrine auto-injectors to public and private schools across the country that have a valid prescription. For more information, read the company’s news release at http://investor.mylan.com/releasedetail.cfm?ReleaseID=700344 or visit http://www.epipen4schools.com/. The free epinephrine comes in a variety of doses and packaging, some designed for preschoolers. Districts are encouraged to refer to the school nurse or district nurse to determine which products offered best meet the school’s needs.

The School Access to Emergency Epinephrine Act (Public Act 97-0361), which was signed into law last fall, allows schools to have access to life-saving emergency epinephrine auto-injectors if and when a student has an anaphylaxis reaction and to allow the school to have personnel trained to administer an emergency epinephrine auto-injector. If the student does not already have a diagnosis of severe allergy (anaphylaxis), the law authorizes a Registered Nurse to order the administration of epinephrine on the basis of a physician’s “standing order.”

For more information about the School Access to Emergency Epinephrine Act, visit the Illinois State Board of Education’s School Health Issues webpage at http://www.isbe.net/school_health.htm, where a variety of resources are posted, including fact sheets for parents and schools.

Weekly News Clips

ISBE has posted highlights from last week’s education news clips at http://www.isbe.net/news/2012/newsclips/120820.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.