Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

Last week, ACT released information on test scores for the graduating Class of 2012 that shows we are moving in the right direction toward preparing students for college and career success. The composite score of 20.9 places Illinois at the top of the class for the nine states that are considered ACT universal testing states, or those that provide the ACT to all of their students.

Additionally, we’ve seen continued improvement in the percentage of graduates who meet ACT’s College Readiness Benchmarks over the last five years. The percentage of students meeting all four College Readiness Benchmarks increased from 23 percent in 2011 to 25 percent in 2012.

Nationally, the average score is 21.1, but in most states only students who are very likely college-bound take the ACT. As a universal testing state, Illinois provides this to all students regardless of whether or not they intend to go to college. Last year, 146,822 students included in Illinois’ Class of 2012 took the ACT, up by nearly 2,400 from 2011.

We continue to see significant progress on the evaluation training as more than 78 percent of teacher evaluators and 65 percent of principal evaluators have begun the training. Of those who have started the training, 97 percent have completed the first module, while almost 70 percent have completed modules 1, 2 and 3, and 15 percent have completed all five modules. Of those who have begun the training for principal evaluators, 50 percent have completed modules 1, 2 and 3, and almost 20 percent have completed all five modules.

I know this has been and continues to be a challenge for administrators, especially as school begins, but I appreciate all of the feedback that you have provided us. It’s been valuable in helping us improve the process and product. It has also been encouraging to hear the training has prompted increased collaborative work on evaluations within districts.

Finally, I’d like to congratulate the 2012-13 Principals of the Year as selected by the Illinois Principals Association.

- Kimberly Lisanby-Barber at Lincoln Elementary School in Spring Valley CCSD #99 — Elementary School Principal of the Year
- Phillip Ambrose at Thurgood Marshall Learning Center in Rock Island SD #41 — Middle School Principal of the Year
- Kevin Shelton at Johnsburg High School in Johnsburg CUSD #12 — High School Principal of the Year
- Jill Dillard at Jacksonville High School I Jacksonville SD #117 — Assistant Principal of the Year

These administrators go above and beyond everyday for their students and this honor is especially important because it comes from their peers. Thanks to Kimberly, Phillip, Kevin and Jill for all you do for our students and thanks to all of our administrators as we head into the new school year.

Have a great week and a safe and happy Labor Day weekend!

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
- 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](http://www.isbe.net/21cclc))
- Illinois RtI Network statewide conference – Sept. 24-25 ([http://www.isbe.net/RtI_plan/default.htm](http://www.isbe.net/RtI_plan/default.htm))
- ISBE offices closed for Columbus Day – Oct. 8
- Thomas Lay Burroughs Award nomination deadline – Oct. 5 ([http://www.isbe.net/pdf/burroughs_award.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/pdf/burroughs_award.pdf))
- ISBE offices closed for Columbus Day – Oct. 8
- Part 25 (Certification), Part 75 (Agricultural Education Program) and Part 140 (Calculation of Excess Cost under Section 18-3 of the School Code) – Public comment period ends Oct. 15
- School District/Joint Agreement Budget Form deadline – Oct. 31
- ISBE offices closed for Election Day – Nov. 6
- ISBE offices closed for Veterans’ Day – Nov. 12
- School District/Joint Agreement Annual Financial Report (AFR) form deadline – Nov. 15
- ISBE offices closed for Thanksgiving – Nov. 22-23
- School District /Joint Agreement Annual Statement of Affairs (ASA) form deadline – Dec. 15
- Postmark deadline for waiver applications to be considered by General Assembly in Spring '13 – Jan. 18

School Business Services

Two New Requirements for FY12 Annual Financial Report (AFR)

Deficit Reduction Calculation on AFR: Amendment to the Illinois School Code 17-1 (PA 97-0429 – effective Aug. 16, 2011); The AFR now requires a deficit reduction calculation on Page 36. If the district is required to complete a deficit reduction plan, this must be completed and submitted in the FY13 school district budget form (ISBE 50-36) within 30 days of acceptance of the audit. For details and instructions, go to [http://www.isbe.net/sfms/afrr/afr12_req.htm](http://www.isbe.net/sfms/afrr/afr12_req.htm).

Shared Services and Outsourcing on the AFR:
According to ILCS 5/17-1.1 and effective Jan. 1, 2012, school districts/joint agreements are required to report attempts to improve fiscal efficiency through shared services and outsourcing as provided in the AFR on Page 31. For details and instructions please see the following link: [http://www.isbe.net/sfms/afrr/afr12_req.htm](http://www.isbe.net/sfms/afrr/afr12_req.htm).

For questions, please contact School Business Services at (217) 785-8779.

The FY2011-12 School District /Joint Agreement Annual Audit

For the year ending June 30, 2012, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) provides the Illinois School District Annual Financial Report (AFR) (Form 50-35) and Joint Agreement Annual Financial Report (Form 50-60) electronically and is supported in Excel version 97-Excel 2003 workbook version. These forms are used for the financial reporting requirement by all Local Education Agencies (LEA).

Section 3-7 of the School Code sets forth the duties and responsibilities needed to meet the audit requirement.

There are several items regarding the FY12 AFR that we would like to bring to your attention.

- **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.
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 to ISBE by Nov. 15, 2012).

- When filing the AFR electronically to ISBE, the CPA firm and LEA are required to file using the Attachment Manager website at the links provided below. From the Annual Financial Report FY12 webpage, select “Submit Your Completed AFR,” then complete all required sender information. In the ISBE Receiver Name, Select “Annual Financial Report Group.”

  Note: The Audit, Management Letter, Opinion Letter, Compliance Notes, Financial Notes, etc., all must be embedded into the Opinion letters page of the AFR. To be consistent, all copies of documents must be filed with the LEA and the ROE/ISC.

- The A-133 Single Audit must be completed if total federal expenditures are $500,000 or more. This report must be submitted electronically using the forms included in the AFR, if applicable. The sheets are unprotected for any necessary alterations. Note: All opinion letters must have the CPA Firm’s signature.

- The “Limitation of Administrative Costs Worksheet” is included with the AFR and must be filed directly with ISBE on or before Tuesday, Nov. 15, 2012. (No provisions exist for extension of time or submission to the ROE)

- The Estimated Financial Profile Summary is included in the AFR on Page 4 and provides the district with a preliminary score/designation. The final profile score/designation will be released for viewing in the spring of 2013.

The AFR and related material may be obtained from the following ISBE website:

- Direct link: SD/JA Annual Financial Report; or


If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact the School Business Services Division at (217) 785-8779.

**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 of Schools 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.

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.

IDOT

Operation Teen Safe Driving Program Applications Available

The Illinois Department of Transportation’s Operation Teen Safe Driving program applications are available for the 2012-13 program year. This is the sixth year for the program, which enables high schools to apply for a $2,000 grant to institute a safe driving program within their schools. A total of 105 schools will be selected to receive $2,000 and have the possibility of winning $2,500 for their post prom events.

Since the program’s onset in 2007, Illinois has experienced a 48 percent reduction of teen fatalities. All Illinois High Schools are encouraged to apply by Oct. 1, 2012. For more information on Operation Teen Safe
Driving, visit [http://teensafedrivingillinois.org/](http://teensafedrivingillinois.org/). Click on “Forms” to find the grant application form.

### College and Career Readiness

**Illinois Students Bring Home Awards From 2012 National Leadership Conference**

Congratulations to the students from across the state who recently traveled to Orlando to compete in the 2012 National Leadership Conference, organized by the career and technical student organization Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA).

Top Illinois students were among 3,700 competitors in 31 events, which are designed to support and enhance college and career-readiness, leadership, management and problem-solving skills.

For a list of 2012 STAR Scholarships and Awards recipients, including a list of medal winners in Illinois, go to [http://www.fcclainc.org/content/2012-national-leadership-conference-recognition/](http://www.fcclainc.org/content/2012-national-leadership-conference-recognition/). Additional information about the conference is also available at [http://www.fcclainc.org/content/2012_national_leadership_conference/](http://www.fcclainc.org/content/2012_national_leadership_conference/).

**ISBE Announces the 2012 Illinois Preserve America History Teacher of the Year**

Joshua Bill, a teacher at Waukegan High School (WHS), has been named the 2012 Illinois Preserve America History Teacher of the Year. The award is co-sponsored by The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, Preserve America and HISTORY, in cooperation with the Illinois State Board of Education.

Joshua has been in the education field for more than eight years. He received his Bachelor’s of Arts in history and secondary education from Lake Forest College in 2004. Joshua started as a freshman world civilizations teacher at WHS during the fall of 2004, and has taught all levels of students from remedial to AP. Throughout his experience teaching U.S. history and American government, he has become involved with various organizations and competitions, including the Chicago Metro History Fair and the Center for Civic Education’s Simulated Congressional Hearings Programs. Joshua has coached students to top finishes in state contests, including three National History Day qualifying History Fair projects: one in 2010 and most recently two additional projects this year. These were the first projects to move on to nationals in WHS’ 15 year history. He has been involved in History Fair for seven years.

Joshua also serves on the Teacher's Advisory Committee for the Chicago Metro History Education Center, and was nominated and elected to serve on the Board of Directors for the Waukegan Historical Society. He is a member of the Chicago History Museum and keeps up an active relationship with Lake Forest College and other Associated Colleges of the Midwest through a program called Alumni Coaching, where he works with a team of alumni and faculty of Lake Forest College from local school districts.

Joshua, a Waukegan resident, will receive a $1,000 honorarium and will be in the running to be named the national Preserve America History Teacher of the Year Award this fall. Waukegan High School’s library will also receive a core archive of history books and educational materials from the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History and HISTORY. He is one of the top five finalists for the national award for which he could win a $10,000 prize.

### 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/.

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.

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. We are planning to provide some supports for RTTT-D applicants. So that we may be able target our supports to RTTT-D applicants, please email David Osta at dosta@isbe.net to let us know you are or are considering submitting an RTTT-D application.

NOTE: Race to the Top Phase 3 Participating LEAs are eligible for Race to the Top District.

**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.

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

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.

Student Opportunities

Applications Available for Conservation Achievement Scholarship Program

The Illinois Conservation Foundation ([http://www.ilcf.org/](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.i.cf@illinois.gov](mailto:dnr.i.cf@illinois.gov).

Professional Development

Registration Now Under Way for Response to Intervention Trainings

The following Response to Intervention (RtI) Professional Development Trainings are available for registration. Rooms are available under RtI at participant’s expense at each site. Continental breakfast, lunch and beverages will be provided. There is no cost associated with workshop attendance but each participant must register. Five CPDU are available for credit per day. Each participant will receive a flash drive with access to all seven modules, including the PowerPoint presentations and handouts.

Encouraged to attend are K-12 grade: administrators, curriculum directors, special education directors, school psychologists, teacher leaders, math and reading specialists, special education teachers, English language learner teachers, general education teachers and content area teachers.

These modules were designed to provide guidance for districts to fully implement the Response to Intervention process. The literacy and math trainings are provided on the same day, and each grade band training is presented concurrently. Choose a grade level to attend: K-3, 4-8 or 9-12.

Registration starts at 8:30 a.m. and the training workshops will be from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Contact Sarah McCusker, principal consultant, at [smcuske@isbe.net](mailto:smcuske@isbe.net) or (217) 524-4832 with questions. For more information on Response to Intervention visit [http://www.isbe.net/RtI_plan/default.htm](http://www.isbe.net/RtI_plan/default.htm). Register at [http://webapps.isbe.net/ISBEConference/IsbeConfMenu.aspx](http://webapps.isbe.net/ISBEConference/IsbeConfMenu.aspx). Here are the locations:

**University Center Meeting:** Oct. 9-10, University Center of Lake County, 1200 University Center Drive, Grayslake, IL 60030; Comfort Suite Grayslake, 1775 E Belvidere Road, Grayslake, IL 60030, (847) 223-5050. Rate: $65.00. Block Name: Response to Intervention/ISU

**Our Lady of the Snows Meeting:** Oct. 15-16, National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows, 442 South De Mazenod Drive, Belleville, IL 62223, (618) 397-6277; The Shrine Hotel, 451 South De Mazenod Drive, Belleville, IL 62223, (618) 397-1162. Rate: $67.51. Block Name: Response to Intervention/ISU

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](http://www.isbe.net/RtI_plan/default.htm). District teams are encouraged to register soon, as space is filling quickly.

In the News

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/120827.htm.