Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

State Board members will travel to Belleville for the March Board meeting this week. The Board will consider a number of rules, including changes to Part 226 with regards to the requirement that a district use a certified school nurse in medical reviews. This discussion marks the Board’s initial review, beginning the public comment portion of the process required under law and once that is complete, the proposed rules will again come back to the Board for review.

In addition to reviewing new proposed rules, our Board members will also look over ISBE’s annual School District Financial Profile and Special Education Expenditure Report. I have also asked representatives from Advance Illinois to come before the Board and explain their proposal to more equitably spread reductions to school districts rather than the across the Board proration that we have seen during the past two fiscal years. This builds on a discussion the Board had last fall and chose not to pursue. However, since it is being discussed among legislators I wanted our Board to be able to see it and ask questions.

We are more than halfway through the first year of the 5Essentials Survey, and the number of districts that will be receiving a report based on teacher, student or feedback from both stands at 70 percent. We are pleased with the response so far, however, we have heard from a number of districts that they would like additional time to complete the survey. In order to accommodate this request, we are extending the survey window until April 12.

I also wanted to go over the timeline for reporting 5Essential results to you. Principals and superintendents will receive access to survey results in June and will have the opportunity to review those results prior to public release. If a district suspects misuse, they can report it to us through the 5Essentials help desk and we will investigate. If misuse occurs, we will invalidate results to ensure validity of the survey.

School and district-level survey data will become publicly available when the Illinois State Report Card is published in the fall. The display of the data elements is under final consideration by the Report Card Steering Committee and will be announced by the end of April. As has happened previously, the public will have access to results at a detailed level through our website.

Have a great week!

Chris

Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

Please note this is not a complete list of dates and deadlines. For questions, call the Illinois State Board of Education at (866) 262-6663 or (217) 782-4321 or visit the agency’s official website at http://www.isbe.net.

- Part 35 (Mentoring Program for New Principals) – Public comment period ends March 25
• Part 375 (Student Records) – Public comment period ends March 25
• Part 405 (Payments to Certain Facilities under Section 14-7.05 of the School Code) – Public comment period ends March 25
• Part 475 (Contested Cases and Other Formal Hearings) – Public comment period ends March 25
• Part 565 (Class Size Reduction Grants) – Public comment period ends March 25
• Webinar on National School Lunch SY2013-2014 Paid Lunch Equity Requirement – March 27 (Register at https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/638217793)
• Illinois School HealthierUS School Challenge Request for Proposal due date – April 1 (For more information, visit http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/sos.htm#huscrfp)
• Part 226 (Special Education) – Public comment period ends April 22
• Truants’ Alternative and Optional Education Program (TAOEP) FY 2014 RFP – Must be submitted to ISBE by 5 p.m. on April 22
• Applications for the Exception to the 1.0 Percent Cap due – May 17
• 0-3 Prevention Initiative – Outcomes Questionnaire IWAS data entry deadline – July 1 (IWAS Reporting Guide available at http://www.isbe.net/research/htmls/pfa_prev_init.htm)
• 0-3 Prevention Initiative – Parent Questionnaire IWAS data entry deadline – July 1 (IWAS Reporting Guide available at http://www.isbe.net/research/htmls/pfa_prev_init.htm)
• Student Health Data – Vision system report deadline – July 1
• Regional Safe Schools End of Year Data reporting deadline – July 31 (User guide for the IWAS reporting system, http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/rssp_iwas_user_guide.pdf)
• Truants’ Alternative and Optional Education Program (TAOEP) reporting deadline – July 31 (User guide for the IWAS reporting system, ftp://help.isbe.net/webapps/taoep/pdf/TAOEP.pdf)
• Postmark deadline for waiver applications to be considered by General Assembly in Fall 2013 – Aug. 16 (see http://www.isbe.net/isbewaivers/default.htm for new public notice requirements for all waiver requests)

Funding and Disbursements

2012-13 Pupil Transportation Reimbursement Estimation Tool

Gov. Pat Quinn has released his proposed FY 14 budget that includes a $145.6 million reduction to the Regular/Vocational Transportation appropriation from fiscal year 2013. You can access a side-by-side comparison of the State Board of Education’s recommendation and the governor’s proposal at http://www.isbe.net/budget/FY14/FY14_budget_compare_gov.pdf. The governor’s proposed FY 14 appropriation of $60.1 million for the Regular/Vocational Transportation program as compared to the anticipated 2012-13 claims of $320.8 million due Aug. 15, 2013, results in an estimated proration of 19 percent of each district’s reimbursable Regular Transportation cost. Please keep in mind, these are only the first steps in the FY 14 budget process and we will likely see many changes before a budget is finalized in late May.

In an effort to provide districts with assistance to estimate the impact of this reduction a Reimbursement Estimation Tool is now available in the Pupil Transportation Claim Reimbursement System (PTCRS) accessible in IWAS. District personnel approved to access PTCRS can log in and choose “Reimbursement Estimation Tool” listed under the History & Data Analysis heading. All district claim data from the 2011-12 school year payable in fiscal year 2013 has been carried forward. Districts may update pupil ridership, allowable costs, enter 2011 equalized assessed valuation (EAV) information as well the estimated proration of 19 percent. Many districts will see significant reductions compared to the reimbursement due in fiscal year 2013 as the wealth factor of a district or EAV Qualifying Offset will be greater than the allowable costs after proration is applied. The current Transportation statute in Section 29-5 calculates reimbursement for districts in this situation to a maximum of $16 multiplied by the number of eligible pupils transported for Regular Transportation.

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IMPORTANT: Please keep in mind that the final fiscal year 2014 proration percentage and actual reimbursement amount for each district will be dependent on the submission of 2012-13 Transportation claims due Aug. 15, 2013, as well as the application of final audit adjustments.

If you have questions regarding this information, accessing or using the reimbursement estimation tool, please contact Jamie Johnson at jjohnson@isbe.net or (217) 782-5256.

FY 2014 General State Aid Claim Preliminary Data Files

Please be advised that select preliminary data files for use in calculating 2012-13 General State Aid (GSA) claims, payable in Fiscal Year 2014, are now available at the Funding and Disbursements GSA web page, under the heading “Reports,” located here: http://www.isbe.net/funding/html/gsa.htm.

New to the GSA web page are the following files:


- Draft List of Districts Subject to the Alternate PTELL Adjustment (Please note – This alternate adjustment applies only to PTELL districts that were operating with a voter-approved increase to their Limiting Rate during tax year 2011.): http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/alt_PTELL_adj_elig_dist14.pdf

This data may be used to update forecasts of your district’s FY 14 General State Aid claim. At the same link listed above, under the heading “Tools,” you will find a Fiscal Year GSA Calculation Spreadsheet, http://www.isbe.net/funding/excel/GSA_worksheet_fy14.xls, for use in forecasting next year’s claim.

If you have questions about this data, please contact Jim Mathes, Principal Consultant in the Funding and Disbursements Division, at (217) 782-5256 or jmathes@isbe.net or Jason Hall, Senior Policy Advisor in the Budget and Financial Management Division, at (217) 782-0249 or jhall@isbe.net.

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Early Childhood

Kindergarten Individual Development Survey (KIDS) Pilot Year Two in 2013-14

Adopted by the ISBE in 2012, the Kindergarten Individual Development Survey (KIDS) is a comprehensive process designed to assess kindergarten students’ growth and development and provide information about students’ competencies across developmental domains, with the goal of generating more effective classroom instruction.

Based upon developmental research and theory, KIDS uses an observation-based assessment instrument to record students’ progress over time. Starting this school year, 64 districts participated in the KIDS pilot and received training on how to implement KIDS in their kindergarten classrooms. KIDS will continue as a pilot, with volunteer districts, until it is implemented statewide in 2015-16.

The KIDS pilot begins its second year this summer with trainings throughout the state for participating districts. If you would like to inquire about participating in the pilot for school year 2013-14, contact the Division of Early Childhood at (217) 524-4835. To learn more about KIDS, log onto the ISBE KIDS page at http://www.isbe.net/KIDS.

Nutrition and Wellness Programs

Annual School Wellness Conference Scheduled for May 3 in Springfield

The sixth annual Illinois School Wellness Conference is set for Friday, May 3, 2013. The Illinois State Board of Education and the Action for Healthy Kids (AFHK) is once again sponsoring the event. The conference is ideal for school administrators, school nurses, educators, food service staff, wellness committee members, parents, students and anyone else who wants to learn more about encouraging healthy lifestyles and healthy food at school.

Action for Healthy Kids Chief Executive Office Rob Biscoglie, M.A., and Connie Mueller, MS, RD, SNS, have been selected as co-keynote speakers, who will be presenting key results of “The Learning Connection II” report, describing the Every Kid Healthy Week and share an update on the Illinois Action for Healthy Kids. Other topics will include an update on the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, School Health Initiatives, New
National Nutrition Education Standards, Free Health and Wellness Programs, Employee Staff Wellness and more.

CPDUs will be available. Register now for a chance to win a “Do-It-Yourself Health Fair” (valued at $499). The conference is Friday, May 3, at the Springfield Hilton, 700 E. Adams St. Registration opens at 8 a.m. The conference begins at 9 a.m. and concludes at 3:15 p.m. Space is limited.

Register on or before April 19 for $45 per person rate. After April 19, the registration fee is $55 per person. Registration includes continental breakfast, lunch, materials and a chance to win the raffle prize. To register, go to http://goo.gl/2N2z2.

Division Issues Reminders for Health Education Funding Opportunities

Carol White Physical Education Program: The Carol M. White Physical Education Program provides grants to local education agencies and community organizations to initiate, expand or enhance PE programs that help to move school-aged children toward reaching state physical education standards. Proposed projects must include both instruction in healthy nutrition and a physical fitness component. Applications are due April 12, 2013. For more information, go to http://www2.ed.gov/programs/whitephysed/index.html.

Adventure Capital Grants: The GENYOUth Foundation’s Adventure Capital Grants is looking for student-driven solutions to building healthier schools. Up to five schools will be awarded $4,000 to launch an innovative student-led plan to boost healthy foods and physical activity in educational settings. Student architects of the plan will also receive recognition for their idea, including the opportunity to meet entrepreneur Warren Buffett. Applicants have until March 23, 2013 to apply at http://school.fueluptoplay60.com/adventure-capital/.

ASAP Acceleration Grants: The Active Schools Acceleration Project (ASAP) is requesting applications for its Acceleration Grants campaign to assist schools with launching a new physical activity program. The grant will offer 1,000 schools nationwide with seed funding, a game plan, and a network of support to jumpstart the ASAP program of their choice. Interested schools have until April 22, 2013 to apply at http://www.activeschoolasap.org/acceleration-grants.

Presidential Youth Fitness Program: The Presidential Youth Fitness Program opportunity provides eligible schools support over two years to incorporate the three core elements of the program, including funding for a FITNESSGRAM assessment, professional development and training for physical education teachers, and award certificates for students. Online applications will be accepted April 1 through April 30. For details, click http://www.presidentialyouthfitnessprogram.org/funding/index.shtml.

Funds for Fuel Up to Play 60: The Fuel Up to Play 60 program have made available up to $4,000 each to help schools enrolled in the initiative for the 2012-13 year to build on and sustain improvements in healthy eating and physical activity. Schools are encouraged to apply early for the next round of applications, which are due on June 4, 2013. More details can be accessed at http://school.fueluptoplay60.com/funds/funds_for_futp60.php.

Sign up for Let’s Move - Active Schools! This national initiative, spearheaded by the first lady, is designed to be a roadmap for you and the members of your school community to transform your campus into a more active environment for kids. This roadmap is called the Six-Step Process and will help you identify your school’s specific fitness needs, measure progress through achievable goals, and create momentum by celebrating regular successes. Join at no cost, get instant feedback from a customized online dashboard, and access professional development, training, and grant opportunities. Learn more at http://www.letsmoveschools.org/.

Action for Healthy Kids Announces New Grant Opportunities for Schools

Action for Healthy Kids recently announced its newest grant opportunities through partners CSX Transportation, Kellog Co. and the Walmart Foundation for the 2013-14 school year.

Interested schools are invited to participate in a webinar on March 21, 2013 and/or April 10, 2013, to learn about the three different grant opportunities.

- School Breakfast Program creation or expansion, average grant size is $1,500
- Universal School Breakfast Pilot, grants up to $5,000
- Physical Activity, grants from $1,000 to $5,000

Visit the following website to learn more: http://www.actionforhealthykids.org/upcoming-events/grant-opportunities/school-grants-for-healthy.html.
Title Grant Administration

Illinois Association of Title I Directors to Hold Spring Conference on April 17

The Illinois Association of Title I Directors, in collaboration with the Illinois State Board of Education, will be hosting its annual Spring IATD Conference at the Crown Plaza in Springfield on Wednesday, April 17, 2013.

All sessions will bring directors of Title programs and their designees up to speed on current State and Federal educational issues. Please go to the IATD website, http://www.iatd.net to register. A block of rooms at the Crown Plaza have been reserved for attendees.

Special Education Services

Remember Accessibility Laws When Integrating New Technology Devices

The Illinois State Board of Education would like to remind school districts that technology devices such as “e-readers” must comply with accessibility laws.

It is important to consider all students when integrating technology into the educational environment and to ensure that these devices are accessible to students with disabilities, including those who are blind, have low vision or have a disability that affects their ability to access print information.

The use of such a device that does not allow a student with a disability to access the instructional materials would be a violation of the student’s right under the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Voices4Hope Launches New Pages on Eating Disorders, Young Adult Parenting and Bullying

Voices4Hope (http://www.voices4hope.net/) is a place for teenagers and young adults with mental health conditions to find resources and stigma busting information that can help them lead happy and independent lives. This website was created and is maintained by four young adults with mental health conditions at the Transitions Research and Training Center (http://labs.umassmed.edu/transitionsRTC/).

Voices4Hope has launched three new web pages, on eating disorders, young adult parenting and bullying. In these new pages, young adults will be able to learn about conditions or circumstances that can affect them, read recovery stories, and gain resources to help them make the best of their lives in recovery.

Office of the Governor

Sustainable Schools and Higher Ed Symposium Scheduled for April 2

Gov. Pat Quinn invites you and your organization to participate as an attendee, sponsor or exhibitor at the Sustainable Schools and Higher Ed Symposium, hosted by the Illinois Green Governments Coordinating Council, Loyola University Chicago and USGBC-Illinois Chapter, in Chicago on Tuesday, April 2, 2013, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Loyola University Chicago, Lake Shore Campus.

The symposium is an opportunity to exchange ideas school and district administrators, regional superintendents, school board members, facilities managers and custodial staff, teachers, school health practitioners, facility planners and architects, school-related non-profits and agencies, high school student environmental leaders, professors, and higher education administrators. Please go to http://www.usgbc-illinois.org/events/event-calendar/ to register for the event as seats are limited. There is no cost to register.

If you are interested in being a sponsor or exhibitor, please click here for more information about the different levels or contact Katie Kaluzny (USGBC Illinois Chapter) at (312) 245-8300, ext. 3.

In Brief

Student Opportunities

• The National World War II Museum is seeking entries for its annual essay contests for middle school and high school students. This year’s theme asks, “How can people who disagree still work together for victory?” The deadline for submissions is 5 p.m. March 29. For more information, visit http://www.nationalww2museum.org/essaycontests.

Educator Opportunities

• Early registration for the Illinois Network of Charter Schools’ Teacher Job Fair closes on March 22. The job fair is set for 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 6 at Veterans Memorial Campus, 4248 W. 47th St., which is near Midway Airport. For details, visit http://incschools.org/school_supports/programs/job_fair/.
Weekly News Clips


Employment Opportunities

- An External Vacancy List for ISBE is available at http://www.isbe.net/hr/Default.htm.