Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

Last week, I was in Carlinville to recognize 13 schools from nine districts named to the 2012 Illinois Honor Roll. It was a great event at Carlinville Primary School, one of only 15 schools in the state that earned both a Spotlight award and an Academic Excellence award this year under our Honor Roll program. This is a tremendous achievement and it’s always inspiring to spend time at these schools. I wish that I could visit all 624 schools on the 2012 Honor Roll list but I will get to at least a few more this school year.

As many of you know, we launch a new educator licensure system July 1 here in Illinois and while it’s largely a technical change, it will impact all of us with certificates. In short, we are moving from 60 types of educator certificates and endorsements to just three licenses. Educators will not lose any of their credentials or endorsements in this transition, there is no cost to educators associated with this change and the difference in each individual’s license will show up automatically on our website July 1. We will be providing more information in the coming weeks but I invite you to learn more about this change on our Educator Certification page and specifically at this short webinar:
http://www.brainshark.com/IllinoisPrincipalsAssoc/isbe_exchange. I believe you’ll appreciate the simplicity of this new Educator License Information System, or ELIS, especially in comparison to the somewhat cumbersome certificate system of the current day.

Interest in our Fiscal Year 2014 budget continues to grow as legislators, citizens and the media study our request and ask important questions about the impact of nearly $900 million in cuts to state P-12 education funding since Fiscal Year 2009. As you know, our Board’s proposal would increase state funds by about $875 million dollars, just enough to restore and fully fund General State Aid per-pupil funding as required under state statute. We’ve developed a webpage on the Fiscal Year 2014 budget request at http://www.isbe.net/budget/html/fy14-budget.htm.

This Friday, (April 12) I will testify before state lawmakers for the second time this spring on the topic of our budget request. It promises to be another engaging session as Board members and I go before the Senate Appropriations Committee for an 8 a.m. hearing in Room 212 of the Statehouse. You can also listen to a live broadcast of the hearing online by going to the Illinois General Assembly’s website, http://ilga.gov, and clicking on audio/video.

Thanks,
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.

- Promoting Enhanced Physical Education Committee Meeting – April 8 (For more information, go to http://www.isbe.net/EPE/html/EPETF.htm.)
• 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
• “Professional Standards for School Food Service” webinar – April 24 (For more information and to register, go to https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/725294913)
• Physical Education IL Learning Standards Revision Committee – April 29 (For more information, go to http://www.isbe.net/EPE/html/EPETF.htm.)
• Promoting Enhanced Physical Education Committee Meeting – April 30 (For more information, go to http://www.isbe.net/EPE/html/EPETF.htm.)
• Sixth annual School Wellness Recognition Conference – May 3 (Early bird deadline registration is April 19, http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/pdf/wellness-conf13.pdf)
• Enhance Physical Education Task Force Meeting – May 15 (For more information, go to http://www.isbe.net/EPE/html/EPETF.htm.)
• Applications for the Exception to the 1.0 Percent Cap due – May 17
• Physical Education IL Learning Standards Revision Committee – May 31 (For more information, go to http://www.isbe.net/EPE/html/EPETF.htm.)
• Critical Health Problems and Comprehensive Health Education Advisory Committee meeting – June 4 (http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/html/SHAC.htm)
• Enhance Physical Education Task Force Meeting – June 14 (For more information, go to http://www.isbe.net/EPE/html/EPETF.htm.)
• 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)
• Enhance Physical Education Task Force Meeting – Aug. 2 (For more information, go to http://www.isbe.net/EPE/html/EPETF.htm.)
• 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)

Rules and Waivers

Reminder: No Waiver Requests Needed for District Holiday Plans

Public Act 96-640, effective in August of 2009, allows school districts and other eligible entities to make plans for use of five legal school holidays at the local level. Since 2009, it is no longer necessary to use the waiver application process in order to make district plans for these holidays:

• The birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (third Monday in January);
• The birthday of President Abraham Lincoln (February 12);
• The birthday of General Casimir Pulaski (first Monday in March);
• Columbus Day (second Monday in October);
• Veterans' Day (November 11).

A school board may choose to: (a) hold school; (b) schedule teachers' institutes; (c) hold parent-teacher conferences; or (d) hold staff development activities (including school improvement and in-service training) on one or more of these holidays, provided that it has first taken the following steps:

• Scheduled a public hearing (can be part of a regular board meeting) about the holiday proposal;
• Provided notice before the hearing to both educators and parents that sets forth the time, date and place of the hearing; describes the purpose of the hearing; and indicates that testimony will be taken from educators and parents about the holiday plans at the hearing;

• Ensured that the person/persons honored by the holiday will be recognized through instructional activities conducted either on the holiday or, if there is no attendance on that day, on the first school day preceding or following the holiday.

There are currently 446 holiday modifications still in effect that allow for use of some or all of these holidays. Here is a link to the database that shows these modifications, sorted by county and then by district: http://www.isbe.net/isbewaivers/excel/holiday-sort0413.xls. (Since holiday use is now controlled at the local level, several of these modifications may no longer be 'valid' if the districts have since held a public hearing and made plans at the local level.) If, however, your district has a holiday modification set to expire this spring, and you wish to continue to set holiday plans, you will need to follow the procedure described above in order to have students in attendance or schedule other activities.

Here are answers to questions on the local procedure for holiday plans:

1. **Does my district need to put a legal notice in the local paper in advance of the school board’s public hearing on holiday plans?** No. While the district may choose to publicize a notice, if the district can show that its usual methods for publicizing board agendas is sufficient to meet the intent of the law, and that district teachers and parents had notice in advance of the hearing, there is no need to insert a legal notice.

2. **Does my district need to provide written notice seven days in advance of the public hearing to the collective bargaining agent?** No. While several districts have chosen to provide this type of notice to teachers' union representatives, the law does not require it, so long as the district can show that teachers knew of the public hearing on holiday plans in advance.

3. **Does my district need to provide advance written notice to its state senator(s) and state representative(s)?** No. Such notice is only required when the district submits a waiver or modification to the State Board for review by ISBE or the Illinois General Assembly. Holiday plans are no longer governed by the waiver process.

4. **Does my district need to limit its holiday plans to five years?** No. The district can set its holiday plans going forward, and will need to redo the public hearing process only in the event that its plans for use of holidays changes in the future.

5. **Does my district’s board need to vote to approve the use of holidays after holding the public hearing and taking testimony?** Yes.

Questions about the local holiday process can be addressed to Rules and Waivers at (217) 782-5270 or by writing to waivers@isbe.net.

### 5Essentials Survey

**Webinar Looks at Understanding and Using the Data for Improvements**

5Essentials Survey of Learning Conditions: Webinar III

As you know, the 5Essentials Survey window will close at the end of the day on Friday April 12. As the window draws to a close, we wanted to let you know about the third part of the webinar series being conducted by UChicago Impact.

This series looks at the next steps for the 5Essentials – understanding the data and using the data for continuous improvement in schools. The first three dates for the webinar are listed below. To register for the surveys or to view recorded versions of Webinar I and Webinar II, please see https://illinois.5-essentials.org/2012/. Webinar III was held at 10 a.m. April 8, and is scheduled again at 1 p.m. April 18 and 10 a.m. April 23.

### School Business Services

**FY 2012 Operating Expense Per Pupil/Per Capita Tuition Charge Available**

Now available are the FY2012 Operating Expense Per Pupil (OEPP)/Per Capita Tuition Charge (PCTC). (http://www.isbe.net/finance/verification.htm) Districts are not required to verify the amounts, but an Excel calculation worksheet is available to check against the audited Annual Financial Report (AFR). These are considered the official OEPP/PCTC for each district. If necessary the detailed calculation is available upon request.
If you have any questions, please contact ISBE’s School Business Services Division at (217) 785-8779 or email finance1@isbe.net.

**Indirect Cost Rates for Program Year 2014**

Now available are the Indirect Cost Rates for Program Year 2014 at the following website: http://www.isbe.net/sbss/indirect.htm.

These rates are used for award and management of federal contracts, grants and other assistance arrangements governed by the Office of Management and Budget. For further documentation of methodology, please see Indirect Cost Rate Plan at the link above. The methodology of the calculated rates are approved and accepted as policy and procedures by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Circular A-87, and Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) 34 CFR parts 75.561 (b) and (c).

If you have any questions, please contact Debbie Hemberger in ISBE’s School Business Services Division at (217) 785-8779 or finance1@isbe.net.

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**Center for Innovation and Improvement**

**Rising Star Capacity Builders Training**

**Day III: Creating a Culture of Inquiry**

Using Data to Inform Continuous Improvement Planning in an Indicator-Based System

Participants will:
- Engage in a data dialogue within a Multiple Measures Data Framework;
- Explore the data features warehoused in the Illinois Interactive Report Card;
- Connect data in all of its forms to an indicator-based, research supported continuous improvement process; and
- Apply Root Cause Analysis techniques to examine educational practice.

To register online, please visit [http://webapps.isbe.net/ISBEConference/](http://webapps.isbe.net/ISBEConference/). Registration is from 8:30-9 a.m. with the workshop to follow from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. A beverage and coffee service will be available in the morning. Lunch will be provided.

Day I, Coaching for Capacity Building: Continuous Improvement Planning Using Indicators of Effective Practice; Day II, Monitoring and Sustainability; Day III, Creating a Culture of Inquiry: Using Data to Inform Continuous Improvement Planning in an Indicator-Based System.

- **Day I**, May 15, 2013, President Abraham Lincoln Hotel Springfield; May 22, 2013, Hilton Lisle
- **Day II**, April 17, 2013, Hilton Lisle; April 18, 2013, President Abraham Lincoln Hotel Springfield; May 16, 2013, President Abraham Lincoln Hotel Springfield; May 23, 2013, Hilton Lisle

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**Special Education Services**

**New Response to Intervention (RtI) Website Now Available**

A new website has been established for ISBE’s State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG), which focuses on
supporting and coaching the sustainable implementation of response to intervention (RtI) in Illinois districts and schools.

The Illinois SPDG consists of the following components: 1) Illinois RtI (I-RtI) Network, 2) Illinois Institutes of Higher Education Partnership, and 3) Parent and Family Engagement (integrated within the work of the I-RtI Network).

Please visit the new website at [http://www.illinoisrti.org](http://www.illinoisrti.org) to access information about the Illinois SPDG projects and RtI, as well as useful resources for administrators, educators, RtI coaches, parents and families, and higher education faculty.

**Children’s Mental Health Awareness Day Set for May 9**

National Children’s Mental Health Awareness Day is a day to join the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), communities, organizations, agencies and individuals nationwide in raising awareness that positive mental health is essential to a child's healthy development from birth and that children with behavioral health needs can thrive in their communities.


**April is Designated as National Month of the Military Child**

During April, designated as the National Month of the Military Child, military children are applauded for the daily sacrifices they make and the challenges they overcome by being a part of a military family. The Department of Education, the Department of Defense, the entire federal government and all sectors of our communities are asked to honor military children by providing a variety of resources, programs and opportunities to show their support.

There are numerous ways that schools and communities can honor military-connected students during the Month of the Military Child. The Department of Defense Education Activity’s (DoDEA) has resources that can be found at their website, [http://www.militaryk12partners.dodea.edu/](http://www.militaryk12partners.dodea.edu/). The site includes the Students at the Center guidebook, a research-based grant program, and special education professional development for military-connected local education agencies and school liaison(s) at each military location.

**Funding and Disbursements**

**FY14 Employer Contributions to Teacher Retirement System – Federal Grants**

Please be advised that for Fiscal Year 2014 (July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2014) the preliminary employer’s share of teachers’ retirement rate will be 35.41 percent for personnel employed with Federal grant funds.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contribution Type</th>
<th>2010-11</th>
<th>2011-12</th>
<th>2012-13</th>
<th>2013-14</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TRS Contributions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member TRS retirement contribution</td>
<td>9.40%</td>
<td>9.40%</td>
<td>9.40%</td>
<td>9.40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employer TRS retirement contribution</td>
<td>0.50%</td>
<td>0.50%</td>
<td>0.50%</td>
<td>0.50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employer TRS contribution on federally-funded salary**</td>
<td>23.10%</td>
<td>24.93%</td>
<td>28.05%</td>
<td>35.41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THIS Fund Contributions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member THIS (Insurance) contribution</td>
<td>0.88%</td>
<td>0.88%</td>
<td>0.92%</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employer THIS (Insurance) contribution</td>
<td>0.66%</td>
<td>0.66%</td>
<td>0.66%</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Legislative factors may increase or decrease the rates. The contributions amounts have not been finalized. Additionally, the Early Retirement Option (ERO) may expire on June 30, 2013. If legislation is not extended for ERO, the contribution could be 9 percent, not 9.4 percent.

** The rate is equal to the state contribution rate and changes each fiscal year.

More information is available on the TRS website at [http://trs.illinois.gov/subsections/employers/employerservices.htm](http://trs.illinois.gov/subsections/employers/employerservices.htm). The percentage is now determined annually according to the funding amount set by the state legislature.

If you have specific questions regarding TRS contributions, you can direct your inquiries to the TRS Employer Services Division at employers@trs.illinois.gov or (888) 877-0890.

**2013-14 Public School Calendar Information**

Please be advised that proposed Public School Calendars for the 2013-14 School Year should be submitted to the appropriate Regional Office/Intermediate Service Center for approval no later than June 15, 2013. General calendar guidelines for the 2013-14 school year can be found at [http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/calendar-infor.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/calendar-infor.pdf).
In addition, as districts prepare calendars for the new school year, please be advised of the following important information:

- **First and Last Day Student Attendance:** Public Act 97-0742, effective June 30, 2013, does not permit the first and last day of student attendance to be less than five instructional hours. The new law is in effect beginning with the 2013-14 school year. Please review the link [http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/pa97-0742guidelines.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/pa97-0742guidelines.pdf) and contact your Regional Office, Intermediate Service Center or ISBE with any questions/concerns.

- **Legal School Holidays:** Public Act 96-0640, effective Aug. 24, 2009, no longer requires districts to receive ISBE approval to waive specific legal school holidays. Please review the link [http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/holiday-waiver.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/holiday-waiver.pdf) for helpful details of this statute.

- **Non-emergency Calendar Changes:** As a reminder, Section 10-19 of the Illinois School Code includes language that states, “the calendar for the school term and any changes must be submitted to and approved by the regional superintendent of school before the calendar or changes may take effect.”

  Non-emergency changes to the latest approved public school calendar, i.e. addition of a Half Day School Improvement day, must be submitted to the appropriate Regional Office for approval prior to the day occurring, not after the fact. This must be done by submitting an Amended Calendar via the Public School Calendar system available in IWAS. This language does not include unanticipated events requiring emergency district closure such as an Interrupted Day (calendar code XID), Delayed Start Day (calendar code XDS), Emergency Day (calendar code ED), or Act of God Day (calendar code AOG) which obviously cannot be amended on the calendar until after the fact. Per Section 18-12 and 18-12.5 of the School Code, calendar days that are interrupted or delayed due to a condition beyond the control of the school district that poses a hazardous threat to the health and safety of the students should be reported your Regional Office within 30 days of the day affected by the interruption or delay.

**NOTE: 2012-13 Final Public School Calendars** – The Final Public School Calendar for the 2012-2013 school year will be available after May 1, 2013, and should be submitted to the appropriate Regional Office or Intermediate Service Center the last day of school. The General State Aid Claim cannot be submitted if the Final Calendar is not on file.

Additional information regarding the Public School Calendar, including the Public School Calendar Guidelines, can be found on the School Calendar webpage. If you have any questions regarding the information provided please contact your Regional Office of Education or Marj Beck at (217) 782-5256 or mbeck@isbe.net.

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**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](http://www.iatd.net) to register. A block of rooms at the Crown Plaza have been reserved for attendees.

**Nutrition and Wellness Programs**

**National Food Service Management Institute Offering Free Training Sessions in Macomb**

The National Food Service Management Institute (NFSMI) has recently announced that they are hosting a variety of trainings at Western Illinois University in Macomb on May 14-16. There is no cost to attend the training, however, the attendee is responsible for their own travel expenses, including food and lodging.

The training sessions include Meal Pattern, 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on May 14; Food Safety Basics, 8 a.m. to noon on May 15; Food Defense Tabletop Exercise, 1:30-5:30 p.m. on May 15; Inventory Management and Tracking, 8 a.m. to noon on May 16; and Everyone Plays a P.A.R.T. in Norovirus Control, 1:30-3:30 p.m. on May 16.
For details about the sessions and to register, visit http://www.nfsmi.org/documentlibraryfiles/PDF/20130308110640.pdf. If you have questions or would like more information, contact Jennifer Marascalco at (662) 915-2351 or jhrascal@olemiss.edu.

‘Professional Standards for School Food Service’ Webinar Scheduled for April 24

Registration is under way for the webinar “Professional Standards for School Food Service,” which will be held 1:30-3 p.m. on April 24.

Staff with the Illinois State Board of Education’s Nutrition and Wellness Programs Division, as well as the Executive Council of the Illinois School Nutrition Association (ILSNA), will present this webinar for National School Lunch Program sponsors.

An overview of Section 306 of the Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010, Professional Standards for School Food Service will be provided. ISBE staff, along with ILSNA, will detail a professional development partnership and identify key training opportunities for all schools within Illinois for school year 2013-14 on a variety of training topics. Register today at https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/725294913.

PEAC

Resources Available to Districts From the Performance Evaluation Advisory Council

The Performance Evaluation Advisory Council has a variety of resources available to districts. New implementation resources provide instruction and guidance as districts are ramping up their implementation plans for the Performance Evaluation Reform Act (PERA).

The resources are available on the PEAC webpage under Implementation Guidance for PERA in yellow. Go to http://www.isbe.net/PEAC/default.htm.

U.S. Department of Education

Information Now Available About This Year's Investing in Innovation (i3) Grant Competition

The U.S. Department of Education has launched the 2013 competition for the $150 million Investing in Innovation (i3) program, which aims to help school districts and nonprofit organizations develop and expand practices that accelerate student achievement and prepare every student to succeed in college and in their careers, and includes three grant categories: Development, Validation and Scale-up.

The department has released the program’s invitation for pre-applications for the i3 “Development” grant category and the notice of final priorities for the i3 program overall. The deadline for the pre-application is April 26, 2013. Following the peer review process, the department will announce a list of the highly rated pre-applications. These entities will then be invited to apply for the Development competition and given additional time to complete their full application.

This year’s priorities for the Development grant category are: Improving the Effectiveness of Teachers or Principals; Improving Low-Performing Schools; Improving Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Education; Improving Academic Outcomes for Students With Disabilities; Improving Academic Outcomes for English Learners (ELs); Improving Parent and Family Engagement; Effective Use of Technology; and Serving Rural Communities.

The U.S. Department of Education plans to announce applications for the Validation and Scale-up categories later this spring. To learn more about the program, and how to apply for its grants, click on http://www2.ed.gov/programs/innovation/index.html.

Illinois Liquor Control Commission

Schools Invited to Join in Campaign to Help Prevent Underage Drinking

This spring, a variety of statewide and local groups will be unveiling a new effort throughout the state of Illinois entitled "Your Actions Matter!" Coordinated by the Illinois Liquor Control Commission's (ILCC) Don't Be Sorry educational program, the “Your Actions Matter!” logo and slogan were created by teenagers, and are designed to change the behavior of adults who think it is okay to give alcohol to minors.

The goal of the campaign is to reinforce positive behavior. The previous “Project Sticker Shock” campaign, a popular spring activity conducted by students in communities throughout the state over the past four years, focused on penalties and consequences. This year, the new youth-designed materials and activities will serve accentuate the positive and remind
adults that preventing underage drinking is everyone’s responsibility.

Schools who are interested should visit http://www.don'tbesorry.org/Instructions.htm to review a manual discussing how to conduct a local event. This manual also contains the necessary forms to conduct a simple activity (i.e., one that will take less an hour of your time to arrange) or a larger community-wide campaign. Students can do as much or as little as time allows.

For further information about the campaign, contact Ted Penesis at (312) 814-4802 or ted.penesis@illinois.gov. To order free materials, visit www.DontBeSorry.org.

In Brief

Professional Development

- The Prevent School Violence Illinois Coalition spring meeting is set for 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. April 23 in Hoffman Estates. The event is free but space is limited. For more information and to register, visit http://psvillinois.eventbrite.com/#. Use the password psvi23. Register by April 9.
- The ADA National Network has announced the April 16 ADA Audio Conference Series session titled “Extracurricular Athletic Opportunities for Students With Disabilities: Understanding the Issues.” Details and registration can be found at http://www.ada-audio.org/ProgramInformation/. For questions, call (877) 232-1990 (V/TTY) or email adaconferences@adagreatlakes.org.
- A conference titled “How to Build Wealth in Today’s Economy” is set for April 26 at the McLean County Extension Office in Bloomington. Six CPDUs are available for the training, which will present new technologies for teaching students. Get more details at http://www.cefe.illinois.edu/calendar/event_04_26_13.html.
- The annual Cook County Department of Public Health Update for School Nurses is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on May 10 in Brookfield. CEUs and CPDUs will be available pending approval. For more information and to register, go to http://www.cookcountypublichealth.org/events.

Student Opportunities

- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency of Region 5 invites Illinois students in grades 3-8 to submit a poster in recognition of Asthma Awareness Month in May. The deadline for entries is May 10.

For more information on how to enter the Asthma Awareness Month poster contest, visit http://www.epa.gov/region5/asthmapostercontest/. 
- The Healthy Lunchtime Challenge invites children ages 8-12 and their parent(s) and/or guardian(s) to create an original lunch recipe in line with the USDA’s MyPlate information. Recipes must be submitted by May 12. For more information, visit www.recipechallenge.epicurious.com.

Upcoming Events

- The Tdap vaccine, which is required for students entering sixth through 12th grade, will be offered by the Chicago Department of Public Health at no cost from 9 a.m. to noon on April 20 and April 27. A limited supply of HPV and meningitis vaccine will also be available. Call (312) 746-6129 or go to http://www.ilmaternal.org/caic/pdfs/CDPH_TdapClinics2013.pdf.

Weekly News Clips

- The Illinois State Board of Education has posted highlights from recent education news clips at www.isbe.net/news/2013/newsclops/130408.htm.

Employment Opportunities

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