Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

We had originally planned to switch to our new Educator Licensure Information System (ELIS) from the old Educator Certification System (ECS) on Monday. However, after the initial switch we have discovered significant issues that need to be addressed. We are taking ELIS down until we can make the necessary technical corrections to the system and will send out notice via IWAS and our website when the system is available.

Thank you for your patience in this matter.

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.

- 2013 PSAE preliminary scores scheduled to be posted in Student Information System (SIS) – July 9
- Part 65 (New Teacher Induction and Mentoring) – Public comment period ends July 15
- Part 75 (Agricultural Education Program) – Public comment period ends July 15
- Part 140 (Calculation of Cost under Section 18-3 of the School Code) – Public comment period ends July 15
- Part 210 (Illinois Hope and Opportunity Pathways through Education Program) – Public comment period ends July 15
- Part 228 (Transitional Bilingual Education) – Public comment period ends July 15
- 2013 PSAE Assessment Corrections window closes in Student Information System (SIS) – July 16
- 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/isburywaivers/default.htm for new public notice requirements for all waiver requests)
- National School Lunch Week/National Take Your Parents to Lunch Day – Oct. 14-18
- National School Breakfast Week – March 3-7
- School Nutrition Employee Week – May 5-9
- Applications for the Exception to the 1.0 Percent Cap due – May 16
Assessment

PSAE Scores Available Soon for District Review on the Student Information System

The 2013 preliminary results for Prairie State Achievement Exam (PSAE) are scheduled to be available for district review in the Student Information System (SIS) on July 9, 2013. The Assessment Corrections window will close on Tuesday, July 16, 2013. Please see http://www.isbe.net/assessment/pdfs/asmt_scores_desc.pdf for assessment score descriptions.

Illinois Joins Dynamic Learning Maps Alternate Assessment Consortium

Illinois has joined the Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Alternate Assessment Consortium, a multi-state initiative developing a computer-based assessment designed to more validly measure what students with significant cognitive disabilities know and can do. We are among 15 states in the consortium, led by the Center for Educational Testing and Evaluation (CETE) at the University of Kansas. Once implemented, earmarked for 2014-15, it will mark the first time most students with significant cognitive disabilities are assessed using an online, computer-based, large-scale state assessment.

The DLM project is guided by the core belief that all students should have access to challenging grade-level content. The DLM system is designed to map a student’s learning throughout the year. The system will use items and tasks that are embedded in day-to-day instruction. In this way, testing happens as part of instruction, which both informs teaching and benefits students.

For more information regarding the Dynamic Learning Maps Alternate Assessment Consortium, please go to http://dynamiclearningmaps.org.

2014 Writing Announcement for Grade 11 Testing

As announced by State Superintendent of Education Christopher Koch in his June 3, 2013, Weekly Message, a requirement to administer an 11th grade writing assessment was passed by legislators. Senate Bill 2555 added writing assessments in grade 11 and was sent to Gov. Pat Quinn on June 17, 2013. ISBE is working to implement the inclusion of ACT Writing into the PSAE and writing into the grade 11 IAA for spring 2014.

If implemented as planned, the spring 2014 PSAE Day 1 tests will consist of the battery of four multiple-choice ACT tests as well as the ACT Writing test. This will enable students to receive the bonus of a college-reportable ACT Plus Writing score, as long as PSAE Day 1 is administered under standard-time conditions or with ACT-Approved accommodations. PSAE Writing scores will also be reported and will be derived from the combination of ACT English and ACT Writing, as they were from spring 2007 to spring 2011.

More information about ACT Writing is available on ACT’s website, www.actstudent.org/writing/. In spring 2014, the grade 11 IAA will include a writing component similar to the IAA writing tests that were administered in spring 2011.

Special Education Service

Salary and Benefit Costs in IDEA Grants

The purpose of this message is to provide clarification on payment of salary and benefits from IDEA grants.

Following a review of OMB Circular A-87 — Cost Principles for State, Local and Indian Tribal Governments (Attachment B, Section 8, subsection a) and Article 16 of the Illinois Pension Code (40 ILCS 5/16-158(c), it has been determined that paying salaries from a local funding source and the associated benefits from a federal funding source is NOT allowable. The cost of benefits in the form of employer contributions or expenses for Social Security, employee life, health, unemployment and workers’ compensation insurance, pension costs, and other similar benefits, are allowable to be paid with federal dollars provided such benefits are granted under established written policies. Any entity using IDEA flow-through or pre-school funds for staff benefits can only do so if the proportionate share of staff salary was also included in the IDEA grant. For example, it would be allowable to include the full salary and full benefits for an employee in the IDEA grant or 50 percent of the salary and 50 percent of the associated benefits in the IDEA grant. It would NOT be allowable to pay salary from local sources and benefits from the IDEA grant or to pay 50 percent of the salary and 100 percent of the benefits from the IDEA grant.

Please note that the federal TRS benefits for FY14 will be 35.41 percent. Links to OMB Circular A-87 and Article 16 of the Illinois Pension Code are included below. For questions, please contact your grant coordinator either at (217) 782-5589 or via email: Tammy Greco at
English Language Learning

Modified English Language Proficiency Criteria, Effective Jan. 1, 2014

In order to better align measurements of academic achievement with English language acquisition and ensure that our EL students are supported appropriately, the Illinois State Board of Education has updated the definition of English language proficiency for students in Illinois schools. The modified criteria have been posted at http://www.isbe.net/bilingual/pdfs/proficiency-def-mod-memo0613.pdf.

All English learners participating in the ACCESS test administration or initially screened after Jan. 1, 2014, will need to meet or exceed the updated criteria in order to be transitioned from a TBE or TPI program at the end of the 2013-2014 school year. We believe this is a step in the right direction to strengthen outcomes for ELs in our state.

If you have any questions, contact the Division of English Language Learning at (312) 814-3850.

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Applications Available for Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is accepting applications for grants to provide access to education, training and healthcare resources in rural areas through the department's Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Program. Funds can be used to buy equipment and provide technical assistance. Eligible applicants must serve a rural area, demonstrate economic need and provide at least 15 percent in matching funds. Awards range up to $500,000.


School Business Services

QZAB Program for Calendar Years 2012 and 2013 Authorization (Second Round)

The Qualified Zone Academy Bond Program will be opened up for a second round of applications to allocate the remaining balance. The first round allocations totaled $10,190,572, leaving $4,702,428 available for the 2012 allocation and the full $14,893,000 for 2013 allocation.
The Qualified Zone Academy Bond (QZAB) program has been extended for two more years as a result of the passage of the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 (P.L. 112-240). The implementing regulations provide that Illinois’ share of these allocations is $14.893 million (for calendar year 2012) and $14.893 million (for calendar year 2013), for a total of $29.786 million.

The application process is open June 24 through July 26, 2013. For additional information, please go to http://www.isbe.state.il.us/construction/html/qzab.htm.

**Preparation and Evaluation**

**Contact Your Regional Superintendent to Request Teacher Evaluation Training**

Any educator who has an interest in taking the teacher evaluation training, please send your name, email address, and EIEN number to your regional superintendent office or ISC office along with your work assignment for the 2013-14 school year and your school district.

While there is no guarantee that every person who requests the training will have access, this will provide a resource to the Regional Superintendents as to those who desire or are required to have the training at no cost later this summer or in the fall. Every effort will be made to accommodate every request, but no guarantees can be provided.

**Funding and Disbursements**

**New Expenditure Reporting Requirements – State and Federal Grant Programs**

The Illinois State Board of Education has implemented new expenditure reporting requirements beginning with all fiscal year 2013 state and federal grant projects and thereafter. The new reporting only applies to a grant project with a project end date extended past June 30.

As a reminder, please be advised of the following regarding the need for a project end date extension:

- An end date extension past June 30 is NOT needed for regular term staff salaries paid on a 12 month salary schedule.
- An end date extension past June 30 is NOT needed to pay obligations (e.g. purchase order for supplies) incurred June 30 or prior.
- An end date extension past June 30 IS NEEDED for new activities and obligations incurred July 1 or later (e.g. Summer School, Professional Development).

A summary of the changes in the Electronic Expenditure Reporting System include:

1. The outstanding obligations field will be open on all June 30 expenditure reports.
2. All grant recipients with a project end date after June 30 must report the split of expenses for obligations/activities June 30 and prior compared to July 1 and after.


If you have questions regarding these changes please contact the Funding and Disbursement Division at (217) 782-5256.

**Nutrition and Wellness Programs**

**Update From the Enhance Physical Education Task Force (EPETF)**

For the last two years, it has been the mission of ISBE, the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Illinois Public Health Institute to implement enhanced physical education programs and improve physical activity and wellness in Illinois schools. An Enhanced Physical Education Strategic Plan was produced in August 2012 and identifies ways in which school boards, superintendents and principals can be leaders in this effort along with corresponding community-level implementation strategies. It provides a high-level roadmap for implementing the vision that all Illinois K-12 students will participate in daily, high-quality physical education.

Seeing this vision, Public Act 97-1102 created the Enhance Physical Education Task Force (EPETF). The purpose of this Task Force is to promote and recommend enhanced physical education programs that can be integrated with a broader wellness strategy and health curriculum in elementary and secondary schools in this state, including:

- educating and promoting leadership on enhanced physical education among school district and school district officials;
• developing and utilizing metrics to assess the impact of enhanced physical education;
• promoting training and professional development in enhanced physical education for teachers and other school and community stakeholders;
• identifying and seeking local, state and national resources to support enhanced physical education;
• and such other strategies as may be identified by the task force.

On or before Aug. 31, 2013, the 31-member task force shall make recommendations to the governor and the General Assembly on Goals 19-24 of the Illinois Learning Standards for Physical Development and Health. The task force shall focus on updating the standards based on research in neuroscience that impacts the relationship between physical activity and learning.

A copy of the Enhanced Physical Education Strategic Plan along with meeting dates, agendas and summaries of this task force are available on the ISBE website at http://www.isbe.net/EPE/default.htm.

**Back 2 School In-Person Workshops Planned in July and August Across the State**

ISBE’s Nutrition and Wellness Programs Division, in partnership with the Illinois School Nutrition Association and the National Food Service Management Institute, will host Back 2 School Workshops at six locations in late July and early August. There is no registration fee for these workshops. Registration begins at 8 a.m. for morning sessions, and 11:45 a.m. for afternoon sessions.

Each location will host three tracks in the morning and repeat each track in the afternoon. Attendees can register for one morning workshop and/or one afternoon workshop at any of the following dates and locations. The morning sessions will be held 8:30-11:45 a.m. and the afternoon sessions are 12:15-3:30 p.m. The sessions are:

- **Track 1**: National School Lunch and School Breakfast Program Menu Planning
- **Track 2**: NSLP Administrative Topics, including certification, verification, local wellness policy, meal pricing including paid lunch equity (PLE), allowable uses of the nonprofit school food service account, procurement, and civil rights.
- **Track 3**: NFSMI – Practical Skills for Preparing Quality Meals

Dates and locations are July 30 in Lisle, July 31 in Alsip, Aug. 1 in Peoria, Aug. 6 in Champaign, Aug. 7 in Fairview Heights and Aug. 8 in Carbondale. Registration at [http://webprod1.isbe.net/cnscalendar/asp/eventlist.asp](http://webprod1.isbe.net/cnscalendar/asp/eventlist.asp).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our staff at (800) 545-7892 or via email at cnp@isbe.net.

**Training Tuesday Webinar Series on NSLP Kicks Off on July 16**

Beginning in July, ISBE’s Nutrition and Wellness Programs Division will host a series of webinars detailing a variety of NSLP regulations. The webinars will be held from 2-3:30 p.m. Each webinar will be recorded and available for future viewing on our website, if the date and time is not convenient for you or your staff.

Here is the list of training topics available July through December 2013. An announcement for the January through May 2014 topics, along with registration information, will be announced in the near future.

- July 16: Benefit Issuance and Meal Counting
- Aug. 20: Direct Certification
- Aug. 27: Certification of Household Eligibility Applications (HEA)
- Sept. 17: Verification Process and Summary Report
- Oct. 15: NSLP/SBP Menu Planning
- Dec. 17: USDA Foods (Government Donated Commodities)

For more information and to register, visit ISBE’s Nutrition and Wellness Programs Division webpage at [http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/default.htm](http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/default.htm).

**Early Childhood**

**Deadline to Meet Certification Requirements for Preschool Bilingual Rules is July 2014**

In an effort to strengthen and support the academic achievement of English language learners in Illinois, new administrative rules went into effect in July 2010 that expanded bilingual services to preschool programs administered by a school district. In accordance with 23 Ill Administrative Code Part 228, effective July 1, 2014, preschool teachers who provide native language or ESL
instruction to ELL students must also hold the English as a Second Language (ESL) or bilingual endorsement or approval that corresponds with the teaching assignment.

For more information, contact the ISBE Division of English Language Learning at (312) 814-3850 or the ISBE Division of Early Childhood at (217) 524-4835. An explanation of the rules can be found in the PowerPoint “Overview: The New ISBE Bilingual Rules and Early Childhood Teacher Preparation,” located at http://www.isbe.net/earlychi/pdf/cc_bilingual_rules_webinar_pres.pdf. For additional resources to support your preschool English Language Learners, go to http://www.isbe.net/earlychi/preschool/preschool_ell.htm.

In Brief

Professional Development

• The Illinois New Teacher Collaborative’s Illinois New Teacher STEM Conference is set for July 30-31 in Champaign. For more information, visit http://intc.education.illinois.edu/stem2013.


Weekly News Clips

• The Illinois State Board of Education has posted highlights from recent education news clips at http://www.isbe.net/news/2013/newsclips/130628.htm.

Employment Opportunities

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

Grant Opportunities

• Apply for a field trip grant offered by the Winnick Family Foundation to visit the Abraham Lincoln Library and Museum. The grants are for grades 4-12 in public and private schools and help defray costs of transportation and provide free admission. Visit http://www.illinois.gov/alplm/museum/Learning/Documents/Winnick%20Grant%20Application.pdf for details. The deadline is Sept. 1.