Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

Illinois has been awarded nearly $18 million to improve the quality and access to early childhood programs. We were one of six states that were awarded supplemental Early Learning Challenge grants. These additional funds are in addition to the $35 million we won through the competitive, federal grant program late last year.

We will use these funds to strengthen our early learning infrastructure for children, birth to age 5, from low-income families by implementing early childhood systems reforms that boost the number of children, especially those with high needs, who enter kindergarten prepared for a challenging curriculum.

Our plan aims to strengthen training and support for early learning personnel, align all early care and education programs – including Child Care, Head Start and Preschool for All – with high-quality early learning and development standards, create and implement rigorous evaluation systems to record and share best practices and effective programs.

Also, I would like to remind you that I will be hosting a back to school webinar at 11 a.m. next Monday, Aug. 12. An invitation to administrators was sent last week via IWAS. We will touch on a variety of issues, including implementation of the new Illinois Learning Standards and assessments based on the Common Core, increased cut scores, 5Essentials survey and the new report card.

Finally, congratulations to those individuals named as one of four Principals of the Year by the Illinois Principals Association and Horace Mann. These individuals were selected among their peers for their dedication and commitment to their students and school community. They are committed to fostering a positive school climate and to enhance student learning at all levels. The Illinois Principals of the Year are:

- Elementary Principal of the Year – Kim Zinman, Joyce Kilmer Elementary School
- Middle School Principal of the Year – Jeremie Smith, Mattoon Middle School
- High School Principal of the Year – Lazaro Lopez, Wheeling High School
- Assistant Principal of the Year – Jean Aucutt, Vernon Hills High School

Again, congratulations and thank you for all you do every day for our students.

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.

- **2012-13 Annual Pupil Transportation Reimbursement Claim deadline** – Aug. 15
- **2012-13 Special Education Private Facility Claim deadline** – Aug. 15
• 2012-13 Special Education Personnel Claim deadline – Aug. 15
• 2012-13 Special Education Excess Cost Claim deadline – Aug. 15
• 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.)
• ISBE offices closed for Labor Day – Sept. 2
• ISBE offices closed for Columbus Day – Oct. 14
• National School Lunch Week/National Take Your Parents to Lunch Day – Oct. 14-18
• ISBE offices closed for Veterans Day – Nov. 11
• ISBE offices closed for Thanksgiving – Nov. 28-29
• ISBE offices closed for Christmas – Dec. 25
• ISBE offices closed for New Year’s Day – Jan. 1
• ISBE offices closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day – Jan. 20
• ISBE offices closed for Lincoln’s Birthday – Feb. 12
• ISBE offices closed for Presidents’ Day – Feb. 17
• 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

Funding and Disbursements

FY 2014 General State Aid Preliminary Calculations

Preliminary Fiscal Year 2014 General State Aid (GSA) entitlement calculations for all local education agencies (LEAs) have been completed. The first FY 2014 GSA payment will be made on Aug. 10. The $6,119 GSA foundation level established by the General Assembly was utilized in the GSA calculation based on a total budgeted FY 2014 appropriation of $4,442,198,260.

The preliminary GSA net entitlement is based upon local tax revenue and average daily attendance information calculated to $5.003 billion leaving a shortage of $561 million. This shortage requires a preliminary proration of 88.7 percent, which has been applied toward the gross entitlement for LEA. The final proration percentage will be proportionally applied over 22 equal payments scheduled from August 2013 through June 2014.

Computations and individual claim information for school districts and regional offices can be accessed in General State Aid Inquiry at http://webprod1.isbe.net/gsainquiry/default.aspx. Final entitlements, proration and payments will be calculated prior to the Sept. 10 GSA payment. No changes will be made after the statewide file is closed.

If you have any questions about General State Aid or the computations, please contact Jim Mathes at jmathes@isbe.net or (217) 782-5256.

2012-13 (FY 14) Pupil Transportation Reimbursement Claims – Due Aug. 15

Please be advised that the 2012-13 Annual Pupil Transportation Reimbursement claim is due to the Illinois State Board of Education on or before Aug. 15 per statute. There are no provisions in the School Code for granting extensions beyond the statutory due date; therefore, all claims must be received on or before Aug. 15, 2013. The submit button for the district superintendent or administrator will be removed at 12:01 a.m. on Aug. 16, 2013.

It is imperative that each local education agency submit a claim by the statutory date. There will be a correction period available in early October to make necessary changes to the submitted claim.

Please refer to the 2012-13 Pupil Transportation Reimbursement Claim Instructions, located at http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/pupil_reimburse_instruction.pdf, for assistance in completing the claim.

If you have questions regarding the Pupil Transportation Claim, please contact Jamie Johnson at (217) 782-5256 or via e-mail at jjohnson@isbe.net.

Illinois Department of Revenue

Estimates for Corporate Personal Property Replacement Taxes for FY14 Released

The Illinois Department of Revenue has released estimates for Corporate Personal Property Replacement Taxes for Fiscal Year 2014. This information will assist districts in
the preparation of FY14 budgets. Here is a link to the data: http://www.revenue.state.il.us/AboutIdor/TaxStats/ReplacementTax/replacement14.htm.

The New School Report Card

Principals Can Begin Entering School Information on Aug. 9

This year, the Illinois State Board of Education will be unveiling an improved design of the School Report Card. The new report card aims to be more informative and accessible, providing a more complete set of school information and performance measures to a wider audience. This will allow for greater cooperation among administrators, teachers, parents, and a better-informed community.

Since test scores do not tell a school’s complete story, the School Report Card will incorporate principal-submitted information about courses and programs so that leaders in your district can paint a more complete picture on the School Report Card. Beginning Aug. 9, principals may log into the MyIIRC portal at the Illinois Interactive Report Card or visit http://iirc.niu.edu/MyIIRC/ to enter their school’s additional information. Principals who do not already have access to MyIIRC will need to register using a unique school access code provided by their district superintendent. Superintendents will receive an email from NIU this week with their schools' access codes, and can request access codes for principals at any time by emailing vlorusso@niu.edu or calling (815) 753-0978. In order to ensure all information is reflected on the School Report Card it is recommended that principals complete the submission by Sept. 30.

The new School Report Card will be an important tool to all districts, but is particularly important for Race to the Top districts. In the Race to the Top expectations, the new School Report Card is an important resource for fostering partnerships with municipal and civic leaders and community organizations, as well as building parent engagement. Of course, these goals are not limited to Race to the Top districts – any district seeking to engage with these communities will find the redesigned report card to be a valuable resource.

The Illinois State Board of Education encourages principals to take this new opportunity to highlight their school’s strengths and ensure the State Report Card tells their school’s whole story.

Assessment

2013 Final Prairie State Achievement Examination Scores Posted on IWAS

The 2013 final results for grade 11 PSAE were posted July 31 for district review on the Student Information System (SIS).

To view the Assessment Score Detail report in SIS:
1. Login to SIS via IWAS.
2. Click the “Reports” link on the SIS Home Page.
3. Click the “Plus” Sign next to “Assessments” to expand the selection.
4. Click on “Detail” for “Assessment Scores (Scale Score and Performance Level Only)” Detail report. (Note: This report will display PSAE Reading, Mathematics and Science scores. To view the ACT English scores, select “Assessment Subscores (Detailed Scores by Subject Area)” and select “Writing.”)
5. Select “All” for all tests and click “Next.”
6. Select desired report criteria, using “Sort By” (click the dropdown arrow and select a sort criteria if desired).
7. Click “Create PDF Report” to display report.

If you require technical assistance, after reviewing the online help, please contact our Call Center at (217) 558-3600 during our business hours: Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

2013 State-Funded EXPLORE/PLAN Information Now Posted Online

Beginning on Aug. 12, 2013, public school districts may order EXPLORE/PLAN testing materials for the state-funded fall 2013 administration. Private school students not associated with a public school district are not eligible for the state-funded program. Both ACT EXPLORE for ninth grade and ACT PLAN for 10th grade must be ordered for either to be eligible for state funding.

For more information on the 2013 state-funded EXPLORE/PLAN program, go to http://www.isbe.net/assessment/htmls/protocol.htm.

School Business Services

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.

For additional information on the State Board of Education interpretation of this section, please refer to the State Superintendent’s Weekly Message for May 3, 2010, and May 11, 2010, which can be accessed at http://www.isbe.net/board/archivemessages/archivemessage.htm.

Section 3-8 of the School Code (105 ILCS 5/3-8) describes the duties of the Regional Superintendent of Schools upon receipt of the treasurer bonds. When the bond of any school treasurer is filed with the Regional Superintendent of Schools, the Regional Superintendent shall carefully examine it. If the bond is found to be in all respects according to law and the sureties sufficient, the Regional Superintendent shall endorse his/her approval and file it with the papers of his/her office. If the bond is in any respect defective, or if the sureties are insufficient, the bond shall be returned for correction.

In Cook County, the responsibilities and duties of the Regional Superintendent of Schools detailed in Section 3-8 and Section 8-2 of the School Code (105 ILCS 5/3-8 and 105 ILCS 5/8-2) will be assumed by the respective Intermediate Service Center.

An electronic version of the affidavit, and other information, can be found online at www.isbe.net/sfms/html/t_bonds.htm.

Please contact Michelle Heninger, School Business Services Division, at (217) 785-8779 or mheninge@isbe.net with any follow-up questions.

**Annual Statement of Affairs (ISBE 50-37) Form Now Available on ISBE’s Website**

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 (ISBE) 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.

Visit http://www.isbe.net/sfms/afr/asp.htm. If you have questions, please contact Toby Turek or Christine Kolaz in ISBE’s School Business Services Division at (217) 785-8779 or finance1@isbe.net.

**Certificate of Tax Levy (ISBE 50-02) Form Used by School Districts Available Online**

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.

Visit http://www.isbe.net/sfms/afr/ctl.htm. If you have questions, please contact Toby Turek or Christine Kolaz in ISBE’s School Business Services Division at (217) 785-8779 or finance1@isbe.net.
Illinois Education Agency Retrieval Network Updated With Fiscal Year 2012 Financial Data

The Illinois Education Agency Retrieval Network (ILEARN) now includes the financial data from the FY2012 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 2012 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 in ISBE’s School Business Services Division at (217) 785-8779 or finance1@isbe.net.

Additional Reminders From ISBE’s School Business Services Division

- **School District/Joint Agreement Budget deadline:** Approved by each district school board by the end of the first quarter and submitted to ISBE by Oct. 31.

- **Filing deadline for the Annual Financial Report (AFR):** Statute requires that the AFR and attachments be filed this year on or before Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2013, with the appropriate Regional Office of Education/Intermediate Service Center (ROE/ISC). In extenuating circumstances, the regional superintendent may grant up to 60 days extension per Section 3-7 of the School Code. If an extension has not been granted, the AFR must be forwarded by the ROE/ISC to ISBE on or before Friday, Nov. 15, 2013 (Cover page through Page 8 with all signatures is required to be mailed to the ROE/ISC by Oct. 15, 2013, and the ISBE by Nov. 15, 2013).

Special Education Services

2011-2012 District Special Education Profiles Available for District Administrative Review

In a continuing effort to disseminate data to local education agencies and to the public, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) will again post District Special Education Profiles on its website. District Special Education Profiles allow the reader to access all special education performance information in one location. The reader has the ability to view a district's progress toward improving results on critical performance indicators in the areas of student performance, educational environment and school completion.

For the next two weeks school district superintendents can preview their profile using their ISBE Web Application Security (IWAS) District Admin user login name at [https://sec1.isbe.net/iwas/](https://sec1.isbe.net/iwas/). The District Special Education Profiles system can be found under the category of Reporting on the IWAS “System Listing” page. The 2011-12 Profiles will be open to the public after the initial district superintendent review period and will be found via the ISBE Special Education Profiles site [http://webprod1.isbe.net/LEAProfile/Searchcriteria1.asp](http://webprod1.isbe.net/LEAProfile/Searchcriteria1.asp) after Aug. 12, 2013.

Questions regarding the District Special Education Profiles can be directed to Gwen Williams at (217) 782-5589.

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English Language Learning

New Leadership Academy Set for Aug. 6 and 7 in Springfield

The Illinois State Board of Education’s Division of English Language Learning is pleased to announce a New Leadership Academy at the Crowne Plaza Springfield scheduled for Aug. 6-7.

This one-day academy, which is repeated on the second day, is geared for school district administrators (up to a team of three individuals per district) with a focus on state bilingual/ESL program requirements, featuring ISBE English Language Learning staff and education specialists John Hilliard and Cristina Sanchez-Lopez. The academy is particularly designed to support bilingual/ESL program leaders and school district teams new to the field. Topics will include the following: review of federal and state requirements; resources for program directors; program timelines and administrative procedures, and an overview and major considerations with regard to bilingual/ESL program design, early childhood and special education.

Special education program administrators who also serve as ELL program administrators will want to attend either the day before or the morning of the annual Special Education Directors’ Conference 2013, also scheduled at the Crowne Plaza Springfield.

There is no charge to attend the one-day academy, and CPDUs will be provided. Click [here](http://webprod1.isbe.net/) for registration. Space is limited.
Upcoming Webinar

Student Suicide Prevention Training Initiative for Illinois Middle and High School Personnel

Suicide prevention training is mandated in the school code for Illinois school personnel. Please join us for a free webinar on Aug. 7 to learn how you can access no-cost online suicide prevention gatekeeper training that meets the school code requirement, made freely available to all Illinois school personnel by the Illinois Youth Suicide Prevention Project, Illinois Department of Public Health. The online gatekeeper training also qualifies for ISBE-approved continuing education credit.

Join this one-hour webinar to learn more about this valuable resource. Jennifer Martin, coordinator of the Illinois Youth Suicide Prevention Project, will discuss the importance of this training and how it can be used statewide to support students.

Who should attend: Principals and administrators of Illinois middle and high schools, social workers and school guidance counselors, school nurses and other school health providers for Illinois youth.

The webinar will be facilitated by Lori Janjigian, vice president of marketing at Kognito Interactive, who will conduct a live demonstration of the training tool and review research results supporting its effectiveness. Kognito is a developer of online role-playing and gatekeeper training simulations in the areas of health and behavioral health. Seven trainings are included in the SPRC Best Practices Registry for Suicide Prevention and three are included in the National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices. Live demos can be viewed at www.kognito.com.

Space is limited. Reserve a webinar seat at https://www4.gotomeeting.com/register/279399687. After registering, participants will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the Webinar.

- **Title:** Online Student Suicide Prevention Training Initiative for all Illinois Middle and High School Personnel
- **Date:** Wednesday, Aug. 7, 2013
- **Time:** 10-11 a.m. CDT
- **System Requirements:** Windows 7, Vista, XP or 2003 Server required for PC-based attendees. Mac OS X 10.6 or newer required for Mac-based attendees. For mobile attendees, iPhone, iPad, Android phone or Android tablet is required.

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/ec_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.

College and Career Readiness

Illinois Youth Win Awards at Annual FCCLA National Leadership Conference

Illinois students brought home 71 medals from the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America’s 2013 National Leadership Conference held recently in Nashville, Tenn. Illinois earned 39 gold, 27 silver and five bronze medals competing against about 3,600 students from across the country in 31 different events.

These youth are members of local FCCLA chapters, an integral part of family and consumer sciences and career and technical education programs in middle, high, and career and technical schools across the nation. Top state placers advanced to the national competition to compete in such categories as Interior Design, Fashion Design, Culinary Arts, Parliamentary Procedure and more. Students earn gold, silver, or bronze ratings based on their mastery of the event specifications.

Several youth who brought home gold medals were ranked highest in the nation. Chris Reusz of Downer Grove South, placed first in the nation, competing in Food Innovations. Phoebe Mondala of Bolingbrook
High School, placed first in the nation in the Senior Category for Fashion Construction. Camp Point Central High School’s FCCLA Parliamentary Procedure Team placed second in the nation. Team members were Mikaela Cantrell, Brianna Clevenger, Anthony Holtschlag, Jessica Mowen, Martin Nall and Megan Scheiter. Jessica Musto of Wheeling High School placed third in the nation in Fashion Design, occupational category.


### In Brief

#### Professional Development

- **“Writing IEP Goals: A Workshop for School Nurses”** will be offered by the University of Illinois at Chicago from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sept. 14. Cost is $95, which includes class materials, credit of four CNE and four CPDU, and lunch. To register, visit [www.uic.edu/nursing/ihec](http://www.uic.edu/nursing/ihec). Contact Patti McDonough at pattimed@uic.edu or (312) 413-2978 for additional information.

- Registration is under way for the **Illinois RtI Network**’s second annual statewide conference, “Integrating Initiatives and Advancing Implementation.” The conference is scheduled for Sept. 23-24 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield. For more information, visit [http://bit.ly/1dzMQ0y](http://bit.ly/1dzMQ0y).


### 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](http://www.illinois.gov/alplm/museum/Learning/Documents/Winnick%20Grant%20Application.pdf) for details. The deadline is Sept. 1.

### Weekly News Clips


### Employment Opportunities

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