Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

The Illinois State Board of Education’s Finance and Audit Committee has set its schedule for statewide public hearings as it begins the process of developing the Fiscal Year 2015 budget recommendation. As part of that process, we are encouraging you to share your ideas on the state’s current funding formula as the Board works with the Senate Education Funding Advisory Committee to evaluate the current formula and make recommendations for change.

The first of five meetings will be held Oct. 23 in conjunction with the Board’s October meeting in Carbondale at Carbondale Community High School. The Board will submit its FY 2015 education budget recommendation by January to the Governor and General Assembly. The public budget hearings for FY 2015 will be conducted on the following dates and locations:

- **Wednesday, Oct. 23** – Immediately following board meeting (4 to 6 p.m.) – **Carbondale** – Carbondale Community High School Library, 1301 E. Walnut St., Carbondale, IL 62901.

- **Tuesday, Nov. 12** – 4 to 6 p.m. – **Champaign** – Champaign Public Library, 200 W. Green St., Champaign, IL 61820.

- **Thursday, Nov. 14** – 4 to 6 p.m. – **Grayslake** – College of Lake County, Auditorium, 19351 W. Washington St., Grayslake, IL 60030.

- **Wednesday, Nov. 20** – 4 to 6 p.m. – **Macomb** – Macomb High School Library, 1525 S. Johnson St., Macomb, IL 61455.

- **Friday, Nov. 22** – 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. – **Chicago** – Thompson Center, Conference Room 16-503, 100 W. Randolph St., Chicago, IL 60601.

Illinois requires state agencies to use a “Budgeting for Results” model to establish spending priorities, meet goals and deliver excellent services and value to taxpayers. To meet the Budgeting for Results requirements, budget hearing participants are asked to provide the following information when presenting their FY 2015 budget requests to the ISBE Finance and Audit Committee:

- **Outcomes**: What outcomes will the funding allotment achieve?

- **Measures**: What are the measurable results of these outcomes?
• **Value:** What is the value of the outcomes?

• **Historicals:** What outcomes have been achieved in the past?

• **Moving forward:** How does your organization plan to improve the value of services it provides using funding and other resources?

Those who are unable to attend one of the five public hearings are encouraged to email any guidance or feedback to ISBE at isbefy15@isbe.net.

In addition to developing the FY 2015 state education budget, the Board is assisting the Senate Education Funding Advisory Committee as it works to study the current method of distributing state funding to school districts. Testimony from the FY 2015 budget hearings regarding the funding formula will be shared with the Senate committee as it works to recommend a more equitable method of distributing available resources to schools. The committee is charged with having a proposal ready for the full General Assembly by next February.

As part of its work to support the Senate Education Funding Advisory Committee, the Board has developed a “white paper” to help drive the discussion and provide background and context. The Board has also developed a set of five key principles that should be considered as any recommendations for changing how education is financed are developed. They include:

1. **Adequacy** — provides a level of funding sufficient for a high quality education.

2. **Simplicity** — provides districts a predictable, understandable revenue stream that is used to maximize student outcomes.

3. **Transparency** — is easily accessed and understood by all citizens.

4. **Equity** — begins with everyone contributing a minimum tax rate and adjusts for student need by weighting the formula to allow for additional resources to address impediments to student achievement.

5. **Outcome-focused** — encourages student growth in learning.

You can access a copy of that “white paper” as well as the Board’s transmittal letter outlining its principles at [http://www.isbe.net/EFAC/default.htm](http://www.isbe.net/EFAC/default.htm).

Recently we provided information on the Chicago Public Schools 299 block grant to members of the General Assembly. Under legislation that became effective in 2011, CPS is required to submit expenditures by programs, population and service levels by program and administrative expenditures by program in the same manner as all other districts. A review of that data showed that in the 2011-12 school year CPS received significantly more funding through the Block Grant than if they were treated like all other districts. Data for 2012-13 is not yet ready, but I believe this is yet another reason to support the work of the Senate Education Funding Advisory Committee to review the entire Illinois K-12 funding system. You can access a copy of that report at [http://www.isbe.net/gov_relations/default.htm](http://www.isbe.net/gov_relations/default.htm).

Finally, I wanted to update you on how we will be sharing the 5Essentials results, the first statewide survey of all teachers and sixth through 12th graders. When we released the survey results in June to principals and superintendents for their review, many voiced several concerns about the data, including comparison
of the data to a 2011 CPS benchmark and the inclusion of several items, or questions, that were not applicable statewide. We have addressed most issues that were raised, however, two primary issues remain that need to be resolved before a full, public release of the data. First, we want to ensure that the relationship between survey results and student outcomes established in Chicago holds statewide. Second, we want to thoroughly review all items with Illinois educators to ensure they are applicable statewide. Both of these things can be accomplished prior to the next administration of the survey.

As we worked to come to a resolution this year, we have focused on the fact that this survey is designed as a tool for guiding school improvement planning. We know that 20 years of research from this study within CPS 299 shows that schools that focus on the 5Essentials and show strong results on the survey measures have a higher likelihood of improving student outcomes.

We are concerned that if we fully release the 5Essentials this year it will undermine its long-term use by administrators to help them make decisions on how best to improve school climate.

This year, we will report the student and teacher survey response rates on the state-produced School Report Card and we will also provide a link on the report card to the survey questions and schoolwide responses. We will also work with local teachers, principals and superintendents to further build their knowledge of the 5Essentials and allow them to explore its uses for school improvement planning. In addition:

- We will work with administrators to review the timeframe for the 2014 survey window.
- Following the release of the School Report Card, we will produce detail reports on the 5Essentials for each school and district to serve as a starting point for school improvement planning and work with administrators so they understand how to interpret and use the reports.
- We will review security around the survey administration. Administrators were concerned about the security of the survey, but no security issues were reported. In fact, data were invalidated for only seven schools on the teacher survey and no schools on the student survey.
- Next year we fully intend to release the complete 5Essentials measures on the State School Report Card, providing overall measures in all five categories as well as detailed reports for each school. Only those schools that did not complete the survey this year would be required to complete the 5Essentials survey next year, though all schools will be encouraged to participate.

This has been a complex process and I thank all of you and your statewide organizations for working with us to resolve this issue. I believe the 5Essentials is valid, reliable and will help to drive growth for Illinois students into the future.

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](http://www.isbe.net).*

- **ISBE offices closed for Columbus Day** – Oct. 14
- **National School Lunch Week/National Take Your Parents to Lunch Day** – Oct. 14-18
- **Thomas Lay Burroughs Award for the State’s Outstanding School Board President nomination deadline** – Oct. 18 ([http://www.isbe.net/pdf/burroughs_award.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/pdf/burroughs_award.pdf))
- **FY14 Supplemental General State Aid Plan deadline** – Oct 30
• **Correction Period Open for 2012-13 Pupil Transportation Reimbursement Claim** – Ends at midnight, Nov. 4
• **ISBE offices closed for Veterans Day** – Nov. 11
• **Nonpublic Registration, Enrollment, and Staff Report for school year 2013-14 in IWAS** – Deadline Nov. 15
• **2013-2014 Unfilled Positions Survey available on IWAS for data entry** – Deadline Nov. 15
• **Part 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision)** – Public comment period ends November 18
• **FY 14 School District Library Grant application deadline** – Nov. 22
• **School Energy Efficiency Grant and School Maintenance Project Grant application deadline** –
  (http://www.isbe.net/sbss/default.htm) Nov. 27
• **ISBE offices closed for Thanksgiving** – Nov. 28-29
• **FY14 NCLB Monitoring Instrument available for completion and submission in IWAS** – Due by Nov. 30
• **FY14 NCLB Title I Comparability document deadline (Available in IWAS)** – Nov. 30
• **ISBE offices closed for Christmas** – Dec. 25
• **ISBE offices closed for New Year’s Day** – Jan. 1
• **Postmark deadline for waiver applications to be considered by General Assembly in Spring 2014** – Friday, January 17, 2014 (See http://www.isbe.net/isbewaivers/default.htm for new public notice requirements for all waiver requests.)
• **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

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**Illinois Green Ribbon Schools**

**Award to Recognize the Most Green and Healthy Schools and Districts in the State**

Applications are now available for the Illinois Green Ribbon Schools Award program, recognizing schools that are leading the way to promote sustainability and environmental education. ISBE will accept applications from schools that have integrated best practices in energy, water and waste management, healthy school environments and environmental education.

ISBE has streamlined the application this year to encourage participation in the program. There will be up to four State of Illinois recipients of the Illinois Green Ribbon Schools Award. School districts with fewer than 200,000 students may select one school for which they submit an application. School districts with more than 200,000 students may select two schools for which they submit applications. Additionally, a district may apply as a district rather than selecting an individual school.

Applications, available on the ISBE website at http://www.isbe.net/green_ribbon/, must be submitted online or to the Springfield ISBE office by 5 p.m. Nov. 15. Illinois will announce its winners in late December. Recipients of the Illinois Green School Award will be forwarded to compete in the U.S. Department of Education’s Green Ribbon Schools program. The U.S. Department of Education will announce its winners in April 2014, followed by an award ceremony in Washington, D.C.

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**Preparation and Evaluation Division**

**Districts Invited to Participate in Research Study Examining Principal Evaluation**

The Illinois State Board of Education in conjunction with WESTAT Research Corp. would like to invite all districts to participate in a research study examining various aspects of principal evaluation.

This study is funded through Race to the Top III and will provide an opportunity for districts to give feedback and input into the implementation of the principal evaluation as prescribed in the Performance Evaluation Reform Act of 2010.
Data Analysis and Accountability Division

2013-2014 Nonpublic Registration, Enrollment and Staff Report in IWAS

The Nonpublic Registration, Enrollment, and Staff Report for school year 2013-2014 is available in IWAS. Completed reports must be received by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) no later than Nov. 15, 2013. (Effective Jan. 26, 2012, the nonpublic school registration-renewal deadline in state rules, i.e., 23 Illinois Administrative Code 425.20, was changed from Dec. 31 to Nov. 15.)

Nonpublic school registration is voluntary and annual. Nonpublic schools that have registered with ISBE at least once in the past must submit their data online via IWAS. All eligible schools should receive IWAS inbox messages regarding Nonpublic Registration, Enrollment, and Staff Report. Please check your IWAS inbox for reminders and updates. Nonpublic schools that have never registered with ISBE must submit their data using the paper form 87-01 that is available at http://www.isbe.net/research/htmls/np_entity.htm.

Public district administrators should communicate with nonpublic school administrators within their district boundaries and encourage them to submit registration, enrollment, and staff data. A portion of the public district funding allocation calculated for the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) uses nonpublic enrollment data that are reported voluntarily by nonprofit elementary and secondary schools.

Nonpublic schools seeking recognition: You must submit your Nonpublic Registration, Enrollment, and Staff Report before you can apply for recognition. Refer to the following link for more information about recognition: http://www.isbe.net/career/html/np_recognition.htm.

For questions related to the registration, contact ISBE Data Analysis and Accountability Division at (217) 782-3950. For technical assistance, contact the ISBE Help Desk at (217) 558-3600.

2013-2014 Unfilled Positions Survey Now Available on IWAS

The 2013-2014 Unfilled Positions Survey is now available on IWAS for data entry. The deadline for completing the survey and submitting it to ISBE is Nov. 15, 2013. Districts are to report the number of budgeted positions they were unable to fill as of Oct. 1, 2013. All districts that hire staff are required to complete the survey, even if districts did not have any unfilled positions.

To avoid duplicating unfilled positions reported by public school districts; other reporting entities (e.g., special education cooperatives) should only report their unfilled employee positions.

For questions concerning the survey content, email Jim Sweeney at jsweeney@isbe.net. For IWAS technical support, call the Help Desk at (217) 558-3600.

Title Grant Administration Division

Important Notice About Nonpublic School Application for Recognition and Calendar

The Nonpublic School Application for Recognition and Calendar will be submitted as a web-based application for the 2013-2014 school year. The Application for Recognition and Calendar will be made available in IWAS for recognized nonpublic school administrators, school document authors, and Regional Office of Education or Intermediate Service Center personnel to submit the applications and calendars electronically in a timely fashion. Paper applications and calendars will not be accepted.

Due to the adoption of rules for the “Voluntary Registration and Recognition of Nonpublic Schools” (Part 425 of the 23 Illinois Administrative Code), please note each recognized nonpublic school must have submitted the “Nonpublic Registration, Enrollment and Staff Report” and “Student Health Data – Immunization” for the 2013-2014 school year in order to submit the Nonpublic School Application for Recognition and Calendar. The Nonpublic School Application for Recognition and Calendar will be available starting Oct. 16, 2013 and will close on Nov. 15, 2013.

The 2013-2014 Nonpublic School Application for Recognition and Calendar are to be submitted to the respective Regional Office of Education or Intermediate Service Center by the close of business Nov. 15, 2013. Each Regional Office of Education is also required to transmit the Applications for Recognition and Calendars to the Illinois State Board of Education by Nov. 29, 2013. Nonpublic schools in the city of Chicago are to submit their applications and calendars directly to the Illinois State Board of Education by the close of business Nov. 15, 2013. No extensions will be granted. Schools that fail
to meet all requirements and deadlines concerning the registration and recognition of their nonpublic school risk losing their recognition status.


If you have questions concerning the components of this application, please contact Debbie Gheen in the Title Grant Administration Division at (217) 524-4832. If you need assistance processing your IWAS account or have any other technical questions, please contact the ISBE Helpdesk at (217) 558-3600.

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### Special Education Services Division

#### Conference on Best Practices in Nonpublic Special Education Programs Nov. 7-8

Registration for the annual Conference on Best Practices in Nonpublic Special Education Programs is now open. The conference is set for Nov. 7-8, 2013, at the Hilton Oak Lawn.

The keynote speaker for Thursday will be Dr. Louis Kraus Chief of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at Rush University Medical Center. He will also provide a break-out session.

Break-out sessions will review the latest in special education trends, school program and policy sessions, services, legal issues, public perspectives and the latest in clinical updates. Sessions will be led by nonpublic administrators, other leaders in the field of education, researchers and Illinois State Board of Education staff.

This year’s conference will feature a social event sponsored by the Illinois Association of Private Special Education Centers (IAPSEC) and the National Association of Private Special Education Centers (NAPSEC).

The conference rate is $135 and includes two days of keynotes, sessions, meals, networking and the social event. Registration closes Oct. 25. The registration page includes an updated schedule at-a-glance and can be viewed at http://www.isbe.state.il.us/spec-ed/np_handouts/default.htm.

If you have any questions, contact npconf@isbe.net.

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### Illinois Virtual School

#### IVS Teams With Other Virtual Schools to Offer ‘K-12 Teaching in the 21st Century’

Illinois Virtual School is collaborating with Kent State, Michigan Virtual University and many other state virtual schools to offer a free online learning course entitled “K-12 Teaching in the 21st Century.” It is a particularly unique opportunity, because we hope to attract not only current teachers, but high school students interested in becoming teachers in the future.

The online course runs from Oct. 7 to Nov. 8, 2013. Additional course and registration information is at http://www.mivu.org/MOOC/tabid/754/Default.aspx. Please share this information with teachers and guidance counselors.

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### School Business Services Division

#### School Energy Efficiency and School Maintenance Grant Applications Available

On Aug. 22, 2013, Gov. Pat Quinn announced the release of $20 million for the School Energy Efficiency Grant Program and $50 million for the School Maintenance Project Grant Program. These are both a part of the Illinois Jobs Now! Capital Program.

As announced to all districts through an IWAS email, the application materials for both grants were made available beginning Sept. 23 on the IWAS System. Applications must be submitted in IWAS to the Regional Offices of Education by Nov. 27, 2013.

The Energy Efficiency Grant Program is a dollar for dollar state matching grant program providing up to $250,000 for energy efficiency projects in schools. The grants can be used for insulation, windows, doors, energy

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controls, lighting, energy recovery, energy conservation, alternative energy systems and other projects designed to reduce energy consumption. All school districts, charter schools, vocational center or public university laboratory schools are eligible. For detailed information, go to http://www.isbe.net/sbss/ee_grants.htm or contact Debbie Hemberger with the School Business Services Division at (217) 785-8779.

The School Maintenance Project Grant Program is a dollar for dollar state matching grant program providing up to $50,000 for the maintenance or upkeep of buildings or structures for educational purposes. Funding from the School Maintenance Project Grant Program can go toward an array of improvement activities. All school districts, cooperative high schools and Type 40 area vocational centers are eligible. For detailed information, go to http://www.isbe.net/sbss/smp_grants.htm or contact Kimberly Beachy with the School Business Services Division at (217) 785-8779.

**Funding and Disbursements Division**

**Correction Period Open for 2012-13 Pupil Transportation Reimbursement Claim**

All local education entities are hereby notified that the review and amendment (if needed) process is now open and will end at midnight on Monday, Nov. 4, 2013. All revisions to the 2012-13 (FY14) Pupil Transportation Reimbursement Claim must be completed and transmitted on or before midnight on Nov. 4, 2013. No revisions will be accepted after midnight on Nov. 4, 2013, in order to close the claim file and schedule the three remaining quarterly payments.

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR REVIEWING THE CLAIM**

1. Log into the ISBE Web Application Security system.
2. Click on “System Listing” on the IWAS homepage.
3. Select “Pupil Transportation Claim Reimbursement System” under the “Annual Claims” heading.
4. Click on “Review Claim” under the “Reimbursement Claim” heading on the homepage. Do not click on “Revise Claim” button unless you need to make revisions.
5. The claim will be loaded to the screen in read-only format. Carefully review each line on the claim for possible revisions. If you entered transportation assets on the Depreciation Schedule, don’t forget to click on the “Depreciation Schedule” button at the bottom of the screen and review the depreciation schedule data for possible revisions.

If you do not have any revisions, you do not need to do anything. Your claim will remain as originally submitted by the statutory Aug. 15 due date.

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR REVISIONING THE CLAIM**

If you have reviewed the claim and found that revisions are needed to the depreciation schedule and/or the pupil transportation reimbursement claim:

1. Click on the “Revise Claim” link under the “Reimbursement Claim” heading on the homepage.
2. You may enter notes in the “Your Comments” text box to help you remember why revisions were needed. Click on the “Revise Claim” button at the bottom of the screen to proceed with revisions to the depreciation schedule (if needed) and the pupil transportation reimbursement claim.
3. Note that all links for the reimbursement claim are open and may be revised as needed. The “Depreciation Schedule Summary” link under the “Depreciation Schedule” heading has been changed to “Calculate Depreciation Allowance.” If you made any changes to transportation assets after the August submit date, you must click on this link and update the Depreciation Schedule.
4. After all revisions have been made, click on the “Review & Submit Claim.” All revised claims must be resubmitted to ISBE through the proper channels (Document Author to the District Superintendent and District Superintendent to ISBE.)

**NO REVISIONS TO THE CLAIM WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER MIDNIGHT ON MONDAY, NOV. 4, 2013.**

If you have questions regarding the amendment process, contact Jamie Johnson via telephone at (217) 782-5256 or via email at jjohnson@isbe.net.

**School Health Issues**

**Important Memorandum Regarding Shortage of Tdap Vaccine Issued**

A memorandum to district and school administrators,
school nurses, and regional superintendents of schools was issued Sept. 23 by the Illinois State Board of Education regarding a shortage of Tdap vaccine and ISBE’s decision on how to address the records of students who have not provided evidence of compliance by the date required for mandatory exclusion (Oct. 15 or an earlier date established by local policy).

This agreement is in accord with the immunization branch at the Illinois Department of Public Health. It is recommended that a copy of the memo is inserted into each student’s permanent health record that does not have the Tdap vaccine and meets the criteria on this memorandum, which is available online at http://www.isbe.net/pdf/school_health/tdap-shortage-memo0913.pdf.

The memorandum states:

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) is aware that there is a national shortage of Tdap vaccine, a vaccine for immunization against pertussis, diphtheria and tetanus that is required for school entry at grades 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12. Although ISBE cannot waive the requirement nor approve a delay in implementation, ISBE will consider this shortage in gauging school and district compliance with requirements for school attendance. Provided that certain conditions are met, there will be no recognition sanctions (pursuant to 23 Ill Admin. Code 1.20) against schools or districts that are not in compliance during the shortage.

1. The student’s permanent health record contains a statement from the health care provider that expects to provide the Tdap vaccine indicating that the student is not able to receive the vaccine currently due to its lack of availability; and

2. A verifiable record of appointment (health care provider name and contact information) to receive the Tdap vaccine on a specific date during the school year is in the student’s permanent record. The appointment made by the health care provider is an estimate of when the vaccine should become available and held for that student. Note: because these students are on an approved schedule, and the health care provider is declaring intent to vaccinate once the provider receives the vaccine, these appointment letters are not medical exemption requests and the letters are not to be submitted to IDPH for medical review; and

3. The date of the appointment (item 2 above) has not passed on the date that the record is audited;

For purposes of entering the required vaccine data on the IWAS later this year, numbers of students with an approved appointment and confirmation that the reason for the delay is the unavailability of the vaccine would be approved to be listed under the “approved schedule” field in IWAS.

This consideration applies only to the Tdap vaccine requirement. Any other lack of immunization, without valid medical or religious exemption, will be subject to sanction against the school. We recognize that this shortage in Tdap places an additional burden on school staff to monitor the student to ensure that the student does submit proof of vaccination on or immediately after the appointment date. If a child is delinquent for a scheduled appointment for immunization, he/she is no longer considered to be in compliance.

Nutrition and Wellness Programs Division

Celebrate National School Lunch Week

Annually school staffs across the country take one week in October, National School Lunch Week, to acknowledge the benefits of and the great meals served in the National School Lunch Program. (NSLP). This year, National School Lunch Week is Oct. 14-18.

This year’s theme, “School Lunch Across the USA,” examines American flavors such as those featured in the Midwestern Turkey and Noodles, Southwest Black Bean and Corn Salad, Sweet Southern Carrot Soufflé and Hawaiian Chicken and Pineapple Rice Bowl.


Upcoming Webinars Focus on Physical Education in Illinois


Members of this task force provided an overview of this report during the “Leading the Nation: Illinois Enhance P.E. Task Force Recommendations & Revised Learning Standards” webinar on Sept. 17. This webinar will replay 10 a.m. CST on Tuesday, Oct. 8, with a live Q&A
session with the speakers. For details and to register, visit http://iphionline.org/pdf/EPE_Sept_17_webinar_81513.pdf. Participants who complete evaluations are eligible for one CDPU hour.

In addition, the first of eight webinars on the Common Core Standards and their relationship to physical education and health is set for noon to 1 p.m. CST on Tuesday, Oct. 1. Participants are eligible for one hour towards teaching recertification or license renewal for each webinar they attend. To view the full schedule and to register, go to http://www.aahperd.org/whatwedo/prodev/common-core-state-standards-webinars.cfm.

2013 USDA Foods Show and Conference Scheduled for Oct. 17

The Illinois School Nutrition Association, along with the Illinois State Board of Education, invite you to come on Oct. 17 to the Abbington Distinctive Banquet in Glen Ellyn from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and learn about USDA Foods (government donated commodities) reprocessing procedures through educational sessions that will assist you in selecting processed end products that will meet your school district’s needs.

Jim Copp, a principal consultant with the Illinois State Board of Education, will be the General Session Speaker. Approved USDA NPA Commodity Processors will be available during the food show to answer questions and provide samples of available end products.

Education materials, including product cut sheets, pricing information and summary end product data schedule (SEPDS), will be available for you to take back to your school to assist you in making informed decisions when planning your menus and preparing to enter the USDA Foods order for SY2014-2015.

For agenda and registration information, go to http://www.ilsna.net/USDA_foods_show.asp.

Illinois Receives Team Nutrition Training Grant From the USDA

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has notified the Illinois State Board of Education of the 2013 Illinois Team Nutrition Training (TNT) Grant award of approximately $350,000.

ISBE will administer the 2013 Illinois Team Nutrition Training Grant, with the overarching goal of supporting Illinois schools and child-care centers in increasing and enhancing wellness efforts to assist children to develop life-long healthy eating and physical activity behaviors.


Watch for further announcements on these initiatives later this fall.

School Safety

Behavioral Threat Assessment Summit Set for Wednesday, Nov. 6, in Normal

The Illinois Emergency Management Agency, Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System and Heartland Community College will present the Behavioral Threat Assessment Summit from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 6.

In the wake of workplace and school shootings, the Behavioral Threat Assessment Summit will provide a forum and professional development training opportunity to learn how forming a threat assessment team can benefit your organization.

Four separate training tracks are offered: Campus, Workplace, School (K-12) and Military/Government. 8 to 5 p.m. The summit will be held at Heartland Community College, 1500 W. Raab Road, in Normal.

For more information and to register, go to http://iema.illinois.gov/iema/training/BehaviorSummit/.

Rules and Waivers

Invitation to Comment on Rules

A set of proposed amendments recently reviewed by the Illinois State Board of Education is available for public comment. The proposal has been posted on the agency’s Web site at http://www.isbe.net/rules; choose “Proposed Rules and Amendments.” Please submit any comments or suggestions to rules@isbe.net.

Part 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision): Incorporates the Next Generation Science Standards into the State Goals for Learning, beginning in the 2016-17 school year; modifies the Illinois Learning Standards for Physical Development and Health in response to recommendations of the Illinois Enhanced
Physical Education Task Force; makes technical changes to conform to the new licensure system that took effect July 1, 2013; and updates various provisions to reflect current policy and practices.

Public comment period ends November 18, 2013.

Illinois State Library

FY14 School District Library Grant Application Now Available Online

Applications are now being accepted for the Fiscal Year 2014 School District Library Grant. Applications and all other information concerning the school district library grant can be found on the Illinois State Library’s website at http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/grants/schoolpercapgrant.html.

Once you have accessed the blank application online, save the file (PDF format) to your computer before completing it. Adobe Reader (version 8.1 or higher) is required to complete the application and signature page. Macintosh and Windows versions of the free Adobe Reader are available for download from Adobe's website at http://get.adobe.com/reader/.

When submitting your application, please include “FY14 SDLP Per Capita Grant – (School District Office Location)” in the subject line on the email. The completed application should be emailed as an attachment to school-grant@ilsos.net. This year’s deadline to submit the grant application and signature page is Nov. 22, 2013. For questions concerning the grant, contact Robert Jones at rjones1@ilsos.net or (217-785-1168, or Becky Hunter at bhunter1@ilsos.net or (217) 782-7849.

In Brief

Professional Development

• The National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform, in conjunction with the Association of Middle-Grade Schools, will present a day-long national conversation on student engagement and motivation on Oct. 10 in Countryside, Ill., near Chicago. For more information, visit http://www.middlegradesforum.org/.

• The Illinois Association of School Nurses’ annual conference is set for Oct. 25-26 at the Northfield Inn and Conference Center in Springfield. This year’s conference is titled “Offering HOPE – Health, Opportunity, Prevention, Education – Through School Nursing.” For more information, visit www.iasn.org.

• Register for the Flipped Learning workshop on Oct. 26 presented by Illinois Computing Educators and the Flipped Learning Network at Washington (Ill.) Community High School, near Peoria. Jonathan Bergmann, co-author of “Flip Your Classroom: Reach Every Student in Every Class Every Day,” will give the opening keynote. For more information and to register, visit http://www.iceberg.org/flipped.

• The 25th annual National Dropout Prevention Network Conference is set for Nov. 3-6 in Atlanta. Conference partners include the National Dropout Prevention Network and the Georgia Department of Education. For more information, visit http://www.dropoutprevention.org/conferences/25th-annual-national-dropout-prevention-network-conference.

Educator Awards

• Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago is accepting nominations for the Barbara O’Donnell Award for Illinois Law-Related Education High School Teacher of the Year and the Edward J. Lewis II Award for Illinois Law-Related Education Elementary Teacher of the Year. The deadline is Oct. 4. Visit http://www.crfc.org/professional-development/teacher-year-awards.

School Opportunities

• Schools are invited to participate in the annual Global Enterprise Challenge. The GEC is an international online enterprise skills competition for teams of high school students (Those born in 1996, 1997 or 1998 are eligible this year). In 2014, the GEC will take the form of a 12-hour challenge on June 14, 2014. For more information and to register, visit http://www.globalenterprisechallenge.com/.

• Join the Pearson Foundation and Jumpstart on Oct. 3 for the annual Read for the Record. Each year, readers everywhere join together on one day to read a single book to break the world record and to show their support for early childhood literacy. For more information, including a Read for the Record toolkit, visit http://www.wegivebooks.org/readfortherecord.

• The National Center for Urban School Transformation is seeking applications from the nation’s best urban schools for the annual National Excellence in Urban Education Award. The criteria and the award application are available online at http://www.ncust.org. The deadline to apply is Nov. 15.
Student Opportunities

- The Midwest Student Exchange Program is a tuition reduction program that helps students attend participating out-of-state college and universities. Visit [http://msep.mhec.org](http://msep.mhec.org) for more information.

- The Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth is sponsoring a new competition for aspiring scientists ages 13-18. For more information about the CTY Cogito Research Awards, which will provide funds and mentors to up to 10 students, visit [https://cogito.cty.jhu.edu/?p=39168](https://cogito.cty.jhu.edu/?p=39168).

- The Cyber Aces Foundation invites students to register for the Illinois Cyber Aces State Championship. The free statewide competition aims to discover and develop the state’s top cyber talent. To learn more, visit [www.cyberaces.org](http://www.cyberaces.org). The Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy in Aurora and Wheeling High School are leading in registrations so far. The deadline is Oct. 12.

- Applications for the 2014 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards for middle level and high school youth volunteers are available online at [http://spirit.prudential.com](http://spirit.prudential.com). The application deadline is Nov. 5. The awards are sponsored by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

- Registration is under way for the annual First Freedom Student Competition, a national essay and video contest for high school students, which asks students to examine the history and current-day relevance of religious freedom. The deadline to register is Nov. 18. For more information, visit [www.firstfreedom.org](http://www.firstfreedom.org).


- The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum and its foundation are planning a variety of events this fall for the 150th anniversary of the Gettysburg Address, including an essay contest ([http://www.alplm.org/272.aspx](http://www.alplm.org/272.aspx)), a workshop, a webcast and more. For more information, visit [http://www.illinois.gov/alplm/GettysburgAddress150/Documents/GettysburgAddressinvitation.pdf](http://www.illinois.gov/alplm/GettysburgAddress150/Documents/GettysburgAddressinvitation.pdf).

- High school and college students can enter the seventh annual Create-A-Greeting-Card Scholarship sponsored by The Gallery Collection. The deadline for submissions is Jan. 15. For more information, go to [http://www.gallerycollection.com/greeting-cards-scholarship.htm](http://www.gallerycollection.com/greeting-cards-scholarship.htm).

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).