Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

Later this month, we will introduce a new, more user-friendly 2013 State, District and School Report Card. The new School Report Card will be available to the public Oct. 31 and will feature multiple measures to provide a better picture of what’s happening within our schools, rather than just a snapshot in time of school test scores.

We hope to get you an advance look at the new School Report Card via IWAS, but this has been delayed as we have been working to finalize the format, including our final decision on what will be reported with regards to the 5Essentials.

Last week, we put out the Report Card in its traditional compliance format via IWAS. It contains all of the metrics that are on the new School Report Card.

As we have in the past, we have allowed members of the media access to this data on an embargoed basis, until the Oct. 31 official release. Even though the information members of the media receive from us is embargoed, you may release your individual report card information at anytime on a non-embargoed basis.

This weekend we will honor more than 180 outstanding educators at the 39th annual Those Who Excel/Teacher of the Year banquet in Normal. Among those being honored are the 11 finalists for Teacher of the Year, one of whom will be named that evening as the top Illinois educator for 2014.

This is one of my favorite nights of the year because we are able to honor such a diverse group of people that are committed to helping students succeed. The categories for recognition are:

- Classroom teacher
- School administrator
- Student support personnel
- Educational service personnel
- School board member and/or community volunteer
- Teams, which recognizes groups of teachers and/or administrators; citizen committees; civic organizations; parent organizations; school boards; booster clubs and others that have a significant impact on teaching and learning in a school or district.
- Early Career Educator
This promises to be a great night for recognizing so many educators who have given so much to our young people. Due to overwhelming demand for the annual event, tickets are sold out.


Have a great week.

Chris

**Upcoming Dates and Deadlines**

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

- **Thomas Lay Burroughs Award for the State's Outstanding School Board President nomination deadline** – Oct. 18 (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 (http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/grants/schoolpercappgrant.html)
- **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

**School Business Services Division**

**School Energy Efficiency and Maintenance Grant Program Applications Available**

This is a reminder notice that both the School Energy Efficiency and the School Maintenance Grant Applications are still open for submission. The application process opened on Monday, Sept. 23, 2013, and will remain open until Wednesday, Nov. 27, 2013.

For this round of the Maintenance Grant, there is $50 million available to be awarded, allowing over 800 districts to receive a grant. In addition, the governor has released $20,000,000 for the Energy Efficiency Grant.
Illinois State Board of Education strongly encourages you to participate in both grant programs.

**Energy Efficiency Grant Program**

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

**School Maintenance Project Grants**

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](http://www.isbe.net/sbss/smp_grants.htm) or contact Kimberly Beach with the School Business Services Division at (217) 785-8779.

**Award Program**

**Nominations Sought for History Teacher of the Year**

The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History is seeking nominations for the annual National History Teacher of the Year Award, given to the best American history teacher in the United States. The National History Teacher of the Year is chosen from outstanding history teachers in each state, district and U.S. territory. The Illinois History Teacher of the Year will compete for the national award, which is sponsored by the Gilder Lehrman Institute, Preserve America and HISTORY (the History Channel).

Nominations for the National History Teacher of the Year can be made by a student, parent, colleague, supervisor (including department head, principal, superintendent, curriculum director), or other education professional familiar with the teacher’s work. State winners receive $1,000 and an archive of books and other resources for their school. Each winner is honored in a ceremony in his or her home state. The national winner receives $10,000.

Elementary school teachers (grades K–6) and middle and high school teachers (grades 7–12) are honored in separate categories in alternate years. The 2014 National History Teacher of the Year Award will honor a middle or high school level teacher.

To nominate a teacher and learn more about the award, visit [www.gilderlehrman.org/nhtoy](http://www.gilderlehrman.org/) or contact the Gilder Lehrman National History Teacher of the Year coordinator at nhtoy@gilderlehrman.org or (646) 366-9666. You may also contact your state coordinator, Sarah McCusker of the Illinois State Board of Education, at (217) 524-4832 or smccuske@isbe.net.

The nomination deadline is Feb. 1, 2014.

**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/](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.
**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.

For more information, contact Dr. Tony Milanowski, Chief Researcher, at anthonymilanowski@westat.com.

**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 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.

**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 2013-14 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.

**Rules and Waivers**

**Notice of Completed Rulemaking**

Please be advised that four sets of amendments recently adopted by the Illinois State Board of Education are now in effect. Changes have been posted at [http://www.isbe.net/rules/archive/default.htm](http://www.isbe.net/rules/archive/default.htm). Please choose “Rules Currently in Effect” and scroll to Parts 65, 75, 140 and 210.

**Part 65 (Driver Education):** Makes technical changes to conform to the new licensure system that took effect July 1, 2013.  
*Affected Section:* 65.20 and 65.130  
*Effective Date:* September 27, 2013

**Part 75 (Agricultural Education Program):** Makes technical changes to conform to the new licensure system that took effect July 1, 2013.  
*Affected Section:* 75.40, 75.210, 75.220, 75.260, 75.300, 75.310 and 75.320  
*Effective Date:* September 27, 2013

**Part 140 (Calculation of Excess Cost under Section 18-3 of the School Code):** Makes technical changes to conform to the new licensure system that took effect July 1, 2013.  
*Affected Section:* 140.30  
*Effective Date:* September 27, 2013

**Part 210 (Illinois Hope and Opportunity Pathways through Education Program):** Makes technical changes to conform to the new licensure system that took effect July 1, 2013.  
*Affected Section:* 210.40, 210.60, 210.70 and 210.100  
*Effective Date:* September 27, 2013

**Special Education Services Division**

**Screening, Assessment and Support Services (SASS) Update**

SASS provides intensive mental health services for children and youth who may need hospitalization for mental health care. When a child is at risk to himself or others, and any time you or others think a child is having a mental health crisis, the CARES line can be contacted.

Please take note and remind your schools: It may be neither appropriate nor legal for schools to tell parents that they need to have their child screened before they will be allowed to return to school.

For more information regarding the appropriate use of SASS and the CARES line, go to [http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=64971](http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=64971).

**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](http://www.isbe.state.il.us/spec-ed/np_handouts/default.htm). If you have any questions, contact npconf@isbe.net.

**2013-2014 District Technology Plan Template Now Open on IIRC**

If your district has a technology plan that will expire on June 30, 2014, please note that there is a new technology plan template available through the IIRC. ISBE has provided a writing guide to help districts through the new template and provide writing guidance. Detailed
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.

School Safety

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

The Illinois Emergency Management Agency, Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System, State Farm 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. 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/.

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 other information concerning the grant can be found online 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.

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

Applications Available for Lake Education Assistance Program (LEAP) Grants

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency grant program provides funding (up to $500 per application period) for lake and lake watershed related educational field trips, seminars or workshops, projects or activities. Projects and activities must have stated goals and involve the enhanced lake or lake watershed education of teachers, students, organizations or the community. LEAP is a reimbursement grant.

Application deadlines are Sept. 30 and Jan. 31. Only one application per school or organization for each application period will be accepted. For more information, visit http://www.epa.state.il.us/water/conservation/leap.html.

In Brief

Professional Development

- 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.
• Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago’s 24th annual **Conference for Teachers in Civics, Law, and Government** is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 1. For more information, visit [http://www.crfc.org/ProfessionalDevelopmentConference2013](http://www.crfc.org/ProfessionalDevelopmentConference2013).

**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/](http://www.globalenterprisechallenge.com/).

**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.

• Applications for the 2014 **Prudential Spirit of Community Awards** for middle level and high school youth volunteers are available online at [http://spirt.prudential.com](http://spirt.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.

• 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**

• The Illinois State Board of Education has posted highlights from recent **education news clips** at [http://www.isbe.net/news/2013/newsclips/131015.htm](http://www.isbe.net/news/2013/newsclips/131015.htm).

**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).