Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

This week the Illinois State Board of Education will meet in Carbondale. The meeting was originally scheduled to be two days; however, we believe with an early start we should be able to address all agenda items in one day. The Board will meet at 8 a.m. Wednesday at Carbondale High School. Those interested in providing public comment should plan to arrive as close to the start of the meeting as possible.

During the meeting, staff will provide Board members with an overview of the new School Report Card. The comprehensive version of the Report Card, what we have produced in previous years, is already available for superintendents to review through IWAS. We will also release on Oct. 31 two new versions of the Report Card that have been designed to be easier to read and understand. More information about the Report Cards follows the column.

I also want to remind you of the resources that we have available to schools and districts to assist you as you have conversations with your school communities about all of the initiatives we are working on this fall. We have developed fact sheets and FAQ documents on Common Core, the higher ISAT Cut Scores, New Report Card, 5Essentials, New Growth Model and future online assessments. We’ve posted them in Word format so that you can use as you wish, either simply printing them and providing them to parents, public or staff, or feel free to copy and paste and customize for your individual districts or school. You may access fact sheets and frequently asked questions at http://www.isbe.net/hot-topics.htm#facts.

The Board’s Finance and Audit Committee will host its first Fiscal Year 2015 budget hearing immediately following Wednesday’s meeting of the full board in Carbondale. ISBE’s Finance and Audit Committee is hosting a total of five public hearings across the state to gather public input on what education needs should be a priority.

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.

Congratulations to Pam Reilly, a second grade teacher from Sandwich Community Unit School District 430 who was named Saturday night as our 2014 Teacher of the Year. Reilly, who teaches at Woodbury Elementary in northern Illinois, was one of 11 finalists. She is a graduate of Aurora University with a Bachelor of Science in education and a Master of Education from National-Louis University. She is in her 12th year of teaching.
In addition to Reilly and the other finalists for Teacher of the Year, we honored more than 180 educators Saturday night at our 39th annual Those Who Excel banquet. Congratulations to all of the honorees.

Finally, Friday is Principal Appreciation Day. Please take a moment to thank these hardworking administrators that lead our instruction every day and run our schools.

Have a great week!

Chris

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**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).

- **FY14 Supplemental General State Aid Plan deadline** – Oct. 30
- **School District Budget Form 50-36 deadline** – Oct. 31 ([http://www.isbe.net/sfms/budget/default.htm](http://www.isbe.net/sfms/budget/default.htm))
- **Special Education Summer School claim deadline** – Nov. 1
- **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
- **School Energy Efficiency Grant and School Maintenance Project Grant application deadline** – Nov. 27 ([http://www.isbe.net/sbss/default.htm](http://www.isbe.net/sbss/default.htm))
- **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](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 Report Cards**

**Release Set for Oct. 31 for Comprehensive and Two New Versions of the Report Card**

Next week, on Oct. 31, we will release the 2013 State, School, and District Report Cards. As in previous years, we will release the comprehensive version of these Report Cards required by the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) on [isbe.net](http://isbe.net). This version of the Report Cards includes each school and district’s Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Status and Federal and State Improvement Statuses. A preview of this report is currently available to superintendents through IWAS on the eReport Card Application.
In addition to these comprehensive Report Cards, we will also release two new versions of the Report Card on Oct. 31. These have been designed to make the Report Card data easier for all stakeholders — including superintendents, principals, teachers and parents — to understand. We anticipate that you will find these versions of the Report Cards much easier to use, and after this transition year we intend to retire the reports we have historically produced. The new versions of the Report Cards will be available on Oct. 31 on illinoisreportcard.com.

- The Online Report Card provides an interactive tool for exploring school performance data. The tool includes detailed descriptions of each metric alongside the results for each school and district.

- The At-A-Glance Report Card, which can be downloaded from the Online Report Card, summarizes the Report Card data in a two-page snapshot. We recommend that principals distribute this version to parents and community members.

You can visit Illinoisreportcard.com now to access Report Card-related materials for principals. These include sample letters and flyers to distribute to parents and teachers. You can also enter your email address to be notified when a preview of the templates for the At-A-Glance Report Card are posted later this week.

We will not be able to give principals and superintendents a preview of the new versions of the Report Cards filled in with their own data. However, with the exception of the 5Essentials results, all data included in these new versions are included in the comprehensive Report Cards that were posted on Oct. 11 via IWAS in the eReport Card application. We plan to release a preview of our Survey of Learning Conditions item reports via IWAS in the eReport Card application by the beginning of next week. These data are currently available to principals and superintendents in the reports distributed by the University of Chicago in June.

Several new metrics are featured on the Report Card this year as required by Illinois School Code (105 ILCS 5/10-17a). These include a measure of high school student readiness for college course work (as measured by receiving an ACT score of 21 or higher) and a measure of student academic growth.

The following is a list of metrics that will appear on this year’s Report Card:

**Academic Progress**
- State Test Achievement (Illinois Standards Achievement Test, Prairie State Achievement Exam and Illinois Alternate Assessment)
- Ready for College Course Work
- Graduation Rate, 4-Year
- Graduation Rate, 5-Year
- Student Academic Growth

**Student Characteristics**
- Racial/Ethnic Diversity
- Low-Income Students
- English Learners
- Students with Disabilities
- Homeless Students

**School Environment**
- Average Class Size
- Student Mobility
- Instructional Spending Per Pupil
- Operational Spending Per Pupil
- Student Attendance
- Chronic Truancy Rate
- Total School Days
- 5Essentials Survey (questions and responses)

**Programs and Courses**
- Advanced Placement Courses
- International Baccalaureate Courses
- Foreign Language Courses
- Before and After School Care
- Career and Technical Education Courses
- Dual Enrollment Courses
- Elective Courses
- Health and Wellness Programs
- Community Programs and Partnerships
- Work Study Programs
- Athletics
- Dual Credit Courses
- Fine and Applied Arts Courses
- Physical Education Courses
- Health and Nutrition Courses
- Academic Enrichment Programs
- Fine and Applied Arts Programs
- Awards – Faculty and Staff
- Awards – Scholastic
- Awards – Athletic
- Awards – Community
We have received many questions about the student academic growth model. For those wanting to learn more, a webinar and informational materials are available from the Department of Student Assessment website at http://isbe.net/assessment/default.htm?coll5=open#CollapsiblePanel5. A parent-friendly video describing the student academic growth metric will also be posted on illinoisreportcard.com.

**Illinois Center for School Improvement**

**American Institutes for Research and ISBE Welcome New Illinois CSI Director**

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and American Institutes for Research (AIR) welcome José A. Rico to the position of director for the Illinois Center for School Improvement (Illinois CSI).

In his role as director, Rico will lead the strategic development of the Illinois Statewide System of Support (SSoS) and will manage implementation of Illinois CSI activities, services and staff. The director is responsible for facilitating collaboration and partnerships with the regional offices of education and intermediate service centers, the ISBE Roundtable, and other SSoS partners.

ISBE Deputy Superintendent and Chief Education Officer Susie Morrison expressed confidence in Rico, the new Illinois CSI director: “We are extremely pleased that José will lead the important work of the Illinois Center for School Improvement as we collaborate with AIR, the greater SSoS network, and our school districts to improve outcomes and opportunities for Illinois students.”

Rico, a graduate of Chicago Public Schools, served as the founding principal of Chicago’s Multicultural Arts High School, which opened in 2005. Previously, he worked for the University of Illinois—Chicago’s College of Education, where he helped develop small, innovative learning communities in public schools and served as a school improvement coach. He also worked on school projects with the Knowledge Works Foundation and the National Council of La Raza.

From 2009 to 2013, Rico was executive director of the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics, where he developed policy, planned strategic initiatives, and led outreach and communications for President Barack Obama’s education agenda and the Latino community.

In this position, Rico designed and organized numerous White House Policy Summits, advised U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan and other senior administration officials in the development of policy priorities, and spoke on behalf of the White House with national and local media. Rico drafted an executive order signed by the president on Oct. 19, 2010, that increased public-private partnerships targeting all phases of learning, from early childhood to higher education.

Illinois CSI is a partnership between ISBE and AIR. Its mission is to lead the delivery of high-quality, research-based regional and statewide services designed to raise student performance by increasing district-level capacity for exceptional teaching and learning.

**School Business Services Division**

**Reminders for School Budget Form and Annual Financial Report Deadlines**

**School Budgets Due to ISBE Oct. 31, 2013:** This is a reminder that all school district budgets are to be adopted within or before the first quarter of each fiscal year and joint agreement budgets are adopted before Sept. 1, annually. All budgets are required to be entered and adopted on the applicable form provided by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) at the following link: http://www.isbe.net/sfms/budget/default.htm. The School District Budget Form 50-36 is submitted electronically to ISBE within 30 days of adoption and no later than Oct. 31, 2013.

**The filing deadline for the Annual Financial Report (AFR) is Oct. 15 of each year:** Statue requires that the AFR and attachments are to be filed on or before Oct. 15 of each year with the appropriate Regional Superintendent. 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 electronically submitted to ISBE on or before November 15. As well, a hard copy of the cover page through Page 8 is required to be mailed to ISBE with the appropriate signatures affixed by Nov. 15.

The AFR and related material for school districts/joint agreements may be obtained from the following website: http://www.isbe.net/sfms/afr/afr.htm.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact School Business Services at (217) 785-8779.
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.

Data Analysis and Accountability Division

2013-14 Eye Examination Data Collection

The Student Health Data – Vision system is now available in IWAS for school year 2013-2014 data submission. All students in kindergarten and any student enrolled for the first time in an Illinois school as of Oct. 15, 2013, must have their data reported. Completed reports must be received by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) no later than June 30, 2014.

Below are important links to reference when submitting your data.

- Eye Examination Data Entry Worksheet: [http://www.isbe.net/research/xls/eye_exam_wksht.xls](http://www.isbe.net/research/xls/eye_exam_wksht.xls)
- School Eye Examinations – Information Sheet: [http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/eye_examinations.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/eye_examinations.pdf)

Every eligible school, without exception, must submit a report. Schools that are not the home school for any student should submit the report by selecting the “We have no student data to report” option. This option may also be selected by home schools that do not serve kindergarten students and didn’t have any grades 1-12 students enrolling for the first time in an Illinois school.

All eligible schools should receive IWAS inbox messages regarding Student Health Data – Vision Data Collection, so please check your IWAS inbox for reminders and updates. Please share this information with school nurses, health technicians and individuals responsible for submitting your eye examination data to ISBE.

For data collection questions, contact ISBE’s Data Analysis and Accountability Division at (217) 782-3950. For technical assistance, contact the ISBE Help Desk at (217) 558-3600.

2013-2014 Student Health Data – Vision Data Collection

Every eligible school, without exception, must submit a report! All students in kindergarten and any student enrolled for the first time in an Illinois school as of Oct. 15, 2013, must have their data reported.

Attention: Schools that are not the home school for any student should submit the report by selecting the “We have no student data to report” option. This option may also be selected by home schools that do not serve kindergarten students and didn’t have any
grades 1-12 students enrolling for the first time in an Illinois school.

Deadline for submission: Monday, June 30, 2014, at 11:59 p.m.

The following documents will be available while entering your data online through IWAS.
- Student Health Data – Vision System – IWAS User Guide for Electronic Submission
- Eye Examination Data Entry Worksheet
- School Eye Examinations-Information Sheet

For data collection questions, contact ISBE Data Analysis and Accountability Division at (217) 782-3950. For technical assistance, contact ISBE’s Help Desk at (217) 558-3600. Thank you!

**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.

**Attention Principals**

**Deadline Nearing for Nominations for U.S. Presidential Scholar Program**

The Illinois State Board of Education is seeking candidates for the U.S. Presidential Scholar Program. This program honors outstanding high school students based on their outstanding scholarship and promise of future success. ISBE is encouraging principals to nominate students who might not otherwise be nominated through the current SAT/ACT or arts recognition process.

All high school seniors graduating between January and June 2014 who are U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents, who attend public, parochial or independent schools, as well as those who are home-schooled, are eligible.

The 2014 U.S. Presidential Scholars will be selected by the Commission on Presidential Scholars and will receive the Presidential Scholars Medallion and an expense paid trip to Washington, D.C., in June.

When submitting a student for consideration, the nomination letter should address the following questions:

1. What about the student makes him or her stand out as having outstanding scholarship?
2. What special challenges or hurdles has this student overcome while still achieving high academic success?

Please submit nominations to ISBE, Public Information, 100 N. First St., Springfield, IL 62777. Nominations must be received by Nov. 1, 2013.

For additional information about the program, visit www.ed.gov/psp.

**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 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.

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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/](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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### 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

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### Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

**Applications Available for Lake Education Assistance Program (LEAP) Grants**

This 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](http://www.epa.state.il.us/water/conservation/leap.html).
Bullying Prevention

Illinois African American Coalition for Prevention Offers K-12 Grant Opportunity

The Illinois African American Coalition for Prevention is seeking a school (can be K-12, public or private, charter, parochial or alternative) to partner on a bullying prevention grant opportunity. The grant will provide funds for up to three years to support implementation of a schoolwide bullying prevention program for students in grades K-12. The performance period for the first phase of the grant is anticipated to be Jan. 1 to June 30, 2014. An interested school would need to be willing to:

- Assess the extent of bullying in the school;
- Form a school bullying prevention committee;
- Select a schoolwide bullying prevention program by March 15, 2014;
- Ensure all staff are trained per selected program guidelines by June 30, 2014; and
- Develop a plan to launch the bullying prevention program in the fall of 2014.

If you or someone you know might be interested in this opportunity, please contact Kristy Rauch, ILAACP Special Initiatives Director, at krauch@ilaacp.org or (312) 850.4444, ext. 227. Contact deadline is Friday Oct. 25, 2013.

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.

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/.

Weekly News Clips


Employment Opportunities

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