The implementation of Common Core is in full swing in Illinois districts and we will be fully aligning the 2014 spring ISATs to the Common Core after a more limited alignment this past year. As you have worked toward implementation I know there have been many thoughtful conversations between engaged administrators and teachers plotting the course for how best to reflect the new standards in the classroom.

Common Core implementation in Illinois hasn’t been without resistance in some corners, but thoughtful communication and presentations about these new expectations goes far to increase understanding. Thank you for your efforts to engage your local school communities.

A recent survey by Scholastic shows that the awareness and support for Common Core among Illinois educators is very strong. The third edition of Primary Sources surveyed more than 20,000 teachers nationwide this summer and the full report is not yet complete, but a preview with some state specific information is available now at http://www.scholastic.com/primarysources/2013preview/index.htm.

These preliminary results show strong support for and confidence in the Common Core among educators, but also concerns about implementation. Some of the findings include:

- 76 percent of surveyed teachers are enthusiastic about implementing the Common Core.
- 79 percent of surveyed teachers believe the new standards will have a positive impact on student reasoning and critical thinking skills.
- 76 percent believe implementation will be a challenge.

The survey showed teachers are concerned about the availability of high quality instructional materials and also how to best assist students currently working below grade level as well as students with disabilities.

I want to make you aware of a team of statewide experts you can tap for information about the Common Core State Standards and the PARCC. The Illinois Educator Leader Cadre (ELC) is a network of educators who assist the State Board staff in building awareness and understanding of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and the PARCC assessments. Over the last two years, members have received additional training on the CCSS and PARCC through the National Math and Science Initiative. A listing of ELC members as well as a map of their locations is available here: http://www.isbe.net/assessment/pdfs/parcc/elc-map.pdf.
We will be submitting waiver applications to the U.S. Department of Education later this month for limited flexibility in those schools that will be field testing the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers and the Dynamic Learning Maps assessments (The consortium-developed test for those students with significant cognitive disabilities, replacing the Illinois Alternate Assessment). We are surveying districts for feedback. More information about the flexibility that we are seeking and survey information appear later in the Weekly Message.

Thanks and 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.

- Student Health Data – Immunization system report deadline – Nov. 15
- 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 Nov. 18
- 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
- Part 22 (Code of Ethics for Illinois Educators), Part 23 (Standards for the School Service Personnel Certificate), Part 28 (Standards for Certification in Special Education) and Part 29 (Standards for Administrative Certification) – Public comment period ends December 23
- 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
- Student Health Data – Vision system report deadline – June 30

Assessment Division

ISBE to Apply for Double Testing and Determination Flexibility for Districts

The U.S. Department of Education has issued guidance on applications for double testing flexibility and determination flexibility. The Illinois State Board of Education is planning on completing an application to provide districts this flexibility in relationship to the Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) field testing and the Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) field testing (for the students who would have taken the Illinois Alternate Assessment).
Schools are defined as participating in the field test if at least one full classroom or course section takes the assessment in the 2013-2014 school year.

Double testing flexibility refers to the administration of both the Illinois Standards Achievement Test and the Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Career (PARCC) or DLM and notes, “any individual student within Illinois will be permitted to take only one assessment in each content area in 2013–2014 — either the current State assessment or the full form of the field test of the new assessment aligned to college- and career-ready standards.” (U.S. Department of Education)

- The “full test” for PARCC is defined as both the Performance-based Assessment and the End-of-Year assessment for either domain (ELA OR Mathematics).
- The “full test” for DLM is the three testlets administered in January, March, and May).

Determination flexibility “permit(s) ISBE and selected LEAs to refrain from reporting performance against AMOs for the subject(s) being field tested in any school or single-school LEA that participates in the field test of the new assessments aligned to college- and career-ready standards.” (U.S. Department of Education)

- ONLY applies to schools or one-school districts.
- Permits school to retain their 2013-2014 improvement status.
- Schools would continue the same interventions in 2014-2015.

Many districts have received notification of invitation to participate in the field testing for these two tests. Additionally, many districts have requested to participate if not chosen or have requested to participate with more classrooms than the original sample. The field test samples are continuing to be developed and a final list of districts and schools participating in the two tests will be distributed later this fall.

Based on the guidelines put forward by the U.S. Department of Education, ISBE has determined that flexibility can be requested for those schools in which participating classrooms in grades 3 through 8 will be taking the English/language arts or mathematics PARCC field test or DLM field test. Unfortunately, due to the structure of the high school Prairie State Achievement Exam (PSAE), we cannot waive the English/language arts or the mathematics assessments for these schools. Schools administering the DLM field tests at the high school level are eligible for the double testing waiver due to the structure of the IAA test at the 11th grade.

There is an exception to the request that ISBE is submitting. We cannot request double-testing or determination flexibility for schools that have received a School Improvement Grant (SIG). Some of the SIG grantees have not been chosen to participate in the field tests, however, those that have been chosen to field test the DLM will not be eligible for a waiver.

As a part of the waiver application to the U.S. Department of Education, ISBE is required to collect input from the field. We would appreciate it if you could take a few moments to complete the survey located at https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/8HNRW86. The input that you provide will be reviewed by ISBE staff and provided to the Department of Education for consideration.

If you have any questions about this waiver, contact Mary O’Brien at (866) 317.6034 or mobrian@isbe.net.

Dynamic Learning Maps
Field Test Opportunity

Illinois is a member of the Dynamic Learning Maps™ (DLM) Consortium. DLM is the new alternate assessment for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. We are planning a field test and we want you to join us.

Each DLM Field Test is designed to accomplish certain goals. Collectively, these goals are designed to prepare the assessment system for its operational phase beginning in 2014-15. All tests will include a teacher survey for feedback on system features.

Please help the DLM Consortium reach our goal of maximum student participation in the field tests. Please reply to the survey by Nov. 15 using this link: https://kansasedu.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_1BVeB6p9r9zXYXRY. The primary goal of this survey is to gather your best estimates on the numbers of students who will participate in each field test. We will use this information to further refine our field test plans.

Common Core
Illinois Educator Leader Cadre (ELC) a Valuable Resource for Districts

We would like to make you aware of a resource that you can access for information about the Common Core State
Standards and the PARCC. The Illinois Educator Leader Cadre (ELC) is a network of educators who assist the state board staff in building awareness and understanding of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and the PARCC assessments.

Over the past two years, members have received additional training on the CCSS and PARCC through the National Math and Science Initiative. A listing of ELC members, as well as a map of their locations, is available at [http://www.isbe.net/assessment/pdfs/parcc/elc-map.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/assessment/pdfs/parcc/elc-map.pdf).

**Upcoming Webinar**

**Nov. 25 Session on ‘Using a Value Table to Determine School and District Growth’**

Join us on Nov. 25 for the webinar “Using a Value Table to Determine School and District Growth.” Space is limited. Reserve your webinar seat now at [https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/312325456](https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/312325456).

This webinar will provide participants with an overview of the student academic growth metric using a value table. A brief review of the background of the value table and a case study with specific data used to determine a growth metric will be presented. After registering you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

- **Title:** Using a Value Table to Determine School and District Growth
- **Date:** Monday, Nov. 25, 2013
- **Time:** 10-11 a.m. CST
- **System Requirements:** Windows 8, 7, Vista, XP or 2003 Server required for PC-based attendees. Mac OS X 10.6 or newer required for Mac-based attendees. For Mobile attendees, iPhone, iPad, Android phone or Android tablet is required.

**Illinois Report Card**

**School Districts Required to Present Report Card to Board and Post Online**

On Oct. 31, the Illinois State Board of Education released the new School, District and State Report Cards at [illinoisreportcard.com](http://illinoisreportcard.com). There have been questions from school districts about the requirements for presenting the report card to their boards and posting it on their websites. Below is the statutory obligation:

> “Annually, no more than 30 calendar days after receipt of the school district and school report cards from the State Superintendent of Education, each school district, including special charter districts and districts subject to the provisions of Article 34, shall present such report cards at a regular school board meeting subject to applicable notice requirements, post the report cards on the school district’s Internet web site, if the district maintains an Internet web site, make the report cards available to a newspaper of general circulation serving the district, and, upon request, send the report cards home to a parent (unless the district does not maintain an Internet web site, in which case the report card shall be sent home to parents without request).

> “If the district posts the report card on its Internet web site, the district shall send a written notice home to parents stating (i) that the report card is available on the web site, (ii) the address of the web site, (iii) that a printed copy of the report card will be sent to parents upon request, and (iv) the telephone number that parents may call to request a printed copy of the report card.”

The two-page at-a-glance report card has been designed with parents in mind. We recommend that districts use this version of the report card (available for download at [illinoisreportcard.com](http://illinoisreportcard.com)) to share with parents. We also recommend districts provide a link to illinoisreportcard.com from their websites.

**Teacher Preparation**

**New Informational Document on the edTPA Available Online**

In a response to questions from colleges and universities and local school districts, the Illinois State Board of Education has developed a new informational document on the edTPA.

The edTPA, an assessment designed by Stanford University, is the “evidence-based assessment of teacher effectiveness” that has been approved by the State Board of Education in consultation with the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board.

The new informational document contains general information on the edTPA, security and privacy concerns, legal authorities and ISBE rules, suggestions to assist school districts with supporting teacher candidates, and a sample release form that can be used by districts.
This information is available on the ISBE website at http://www.isbe.net/licensure/pdf/higher-ed/edTPA-informational-doc.pdf and has been sent to all school districts.

**Nutrition and Wellness Programs Division**

**Illinois School Breakfast Week Kicks Off on Monday, Nov. 18**

The School Breakfast Program (SBP), permanently established in 1975, is celebrated during Illinois School Breakfast Week (ISBW), Nov. 18-22, 2013, to acknowledge this Child Nutrition program’s contribution to the nutritional needs of Illinois students. ISBW is celebrated with American Education Week, to demonstrate the demonstrated relationship of nutrition with academic performance. Visit this site for further information on American Education Week: http://www.nea.org/grants/19823.htm.

To learn more about expanding breakfast and alternative delivery methods, try these sites:

To read about Illinois’ mandate requiring public schools with 40 percent or greater free and reduced-price population to offer school breakfast and what funding is available, visit the Illinois State Board of Education at http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/national_school_lunch.htm.

**USDA Nutrition Standards for All Foods Sold in Schools Update**


The public comment period has concluded. We will continue to update participating schools on the implementation of these rules and will notify you when the USDA releases final rules on this subject. Recently, the USDA and the USDOE released a joint letter on this subject. That is posted under the Nutrition Standards for All Foods sold link under “What’s New” (http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/).

As ISBE looks forward to the implementation of the Nutrition Standards for All Foods Sold In Schools, we are hosting an joint webinar with the Illinois School Nutrition Association (ILSNA) on the operational implementation of these rules. Please join us on Dec. 3, 2013, at 10 a.m. for this webinar. Register at [https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/767896808](https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/767896808). If you are unable to attend the webinar at this time, it will be recorded and available on our website approximately one week after the live webinar date.

Please direct any questions to staff with the Nutrition and Wellness Programs Division of the Illinois State Board of Education at cnp@isbe.net or (800) 545-7892.

**ISBE Seeks Nominations for USDA’s Produce Safety University**

Produce Safety University (PSU) – 2014 Nominations are due to ISBE no later than Nov. 22, 2013. PSU is a one-week, all expenses paid training course for USDA’s Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) state agency and local school district partners. Illinois may nominate up to four candidates to attend PSU.

In 2014, three out of five classes will be held at USDA’s Agricultural Marketing Service campus in Fredericksburg, Va. This training center provides unique opportunities for hands-on training related to purchasing, processing and preparation of fresh produce. The dates and locations of the five 2014 classes are:

- March 10-14, Fredericksburg
- March 31-April 4, Fresno, Calif.
- April 28-May 2, Fredericksburg
- June 9-13, Fredericksburg
- June 23-27, Atlanta

**Qualifications for Attendees:** State agencies are encouraged to select participants who have a current role in training school foodservice staff at the school district and school levels. Participants will be expected to teach
others about produce safety using the comprehensive training materials provided to all attendees.

If you are interested in being nominated to attend PSU 2014, please submit a letter of intent to Roxanne Ramage (rramage@isbe.net) no later than Nov. 22. Include three dates when the nominee will be available to attend. ISBE will also require an approval letter from the school district’s superintendent, as attendance at PSU is a week-long commitment.

If you have any questions about PSU or the nomination process, please contact Roxanne Ramage via telephone at (800) 545-7892. More information can also be found online at http://www.fns.usda.gov/ofs/produce-safety-university.

Title Grant Administration Division

Title I Directors Winter Meeting Set for Wednesday, Nov. 20, in Springfield

The Illinois Association of Title I Directors (IATD), in cooperation with the Illinois State Board of Education, will be hosting the Title I Directors Winter meeting on Nov. 20, 2013. Highlights of this daylong meeting include a panel on Danielson, Course Mason, Title I Timelines, How to Do an Amendment, and more. To view the draft agenda and to register for the conference, please go to the IATD website at http://www.iatd.net/.

Technology Funding

Districts Asked to Complete and Update PARCC Technology Readiness Tool (TRT)

ISBE will be requesting technology infrastructure funding during the 2014-2015 legislative session. Information from the PARCC Technology Readiness Tool (TRT), https://www.techreadiness.net, will be used as a way to show infrastructure need. Any district that hasn’t completed the school and device information within the tool is asked to do so before Nov. 22, 2013. Districts that had technology upgrades over the summer are asked to update their information in the TRT by Nov. 22, 2013.

Districts that need help completing the information in the tool should contact their Learning Technology Center: http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/elearning/html/ltc.htm. Questions concerning accessing the TRT should be directed to Jamey Baiter in the Special Education Division at jbaiter@isbe.net or (217) 782-5589, ext 2.

Family Engagement

ISBE Seeks Feedback on Family Engagement Framework Guide

ISBE works to ensure that every student is prepared to succeed in careers and postsecondary education. When families, schools and communities partner in promoting learning and healthy development for all children, school thrive and student outcomes increase. Research indicates that when parents are engaged with their children’s education, whether in school or at home, students do better academically. In an effort to strengthen family-school partnerships, over the past year and a half, ISBE has been coordinating across divisions to develop a shared framework guide for engaging families.

The ISBE Family Engagement Framework Guide is a tool for ISBE, school districts and schools to use in developing and expanding school-family partnerships to support improved student learning and healthy development outcomes. This resource brings together research, promising practices and a consolidation of key program requirements to provide districts, schools and families with tools to assist with planning, implementation and evaluation of family engagement practices.

In order to make the framework more relevant and meaningful, ISBE is asking for the feedback of parents, school and district personnel, community organizations and other education partners. Please follow the link below to view the draft framework. Once you have reviewed the framework, please respond to the survey, to provide your feedback. The ISBE Family Engagement Framework Guide and survey can be accessed at http://www.illinoisparents.org/ISBE.aspx.

Illinois Green Ribbon Schools

Reminder: Deadline is Friday, Nov. 15, for Green Ribbon Schools Award Program

Applications are 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 winners in April, followed by an award ceremony in Washington, D.C.

**Illinois New Teacher Collaborative**

**INTC Plans Conference and Makes New Resources Available Online**


In other news, the Illinois New Teacher Collaborative has released the Illinois Induction Guide with generous support from ISBE. The guide is a free online resource organized around the nine standards of the Illinois Induction Program Continuum. Each standard includes no cost downloadable resources. Go to http://intc.education.illinois.edu/guide/home.

The Illinois New Teacher Collaborative also has produced an Induction & Mentoring: Fact Sheet. This document was created in collaboration with the Consortium for Educational Change, the New Teacher Center, the Illinois Federation of Teachers, the Illinois Education Association and the Illinois Principals Association to offer helpful information on the impact of new teacher induction and mentoring programs. The document can also be used to advocate for a strong, comprehensive induction and mentoring program in schools. The fact sheet is available at http://intc.education.illinois.edu/fact-sheet.

**National Board Resource Center**

**NBRC at ISU Supports First-Time Candidates in Low-Performing Schools**

The National Board Resource Center (NBRC) at Illinois State University entered into an Intergovernmental
Agreement with the Illinois State Board of Education beginning July 1, 2010.

Debra Kasperski is the director of the NBRC at ISU and coordinates the work of Regional Coordinators, Candidate Cohort Facilitators and other NP BTS supporters throughout the state to recruit and support Illinois NBPTS candidates.

The work will be focused to support first-time candidates in low-performing schools throughout Illinois. Federal funding is available for this program and state appropriations assist with the cost of candidate subsidies. Mentoring incentives are available to eligible National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs) when funding is sufficient.

**CDC**

**Grant Promotes Adolescent Health With School-Based HIV/STD Prevention**

The Illinois State Board of Education is one of 19 state education agencies that received a 5-year grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to promote adolescent health through school-based HIV/STD prevention.

This project will provide professional development and technical assistance to 15 school districts, at no cost to the district. The project will implement targeted activities to help districts and schools improve student health and meet the prevention needs of the entire student population. This project also includes additional emphasis on services to students in alternative schools within those 15 selected districts.

**Benefits to Priority Districts:** ISBE will provide professional development, resources and individualized technical assistance, at no cost, for 15 Illinois school districts that want to improve their school-based HIV/STD and pregnancy prevention efforts. The focus will be on:

- Delivering exemplary sexual health education (in accordance with Illinois law on comprehensive sexual health education); and
- Improving adolescents’ access to key sexual health services available in school-based and community health centers.

- Establishing safe and supportive environments for students and staff (emotionally supportive of all students regardless of gender identity issues)

District personnel involved in student health education and services will receive technical assistance and/or professional development, including:

- Training in the use of the Health Education Curriculum Assessment Tool (HECAT) to assist districts with determining if the sexual health education currently being provided meets CDC standards or needs improvement to meet exemplary status.
- Training for educators concerning:
  - Local and state data that supports the need for exemplary sexual health education.
  - Identifying youth at high risk of HIV/STD.
  - Strategies for providing essential skills for prevention of sexual risk behavior.
  - District policies and guidance regarding HIV/STD prevention education.
  - Providing evidence-based or promising programs.
  - Strategies for providing safe and supportive environments for all students.
  - Strategies for providing on-site services or referral to healthcare providers for sexual health wellness services for all students with a focus on students in alternative school settings.

If your district is in readiness to implement this project, please contact Jessica Gerdes at jgerdes@isbe.net or (312) 814-8252 by the end of the day on Nov. 12.

**Rising Star**

**Innovation and Improvement Launches Rising Star Survey for School Districts**

The Illinois State Board of Education has worked intentionally and strategically over the past five years to realize a One State, One Plan goal. Rising Star is intended to support districts and schools in creating one plan by: a) integrating work across initiatives, b) linking research to selected objectives, and c) leveraging resources (time, people, materials and money) in support of the one plan. The objective was to offer Illinois districts and schools an easily navigated and streamlined central planning tool to achieve this goal.
ISBE, with support from the Midwest Comprehensive Center at American Institutes for Research, is administering this survey of Illinois school and district leaders in order to better understand how Rising Star is helpful at the local level and how it might be improved. Please provide your feedback about Rising Star and how it supports your continuous improvement processes: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PVNMYWQ](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PVNMYWQ).

The survey will be open until Nov. 15, 2013. In order to gather additional information, focus groups will be held in January and February. There will be an opportunity for a drop-in session at the NCLB conference in February. Thank you for your honest feedback!

---

**Office of the Governor**

**Illinois Elementary Students Invited to Make Holiday Cards for U.S. Troops**

As we prepare for the holidays, Gov. Pat Quinn invites elementary school students across Illinois to spread a little cheer this season by making holiday cards for our service members injured overseas. Each year before the General Assembly reconvenes, Gov. Quinn personally finances his own trip to the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany to show his continued support for the troops by hand-delivering these cards.

**Cards can be sent to:**

*Office of Governor Pat Quinn*
*Attn: Holiday Cards to Troops Program*  
*James R. Thompson Center*  
*100 West Randolph Street, Suite 16-100*  
*Chicago, IL 60601*

**General guidelines:**

- Holiday cards of all types are welcome (i.e. Christmas, Chanukah, Kwanzaa, etc.)
- Cards created by grade school students only.
- Cards should be no larger than a regular 8.5x11 piece of paper.
- Cards may be handmade or computer generated.
- Stack cards neatly and bundle with rubber bands.
- Include one index card with your school’s name and mailing address.
- Cards only. We are unable to accept items other than holiday cards.

Cards must be received no later than Friday, Dec. 6, 2013. Any questions about Gov. Quinn’s Holiday Cards to Troops Program can be directed to [gov.cards4troops@illinois.gov](mailto:gov.cards4troops@illinois.gov).

---

**Illinois Department of Natural Resources**

**Applications Available for Competitive Schoolyard Habitat Action Grant Program**

Teachers and youth-group leaders can apply for up to $1,000 through the competitive Schoolyard Habitat Action Grant program to develop or enhance wildlife habitat in the schoolyard or other public place.

Sponsored by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the Illinois Conservation Foundation, funding for this program is provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, an Environmental Education Grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Jadel Youth Fund and the Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Foundation. Visit [http://dnr.state.il.us/education/CLASSRM/grants.htm](http://dnr.state.il.us/education/CLASSRM/grants.htm) for details. Check out the video podcasts and other information to assist in completing the application form. Applications are due by Nov. 30, 2013.

In other Department of Natural Resources news, new lessons developed with the Next Generation Science Standards and the resources trunks from the IDNR Division of Education as their foundation are being posted at [http://dnr.state.il.us/education/standards.htm](http://dnr.state.il.us/education/standards.htm). STEM evaluations are included in the lessons. Lessons will be added as they are completed.

In addition, registration is under way for ENTICE (Environment and Nature Training Institute for Conservation Education) educator workshops from IDNR scheduled for November through February. Go to [https://www.enticeworkshops.com](https://www.enticeworkshops.com) for more details and to register.

For many other resources from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Division of Education, visit [http://dnr.state.il.us/education/index.htm](http://dnr.state.il.us/education/index.htm).

---

**Illinois Department of Transportation**

**2013-14 Illinois Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Funding Cycle Under Way**

In Brief

Professional Development

- The application process is open for the 2014 Johnson & Johnson School Health Leadership Program, which aims to empower and develop school nurses as leaders in community health services teams to improve practices that impact student health. The deadline to apply is Monday, Nov. 18. For more information, go to http://alcoholstudiesed.rutgers.edu/jjshlp.

- The deadline for Hope Street Group’s 2014 National Teacher Fellowship has been extended until Friday, Nov. 15, 2013. For more information, visit http://hopestreetgroup.org/our-work/education/teacher-fellowship.

- The Illinois Solar Energy Association will host a workshop for teachers in grades 4-6 entitled “Sunshine Scholars.” The workshop is set for 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 20 at the Chicago Center for Green Technology. The day will feature interactive lesson plans for approaching the subject of renewable energy at the middle school level. For more information and to register, visit www.illinoissolar.org.


- The Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago is recruiting Illinois high school teachers to participate in the 2014 Illinois Youth Summit, which is scheduled for May 2 at the Dirksen Federal Building in Chicago. For more information, visit http://www.crfc.org/youthsummit2014.

In the News

- Congratulations to the FFA Chapter from Pontiac Township High School, which recently received the National Model of Excellence Award at 86th National FFA Convention & Expo in Louisville, Ky. The annual award is presented to the top overall chapter in the country. Read more at http://bit.ly/1eNQV2t.

Weekly News Clips


Employment Opportunities

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