Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

A number of communities throughout our state and the Midwest were devastated by the powerful wave of storms that came through the region Sunday. Our thoughts are with these communities as they remember their losses and begin cleaning and rebuilding. This is a stark reminder of the power of nature and that severe weather can strike at any time of the year. Please take a few minutes to remember those communities tragically impacted by yesterday’s storm and also take a moment to review your own severe weather policies.

The Board will hold its November meeting on Friday in Chicago at the Thompson Center. We’ll have some preliminary discussions on the FY15 budget, which will set the stage for a more robust discussion in December. The fifth budget hearing will be held at noon or immediately following the Board meeting.

I will also make a recommendation to the Board at Friday’s meeting with regard to a new map for the Regional Offices of Education. Legislation requires that the Regional Offices of Education be consolidated from the present number of 44 to no more than 35. The law originally spelled out that this consolidation should be driven by local decisions, but since that local consensus did not come to fruition it is now up to the State Board to vote on a new map. We have had significant testimony on the topic and staff has been carefully reviewing the matter. I appreciate everyone’s time and input on this complex topic.

I wanted to give you a brief update on a couple of issues we had pending before the General Assembly during the recently ended Veto Session. Senate Bill 578, which focuses on professional development, passed both houses. We had worked with stakeholders last spring on this legislation, and were successful in getting it passed during the veto session. The purpose of the legislation is to establish renewal for the Professional Educator License as a process of continuous improvement that will be online and focuses on professional development aligned to state and national standards.

We also sought a supplemental budget request for FY14, however, that request was not fulfilled. ISBE sought additional funding for district consolidations, alternative education/regional safe schools, the Truant Alternative and Optional Education Program and assessments. Sen. Sullivan did file SB2621, which would provide $400,000 for consolidation costs. That legislation is still pending. We will monitor the budget situation and may pursue additional funding in the spring.

Finally, this week is American Education Week. It’s an opportunity for all of us to spotlight the great things going on in our schools, with each day set aside for special recognition.
• Monday, Nov. 18: Kickoff Day
• Tuesday, Nov. 19: Parent’s Day
• Wednesday, Nov. 20: Education Support Professionals Day
• Thursday, Nov. 21: Educator for a Day
• Friday, Nov. 22: Substitute Educators Day

The National Education Association has more information, including an online tool you can access at http://www.nea.org/grants/19823.htm.

Thanks,
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.

• One-day Standards Based Reporting Workshop – Offered Nov. 19 and Nov. 20 (http://www.isbe.net/common_core/pdf/stds-based-rptng-flyer11-13.pdf)
• FY 14 School District Library Grant application deadline – Nov. 22 (http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/grants/schoolpercapgrant.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
• 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

Common Core State Standards
Northern Illinois PARCC Education Leader Cadre Offers Workshop on Dec. 9

The Northern Illinois Regional PARCC Education Leader Cadre will host a workshop on Dec. 9 at Northern Illinois University. The workshop focuses on the implementation of the Common Core State Standards through the lens of school and district practitioners.

Break-out sessions will target the English Language Arts and Math Shifts, as well as the role of leadership. Facilitators provide background, implications for practice based on their own experiences, and hands-on examples. The workshop will also provide current information regarding the PARCC assessment.
Registration is open and will be limited. Please visit the link below to register for the event. Questions regarding the content of the day should be directed to Fred Schlessinger, member of the Northern Illinois Education Leader Cadre at fnschlessinger@aol.com.

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. This group of professionals was chosen through an application process as part of the services offered by the PARCC consortium. Over the last two years members have received additional training on the CCSS and PARCC. The ELC members are working together by regions to build understanding through newsletters, workshops and presentations.


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/ele-map.pdf.

School Business Services

Deadline Reminder for Maintenance Grant and School Energy Efficiency Applications

This is the final reminder notice that both the School Energy Efficiency and the School Maintenance Grant Applications are still open for submission. However, the IWAS application process for both grants will close at midnight on Wednesday, Nov. 27, 2013. After that time, no applications will be accepted from the district/LEAs level.

As previously stated 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 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 or contact Kimberly Beachy with the School Business Services Division at (217) 785-8779.

Illinois Department of Public Health

Integrated Pest Management Regulations Reminder Issued to Schools, Day Cares

To protect children in day care centers and schools from pests such as cockroaches, spiders and rodents, as well as from unnecessary applications of pesticides, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) is reminding schools and day care centers they could be fined if they do not comply with the state’s Integrated Pest Management (IPM) regulations. State law requires public schools and licensed day care centers to file an IPM form with the department to document how they plan to implement IPM. IPM uses a variety of non-chemical methods as well as pesticides, when needed, to reduce pest infestations and to minimize children’s exposure to pesticides.
More than 200 day care centers and schools have failed to comply with the most basic of the state’s IPM regulations and may face fines for the first time. IDPH has been working to ensure schools and day care centers comply by sending mass mailings, holding seminars and working with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, which licenses Illinois day cares.

More information about Integrated Pest Management and the IPM regulations can be found online at [http://www.idph.state.il.us/envhealth/ipm/index.htm](http://www.idph.state.il.us/envhealth/ipm/index.htm). The Illinois Department of Public Health issued a news release on IPM with additional information on Nov. 15: [http://www.idph.state.il.us/public/press13/11.15.13_Day_Care_Centers_and_Schools_Could_Face_Fines.htm](http://www.idph.state.il.us/public/press13/11.15.13_Day_Care_Centers_and_Schools_Could_Face_Fines.htm).

### 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](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'Brian at (866) 317.6034 or mobrian@isbe.net.
**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 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](http://www.isbe.net/licensure/pdf/higher-ed/edTPA-informational-doc.pdf) and has been sent to all school districts.

**Illinois Arts Education Week**

**Entries Sought From Students in Grades K-8 for Annual Poster Contest**

There is still time for students in grades K-8 to enter the 2014 Illinois Arts Education Week Poster Contest. Entries must be postmarked by Dec. 4. The third week
of March is traditionally designated Illinois Arts Education Week by Gov. Pat Quinn in cooperation with the Illinois Alliance for Arts Education (IAAE) and ISBE. The next Illinois Arts Education Week will be March 17-23.

The poster contest reinforces the importance of the arts in the growth and development of all students. Each year an Illinois student’s artwork is featured on the Illinois Arts Education Week poster, which is sent to all public and private schools in Illinois. This contest focuses on different grade levels (K-8 and 9-12) in alternating years. The 2014 contest is for grades K-8.

The winner will be recognized at the Annual IAAE Awards Ceremony and by ISBE. For more information, visit [http://www.isbe.net/arts-week/default.htm](http://www.isbe.net/arts-week/default.htm).

**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](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](http://intc.education.illinois.edu/fact-sheet).

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**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 St., 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).

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**In Brief**

**Professional Development**

- 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](http://www.illinoissolar.org).
2-3 in Chicago. For more information, visit http://incschools.org/school_supports/conference/2013_statewide_charter_school_conference/.

- 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.

Student Opportunities

- The Illinois Conservation Foundation offers the Conservation Achievement Scholarship to high school seniors who have demonstrated effective, voluntary, long-term dedication to the preservation, protection, enhancement and/or promotion of our natural resources. Three scholarships will be awarded for the 2013-14 school year. For details, visit http://www.ilcf.org/index.php/programs/scholarships.

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.

Employment Opportunities

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