Last week we provided lawmakers models of what the proposed changes in Senate Bill 16 would mean to local districts. SB16 proposes a system where most state funding for schools is means-tested and distributed based on local ability to pay, thus increasing equity. Resources are prioritized through a weighted formula based on student need and provide greater transparency on how funds are spent at the school level. It contains a four-year phase in period (Year One 15 percent, Year Two 40 percent, Year Three 70 percent and Year Four 100 percent).

Anytime you make significant changes to the formula without additional new funding, some districts will gain and some will lose. SB16 does not address adequacy. However, it could be a significant part of the puzzle to correct imperfections in our current formula that have been exposed during the recession.

You may access the modeling at http://www.isbe.net/EFAC/default.htm. We have presented the data in several ways and are still working on additional modeling, including spreadsheets to provide data points for each district to aid you and your constituents in understanding our simulation. If you have specific questions, please email them to sb16info@isbe.net.

I know many of you have questions about our implementation of the new assessments we’re developing with the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness of College and Careers (PARCC). I have heard from many of you, met with your statewide organizations and understand your concerns. I appreciate your suggestions for transitioning to a better statewide assessment system.

Last week we met with lawmakers to discuss the new assessment and provided them with this overview document (http://www.isbe.net/assessment/pdfs/parcc/parcc-test-fact-sheet-0514.pdf). We have a number of resources to assist you located on our PARCC homepage at http://www.isbe.net/assessment/parcc.htm, including a new series of PARCC videos. These short videos help to explain Illinois’ involvement in PARCC, what educators need to know about the new assessments, innovations in item types and where to find resources. Feel free to share links to the videos and our social media video posts. If you would like to download the videos for your own web and social media postings, contact Tim Murphy in ISBE’s Public Information Division at tmurphy@isbe.net for Dropbox links.
The PARCC assessment is the backbone of our waiver and new multiple measures index, replacing adequate yearly progress for accountability purposes. We have a lot of interest in the waiver and you should know that it goes into effect next year, with 2014-15 serving as our baseline. You may access the waiver and summary documents including a side by side look at the old and new systems at http://www.isbe.net/nclb_waivers/default.htm. We will also be hosting a webinar to go over the waiver and answer your questions at 1 p.m. on May 21. Registration information will be available soon.

I also want to draw your attention to another video resource we have developed to assist you as we continue our implementation of the new Illinois learning standards. Classroom teachers are the heart of this transition. Illinois Teacher Voices allows teachers to share their stories and perspectives on implementing the new standards in English Language Arts and math. Teachers from Breese, Centralia, Chicago Public Schools and others share their stories about the changes in their classroom and how they’re engaging students. You may access Illinois Teacher Voices at http://www.ilteachervoice.org/ and we will have additional segments added in the next few weeks.

Finally, congratulations to John Kauffman of Minooka High School and Halley Cummings of Iroquois West High School. They are among the 141 students nationally selected as Presidential Scholars. This is quite an achievement.

Have a great week.

Chris

---

**Upcoming ISBE Dates and Deadlines**

*Please note this is not a complete list of events, meetings 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).*

- **Part 25 (Educator Licensure)** – Public comment period ends May 12
- **Applications for the Exception to the 1.0 Percent Cap Due** – May 16
- **ISBE offices closed for Memorial Day** – May 26
- **Part 33 (Programs for the Preparation of Superintendents in Illinois)** – Public comment period ends May 27
- **2014-2015 ISBE Student Advisory Council Application Deadline** – May 30
- **Final grant amendments and end date extension requests for projects ending June 30** – May 31
- **“Re-Connecting the Pathways: Equipping Leaders for Juvenile Justice Improvement” conference** – June 2-4, Springfield ([https://sites.google.com/site/reconnectingpathways/](https://sites.google.com/site/reconnectingpathways/))
- **Part 50 (Evaluation of Certified Employees under Articles 24A and 34 of the School Code)** – Public comment period ends June 9
- **Student Health Data – Vision system report deadline** – June 30
- **Student Health Data – Dental system report deadline** – June 30
- **ISBE offices closed for Independence Day** – July 4
Postmark deadline for waiver applications to be considered by General Assembly in Fall 2014 – Friday, August 15, 2014 (See http://www.isbe.net/isbewaivers/default.htm for public notice requirements for all waiver requests.)

Eighth annual Conference on Best Practices in Nonpublic Special Education Programs – Nov. 6-7 (http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/np_handouts/default.htm)

School Business Services

Capital Needs Assessment Survey Distributed to Illinois School Districts

Public Act 93-0489 requires the State Board of Education and the Capital Development Board to file a comprehensive assessment report of the capital needs of all school districts to the General Assembly every two years. Jan. 1, 2015, is the due date of the next report.

We are requesting all districts complete and submit the Capital Needs Assessment Survey. While the survey will be open until Sept. 1, 2014, we are sending it out early to afford districts the flexibility of completing the survey prior to summer recess and the startup of school in August/September. Full participation in the assessment will help ensure an accurate portrayal of the capital needs of all districts throughout the state.

On May 8, 2014, all district superintendents and regional superintendents were emailed a copy of the Capital Needs Assessment Survey along with a cover letter. If you did not receive a copy of the email, please let us know.

Additional forms, if needed, can be accessed on either the following websites: www.isbe.net/finance or www.cdb.state.il.us. Completed forms can be submitted to School Business Services, 100 N. First St., Springfield, IL 62777-0001 or by emailing finance1@isbe.net.

Further questions can be directed to School Business Services, Christine Kolaz, (217) 785-8779.

Innovation and Improvement

Family Engagement Framework Guide Webinar Series Continues on May 22

ISBE will host a webinar entitled “Rethinking the Connection: Enhancing Communication with Family, Community Stakeholders and Schools” at 3:15 p.m. on May 22. It will be focused on strengthening and building ongoing and meaningful two-way-exchanges of information with families to support student learning and healthy development. Co-facilitated by ISBE and the Academic Development Institute, the webinar will feature district and school-level practitioners representing urban, suburban and rural communities involved with elementary and high schools. Field-tested experiences, research, tools and additional resources will be shared. Register for this informative webinar at http://www.illinoisparents.org. For additional information contact Sarah Ogeto at sogeto@isbe.net.

This webinar is part of a series of webinars centered on the four principles of ISBE’s draft Family Engagement Framework Guide. Enhancing communication is one of the core ways districts and schools partner with families to build stronger and effective educational and support systems for children. The guide is a resource for schools and districts in understanding evidence-based practices identified in the guide as Family Engagement Standards of Effective Practice. ISBE intends for this framework guide to strengthen and build systems to engage families in meaningful ways.

ISBE is asking for the feedback of school and district personnel, parents, community organizations and other education partners. View the draft Family Engagement Framework Guide here. Once you have viewed the framework, please click on the survey link to provide feedback. Take the survey and give us your feedback at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Lm7RyloxRNNfcY7wnrs4muwXx8SAFyv27XmbpFH3z_g/viewform.

U.S. Departments of Education and Justice

Guidance to Ensure Equal Educational Opportunity for All Children, Regardless of Immigration Status

On May 8, Secretary Arne Duncan and Attorney General Eric Holder announced updated guidance to assist public elementary and secondary schools to ensure enrollment processes are consistent with the law and fulfill their obligation to provide all children –
no matter their background – equal access to an education.

In 2011, the Departments of Justice and Education issued guidance to help schools understand their responsibilities under the Supreme Court’s decision in Plyler v. Doe and federal civil rights laws to provide all children with equal access to an education regardless of their or their parents’ immigration status. The departments are issuing important updates to that guidance, including examples of permissible enrollment practices, as well as examples of the types of information that may not be used as a basis for denying a student entrance to school.

The updated guidance documents – including a guidance letter to states and school districts and a fact sheet and Q and A document – emphasize the need for flexibility in accepting documents from parents to prove a child’s age and to show that a child resides within a school’s attendance area. They also provide specific examples of the types of documents that many schools have accepted. And the guidance documents remind schools that they may not require certain documents – such as a parent’s state-issued driver’s license – where such a requirement would prevent a student from enrolling because of his or her parent’s immigration status.

In the three years since the guidance was initially issued in 2011, the departments have worked collaboratively with states and school districts across the country to meet their obligations under Plyler and federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color and national origin. The important changes announced today will provide districts with the additional tools and practical guidance needed to make sure the schoolhouse door is open to all students and that undocumented children and children from immigrant families no longer face barriers to enrollment in school and starting down the path to a better future.

To view the guidance letter in Spanish, please click here. The fact sheet and Q and A document can be viewed in Spanish here and here, respectively.

On Tuesday, May 6, the U.S. Departments of Education and Justice issued a joint letter confirming that the decision of the U.S. Supreme Court issued on April 22, 2014, in Schuette v. Coalition to Defend Affirmative Action, et al., leaves intact the Court’s prior holdings recognizing that institutions of higher education and elementary and secondary schools may use all legally permissible methods to achieve their diversity goals. These include, absent any restrictions in state law, appropriately tailored programs that consider the race of individual applicants as one of several factors in an individualized process to achieve the educational benefits that flow from a diverse student body.

To read the letter in its entirety, go to http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/letters/colleague-201405-schuette-guidance.pdf. The letter includes links to guidance documents.

Illinois General Assembly
Special Week to Help Share Physical Therapy Career Options With Students

Lawmakers in the Illinois House of Representatives passed a resolution on April 7 designating the second week of October in 2014 as a Physical Therapy Shadow Week for high school students who are interested in learning about a career in physical therapy.

The resolution shows support for events that give students the opportunity to observe physical therapy practices throughout the state. It was sponsored by state Rep. Linda Chapa LaVia, D-Aurora. More information, including a copy of the resolution, is online here.

PEAC
Districts Can Submit Questions Regarding Teacher and Principal Evaluation Process

ISBE is aware that many districts are currently grappling with a variety of questions about the process and responsibilities of teacher and principal evaluation. PEAC has been working diligently on developing non-regulatory guidance for a variety of issues regarding teacher and principal evaluation. This material is available at http://www.isbe.net/peac/.
In order to assist districts in the development and implementation of teacher and principal evaluation, an email dropbox has been created for districts to submit their questions and concerns regarding PERA. Agency staff, in consultation with PEAC, will respond to questions. Districts are encouraged to submit their questions to pera@isbe.net.

Funding and Disbursement

Deadline for Final FY 14 State and Federal Grant Amendments and End Date Extensions

Many State and Federal grant projects are approaching a June 30 end date for obligating FY 2014 grant funds. Please be advised that per Policy Statements #2 and #3 on Page 6 of the State and Federal Grant Administration Policy and Fiscal Requirements and Procedures, http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/fiscal_procedure_handbk.pdf, all State and Federal project end date extension requests and final budget amendments must be received at ISBE no later than 30 calendar days prior to the end date of the project.

As a reminder, please be advised of the following regarding the need for a project end date extension:

- An end date extension past June 30 is NOT needed for regular term staff salaries paid on a 12 month salary schedule.
- An end date extension past June 30 is NOT needed to pay obligations (e.g. purchase order for supplies) incurred June 30 or prior.
- An end date extension past June 30 IS NEEDED for new activities and obligations incurred July 1 or later (e.g. Summer School, Professional Development).

Final amendments for State and Federal grants with a project end date of June 30, 2014, must be received by ISBE no later than May 31, 2014. For those grants with a project end date of August 31, 2014, the last day amendments will be accepted is August 1, 2014. However, budget increases for State funded grant projects must be received by June 30, even if the project end date has been extended. For grant applications in the electronic Grants Management System (eGMS), the deadline is also referenced on the Program Overview page under “Amendment Due Date.”

Note to Special Education and Education for Employment Cooperative Administrators: Member district amendments need to be submitted to the Cooperative/EFE Administrator timely to accommodate a final review for accuracy and approvability before acceptance and approval to ISBE on or before the May 31/Aug. 1 deadline.

Questions regarding this information can be directed to Funding and Disbursements at (217) 782-5256.

2013-14 Final Public School Calendars

The ability to file the 2013-14 Final Public School Calendar will be available May 1, 2014, via IWAS. Please complete and transmit the Final Calendar to the appropriate Regional Office of Education (ROE)/Intermediate Service Center (ISC) by the last day of school. REMINDER: The document type Final Calendar must be submitted even if the district has submitted a document type Amended Calendar previously. A Final Public School Calendar must be transmitted and approved prior to filing the 2013-14 claims for General State Aid, Pupil Transportation and 18-3 Regular Education Orphanage. If an Amended Calendar is in Draft status, i.e. has not been submitted for RCDT Administrator or ROE/ISC approval, please leave it in Draft status and proceed entering the Final calendar.

HELPFUL HINT: The unused proposed emergency days (calendar code XED) that are coded at the end of the school calendar may be removed by correcting the Regular School End Date to the last day of actual school activity. Once the Regular School End Date has been corrected, the calendar codes after that date will be omitted.

If you have questions that are not addressed in the Public School Calendar Guidelines, or Final/Proposed Calendar Checkpoints you may contact the ROE/ISC office or Marj Beck mbeck@isbe.net, telephone (217) 782-5256. If you encounter technical issues with the Public School Calendar in IWAS please contact the ISBE Call Center at (217) 558-3600 during business hours: Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Summer Conference

Register for ISBE and Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents Conference
The Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents and Illinois State Board of Education will present the two-day summer conference “Lead … Focus … Connect: Every Student College and Career Ready” on June 17-18 at the Prairie Capital Convention Center in Springfield. Registration is now available at http://educationregistration.org/index.php/trail.

The conference is designed to update and expand educators’ knowledge of current Illinois initiatives, provide classroom teachers with practical application focusing on key topics, and promote sharing of expertise and ideas among educators.

ISBE speakers will present key topics regarding agency policy, regulation and mandates. Featured speakers are expected to include:

- Susie Morrison, Deputy Superintendent and Chief Education Officer
- Amy Jo Clemens, Assistant Superintendent for Innovation and Improvement.
- Dr. Mary O’Brian, Director of Assessment
- Dr. Jason Helfer, Assistant Superintendent for Teacher and Leader Effectiveness.

Breakout sessions will showcase practical application of key topics, including ELA Writing, Math Strategies, NGSS, Balanced Assessment, Equip Rubric, PARCC: Evidence Tables, PARCC Accommodations, Technology Collaboration, Tech Apps, Writing IEP Goals, Licensure, Teacher and Principal Evaluation, RtI and PBIS, ELL, and Continuous Improvement.

All teachers and administrators are encouraged to attend. A limited block of rooms are being held at the Hilton and Abraham Lincoln hotels in Springfield.

---

**Center for Performance**

**FY 2015 School Technology Revolving Loan Program Applications Available**

The Fiscal Year 2015 School Technology Revolving Loan Program (STRLP) application materials for eligible districts and schools have been posted to ISBE’s webpage at http://www.isbe.net/ed-technology/html/revolving_loan.htm. This year the loan will be for school districts serving grades 9-12.

Applications will be accepted from June 1 through Dec. 1, 2014.

The loans will be awarded on a first come, first serve basis. The School Technology Revolving Loan Program (STRLP) is a three-year loan with a 2 percent interest rate. The amount which each district is eligible to apply is listed under “Eligible Applicants.”

---

**Nutrition and Wellness Programs**

**Training Opportunities for School-Based Child Nutrition Program Sponsors**

ISBE’s Nutrition and Wellness Programs Division will host a variety of training opportunities for school nutrition program staff for School Year 2014-2015. There is no registration fee for these workshops.

Beverage service only will be available. Please save the date for the workshop(s) in your area that are applicable to your job duties. Registration is now available online. Locations tend to fill up quickly, so complete registration as soon as announced to secure your space.

**School Meals Menu Planning 101:** This half-day session will be a hands-on workshop with menu planning activities geared to the school nutrition personnel that plan the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Program menus. Meal pattern changes required for SY 2014-15 will be included as well as overall meal pattern information. Each workshop location is limited to 50 attendees, so we request that each school register no more than two staff to attend this training. **Dates and locations include:**

- July 23, 2014 – Arlington Heights (afternoon session)
- July 24, 2014 – Alsip (morning session)
- July 28, 2014 – Bloomington (morning session)
- July 29, 2014 – Carbondale (morning session)
- July 30, 2014 – Collinsville (morning session)
process at your school district would be the best to attend this training session. **Dates and locations include:**

- Aug. 13, 2014 – Arlington Heights (afternoon session)
- Aug. 14, 2014 – Lisle (morning session)
- Aug. 21, 2014 – Bloomington (morning session)
- Aug. 26, 2014 – Carbondale (afternoon session)
- Aug. 27, 2014 – Fairview Heights (morning session)

**Overview of the Administrative Review Process:**
This half-day training will provide sponsors an overview of the Administrative Review (AR), including all USDA checklists and resources. The Administrative Review is an assessment conducted by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) of the School Food Authority’s (SFA) administration of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP) and other school nutrition programs. The objectives of the AR are to determine whether the SFA meets program requirements, provide technical assistance, secure any needed corrective action, and assess fiscal action, if applicable. ISBE must conduct ARs of all SFAs participating in the NSLP and/or SBP at least once during each three-year review cycle period. The first three-year review cycle began SY 2013-14.

**Dates and locations include:**
- Oct. 15, 2014 – Schaumburg (afternoon session)
- Oct. 16, 2014 – Lisle (morning session)
- Oct. 21, 2014 – East Peoria (morning session)
- Oct. 22, 2014 – Fairview Heights (morning session)

Register today! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our staff at (800) 545-7892 or via email at cnp@isbe.net.

**School Health Issues**

**FDA Recommends to Discontinue Use of GenStrip Blood Glucose Test**

The FDA is advising people with diabetes and health care professionals to stop using GenStrip Blood Glucose Test Strips because the strips may report incorrect blood glucose levels.

The FDA recommends the use of alternative glucose test strips that are designed for use with the LifeScan OneTouch family of glucose meters (e.g. Ultra, Ultra 2 and Ultra Mini). Read more on the FDA website at [http://www.fda.gov/MedicalDevices/Safety/AlertsandNotices/ucm395180.htm](http://www.fda.gov/MedicalDevices/Safety/AlertsandNotices/ucm395180.htm).

**Illinois Student Assistance Commission**

**ISAC Sponsors Free Illinois Transcript Exchange Service for High Schools**

The Illinois Transcript Exchange, sponsored by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC), allows high schools to send transcripts electronically at no cost to them or their students to more than 300 colleges and universities in the Midwest. Over 330 high schools across the state have already taken advantage of the initiative and have sent more than 139,000 transcripts electronically in this academic year alone.

High school and district staff are invited to participate in an introductory, informative webinar on the Illinois Transcript Exchange that will provide an overview of the system, its benefits, and how to participate. The webinar will be repeated, with the same content, at the following times:
- Thursday, May 13, 2 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 15, 8 a.m.
- Tuesday, May 20, 11 a.m.

To sign up for a webinar, please email Tammy Baden at tbaden@parchment.com or call (480) 719-1646, ext. 1013.

**In Brief**

**Professional Development**

- Registration is open for the “Re-Connecting the Pathways: Equipping Leaders for Juvenile Justice Improvement” conference, set for June 2-4 at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield. The event brings together juvenile justice stakeholders from across the state. For more information, visit [https://sites.google.com/site/reconnectingpathways/](https://sites.google.com/site/reconnectingpathways/).
- The [Illinois Department of Natural Resources](https://www.idnr.gov/) will present an educator workshop on invasive
species called “Alien Invaders: They Are Here!” from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday, July 18, at the Shawnee National Forest Headquarters Office in Harrisburg. For details on this workshop and other upcoming ENTICE program workshops, visit https://www.enticeworkshops.com.

- **A Leopold Education Project (LEP)** workshop is set for 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 23, at the Shawnee National Forest Headquarters Office in Harrisburg. LEP is an innovative, interdisciplinary conservation and environmental curriculum based on the essays in “A Sand County Almanac.” For more information, contact Amanda Patrick at apatrick@fs.fed.us or (618) 253-1031.

- Registration is underway for the **2014 Summer School Nurse Emergency Care (SNEC) courses**. This three-day course is open to all registered nurses in Illinois and is designed to enhance the assessment, triaging and treatment skills of the school nurse when confronted with the acutely ill or injured student. Registration is limited. For more information and to register online, go to www.luc.edu/sneccourses.

- Econ Illinois, the Illinois Finance Learning Exchange Lead Entity, invites educators to register for a joint conference of Econ Illinois, the Missouri Council on Economic Education, and the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis called “**Getting to the Core Through Economics and History: A Conference for Middle and High School Teachers in Illinois and Missouri (6-12)**.” This conference, scheduled to take place at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis on June 17, offers a wealth of materials and programs that will satisfy standards and engage students in exciting active lessons. Registration is free and open until June 10; reduced-rate hotel accommodations are available through May 26. For more information, visit http://www.stlouisfed.org/newsroom/events/index.cfm?id=553.

### Employment Opportunities

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

### In the News

- Congratulations to Juanita Gryfinski, a school nurse administrator with St. Charles School District 303, who received an honorable mention in the Healthy Schools Campaign inaugural **School Nurse Leadership Awards**. Gryfinski is one of nine winners nationwide. To read more, go to http://healthyschoolscampaign.org/blog/meet-our-first-ever-school-nurse-leadership-award-winners/.