Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

The General Assembly late last week finished its legislative session, completing action on a new FY 2015 budget. The General Assembly did not act on SB16, legislation that would change the funding formula for education, but this bill generated significant discussion among lawmakers and raised this issue to the forefront. This conversation will continue.

A number of budget scenarios were discussed throughout the legislative session and we worked with stakeholder groups to the very end to maximize education’s share. All in all, education fared much better than other funding areas for the state. However, given the decision not to extend the income tax at its current levels we did not make up all the ground we have lost since fiscal year 2009. We understand this budget further delays progress toward restoring the programs and operations of pre-2009 and means some new initiatives also get tabled.

The FY 15 education budget is contained in House Bill 6093, which appropriates $6.8 billion for K-12 education. This amounts to an increase of about $118 million, the majority of which will be used for General State Aid, which staff estimate would remain prorated at about 89 percent. The bill also includes:

- Sufficient appropriations to comply with all federal Maintenance of Effort requirements;
- Maintains current funding levels for Regular/Vocational transportation, which is estimated to be about 72 percent of the FY 15 claim;
- Means zero funding for the following line items: Longitudinal Data Systems, Homeless Education, Diversified Educator Recruitment, Low Income AP programs and the Board-recommended mentoring programs;
- Allows assessments to be funded at $44.6 million, which we believe will cover the costs of PARCC assessments for third through eighth graders and once in high school, as well as the full complement of ACT/WorkKeys;
- Level Early Childhood funding at $300 million;
- Flat funding for Regional Safe Schools and Truant Alternative and Optional Education programs.

You may access a more detailed analysis of the K-12 education budget at [http://www.isbe.net/budget/fy15/FY15-ga-action053014.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/budget/fy15/FY15-ga-action053014.pdf). Lawmakers also approved our FY 14 supplemental appropriation request that includes full funding for 2014 District Consolidation payments.
Additionally, I want to bring your attention to Senate Bill 220, which reverses a Teachers’ Retirement System (TRS) Board decision from 2013 that lowered a school district’s rate for the retirement pick up for employees paid with federal funds. Last year the TRS Board reduced the retirement pick up paid by districts for employees paid with federal funds to 7.4 percent, down from about 35 percent. SB 220 reverses that decision. TRS is reviewing the legislation and will distribute an email alert to all school districts with more information later this week.

Also, we are looking ahead for next steps on Senate Bill 16, which would amend the School Code to replace the current method of funding school districts with a new Primary State Aid formula. The new formula would be based on a weighted foundation level tied to the characteristics of each school district, including low-income pupil count, the number of English learners and the number of special education students in a district. Under the legislation, a school district would receive funding based on the number of students with these characteristics and balanced against local ability to pay.

Discussion on the formula as presented in SB 16 will continue through the summer.

Finally, I am very pleased to report that the Education Commission of the States has identified Illinois as having the best report card out of all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The ranking is a result of a three-part analysis done by experts and parents, in which Illinois was the only state ranked No. 1 for both parents and researchers. You can access the full report at http://www.ecs.org/docs/rating-states,grading-schools.pdf.

Have a great week!

Chris

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**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).*

- **“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
- **eReport Card Data Collection** – June 30
- **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
- **Part 228 (Transitional Bilingual Education) and Part 650 (Charter Schools)** – Public comment period ends July 14
- **2013-14 Pupil Transportation Reimbursement Claim** – Aug. 15
• 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.)
• ISBE offices closed for Labor Day – Sept. 1
• ISBE offices closed for Columbus Day – Oct. 13
• ISBE offices closed for Election Day – Nov. 4
• Eighth annual Conference on Best Practices in Nonpublic Special Education Programs – Nov. 6-7 (http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/np_handouts/default.htm)

**Funding and Disbursements**

**2013-14 (FY 15) Pupil Transportation Claim Reimbursement System Now Available**

Please be advised that the Pupil Transportation Claim Reimbursement System (PTCRS) is now available for local education agencies to enter claim data for the 2013-14 school year. Please refer to the 2013-14 Pupil Transportation Reimbursement Claim Instructions which can be accessed at http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/pupil_reimburse_ins truct.pdf for assistance in completing the claim.

Please note the following changes to the claim for 2013-14:

- A new column has been added to the pupil head count page and on the mileage page titled “last year view.” This column will allow districts to compare last year’s numbers to current year numbers.
- Page 32: Vehicles can only be depreciated for a total of five years. Example: A school district leases a bus for three years. The district is permitted to claim 20 percent of the purchase price or the lease payment (whichever is less) on the depreciation schedule for those three years. At the end of the three-year lease, the district decides to purchase that same bus. The district would only be entitled to claim that bus for two more years on the depreciation schedule. The five year timeframe does not reset based on the district’s decision to purchase that bus.

Per statute, the Annual Pupil Transportation Reimbursement claim is due to the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) on Aug. 15. If you have questions regarding PTCRS, please contact Jamie Johnson at jjohnson@isbe.net or (217) 782-5256.

**Innovation and Improvement**

**Family Engagement Webinar June 12; Feedback Sought on Draft Framework**

More research is emerging that indicates that when parents are included in the decision making process, parental involvement increases and student outcomes improve. From 1-2 p.m. on June 12, ISBE will host a webinar exploring the research and specific strategies of ways schools and districts ensure families are involved with school improvement efforts. This interactive webinar entitled “If You Build It, They Won’t Come: Redefining Partnerships With Families,” will be co-facilitated by ISBE and the Academic Development Institute. A panel including district and school-based practitioners will highlight the challenges, strengths and opportunities of this work. Register at http://www.illinoisparents.org/.

This webinar is part of a series of webinars centered on the four principles of ISBE’s draft Family Engagement Framework Guide. Including families in the decision-making process 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. There are several tools available in the guide that include the Family Engagement Standards of Effective Practice, a research and legislative review as well as a matrix highlighting how the standards align to the Eight Essential Elements of School Improvement. ISBE intends this framework guide will 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. Click on the link here to view the draft framework. Once you have viewed the framework, click on the survey link here to provide your feedback.
For more information contact Sarah Ogeto at sogeto@isbe.net.

**Center for Performance**

**Join the ISBE District Data Advisory Committee (DDAC)**

In the spring of 2013, ISBE established a school District Data Advisory Committee (DDAC). The purpose of this committee is to help us improve our communication with the school districts concerning ISBE data collection systems – the Student Information System (SIS) and the Employment Information System (EIS) – on a more regular and dedicated means.

This group provides a channel for ISBE to give more timely updates, allow the ‘give and take’ of ideas for improving the systems, and for communicating all new enhancements and future revisions of the systems. The collaborative effort put forth between the DDAC and the ISBE staff helps in anticipating the impact of data collection on districts as well as identifying new methods of reducing the data collection burden.

Since the conception of the committee, this collaboration has resulted in the following enhancements/modifications.

**In EIS:**
- Non-Certified aggregate collection
- Full Time Equivalence (FTE) change
- Maximum Salary per Position
- Substitute Educators not included in collection unless considered long-term

**In SIS:**
- Immigrant Student data collection
- Special education Student data collection
- Migrant Student data collection

Currently there are about 23 committee members. We would like to have more members, many more – SIS users as well as EIS users. The committee is a valuable resource for us, but we need more members to give us input. DDAC meets at ISBE about twice a year to discuss issues, concerns and updates to the SIS and EIS systems. In addition, we try to have a few webinars each year to alert the committee of future new enhancements or revisions.

No new data collection or revisions to data collections are undertaken without first running it by the committee. The district representatives must understand the proposed changes and provide feedback to those changes. It is our goal to have data collection systems that are effective, easy to use and efficient for the school district users. Receiving thoughtful, insightful and constructive feedback from the district reps on any system or process changes will enable us to meet that goal.

If you are interested in becoming a committee member, please call (217) 782-3950 or email datahelp@isbe.net.

We will soon be scheduling another District Data Advisory Committee meeting to discuss the 2015 enhancements to EIS. We need your input!

**English Language Learning Division**

**Migrant Education Program Application Deadline Set for July 1**

The Migrant Education Program application for funding for the 2014-2015 fall and regular school year is available on ISBE’s Division of English Language Learning webpage. Go to [http://www.isbe.net/bilingual/htmls/migrant.htm](http://www.isbe.net/bilingual/htmls/migrant.htm).

Funding is available under Title I, Part C of the reauthorized Elementary and Secondary Education Act for supplemental academic and support services for qualifying migrant children and youth. Applications must be submitted no later than July 1, 2014.

Children ages 0-21 who have not graduated from high school may be eligible for the program if they have moved within the past three years across state or school district lines with a parent or guardian or on their own to obtain temporary or seasonal work in agricultural production, fishing or food processing industries.

A certified recruiter must document that children qualify as migrant students. ISBE can assist districts with this process. For more information, contact Beth Robinson at (312) 814-3850.
Legal

Title, Ownership and Maintenance of Real Property

It has come to ISBE’s attention that some districts have encountered concerns in the sale or maintenance of real property due to lack of clear title or ownership. Districts and cooperatives are encouraged to clarify ownership of all real property, along with any improvements thereon, and verify that they hold appropriate title. Real property may include buildings, indoor and outdoor equipment, lighting systems, wells, ponds, roads, etc.

Questions can be directed to Assistant General Counsel Renee Vilatte in the ISBE Legal Department at (312) 814-2223.

Illinois Virtual School

IVS Offers Summer School Opportunities for Students Across Illinois

Attention principals and guidance counselors, Illinois Virtual School (IVS) can be the summer school destination for students. IVS can be your resource for students needing:

- Credit recovery options to graduate on time;
- Opportunities to take a foreign language, or other course not offered at your school;
- Opportunities to strengthen reading and/or writing skills by enrolling in Reading Skills and Strategies or Writing Skills and Strategies;
- A chance to take a course for enrichment.

Visit http://ilvirtual.org/summer4 to learn more about what IVS has to offer this summer. Please share this link with parents that may be looking for summer school programs for their middle or high school students.

Nutrition and Wellness Programs

Equipment Grant Funds Available to Support National School Lunch Programs

ISBE released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Equipment Assistance Grants. These grants will provide $1,318,438 to approved SFAs on a reimbursement basis to assist in purchasing equipment needed to meet the new nutritional standards as required by the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010.

Each school food authority (SFA) participating in the federally-funded National School Lunch Program (NSLP) is eligible to submit an application for schools under their jurisdiction where not less than 50 percent of the enrolled students were eligible for free or reduced-price meals in October 2013. (If needed, refer to the FY2014 eligibility listing posted online at http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/eligibility_listings.htm.)

Priority will be given to eligible SFAs 1) that did not receive equipment assistance grants in any of its schools in FY2009 or FY2010. (If needed, refer to the SFAs Previously Funded listing at http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/nslp_grant.htm); 2) that demonstrate high need, i.e., are able to show schools for which they are applying are in an underserved area, have limited access to other resources/funding to purchase equipment, current equipment is outdated, non-functioning or non-existent; 3) that commit to using funds to improve the quality and safety of school meals, overall energy efficiency, and/or participation; 4) that commit to implementing strategies for adopting smarter lunchrooms; 5) whose applying schools participate in the School Breakfast Program (SBP); 6) whose applying schools are self-operated and/or satellite meals to other schools participating in NSLP; and 7) whose applying schools have high free and reduced-price eligibility rates.

The grant period will run July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015, or June 30, 2016, depending on the funding source of award.

This RFP is posted on the ISBE website at http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/nslp_grant.htm and the deadline to apply is June 20, 2014. Additional information on the NSLP is available at http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/national_school_lunch.htm.

If you have questions regarding this grant, please email Shawn Backs at sbacks@isbe.net or Chad Martel at cmartel@isbe.net or call (217) 782-2491.
**Early Childhood Division**

**Reminder: New ISBE Bilingual Rules and Early Childhood Teacher Preparation**

In an effort to strengthen and support the academic achievement of English Language Learners in Illinois, new administrative rules went into effect in July 2010 that expanded bilingual services to preschool programs administered by a school district. In accordance with 23 Ill Administrative Code Part 228, effective July 1, 2014, preschool teachers who provide native language or ESL instruction to ELL students must also hold the English as a Second Language (ESL) or bilingual endorsement that corresponds with the teaching assignment.

For more information, contact the ISBE Division of English Language Learning at (312) 814-3850 or the ISBE Division of Early Childhood at (217) 524-4835.


For additional resources to support your preschool English Language Learners, go to [http://www.isbe.net/earlychi/preschool/preschool_ell.htm](http://www.isbe.net/earlychi/preschool/preschool_ell.htm).

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**Summer Conference**

**Register for ISBE and Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents Conference**


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, such as ELA Writing, Math Strategies, NGSS, Balanced Assessment, Equip Rubric, PARCC: Evidence Tables, PARCC Accommodations, Tech Apps for the classroom, Writing IEP Goals, Licensure, Teacher and Principal Evaluation, Multi-tier system of support, ELL, and Continuous Improvement.

All teachers and administrators are encouraged to attend. For more information, visit [http://www.isbe.net/common_core/pdf/state-conference-0614.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/common_core/pdf/state-conference-0614.pdf).

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**Rules and Waivers**

**Notice of Completed Rulemaking**

Please be advised that three 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 1, 25 and 30.

**Part 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision):** Makes technical changes to conform to the new licensure system that took effect July 1, 2013, and acknowledges changes in receipt of the elementary education and middle grades endorsements.  
**Affected Section:** 1.705, 1.710, 1.720, 1.730, 1.735, 1.736, 1.737, 1.745, 1.755 and 1.APPENDIX A  
**Effective Date:** May 6, 2014

**Part 25 (Educator Licensure):** Responds to recently enacted statutory changes and makes other technical changes; eliminates the limit on the number of times a licensure candidate or applicant may take a required test; and proposes minimum scores to be used for the ACT and SAT writing components that are comparable to the minimum writing score on the Illinois test of basic skills.  
Effective Date: May 6, 2014

Part 30 (Programs for the Preparation of Principals in Illinois): Proposes flexibility in requirements specific to internship sites and the number of candidates for which a mentor has responsibility; responds to P.A. 97-581, effective August 27, 2013, regarding the content-area test. Affected Sections: 30.10, 30.40, 30.60
Effective Date: May 6, 2014

School Health Issues

Webinar on Teaching Sex Education Available to Meet New State Requirements

The American School Health Association will present “Teaching Sexuality Education: Preparing Your Students With the Content and Skills They Need” at 3 p.m. Wednesday, May 28. This free webinar provides information in line with the Illinois revised law on teaching sex education. Continuing education units will be available. For more information and to register, go to https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3215462740247327234.

Effective Jan. 1, 2014, school districts must revise sex education curriculum to be aligned with the revisions to the state’s Critical Health Problems and Comprehensive Health Education Act. The act (Public Act 98-0441) also directs ISBE to provide resources for the districts that will help them meet the statute.

In short, the revision to sex education directs districts that teach sex education in any of grades 6 through 12, to provide lessons or curriculum with content that is medically accurate, evidence-based, with equal emphasis to abstinence and contraception as ways to prevent pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections. For more information, go to http://www.isbe.net/school_health.htm#se.

Training to Support Safe and Supportive Environments Related to Sex Education

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has provided to ISBE funding to support sex education and the creation and maintenance of safe and supportive environments for all students, including those who have different sexual identities from the heterosexual norm.

As part of the project, ISBE encourages all school staff to learn skills to provide students with such safety and support. “Step In, Speak Up – Supporting LGBTQ Students” is a free training offered by Illinois Department of Public Health. The training is self-paced and has proven effective in assisting school staff to create and maintain safe and supportive environments for such students.

To take the online training:
2. Select the training and create your account. (Choose “Other” if you work with multiple schools.)
3. Take the brief pre-training survey, followed by the training (can be completed in one or multiple sittings).
4. Please also take the post-training survey to assist in the program evaluation.
5. Print your certificate of completion.

Comprehensive System of Learning Supports

Illinois Educational Opportunities for Military Children Council Offers Toolkit

Recognizing that relocating is a difficult task, the Illinois Educational Opportunities for Military Children Council (IEOMCC) has developed a tool kit to help prepare military families for their student’s transition to a new school.

The toolkit and frequently-asked-questions documents can be found on ISBE’s website at http://www.isbe.net/learningsupports/html/military.htm.

Special Events

College Changes Everything Conference Scheduled for July 17 in Tinley Park

Registration is under way for the 2014 College Changes Everything Conference, which is set for 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. July 17 at the Tinley Park Convention Center.

The fourth annual statewide conference focuses on the goal of increasing the proportion of adults in Illinois...
with high-quality degrees and credentials to 60 percent by the year 2025.

Attendees of the College Changes Everything Conference include high school leaders, counselors and case managers; college and university leaders and administrators; business leaders; leaders from state agencies, non-profits, and community organizations focused on educational opportunity and attainment; and elected officials and policymakers interested in higher education.

Sessions at the one-day conference will include those on student support services, retention, remediation, college readiness, career development, afterschool programs, support systems for undocumented students, students with special needs, and more.

Registration is free but space is limited. Go to http://www.collegechangeseverything.org/events/2014-ceede.html for more information. Conference partners include the Illinois State Board of Education.

**DuSable Museum and the Illinois Amistad Commission Present Civil War Family Day**

The DuSable Museum and the Illinois Amistad Commission invite families, educators, and Civil War enthusiasts to join them on Saturday, June 14, for the second annual Civil War Family Day. The event will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at DuSable Museum, located at 740 E. 56th Place in Chicago.

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the historic American Civil War Battle of Nashville. The Battle of Nashville is often recognized as one of history’s most successful military campaigns and is also notable for the significant role played by several U.S. Colored Troop units. After being called upon to lead the initial attack, the Colored Units were instrumental in helping to break Lt. Gen. John Bell Hood’s Confederate army and ultimately helping to turn the tide of the Civil War in favor of the Union Army.

The day will be filled with battle re-enactments, family activities, museum tours, historic character recreations, and a special recognition of Juneteenth. For more information, contact Jomo Cheatham at jcheatham@dusablemuseum.org or (773) 947-0600, ext. 223, or visit www.dusableduseum.org.

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**Illinois Department of Natural Resources**

**Registration Underway for Upcoming ENTICE Workshops for Educators**

Register for upcoming ENTICE (Environment and Nature Training Institute for Conservation Education) workshops from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. ENTICE workshops offer training on Illinois-specific topics and supply educators with the tools needed to implement the topic into curriculum immediately.

Participants learn from resources professionals, take part in activities and spend time outdoors (where appropriate). Continuing Professional Development Units are available at all ENTICE workshops. For workshop details and to register, visit https://www.enticeworkshops.com.

Educators throughout Illinois can obtain instant notification about new products, scheduled workshops and many other events and items from IDNR through the IDNR Division of Education's electronic list server. By participating in the list server, you will receive email messages when new educational materials are available from the IDNR. You'll also be made aware of upcoming workshops and special opportunities. To join the list, send an email to subscribe-dnr-education@lists.illinois.gov. You do not need to write any text in the message or the subject line. You may leave the list at any time by sending an email to unsubscribe-dnr-education@lists.illinois.gov. You do not need to write any text in the message or the subject line. There is no charge to participate. Messages are usually titled “Items of Possible Interest” in the subject line.

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**In Brief**

**Professional Development**

- 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.

**Upcoming Workshops**

The Pathways Resource Center at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is presenting Administrator Academy #1533 “Getting the Grant: Sustaining and Growing Your STEM Programs Through Grant Funding,” 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. June 19 at the I Hotel, 1900 S. First St. in Champaign. For more information and to register, go to [http://pathways.illinois.edu/?page_id=77](http://pathways.illinois.edu/?page_id=77).

**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/](http://healthyschoolscampaign.org/blog/meet-our-first-ever-school-nurse-leadership-award-winners/).

**Employment Opportunities**

An External Vacancy List for ISBE is available at [http://www.isbe.net/hr/Default.htm](http://www.isbe.net/hr/Default.htm).