Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

This week the Illinois State Board of Education will meet in North Chicago at the Community High School. North Chicago School District 187 is one of two districts where the Illinois State Board of Education intervened with the local board. The Board is scheduled to tour facilities in the district and hear several presentations, including the Student Advisory Council’s annual year-end report.

Additionally, the Board will consider state regulations to offer some flexibility to schools participating in the National School Lunch and Breakfast programs from meeting federal nutrition standards for food and beverage fundraisers.

Also, this week we are teaming up with the Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents to present a two-day conference in Springfield that will showcase some of the best practices in implementing key education initiatives, from the English Language Arts and Mathematics standards, to teacher and principal evaluations and the PARCC assessment. The conference, which is Tuesday and Wednesday, will offer educators a great opportunity to share expertise and ideas.

Finally, last week the Gates Foundation announced its support for the idea that the new Common Core aligned assessments should not be used for teacher evaluations for two years. This reaffirms Illinois’ timeline for implementation of the new evaluation systems.

Our stakeholders put together a plan to slowly roll out the new evaluation systems over a period of time with full implementation not occurring until the 2016-17 school year. Unions, management, advocates and legislators agreed to this timeline after working collaboratively toward this implementation to ensure we get it right. This is why we resisted federal pressure to change our timeline and why we did not receive a waiver from some aspects of No Child Left Behind until just a few weeks ago.

I think this is more evidence that we were right in our approach toward implementation and believe this collaborative effort will pay off in the long run with an overall better system for students.

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.

• 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
• 2014 College Changes Everything Conference – July 17 in Tinley Park (For more information, visit http://www.collegechangeseverything.org/events/2014-cce.html.)
• 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)

### College and Career Readiness Division

**Grant Readers Sought for FY 2015 21st CCLC Program Grant Competition**

ISBE’s College and Career Readiness Division seeks additional grant readers for the Fiscal Year 2015 21st Century Community Learning Center (21st CCLC) Program grant competition.

Preferred grant readers must have after-school experience and knowledge in after-school programming and/or community-based programming that serves school-aged students, grant experience, previous grant reading experience, 21st CCLC experience and knowledge, program management and experience with schools and districts.

Readers must be available to read the Request for Proposals (RFP) and participate in a training webinar. Readers will read and score their assigned applications, which will be sent to them through a web-based system. Access to a computer with internet capability will be necessary, and an honorarium will be provided.

Once selected, readers will be required to sign a confidentiality agreement, an unobligated contract and complete a conflict of interest questionnaire. A timeline associated with this endeavor will be released at a later date.

To be considered, applicants should send a letter of interest and resume or curriculum vitae by June 20, 2014 to:

Tiffany Taylor  
Principal Consultant  
Illinois State Board of Education  
College and Career Readiness Division  
100 N. First St.  
Springfield, IL  62777-0001

Materials may also be submitted via email at 21stcclc@isbe.net. If you have any questions, please contact Tiffany Taylor at (217) 524-4832.

### Title Grant Administration

**Fiscal Year 2015 NCLB Consolidated Application Now Available in IWAS**

The FY 2015 NCLB Consolidated Application is now available in IWAS. The application, including the FY 15 projected district allocations for Titles I and II-A, incorporates the following grants:

- Title I, Part A, Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged
- Title II, Part A, Teacher Quality
- Please make sure that your approval groups are properly assigned through IWAS in order
to access the system and submit your application.

The start date for use of grant funds is July 1, 2014, or the date a substantially approvable application has been received by ISBE, whichever is later. The application is due no later than Nov. 5, 2014.

**PLEASE NOTE:**
- FY 14 carryover will be available for FY 15 applications once FY 14 final expenditure reports have been submitted.
- Title II-D, Title IV and Title V funds were not appropriated for this application for FY 15.
- We anticipate a high user volume immediately after this notice is released and applicants may experience delayed system response times. If this occurs, please try again later before calling the Helpdesk for assistance.

**WEBINAR RESOURCES:** A webinar will be published shortly that will guide users through the application process. A note will go out via IWAS when they are released.

If you have questions concerning Title I and Title II-A, contact your area consultant at (217) 524-4832. To confirm who your FY 15 consultant is, please go here: [http://www.isbe.net/grants/pdf/nclb_pc_reg_asmt.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/grants/pdf/nclb_pc_reg_asmt.pdf).

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**Funding and Disbursements Division**

**Important Changes in the Electronic Expenditure Reporting (EER) System**

As local education agencies (LEAs) prepare to transmit June 30 expenditure reports, please be aware of the following changes to the Electronic Expenditure Reporting system accessed via IWAS (ISBE Web Application Security system).

**State Programs ONLY (Revenue Codes prefixed with 3xxx):**
- **Expenditure Through Date Selection Screen:** User will be able to choose either the current month end report or report as of the current calendar date; however, if a required quarterly report has not been transmitted, the only choice is to transmit the required report. This change is consistent with the federal grants expenditure reporting process.

**Federal and State Programs:**
- LEAs will be able to include obligated payroll expenditures (e.g. staff paid on 12 month basis) on the June 30 or later report (entered as an outstanding obligation) when the project end date is after June 30 (e.g. usually Aug. 31).
- LEAs will be able to include a commitment amount (i.e. advance) greater than the amount entered as an outstanding obligation on the June 30 or later reports. Please note that a pop-up message will appear for the user to verify that anticipated expenditures reported as a commitment amount will occur in the next month which are NOT obligated (e.g. a summer school salary that has not yet been earned).
- Administrators only: The APPROVE button has been moved to the right side of the screen.

Questions can be directed to the Division of Funding and Disbursements at (217) 782-5256.

**SEPLB**

**School Nurse Licensure/Endorsement Program Approved at Lewis University**

The Illinois State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board (SEPLB) at ISBE has just approved the new school nurse licensure/endorsement program at Lewis University. Classes will be held at the Oakbrook campus and will be blended in class and online. Applications are now being accepted for the fall semester. Future plans include a master’s degree option in either or both nursing and education.

For questions, contact Linda Gibbons at lgibbons817@gmail.com. Program and application information can be found online at [http://www.lewisu.edu/academics/nursing/graduate/schoolnurse/index.htm](http://www.lewisu.edu/academics/nursing/graduate/schoolnurse/index.htm).

This brings the number of Illinois universities offering school nurse preparation programs back to four. The programs prepare registered nurses to obtain professional educator licensure endorsed for school nursing. The other programs are:
- Millikin University, Decatur, jocarter@mail.millikin.edu, [https://www.millikin.edu](https://www.millikin.edu)
School Health Issues

CDC Releases Results of 2013 Youth Risk Behavior Survey

On June 12, the CDC’s Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH) released the 2013 national, state and local Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) results on the YRBS website at www.cdc.gov/yrbs. The results include statistics from students in Illinois, both inside and outside of Chicago.

The release includes:
- An MMWR Surveillance Summary that includes results from the 2013 National YRBS and from 42 states (including Illinois) and 21 local (cities, including Chicago, and territories) surveys.
- New fact sheets and summary documents.
- An updated version of Youth Online – a web-based data system that allows users to view and analyze national, state and local YRBS results.
- Public-use datasets and technical documentation.

YRBS background: The YRBS monitors six categories of priority health-risk behaviors among high school students – behaviors that contribute to unintentional injuries and violence; tobacco use; alcohol and other drug use; sexual behaviors that contribute to unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV infection; unhealthy dietary behaviors; and physical inactivity – plus the prevalence of asthma and obesity. The Illinois State Board of Education operates the Illinois outside of Chicago survey through a grant from the CDC. The Chicago Public Schools operates a city-wide sample survey, also through a grant from the CDC.

For more information about the YRBS, visit www.cdc.gov/yrbs or call 1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636). At ISBE, project principal investigator is Jessica Gerdes (jgerdes@isbe.net).

Sexual Health Education Course Available for Health Teachers and School Nurses

ISBE has available a limited number of slots for the web-based course “ABC’s – Abstinence, Birth Control, and Condoms,” a course that will help health teachers meet the requirements of the state’s law on content in sexual health education courses for students receiving any sex education in grades 6-12.

No later than June 20, please send to Reginald Patterson, rpatters@isbe.net, this information:
- Name of the staff person who will be taking the training (limited to licensed health teacher or licensed/endorsed (i.e., certified) school nurse who provides some classroom instruction on sex education.
- The email address and district name. (Home email is permissible.)
- The ZIP code (for purposes of tracking the trainings geographically).
- Requested starting date to begin the training (training must be scheduled to start on or before June 27). You will have 30 days from your start date to complete the training. Your sign-in will be sent to you via email.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

CDC Releases New Toolkit on Increasing Access to Drinking Water in Schools

CDC’s new toolkit, “Increasing Access to Drinking Water in Schools,” helps schools make the healthy choice the easy choice for all students by ensuring access to free drinking water as an alternative to sugar-sweetened beverages before, during, and after school. The easy-to-use tool kit includes needs assessment tools, implementation strategies and evaluation guidance to improve access to drinking water as part of a healthier nutrition environment in schools.
Drinking water in place of sugar-sweetened beverages can help students stay hydrated and may improve cognitive function. Children and adolescents spend much of their time at school, and by providing access to healthier choices, students can stay healthy and ready to learn.

School health councils, nutrition services providers, principals, teachers, parents and other school staff can follow key steps and use the planning guide and resources to:

- Meet USDA Smart Snacks in School requirements to provide free drinking water in the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program.
- Help make free drinking water readily available across the school campus.
- Promote water as a healthy beverage.


**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 emartel@isbe.net or call (217) 782-2491.

**In Brief**

**Professional Development**


**Educational Tools**

- Make reservations now to borrow the Illinois Department of Natural Resources’ Field Trip Packs and resources trunks for summer programs. The trunks and packs feature hands-on materials...
that provide resources close up for youth and that encourage nature exploration. Visit
http://dnr.state.il.us/education/CLASSRM/teach.htm for more information.

In the News

• Congratulations to 11th-grader Marilyn Chakkalamuri of Woodstock North High School and her English teacher Jennifer Spear. Marilyn earned an honorable mention in the essay category of the nationwide First Freedom Student Competition. Read more about the contest at http://www.firstfreedom.org/education/students.html.

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.

Employment Opportunities

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