Next year we are moving to a new assessment and accountability system and we have determined the testing program for the 2014-2015 school year. The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessment will be administered in grades 3 through 8 and once in high school as an end-of-course assessment in English Language Arts 3 and Algebra II/Integrated Math 3.

The PARCC results will be used for accountability purposes. We will also offer the ACT and WorkKeys on an optional basis for districts. The testing windows for PARCC are posted on the Assessment web page http://www.isbe.net/assessment/pdfs/parcc/parcc-test-windows14-15.pdf. The ACT will be administered on March 3, 2015, and the WorkKeys will be administered March 4, 2015.

Also, the preliminary results for ISAT are now available for districts to review. The correction window ends Monday, July 7. ISBE staff required additional time to review the preliminary results this year prior to posting to ensure the accuracy of the data.

Finally, I wanted to share some wonderful news with you. The Illinois Comptroller’s Office released the 4th Quarter of the Fiscal Year 2014 Mandated Categorical payments last week. This is the first time, since Fiscal Year 2007, that all four MCAT quarterly payments for the same fiscal year have been paid by June 30.

While this is exciting news for districts, the Comptroller’s Office said this is the result of several unique circumstances and that districts should not expect to receive all payments on time next year, but rather only three would likely be received in FY15. The June 2015 will most likely be released after July next year.

The Weekly message will take the next week off but will return in a couple weeks. If there is anything urgent we will notify you through a special edition or via IWAS.

Enjoy your Independence Day!

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-ccc.html.)
- 2013-14 Pupil Transportation Reimbursement Claim – Aug. 15
- ISBE offices closed for Labor Day – Sept. 1
- ISBE offices closed for Election Day – Nov. 4

**Assessment Division**

**Assessment Correction Window Open With 2014 ISAT Preliminary Scores Posted**

The 2014 preliminary results for ISAT are now available for district review in SIS. With the change in the ISAT blueprint (for reading and math) this year, ISBE staff required additional time to review the results prior to posting for school district review and correction activities. Please note the correction window ends at 4 p.m. Monday, July 7. Please immediately review your data for any errors or omissions. There will be no extensions.

**Performance Level Cut-Scores on the IAA Reading and Math Assessments Adjusted**

Due to the Illinois State Board of Education’s (ISBE) transition from the final administration of the Illinois Alternate Assessment (IAA) to the new Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Assessment in 2014-2015, the 2014 IAA Reading and Mathematics items were aligned to the Common Core Essential Elements (CCEE). The CCEEs are specific statements of knowledge and skills linked to the grade-level expectations identified in the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). The purpose of the CCEEs is to build a bridge from the content in the CCSS to academic expectations for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. With the implementation of these new standards, the ISBE must adjust the performance level cut-scores on the IAA Reading and Mathematics assessments.

As we focus on preparing all students, including students with the most significant cognitive disabilities for college and career opportunities, the performance level cut-scores must be changed accordingly. These higher academic expectations will cause the number of students who meet and exceed standards to decrease. Students who met or exceeded standards previously may now be classified as needing improvement due to the updated cut-scores. However, these new expectations do not mean that our students know less than they did before or are less capable than they were in previous years. Instead, the expectation going forward is to show progress toward college and career-readiness benchmarks. The new performance expectations for the IAA will provide a more accurate
reflection of whether a student is on track for college and the workforce.

**Student Growth Training Modules Series Available Online**

The ISBE Student Assessment Division is excited to announce the availability of the first three modules of the Student Growth Training Modules Series: [www.isbe.net/assessment/htmls/balanced-asmt.htm](http://www.isbe.net/assessment/htmls/balanced-asmt.htm).

- Module 1 – Introduction to Balanced Assessment
- Module 2 – Performance Evaluation Reform Act
- Module 3 – Conversations for Joint Committees

The purpose of this series is to provide quality professional development on the topic of measuring student growth for the purpose of performance evaluation available to all teachers and administrators in Illinois. These modules were developed in collaboration with the Illinois Education Association (IEA), the Illinois Federation of Teachers (IFT), the Illinois Principals Association (IPA), and the Illinois Association of School Administrators (IASA).

A facilitation guide is also available that provides a suggested facilitation process for each module including support activities and guidance documents. Modules will be regularly added to the series that address the Student Learning Objective (SLO) process, measurement models, and guidance for special populations. Please check the Balanced Assessment website regularly for updated modules, guidance documents, and examples.

**College and Career Readiness**

**FY 15 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program Grant RFP Released**

The College and Career Readiness Division is pleased to announce the release of the FY 2015 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program (21CCLC) Grants Request for Proposals (RFP). Applications must be received no later than 5 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 11, 2014.


**Technical Assistance:** The technical assistance bidder’s webinar will be conducted from 1 to 4 p.m. on Wednesday, July 9, 2014. This informational webinar will relate to the specific proposal requirements. Registration information is available at [http://www.isbe.net/grants/html/webinar.htm](http://www.isbe.net/grants/html/webinar.htm). The webinar will be archived after July 10 at [www.isbe.net/21cclc/html/funding.htm](http://www.isbe.net/21cclc/html/funding.htm).

**Background Information:** Through a competitive grant process, approximately $25 million is available in FY 2015 to fund academically focused after-school programs that will serve schools with a high concentration of low-income students (defined as not less than 40 percent of students being eligible for free or reduced-price lunch).

Eligible applicants are public and private entities, including local education agencies (LEAs) such as public school districts, public university laboratory schools approved by ISBE, state-authorized* charter schools, area vocational centers, regional offices of education, and intermediate service centers; community-based organizations (CBO), including faith based organizations (FBO); and other public and private entities.

A consortium of two or more eligible applicants may also submit a proposal as a joint application. Previously funded grantees are eligible to apply as well as new applicants.

Due to the ESEA Flexibility Waiver applicants are permitted to utilize no more than 25 percent of their total allocation to provide optional Expanded Learning Time (ELT) activities. ELT means expanding the school day, week or year beyond the state-mandated requirements for the minimum number of hours in a school day, days in a school week or days in a school year. ELT is a quantifiable amount of additional time — hours, days or weeks. The optional 21st CCLC waiver available under ESEA flexibility authorizes the
use of 21st CCLC program funds during the school day to support ELT. It does not require, however, that 21st CCLC activities occur only during ELT.

A competitive priority will be given to applicants that propose to serve students in poverty who attend schools in need of improvement, recognized as Priority Schools, and submit a joint application between at least one LEA receiving funds under Title I, Part A and at least one public or private community organizations and propose to serve middle and high school students. More information is available at www.isbe.net/21cclc. The deadline is 5 p.m. Aug. 11, 2014.

For more information on the 21st CCLC grant, contact Tiffany Taylor at 21stcclc@isbe.net or (217) 524-4832.

*Refers specifically to charter schools that are authorized by ISBE as opposed to charter schools authorized by LEAs. Charter schools authorized by LEAs are not eligible to apply independently from their authorizing LEAs.

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**Illinois Center for School Improvement**

**Dr. Betheny Lyke Named Director**

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and American Institutes for Research (AIR) are pleased to announce that Dr. Betheny Lyke has been named director of the Illinois Center for School Improvement (Illinois CSI).

Dr. Lyke has been serving as Illinois CSI's acting director since April, when the previous director, José Rico, left to assume an executive position in a national organization. At the time, Dr. Lyke was Illinois CSI's associate director of district services and a member of the organization's senior leadership team. In her role as associate director, Dr. Lyke oversaw the development, delivery and coordination of services Illinois CSI began providing to Illinois's 29 districts with priority schools last November.

Illinois CSI is a partnership between ISBE and AIR and was established to bring oversight and coordination to school district-level services provided by Illinois's SSoS.

Since November, Illinois CSI has conducted district needs assessments for districts that qualify for priority services, provided these districts with coaching services, and initiated districts into its 18-month District Leadership Team Learning Network program. Illinois CSI also has played a leadership role in the formation of foundational services that are available for all school districts in Illinois and delivered by the Regional Offices of Education and the Intermediate Service Centers in partnership with Illinois CSI and ISBE.

For more information about Dr. Lyke and Illinois CSI, please visit www.illinoiscsi.org.

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**Innovation & Improvement**

**Rising Star Continuous Improvement Platform for FY15**

For the 2014-15 school year, there is no requirement to enter District Improvement Plans (DIPs) and School Improvement Plans (SIPs) into Rising Star. The Rising Star platform will continue to be the ISBE electronic system of record for other required ISBE plans, such as Title I plans, Technology plans, Race to the Top plans and Transformation plans for priority schools and these plans will continue to be submitted in Rising Star.

During this year, ISBE will ask stakeholders to join us in designing improvements to the system. To start that work, last fall ISBE asked educators to give their thoughts and experiences with the Illinois Rising Star Continuous Improvement Platform. More than 2900 Illinois educators completed the survey and 125 participated in focus groups across the state with the Midwest Comprehensive Center. The final report is available at www.isbe.net under Statewide System of Support.

Participants noted that the Rising Star Platform has been a successful tool for building a school/district leadership team, reviewing school/district data, identifying critical needs, creating a plan and then monitoring that plan. At the same time, participants provided many comments and suggestions that would improve the Rising Star tool such as reviewing and narrowing the indicators, including more diverse research than currently found in the Wise Ways © and several improvements in both the functionality of the tool and guidelines for use.

ISBE staff is very appreciative of the time and thoughtful
input given by our school and district staff to help guide our continuous improvement work next year.

**New Legislation: effective July 1**

**Teacher Recall Rights**

Effective **July 1, 2014**, Public Act 98-0648 (the “Act”) gives limited recall rights to teachers placed in Group 2 pursuant to Section 5/24-12 (b) of the School Code [105 ILCS 5/24-12 (b)]. Specifically, effective July 1, 2014, if the board or joint agreement has any vacancies within the period from the beginning of the following school term through February 1 of the following school term (unless a date later than February 1, but no later than 6 months from the beginning of the following school term, is established in a collective bargaining agreement), the positions thereby becoming available must be tendered to the teachers so removed or dismissed who were in grouping 2 of the sequence of dismissal due to one "needs improvement" rating on either of the teacher's last 2 performance evaluation ratings, provided that, if 2 ratings are available, the other performance evaluation rating used for grouping purposes is "satisfactory", "proficient", or "excellent", and are qualified to hold the positions, based upon legal qualifications and any other qualifications established in a district or joint agreement job description, on or before the May 10 prior to the date of the positions becoming available.

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) intends to publish an updated non-regulatory guidance document which will supersede previous versions (12/5/2011 and 01/17/2012) and any other guidance provided by ISBE to the field—into which the information regarding recall rights in the Act will be incorporated. However, in light of questions that have arisen surrounding the Act and the recall rights of teachers in Group 2, ISBE has published a topic-specific non-regulatory guidance on this development. The guidance can be found on the following link: http://www.isbe.net/PEAC/pdf/guidance/14-2-recall-rights-hon-disch-teachers.pdf.

**School Business Services**

**The Fiscal Year 2013-14 School District/Joint Agreement Annual Audit**

For the year ending June 30, 2014, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) provides the Illinois School District Annual Financial Report (AFR) (Form 50-35) and Joint Agreement Annual Financial Report (Form 50-60) electronically and is supported in Excel version 97-Excel 2003 workbook version. These forms are used for the financial reporting requirement by all Local Education Agencies (LEA).

Section 3-7 of the School Code sets forth the duties and responsibilities needed to meet the audit requirement. The AFR and related material can be obtained at SD/JA Annual Financial Report. You can also go to the ISBE homepage at www.isbe.net, select “Division Links,” select “School Business Services Division,” and then select “Forms” and “Annual Financial Report FY14.”

**Filing deadline for the AFR:** Statute requires that the AFR and attachments be filed this year on or before Wednesday, Oct. 15, 2014, with the appropriate Regional Office of Education/Intermediate Service Center (ROE/ISC). In extenuating circumstances, the Regional Superintendent may grant up to 60 days extension per Section 3-7 of the School Code. If an extension has not been granted, the AFR must be forwarded by the ROE/ISC to ISBE on or before Friday, Nov. 14, 2014 (Cover page through Page 8 with all signatures, is required to be mailed to the ROE/ISC by Oct. 15, 2014, and the ISBE by Nov. 14, 2014).

For further questions, please contact School Business Services: Toby Turek, Debbie Hemberger or Scott Durr at finance1@isbe.net or (217) 785-8779.

**School District/Joint Agreement Budget Forms Now Available**

Now available at the School Business Services Division website are FY2015 School District/Joint Agreement Budget forms (ISBE Form 50-36/50-39) with related additional information and instructions.

Forms and resources at the ISBE website, http://www.isbe.net/sfms/budget/default.htm, include:

- FY2015 School District/Joint Agreement Budget, ISBE Form 50-36/50-39
- Links to Current Rules and School Code Requirements.
- Dates to Remember.
FY 2015 School District Budget/Joint Agreement Forms must be submitted to the Illinois State Board of Education no later than Thursday, Oct. 31, 2014. The School Code, Section 17-1 (105 ILCS 5/17-1) requires school districts/joint agreements to electronically submit the adopted annual budget to ISBE; and also requires school districts who adopt an unbalanced budget in the operating funds to complete a Deficit Reduction Plan to balance the budget within three years. Additional deadline dates are included on the webpage.

Amended FY 2014 Budgets must be completed and adopted no later than June 30, 2015. Please submit the amended budgets to ISBE through the Attachment Manager.

For further inquiries, please contact School Business Services: Toby Turek or Christine Kolaz at finance1@isbe.net or (217) 785-8779.

Annual Statement of Affairs (ISBE 50-37) Used by Districts and Joint Agreements

Section 10-17 of the School Code requires school boards in Class I counties (all counties except Cook) or the appropriate township treasurer or school board in Class II counties (Cook County) to make available, to the public, a statement of the affairs prior to Dec. 1 annually. The Annual Statement of Affairs (ASA) is required to be submitted on the form prescribed by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) for posting on the ISBE’s website, by having copies of the ASA available in the main administrative office of the district, and by publishing the ASA in a newspaper of general circulation published in the school district.

School districts that serve as the administrative agent for a joint agreement are also subject to the ASA requirements listed above with respect to joint agreements that they administer. All “Annual Statement of Affairs” are required to be filed with ISBE by Dec. 15, annually and posted on its website by Jan. 15, annually.

Further information and the ASA form can be obtained at http://www.isbe.net/sfms/afrr/asp.htm. For further questions, contact School Business Services: Toby Turek or Christine Kolaz at finance1@isbe.net or (217) 785-8779.

Certificate of Tax Levy (ISBE 50-02) Form Available for Use by School Districts

Section 17-11 of the School Code requires the school board of each district to ascertain as near as practicable, annually, how much money must be raised by special tax for transportation purposes if any, for educational purposes and for operations and maintenance purposes for the next ensuing year. These amounts must be certified and filed with the County Clerk on or before the last Tuesday in December annually. The Certificate of Tax Levy (ISBE 50-02) form may be used to meet the requirement of this section and can be obtained on the ISBE website at http://www.isbe.net/sfms/afrr/ctl.htm.

For further inquiries, contact School Business Services: Toby Turek, Debbie Hemberger or Scott Durr at finance1@isbe.net or (217) 785-8779.

ILEARN Updated With Data From FY 2013 Annual Financial Reports

ILEARN now includes the financial data from the FY 2013 Annual Financial Reports. The database is updated each year following the completion of the Annual Financial Report processing. ILEARN contains financial, tax and per pupil data from fiscal years 1997 to 2013 and has been used by many for school district financial studies, comparisons and other inquiries. The database has the capability of comparing financial data of one school district to another school district, one county to another county, and one year to another year for a specific school district.

Questions regarding the database or forms can be directed to Toby Turek, Christine Kolaz or Debbie Hemberger in ISBE’s School Business Services Division at (217) 785-8779 or finance1@isbe.net.

Data Analysis and Accountability

2013-2014 Dental Data Collection

The Student Health Data – Dental system is now available in IWAS for school year 2013-2014 data
submission. All students in kindergarten, grade 2, and/or grade 6, must have their data reported. Completed reports must be received by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) no later than June 30, 2014.

Below are links (URLs) to important related documents. Please use them for assistance with submitting your data.

- School Dental Examinations Information Sheet: [http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/dental_information.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/dental_information.pdf)
- Dental Information-Data Entry Worksheet: [http://www.isbe.net/research/xls/dental_worksheet.xls](http://www.isbe.net/research/xls/dental_worksheet.xls)

As mandated by Section 5/27-8.1 of the School Code, dental data must be submitted for all Illinois schools serving any combination of kindergarten, grade 2, and/or grade 6 students. Public school districts may enter the data for each of their schools or approve school IWAS users to enter the data. Regardless of who enters data, it is the responsibility of the nonpublic school administrator/public school district administrator to review the accuracy of entered data and submit the data to ISBE.

Please share this information with school nurses, health technicians, and individuals responsible for submitting your eye examination data to ISBE. For questions related to the data entry, contact ISBE Data Analysis and Accountability Division at (312) 814-2220. For technical assistance, contact the ISBE Help Desk at (217) 558-3600.

2013-14 Eye Examination Data Collection

The Student Health Data – Vision system is now available in IWAS for school year 2013-2014 data submission. All students in kindergarten and any student enrolled for the first time in an Illinois School as of Oct. 15, 2013, must have their data reported. Completed reports must be received by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) no later than June 30, 2014.

Below are links to important related documents. Please use them for assistance with submitting your data.

- Eye Examination Data Entry Worksheet: [http://www.isbe.net/research/xls/eye_exam_wksht.xls](http://www.isbe.net/research/xls/eye_exam_wksht.xls)
- School Eye Examinations – Information Sheet: [http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/eye_examinations.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/eye_examinations.pdf)

A report must be submitted for every eligible school, without exception. Schools that are not the home school for any student should submit the report by selecting the option which allows them to declare they have no data to report. This option may also be selected by home schools that do not serve kindergarten students and had no students in grades 1 through 12 enrolling for the first time in an Illinois school. All eligible schools should receive IWAS inbox messages regarding Student Health Data -Vision Data Collection. Please check your IWAS inbox for reminders and updates.

Please share this information with school nurses, health technicians, and individuals responsible for submitting your eye examination data to ISBE. For questions related to the data entry, contact ISBE Data Analysis and Accountability Division at (312) 814-2220. For technical assistance, contact the ISBE Help Desk at (217) 558-3600.

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 is now available here that will guide users through the application process.

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.

Funding and Disbursements Division

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 that 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.

Rules and Waivers

Invitation to Comment on Rules

Four sets of proposed amendments recently reviewed by the Illinois State Board of Education are available for public comment. The proposals have been posted on the agency’s Web site at www.isbe.net/rules; choose “Proposed Rules and Amendments.” Please submit any comments or suggestions to rules@isbe.net.

Part 25 (Educator Licensure): In responses to P.A. 98-610, effective December 27, 2013, sets forth requirements for renewal of professional educator licenses and educator licenses with stipulations endorsed for career and technical educator; other technical changes also are being proposed. Public comment period ends August 25, 2014.

Part 50 (Evaluation of Certified Employees under Articles 24A and 34 of the School Code): Establishes the components of the State Performance Evaluation Model for Teachers to which a school district would default should its joint committee fail to come to agreement on one or more of the components within 180 days. Public comment period ends August 25, 2014.

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.
Part 51 (Dismissal of Tenured Teachers under Article 24 and Dismissal of Tenured Teachers and Principals under Article 34 of the School Code):
Establishes a process for the agency's approval of entities to offer training for school board members about performance evaluations required under Article 24A of the School Code (i.e., “PERA evaluations”).

Part 305 (School Food Service):
Aligns the rules to federal nutrition standards and sets a limit on the number of “exempted fundraising days” (i.e., those selling food or beverages items not meeting the standards to students) that a participating school may have on the school campus during the school day.

Notice of Completed Rulemaking
Please be advised that a set of amendments recently adopted by the Illinois State Board of Education by emergency action are now in effect. Changes have been posted at http://www.isbe.net/rules/archive/default.htm. Please choose “Rules Currently in Effect” and scroll to Part 305 EMERGENCY.

Part 305 (School Food Service):
Aligns the rules to federal nutrition standards and sets a limit on the number of “exempted fundraising days” (i.e., those selling food or beverages items not meeting the standards to students) that a participating school may have on the school campus during the school day.
Affected Section: 305.5 and 305.15
Effective Date: June 25, 2014

Nutrition and Wellness Programs

Resources on Supporting District Wellness Policies Available Online
Bridging the Gap, a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation program and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have announced the availability of a series of briefs related to supporting wellness policies through evidence-based strategies.

The briefs cover seven topic areas: Evaluation, Physical Education and Physical Activity, Recess, School Nutrition Environments, Drinking Water Access, Marketing and Promotion of Foods and Beverages, and Addressing Weight Status.

Illinois Department of Public Health
Integrated Pest Management Seminars Slated for July 15 and 29
As in the past, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) will present Integrated Pest Management (IPM) seminars for staff of public schools and daycares. Two seminars are scheduled for 2014, one on July 15 in Wadsworth and another on July 29 in Chatham. For more information and to register, go to http://www.idph.state.il.us/envhealth/ipm/training_sw.htm.

Attendance at one of the two seminars is required for over 100 schools and daycare centers that have opted not to implement the principles of IPM in their pest control operations, as indicated on the IPM forms all school districts and daycare centers are required to file with the IDPH. But staff of all public schools and daycare centers are invited to attend.

In past years, evaluations have shown that these IPM seminars are informative and surprisingly interesting. Even if your facility has chosen to implement IPM in its pest control operations, your staff may have questions about the state’s IPM regulations for schools and daycares, or what implementing Integrated Pest Management really means. Here’s your opportunity to learn all about IPM, the rules and pest management.

This year’s IPM seminars are being hosted by public schools, and will feature actual walk-through pest inspections of those schools. All attendees will receive a free, highly acclaimed and illustrated guide to pests of schools and daycares. There is no fee for attending the seminars, but you must complete and submit a registration form on the IDPH IPM website. Use the link above and click on “Course Registration Form.” If you have questions, contact the IDPH IPM Program at (217) 782-5830. Here are the specifics for the two scheduled seminars:

UPCOMING INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (IPM) SEMINARS
In Brief

Educator Opportunities

- The Illinois Reading Council will present the 47th annual Illinois Reading Council Conference in Springfield from Oct. 2-4. The conference features many well-known authors, nationally recognized reading professionals, and educators that will be presenting over 400 breakout sessions. For more information, visit www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org or call (888) 454-1341.

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.

Employment Opportunities

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