Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

I hope you’ve been able to enjoy your summer. Many schools will be starting in just a few weeks, and I know most of you are in full swing with preparations for the challenges of next school year. We will host a Back-to-School webinar at 10 a.m. Aug. 19. I will be joined by agency staff and we will provide updates on a number of issues, including administration of the new Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) exams, the state’s flexibility under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) waiver, ongoing implementation of the Illinois Learning Standards based on the Common Core, teacher and principal evaluations and Report Card metrics.

You can register at www1.gotomeeting.com/register/326080664. The webinar is an opportunity to provide you with additional information as we head back to school. You’ll be able to ask questions, and participants will also receive additional supporting materials following the webinar.

I also want to make you aware of a professional development opportunity focusing on school discipline that we are sponsoring with Loyola University. “Best Practices in Addressing Student Behaviors While Keeping Schools Safe” will address the research, application and implementation of best practices in school discipline. The state and federal legal requirements relating to school discipline will be covered as well as the research demonstrating the need for reforming school disciplinary policies.

This program qualifies for six hours of Professional Development Hours from the Illinois State Board of Education. Participants can register and find more information online at www.luc.edu/law/centers/childlaw/institutes/child_education/research_outreach.html. The seminar will run from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 6, at Loyola University Chicago School of Law, located at 25 E. Pearson St. in Chicago.

Finally, our own Board member, Dr. Vinni Hall, is being honored by the National Association of the State Boards of Education for her outstanding service to the students of Illinois. Dr. Hall has been selected to receive the NASBE 2014 Distinguished Service Award. Vinni lives in Chicago and has been a member of the Illinois State Board of Education since September 2004. She will be presented the NASBE 2014 Distinguished Service Award in October at NASBE’s national conference.

Congratulations, Vinni!
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.

- **PSAE Final Data Scheduled to be Posted in SIS** – Aug. 1
- **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.)
- **Deadline for 2014 Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Children Essay and Art Contest submissions** – Aug. 15
- **Part 25 (Educator Licensure), Part 50 (Evaluation of Certified Employees under Articles 24A and 34 of the School Code), Part 51 (Dismissal of Tenured Teachers under Article 24 and Dismissal of Tenured Teachers and Principals under Article 34 of the School Code) and Part 305 (School Food Service)** – Public comment period ends August 25
- **Capital Needs Assessment Survey deadline** – Sept. 1 (http://www.isbe.net/construction/default.htm)
- **ISBE offices closed for Labor Day** – Sept. 1
- **ISBE offices closed for Columbus Day** – Oct. 13
- **FY 2015 School District Budget/Joint Agreement Forms** – Must be submitted to ISBE no later than Oct. 31 (http://www.isbe.net/sfms/budget/default.htm)
- **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)
- **Annual Statement of Affairs (ISBE 50-37)** – To be filed with ISBE by Dec. 15 (http://www.isbe.net/sfms/asp/default.htm)
- **ISBE offices closed for Veterans Day** – Nov. 11
- **ISBE offices closed for Thanksgiving** – Nov. 27-28
- **ISBE offices closed for Christmas Day** – Dec. 25

Back-to-School Webinar

**2014 Back-to-School Webinar Aug. 19 to Highlight Ongoing Education Initiatives**

State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch will lead a webinar at 10 a.m. Aug. 19 to update district administrators about key ongoing education initiatives, including the debut of the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) exams, the state’s flexibility under the ESEA waiver and the ongoing implementation of the Illinois Learning Standards based on the Common Core.

Participants should register early at www1.gotomeeting.com/register/326080664 as space is limited.

This informational session will cover:

- **PARCC 2015** – What the new online assessments should look like as they debut this school year, what districts can do now to prepare and what they should expect from ISBE through the year and during the administration.
• Implementation of the Illinois Learning Standards based on the Common Core – Discussion of the innovation ISBE has seen in districts and how educators can learn more about best practices and professional development opportunities.

• Flexibility Waiver – Description of ISBE’s Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) flexibility waiver that goes into effect this school year.

• Teacher and Principal Evaluations – Update on districts’ continued efforts to implement or plan implementation of a new educator evaluation system that incorporates multiple measures of student growth and professional practice.

• Report Card Metrics – Overview of new Report Card metrics, including the full 5Essentials profile and report for districts and schools, to be released this fall.

Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions and will receive additional supporting materials following the webinar.

**Title:** Back-to-School 2014 Webinar with State Superintendent Koch  
**Date:** Tuesday, Aug. 19  
**Time:** 10 to 11 a.m.  
**System requirements:** Windows 8, 7, Vista, XP or 2003 Server for PC-based attendees; Mac OS X 10.6 or newer for Mac-based attendees; iPhone, iPad, Android phone or Android tablet for mobile attendees.

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**Educator Licensure**

**Grandfathering Gifted Education Teacher Endorsement Provision Included in Rules**

A grandfathering provision for the Gifted Education Teacher endorsement was included in Illinois Administrative Rule 25.100 (l)(1)(B), posted at www.isbe.net/rules/archive/pdfs/25ark.pdf.

To meet the grandfathering provisions, one must have completed the following:

- Document completion of a gifted education seminar offered by the State Board of Education in conjunction with the Illinois Association for Gifted Children by Jan. 31, 2015; or receive recognition as a state board-approved gifted education seminar trainer by Jan. 31, 2015;
- Have four years of teaching experience in a public or recognized nonpublic school; and
- Make application for the Gifted Education Teacher endorsement by Feb. 1, 2015

To view an FAQ regarding the Gifted Education Teacher endorsement, please visit www.isbe.net/career/html/gifted_resources.htm.

The National Evaluation Series (NES) Gifted Education Test will be available beginning Sept. 15, 2014. This content-area test is offered in computer-based format only and is required for the Gifted Education Teacher endorsement and the Gifted Education Specialist endorsement.

Individuals who meet the requirements above must also pass the NES Gifted Education Test to earn the Gifted Education Teacher endorsement. To learn more about this test, please visit www.nestest.com/TestView.aspx?f=HTML_FRAG/NT312_TestPage.html. Registration is now open.

Applications submitted on or after Feb. 1, 2015, shall be subject to each of the requirements set forth in Illinois Administrative Rule 25.100 (l)(1)(A), which includes completion of an approved Illinois program for gifted education. Please note that there are currently no Illinois-approved programs for either the Gifted Education Teacher endorsement or the Gifted Education Specialist endorsement.

Illinois educators served on a national standard-setting panel for the NES Gifted Education Test in June. A recommendation will be made to use the national cut score for the NES Gifted Education Test.

It is anticipated that the application for the Gifted Education Teacher endorsement will be available by mid-October.

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**School Business Services**

**Indirect Cost Rates for Program Year 2015**
The Indirect Cost Rates for Program Year 2015 are now available at the following website: www.isbe.net/sbss/indirect.htm.

These rates are used for award and management of federal contracts, grants and other assistance arrangements governed by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). For further documentation of methodology, please see Indirect Cost Rate Plan at the link above.

The methodology of the calculated rates are approved and accepted as policy and procedures by the OM, Circular A-87, and Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) 34 CFR parts 75.561 (b) and (c).

If you have any questions, please contact Debbie Hemberger in ISBE’s School Business Services Division at (217) 785-8779 or finance1@isbe.net.

**English Language Learning**

**2014 Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Children Essay and Art Contest**

Children of migrant and seasonal farmworkers as well as youth who are migrant or seasonal farmworkers themselves are invited to participate in the 2014 Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Children Essay and Art Contest sponsored by the Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs (AFOP).

This year’s contest is themed “From Our Hands to Your Table” and will highlight the talent and personal stories of farmworker youth.

To enter, children ages 10-18 may submit either a poster or an essay in English or Spanish. Winners will receive cash awards, and the first-place winners will be invited to attend the AFOP annual conference in San Diego.

The deadline for submission has been extended to Aug. 15, 2014. Guidelines for entries are found at http://afop.org/children-in-the-fields/connect-with-cif/.

In response to growing demand and national trends, Illinois Virtual School (IVS) has changed its virtual program in order to better serve students in Illinois. IVS experienced a 20 percent growth in course enrollments for the 2013-14 school year. The completion rate for teacher-facilitated, full-service courses also remains high at 89 percent.

Based on feedback from recent outreach, IVS is reducing its price structure and expanding the course catalog. Starting Aug. 21, IVS updates will include:

- New fee for teacher-facilitated full service courses.
  - $190/semester enrollment
  - $175/semester enrollment for a Purchase Order commitment of 20-plus enrollments
- Continue the Credit Recovery Solution for students who initially failed a course and need to recover the credit to graduate or stay on track.
  - $70/semester credit recovery enrollment
- Expanded course catalog with seven new full-service courses for fall. The course catalog can be found at www.ilvirtual.org/course-info/full-service-courses.

For more information, visit IVS at http://ilvirtual.org or call (309) 676-1000.

**School Health Issues**

**‘Statewide Tool to Help Illinois Schools Support Student Mental Health’ Webinar**

Registration is underway for the July 31 webinar “Statewide Tool to Help Illinois Schools Support Student Mental Health,” which is sponsored by the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Illinois State Board of Education.

Participants will learn how they can access Illinois’ online training to support student mental health that has already been used to train almost 5,000 in one year. This online simulation is made freely available to all high school and middle school personnel through funding from IDPH. Attendees will learn more about this valuable resource, how you can use it to create a
greater safety net for our students and how other Illinois schools and districts have successfully (and easily) integrated this training as part of their back-to-school and professional development initiatives.

The webinar is recommended for superintendents; principals and administrators; school behavioral health specialists; social workers and school guidance counselors; and student support staff, including school psychologists, nurses and counselors.

The 30-minute webinar will be facilitated by Lori Janjigian of Kognito, who will conduct a live demonstration of the training and show data supporting its impact on behavior change. Kognito is a developer of online gatekeeper training simulations in the areas of health and behavioral health. Twelve trainings are included in the SPRC Best Practices Registry for Suicide Prevention and three are included in the National Registry of Evidence-based Programs & Practices (NREPP).

The webinar is scheduled for 11 a.m. to noon on Thursday, July 31. Space is limited. Register at https://www4.gotomeeting.com/register/399806647. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

System Requirements: For PC-based attendees, Windows 8, 7, Vista, XP or 2003 Server is required. For Mac-based attendees, Mac OS X 10.6 or newer is required. For mobile attendees, iPhone, iPad, Android phone or Android tablet is required.

‘A Workshop for RN’s Working in the Schools’ Scheduled for July 31-Aug.1

School districts that are hiring registered nurses new to school nursing and who do not hold ISBE’s Professional Educator License endorsed in school nursing may want to direct the RN to attend an upcoming two-day course. The workshop is held most summers near the beginning of the school year in order to provide those registered nurses content information appropriate to safe functioning in the school setting.

“A Workshop for RN’s Working in the Schools” is offered by Lewis University in Oak Brook on July 31 and Aug. 1. It carries 13.25 continuing nursing education contact hours approved by the INA Continuing Education Unit. The registration form is available at https://www.lewisu.edu/RN-Workshop/index.htm.

School Discipline Workshop

‘Best Practices in Addressing Student Behaviors While Keeping Schools Safe’

Loyola University Chicago School of Law’s Education Law and Policy Institute, Loyola University Chicago School of Education and the Illinois State Board of Education will present a school discipline workshop next month in Chicago. “Best Practices in Addressing Student Behaviors While Keeping Schools Safe” is set for 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 6, at Loyola University Chicago School of Law, located at 25 E. Pearson St.

This seminar for school administrators will address the research, application and implementation of best practices in school discipline. The state and federal legal requirements relating to school discipline will be covered, as well as the research demonstrating the need for reforming school disciplinary policies. Participants will have the opportunity to hear from school administrators from across the state who have been successful in implementing disciplinary reforms.

This program qualifies for six hours of Professional Development Hours from the Illinois State Board of Education. For more information and to register, visit http://www.luc.edu/law/centers/childlaw/institutes/child_education/research_outreach.html.

In Brief

Student Opportunities

- On July 7, Google and Maker Media launched the third edition of Maker Camp, a free, online summer camp for kids that runs for six weeks. Maker Camp, which is hosted on Google+, features virtual field trips, projects and activities, and the opportunity to meet expert “makers.” For more information, visit http://makkercamp.com.

Employment Opportunities

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