August is National Immunization Awareness month and later this week, we will send out a press release to remind parents to ensure their children’s immunizations are up-to-date. In addition, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) is implementing changes to the immunization policies.

Beginning this fall, hepatitis B vaccination is now required for students entering sixth grade instead of students entering fifth grade. Also, students must show proof of having received two doses each of the live rubella and mumps virus vaccines. Additionally, any child entering kindergarten, sixth grade or ninth grade for the first time must show proof of having received two doses of varicella (chickenpox) vaccine. The IDPH rule requiring all students in grades six through 12 to show proof of receiving the Tdap vaccine, a booster shot for continued protection against tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis, is still in effect. The Illinois State Board of Education’s (ISBE) Immunization Quick Reference Guide provides additional details about the 2014-15 requirements.

Also, a new requirement has been proposed for the 2015-16 school year that would require students entering sixth and 12th grade to receive an immunization containing meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4).

IDPH offers a “Parents Guide to Childhood Immunizations” at www.idph.state.il.us/about/pgci.htm and additional information about immunizations can be found at:

- ISBE’s School Health Issues: www.isbe.net/school_health.htm#immu

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has extended the application deadline for the HealthierUS Schools Challenge under the current criteria until Aug. 30. Illinois leads the Midwest region in the number of schools with 247 that have earned this federal certification for programs and practices that promote healthy habits. Michigan is second with 140, followed by Minnesota (91), Indiana (72), Ohio (60) and Wisconsin (19). Nationwide, 6,677 schools have become certified.
Schools participating in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program can apply for this voluntary national certification program. The USDA is working on updating criteria for the HeathierUS Challenge to reflect new nutrition standards, including [Smart Snacks in School](#).

There are four levels of HealthierUS School Challenge certification that schools can earn: Gold Award of Distinction, Gold, Silver and Bronze. Twelve schools in Illinois have earned the highest certification of Gold Award of Distinction. They include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Name</th>
<th>District or Organization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academy for Global Citizenship</td>
<td>CPS 299</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chenoa Elementary</td>
<td>Prairie Central CUSD 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golfview Elementary</td>
<td>CUSD 300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairview South</td>
<td>Fairview School District 72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freedom Middle</td>
<td>South Berwyn District 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heritage Middle</td>
<td>South Berwyn District 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hiawatha Elementary</td>
<td>South Berwyn District 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Komensky Elementary</td>
<td>South Berwyn District 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Namaste Charter Schools</td>
<td>CPS 299</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pershing Elementary</td>
<td>South Berwyn District 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Piper Elementary</td>
<td>South Berwyn District 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payson Seymour Elementary</td>
<td>Payson Community Unit District 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition, 52 Illinois schools have earned the Gold level, 79 have received Silver status and 104 have been named Bronze recipients.

Schools that earn certification receive a monetary incentive (Gold Award of Distinction, $2,000; Gold, $1,500; Silver, $1,000; Bronze, $500), an award plaque and a banner to display in the school.

To qualify for an award, a school must submit an application and meet criteria set by the USDA Food and Nutrition Service. You can access more information, including an application, at [www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/sos.htm#husc](http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/sos.htm#husc) or the USDA Food and Nutrition Service at [www.fns.usda.gov/hussc/healthierus-school-challenge](http://www.fns.usda.gov/hussc/healthierus-school-challenge).

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).

- **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/bsbewaivers/default.htm](http://www.isbe.net/bsbewaivers/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
• Deadline to apply for a Fuel Up 2014 Breakfast Grant – Aug. 29
• 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/afrr.asp.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
• Dynamic Learning Maps Alternate Assessment (DLM-AA) testing window – March 23-May 1

Assessment

2014-15 Dynamic Learning Maps Alternate Assessment Testing Window Set

Starting this school year, the Dynamic Learning Maps Alternate Assessment (DLM-AA) will replace the Illinois Alternate Assessment (IAA).

The DLM-AA is an adaptive computer-based assessment for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. The assessment is aligned to the Common Core Essential Elements in English Language Arts and Mathematics.

The testing window for the 2014-15 DLM-AA is from March 23-May 1. This six-week window allows district and school flexibility to create their own testing schedule within the test window based on their technology capabilities and school calendars.

For more information on the DLM-AA, visit www.isbe.net/assessment/dlm.htm.

School Business Services

Requirements for School Treasurer Bonds

Section 3-8 and Section 8-2 of the School Code (105 ILCS 5/3-8 and 105 ILCS 5/8-2) require regional superintendents of schools to file an affidavit with ISBE showing which treasurers of school districts in their region are properly bonded. This affidavit must be filed before Sept. 1 of each year. Copies of the actual school treasurer bond should not be filed with ISBE.

Section 8-2 of the School Code (105 ILCS 5/8-2) requires each treasurer of a school district to be properly bonded. The penalty of the bond shall be 25 percent of the amount of all bonds, notes, mortgages, moneys and effects of which the treasurer is to have custody at any given time. The bond shall be increased or decreased from time to time, as the increase or decrease of the amount of notes, bonds, mortgages, moneys and effects may require. The bond shall be payable to the township trustees of schools over the district or payable to the school board of the district, whichever is applicable. The bond shall be filed with the regional superintendent of schools. Again, school districts should not file a copy of their bonds with ISBE.

For additional information on ISBE’s interpretation of this section, please refer to the State Superintendent’s Weekly Message for May 3, 2010, and May 11, 2010, which can be accessed at www.isbe.net/board/archivemessages/archivemessage.htm.
Section 3-8 of the School Code (105 ILCS 5/3-8) describes the duties of the regional superintendent of schools upon receipt of the treasurer bonds. When the bond of any school treasurer is filed with the regional superintendent of schools, the regional superintendent shall carefully examine it. If the bond is found to be in all respects according to law and the sureties sufficient, the regional superintendent shall endorse his/her approval and file it with the papers of his/her office. If the bond is in any respect defective, or if the sureties are insufficient, the bond shall be returned for correction.

In Cook County, the responsibilities and duties of the regional superintendent of schools detailed in Section 3-8 and Section 8-2 of the School Code (105 ILCS 5/3-8 and 105 ILCS 5/8-2) will be assumed by the respective Intermediate Service Center.

An electronic version of the affidavit, and other information, can be found online at [www.isbe.net/sfms/html/t_bonds.htm](http://www.isbe.net/sfms/html/t_bonds.htm).

Please contact Michelle Heninger, School Business Services Division, at (217) 785-8779 or mheninge@isbe.net with any follow-up questions.

**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](http://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 OMB, 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.

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**Early Childhood Division**

**New Quality Rating and Improvement System for Preschool for All Programs**

Preschool for All (PFA) programs will receive a letter on behalf of ISBE, the Governor’s Office of Early Childhood Development, the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services and the Illinois Department of Human Services to recognize the Circle of Quality that their PFA program has achieved in ExceleRate Illinois, the state’s new quality rating and improvement system for early learning and development programs that serve children from birth to age 5.

ExceleRate unifies all of the state’s early learning programs under a common set of standards across multiple settings to provide families with important information about quality early learning programs in their community.

ExceleRate Illinois is anchored by a set of standards that focuses on early learning and development and places a high priority on instructional excellence, family services, staff qualifications, professional development and program administration. Central to its design is the recognition of multiple forms of evidence to meet the universal standards.

For PFA programs, evidence is obtained through the monitoring visits conducted through National Louis University’s contract with ISBE. During these monitoring visits, assessors collect evidence using the Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale-Revised (ECERS-R) and the ISBE Compliance Checklist. Each Preschool for All program site is awarded an ExceleRate Circle of Quality based on its Compliance and ECERS-R scores.

To learn more about ExceleRate Illinois, including the specific requirements for each Circle of Quality, visit [www.excelerateillinoisproviders.com](http://www.excelerateillinoisproviders.com). A website that provides parents and families with information to assist them in making early care and education decisions can be found at [www.excelerateillinois.com](http://www.excelerateillinois.com).

Please contact ISBE’s Early Childhood Division at (217) 524-4835 with any questions.
**College and Career Readiness**

**Illinois Family and Consumer Sciences Leaders Earn National Honors**

Family and consumer sciences leaders from across the state received top honors during the National Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) Leadership Conference in San Antonio, Texas, last month.

The event drew 177 members, advisers and guests from Illinois. Ninety-five members participated in STAR (Students Taking Action with Recognition) competitive events, bringing home 41 gold, 45 silver and nine bronze medals.

Among the gold medal finishes, Sarah Chrenko from West Aurora High School finished first in the nation in the Interior Design STAR event. Jeannea Shier, family and consumer sciences teacher and FCCLA adviser from Prairie Central High School, received the National Spirit of Advising Award for her outstanding work and dedication as an FCCLA Adviser.

FCCLA is an integral component of family and consumer sciences programs at the middle- and high-school level with the mission to promote personal growth and leadership development through family and consumer sciences education.

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**Nutrition and Wellness Programs**

**Fuel Up! Grants Available to Expand School Breakfast Programs**

General Mills Foodservice has teamed up with the National Dairy Council (NDC) to improve children’s health by supporting grants to expand school breakfast.

Addressing the important role that the breakfast meal plays in providing nutrient-rich foods and beverages to students, these grants are designed to increase student participation by serving breakfast outside of the cafeteria in creative ways.

Schools may apply for a grant to start a new breakfast program or improve an existing one. Whether it is breakfast in the classroom, grab ‘n’ go breakfast, second-chance breakfast after first class period or expanded breakfast offerings to include dairy options, such as yogurt, to serve breakfast to more students, the kids and school programs will benefit.


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**Exemplary Teacher Recognition Award**

**ISBE Seeks Honorees for Exemplary Teacher Recognition Award Luncheon**

Several professional educator organizations name a teacher of the year or an educator of the year. For the past four years, the Illinois Education Association and the Illinois Federation of Teachers have sponsored ISBE’s Exemplary Teacher Recognition Award Luncheon to publicly recognize these educators.

We are beginning to plan the fifth annual luncheon and want to ensure that all outstanding teachers are included. If your professional organization names a teacher of the year, please contact ISBE’s Public Information Division at (217) 782-4648.


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**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 Elementary and Secondary Education Act (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](http://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 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**


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](http://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](http://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.
**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.


**In Brief**

**District Opportunities**

- The **Illinois Chapter of the National School Public Relations Association (INSPRA)** has invited Dr. C.J. Huff, Superintendent of Joplin Schools, to speak on the value of developing an effective communications plan through building positive relationships. In May 2011, a deadly tornado struck Joplin, Mo., devastating the area and destroying Joplin High School. Huff led the district’s recovery effort. The presentation will take place at 6:30 p.m., Sept. 25 at Addison Trail High School, 213 N. Lombard Road in Addison, Ill. The cost to attend is $20 per person. The event is open to the public, but reservations are required. For more details, go to [www.inspra.org](http://www.inspra.org).

**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).