Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

Tomorrow, we host a Back-to-School Webinar for parents with our partners, the Illinois PTA. I will join Illinois PTA President Peg Staehlin to talk about statewide education initiatives and discuss the importance of family engagement.

The webinar, which will be at 7 p.m., will cover what classroom instruction looks like under the continued implementation of the new, more rigorous learning standards in English language arts and math. The Illinois PTA partnered with the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) to distribute Parent Guides for kindergarten through high school to help families understand the new standards.

The webinar will also discuss the rollout of the new Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) system this school year, what these tests look like and the information they will generate about student learning. We also will discuss how parents can build better, more effective relationships with their children’s schools. The agency is developing guidance for helping schools create meaningful and productive partnerships with families.

Parents can still register at https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/185876249. Please feel free to share with your school communities, if you have not yet done so.

We are also moving forward with an initiative that aims to promote mastery in two or more languages. Illinois is among the first states in the country to allow school districts to award a State Seal of Biliteracy to students who demonstrate a high level of proficiency in one or more languages, in addition to English. The seal would be placed on a student’s academic transcript and diploma.

Illinois was the third state to pass legislation offering a Seal of Biliteracy, joining California and New York. We hope the seal will inspire students to pursue biliteracy, recognize students who excel in language skills and provide evidence of these achievements to future employers and college admissions offices.

School districts will use the language proficiency standards established by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) to qualify for the State Seal of Biliteracy program, which is optional for districts. The proposed rules also include standards for proficiency in American
Sign Language, which is defined in the law as a foreign language for purposes of qualifying for the State Seal of Biliteracy.

At its last meeting, the Board voted to authorize solicitation of public comment on the proposed implementation rules. Following the public comment period, the rules will be returned to the Board for approval. We anticipate districts will be able to make the seal available to students this school year.

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).

- **Annual bilingual program directors’ meeting** – Sept. 10-11 ([www.thecenterweb.org/irc/](http://www.thecenterweb.org/irc/))
- **Deadline to report changes for the 2014 5Essentials Survey of Learning Conditions results to UChicago Impact** – Sept. 15
- **Deadline for all districts to complete the I-TRAx tool** – Sept. 15 ([http://app.i-trax.org/admin/login](http://app.i-trax.org/admin/login))
- **Deadline to complete the ISBE Mathematics Model Curriculum team’s input survey** – Sept. 20 ([www.livebinders.com/play/play?id=953710](http://www.livebinders.com/play/play?id=953710))
- **Illinois Alliance of Administrators of Special Education (IAASE)16th annual fall conference** – Sept. 25-26
- **ISBE offices closed for Columbus Day** – Oct. 13
- **Part 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision), Part 26 (Endorsements in Early Childhood Education and in Elementary Education) and Part 375 (Student Records)** – Public comment period ends Oct. 20.
- **Nomination deadline for U.S. Presidential Scholar Program** – Oct. 31 ([www.ed.gov/psp](http://www.ed.gov/psp))
- **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](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](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/afr/asp.htm](http://www.isbe.net/sfms/afr/asp.htm))
- **ISBE offices closed for Veterans Day** – Nov. 11
- **ISBE offices closed for Thanksgiving** – Nov. 27-28
- FY15 NCLB Monitoring Instrument – Nov. 30 (available Sept. 30)
- FY15 NCLB Title I Comparability Analysis – Nov. 30 (available Sept. 30)
- ISBE offices closed for Christmas Day – Dec. 25
- Postmark deadline for waiver applications to be considered by General Assembly in spring 2015 – Friday, January 16, 2015 (See http://www.isbe.net/isbewaivers/default.htm for public notice requirements for all waiver requests.)
- Dynamic Learning Maps Alternate Assessment (DLM-AA) testing window – March 23-May 1

**Funding and Disbursements**

**Fiscal Year 2015 General State Aid Entitlement Calculations Finalized**

The fiscal year 2015 General State Aid (GSA) entitlement calculations for all school districts and Regional Offices of Education have been finalized. The $6,119 GSA foundation level established by the General Assembly was utilized in the GSA calculation based on the FY 2015 appropriation of $4,522,530,530.

The final GSA net entitlement based upon local tax revenue and average daily attendance information calculated to $5.073 billion, leaving a shortage of $551 million. This shortage requires a proration of 89.1 percent, which has been applied toward the gross entitlement for each district and regional office. The final proration percentage will be proportionally applied equally over the remaining 20 payments scheduled from September 2014 through June 2015.

Computations and individual claim information for school districts and regional offices can be found in the General State Aid Inquiry at http://webprod1.isbe.net/gsainquiry/default.aspx.

For questions about GSA or the computations, please contact Ethelene Ferdinand, Division of Funding and Disbursement Services, at eferdina@isbe.net or (217) 782-5256.

**Center for Performance**

**Principals Encouraged to Submit School Highlights for the 2014 Report Card**

This October, the second annual release of the Illinois School Report Card gives principals an opportunity to showcase their schools.

Since test scores don’t tell a school’s whole story, the School Report Card (available at www.illinoisreportcard.com) includes principal-submitted information on courses, programs and awards in the School Highlights section. Principals can update this information year-round, but updates made prior to the 2014 release are more likely to reach a large audience.

The School Highlights section was very popular during the 2013-14 school year. Based on feedback from parents and principals, this section is now more prominent on the Report Card. Principals also have new tools for deciding what appears on their highlights section, including the ability to write their own description of their school’s courses, programs and awards. The School Highlights are also taking center stage on the new School Comparison page, which allows parents, educators and community members to review up to four schools side-by-side.

Principals interested in updating their school’s highlights section can log into MyIIRC (iirc.niu.edu/MyIIRC/Principal.aspx) to access their form. Principals who have not yet registered for MyIIRC can register at http://iirc.niu.edu/MyIIRC/Register.aspx, using a school access code from their district superintendent.

Superintendents are receiving the access codes by email and can also request the codes at any time by emailing vlorusso@niu.edu or calling (815) 753-0978.

Principals and superintendents will have a chance to review the Report Card on Oct. 15, and the Report Card will be released to the public on Oct. 31.

**ISBE Removes District Mandate to Create Technology Plans**

As part of the E-rate Modernization Order released on July 23, 2014, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) determined that an approved technology plan is no longer needed for E-rate funding.
Since no federal or state programs require an approved technology plan, ISBE has determined that it will release schools from the technology plan mandate. To that end, ISBE will no longer review or approve technology plans on a yearly basis.

The technology plan template will remain a part of the Illinois Interactive Report Card site. Districts will be able retrieve previous plans or write a new plan using that site for the remainder of this school year (through June 30, 2015). If a district needs a plan reviewed for approval for federal or state grant purposes, staff may contact Jamey Baiter at jbaiter@isbe.net.

**Special Education Services**

**ISBE Special Education SEA Determination Released**

The U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) released state determinations on implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) for federal fiscal year 2012.

The 2004 amendments to the IDEA require each state to develop a state performance plan (SPP) that includes baseline data, measurable and rigorous targets and improvement activities for 18 compliance and results indicators. States report data about how students with disabilities are performing on each of the indicators in their SPPs. OSERS is required to issue annual determination letters to each state on its progress in meeting the requirements of the statute.

IDEA details four categories for the determination:

- **Meets** the requirements and purposes of IDEA
- **Needs assistance** in implementing the requirements of IDEA
- **Needs intervention** in implementing the requirements of IDEA
- **Needs substantial intervention** in implementing the requirements of IDEA

IDEA identifies specific technical assistance or enforcement actions for states that are determined to not “meet requirements.” For example, if a state “needs assistance” for two consecutive years, the department must take one or more enforcement actions, including, among others, requiring the state to access technical assistance, designating the state as a high-risk grantee, or directing the use of state set-aside funds to the area(s) where the state needs assistance.

For the first time this year, states were evaluated under the new Results Driven Accountability (RDA) system. RDA replaces the past system’s heavy emphasis on procedural compliance with a more balanced approach between compliance and student outcomes to determine program effectiveness. The shift to RDA resulted in many more states in the “needs assistance” category.

Illinois was placed in the “needs assistance for two consecutive years” category. OSERS required Illinois to access technical assistance related to specific SPP indicators and provided available sources of technical assistance. The specific factors affecting the determination for Illinois were the proficiency gap for fourth- and eighth-grade students with disabilities on regular statewide assessments and the percentage of fourth-grade students with disabilities scoring at basic or above on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP).

Areas that reflect a high level of performance in Illinois include SPP Indicators 4B (suspension/expulsion by race/ethnicity), 9 (disproportionality), 10 (disproportionality in specific disability categories), 11 (timely initial evaluations), 12 (transition from Part C to Part B), 13 (secondary transition), timely state complaint decisions, timely due process hearing decisions and 20 (state-reported data). Illinois also received high marks on the percentage of fourth and eighth-grade students with disabilities participating in regular statewide reading and math assessments.

**Illinois Learning Standards**

**ISBE Model Mathematics Curriculum Team Seeks Educator Input by Sept. 20**

The ISBE Mathematics Model Curriculum team is seeking educator input regarding the content for upcoming professional development and lesson plan development for Illinois’ educators.
A survey has been developed for each grade level to facilitate the receipt of statewide input and determine priorities for the work in the 2014-15 school year. The surveys can be found at www.livebinders.com/play/play?id=953710.

The surveys, which should take about five minutes to complete, are intended for anyone with knowledge of teachers’ professional needs in mathematics within specific regions or areas of the state.

The survey input is due by Sept. 20.

**College and Career Readiness**

**Opportunity to Become a Gifted Education Seminar Trainer This Fall**

ISBE is offering educators an opportunity to become a Gifted Education Seminar (GES) trainer.

Three training sessions are scheduled: Sept. 15-16 in Bloomington, Sept. 22-23 in Murphysboro and Oct. 7-8 at a location to be determined in the Chicago area.

Potential trainers must fill out an application. Current GES trainers may also attend any of the trainings as a refresher course. For more information, contact Diane Beedy at dibeedy@isbe.net.

The GES will be provided through the Regional Offices of Education, Intermediate Service Centers, Illinois Association for Gifted Children and Chicago Public Schools. For more information on trainings, contact your local provider.

**Student Assessment**

**ISBE Using New Statewide Technology Readiness Tool Called I-TRAx**

ISBE is now using its own statewide technology readiness tool called I-TRAx (http://app.i-trax.org).

For the past two years, ISBE has used the PARCC Technology Readiness Tool (TRT) to determine a district’s network infrastructure and device needs for digital learning and online testing. The PARCC tool closed on Aug. 31.

All district and school device and network information previously loaded into the TRT has been imported into I-TRAx.

Anyone who previously entered data into the TRT will automatically have a login and password for the I-TRAx system. A user’s login is the email address, and the password has been set to the portion of the user’s email address prior to the “@” symbol. Users can immediately reset their password by clicking on the “My Account” button on the top right corner of the screen on the main I-TRAx page.

A webinar was held for district and school technology coordinators on Aug. 25 to explain the network infrastructure and device information that the tool will be requesting and how to read the reports that the tool will provide. The recording of the I-TRAx webinar will be posted at www.isbe.net/assessment/parcc.htm under Presentations and Webinars.

Mandated Training

**Ed Leaders Network Provides Access to State-Mandated Trainings**

As a new school year begins, many administrators are in the planning phase of those crucial first few days when the staff returns. In the past, this time may have been devoted to state-mandated trainings on topics such as bloodborne pathogens, bullying prevention and diabetes.

All public school administrators and, for districts receiving priority services, the entire staff can complete these trainings independently through Ed Leaders Network (ELN). ELN members also have access to these trainings.

The ELN catalog contains a comprehensive video library of the required trainings for certified staff in the state. The videos can be accessed 24-7 at www.edleadersnetwork.org, giving staff members the ability to complete the trainings at their convenience.

To learn more about ELN, visit www.edleadersnetwork.org/about-eln. For questions about ELN, contact Arlin Peebles, Illinois Principals Association’s online professional development director, at (217) 241-0598 or arlin@ilprincipals.org.
All districts are required to complete the I-TRAx tool by Sept. 15, 2014. The first report pulled from the tool on Sept. 15 will help ISBE work with districts to determine mode of testing (paper and pencil versus online). Reports pulled after September will be used to demonstrate statewide infrastructure and device needs for future technology funding.

If you have any difficulty logging in or working with the tool, please contact your Learning Technology Center at www.isbe.net/ed-technology/html/ltc_listing.htm.

Assessment questions should be directed to the ISBE Student Assessment Division at (866) 317-6034.

Additional Student Growth Training Modules Now Available Online

The Student Assessment Division announces the availability of additional student growth training modules at 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
- Module 4 Introduction to the SLO Process
- Module 5 Defining a Learning Goal
- Module 6 Selecting Assessments and Scoring Procedures
- Module 7 Example Measurement Model
- Module 8 Identifying Expected Growth Targets
- Module 9 Documenting Actual Outcomes
- Module 10 Assigning a Teacher Rating – Coming Soon!
- Module 11 Statistical Measurement Models
- Module 12 Guidance for Special Populations – Coming Soon!

An updated facilitation guide is also available that provides a suggested facilitation process for each module, including additional activities. The module, facilitation guide and guidance documents will be regularly updated to ensure quality and usability based on educator feedback. Our goal is to make quality professional development materials available for free to all educators in Illinois.

Please check the Balanced Assessment website regularly for updated modules, guidance documents and examples.

Federal and State Monitoring

NCLB Monitoring Instrument and NCLB Title I Comparability

The fiscal year 2015 No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Monitoring Instrument will be available for completion and submission in the IWAS system beginning Sept. 30. The due date is Sunday, Nov. 30.

All districts receiving NCLB funding are required to submit the document every year. As before, the previous year’s information will be imported to the document, and the district should ensure its accuracy before submitting. Each “Comment/Proof Indicator” will need to have a comment that identifies the documents that support your answers or clarifies your “yes,” “no” or “N/A” response. You will not be able to submit the form without providing an answer in each box. There are additional validation and status questions that will require your attention. The form has changed in conjunction with the NCLB waiver approval concerning Supplemental Educational Services (SES)/Choice and other NCLB components that were previously required.

There is a sample list of proof indicators on the Federal and State Monitoring website at www.isbe.net/ea/word/proof_indicators.doc.

The Title I Comparability analysis will be available for completion and submission in the IWAS system beginning Sept. 30. There will be new adjustments to how districts complete their analysis this year.

Title I directors, coordinators and their staff who work with the Comparability document are encouraged to attend the Title I Directors Fall Conference Sept. 16-18 in Springfield at the Crowne Plaza to learn about the changes and new features that are being introduced for the fiscal year 2015 analysis.
Districts that are “exempt” will continue to select the “Exempt” radio button and then “Submit.” Their submittal requirements will have been met when the superintendent submits it.

An updated “Comparability User’s Guide” for FY 2015 is located on the menu bar of the comparability application and on our Federal and State Monitoring website.

All districts receiving Title I funds must complete the document. Failure to comply will result in frozen program funds and a recovery of expenditures of Title I funds in buildings where they are determined to be non-comparable.

If you have questions concerning the Title I Comparability or the Monitoring Instrument, contact Paul Williams, Federal and State Monitoring, at (217) 782-7970 or pwilliam@isbe.net.

Title Grant Administration

Title I Directors Conference Scheduled for Sept. 16-18 in Springfield

The Illinois Association of Title I Directors (IATD), in cooperation with ISBE, is hosting the annual Title I Directors Conference on Sept. 16-18 in Springfield.

The conference begins with a new directors preconference. An individual technical assistance opportunity, which is new this year, is scheduled for the afternoon of Sept. 16.

The conference officially begins Wednesday, Sept. 17, with a kickoff by ISBE Assistant Superintendent Amy Jo Clemens to provide informative updates. Breakout sessions hosted by ISBE members and collaborating individuals will follow. The day will end with libations, light snacks and a game of Title I Jeopardy.

Thursday, Sept. 18, will include a keynote speech by Debra Pickering from the Marzano Group. She will discuss designing and teaching learning goals and objectives. Afterward, district Title I leadership will share their best practices. An assessment update and luncheon will follow.

Registration is available online at: www.regonline.com/Register/Checkin.aspx?EventID=154815

- Title: Illinois Association of Title I Directors Fall Conference 2014
- Date: Sept. 16-18
- Location: Crowne Plaza, 3000 S. Dirksen Parkway, in Springfield

School Health Issues

CDC Releases Guidance on Ebola Virus

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently released guidance regarding the Ebola virus disease for colleges, universities and students.

The Ebola virus disease outbreak in West Africa continues to unfold and additional cases continue to be identified. As of Aug. 28, 2014, there were 1,752 laboratory confirmed cases and 1,552 suspected case deaths. With significant international travel and educational foreign exchange programs, there is a possibility that students, faculty or staff who travel from areas where Ebola is present could arrive in the United States.

The CDC guidance, along with other informational resources, can be found online at http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/page/advice-for-colleges-universities-and-students-about-ebola-in-west-africa. If student health clinicians determine that an individual has a high or low risk exposure, the clinician should contact their local health department to determine additional actions regarding evaluation and monitoring.

Health Exam and Immunization Requirements for School Attendance

Illinois requires that students receive a physical examination when they enter kindergarten, sixth and ninth grades. Vaccination against a number of diseases at specified intervals is also required.

State law also requires that students without those exams and/or vaccinations are excluded from school attendance unless certain exceptions are met. The valid exemptions are those based on medical reason, written by a health-care provider, or religious reason, written by a parent or guardian. In addition, students
transferring from out of state are allowed an extra 30 days to meet the requirements.

As written in the school code, schools are to exclude students who do not have either the health exam or vaccines by Oct. 15 or an earlier date, if established by the local school board. Specifically, the law states: “the local school authority shall exclude that child from school until such time as the child presents proof of having had the health examination as required and presents proof of having received those required immunizations which are medically possible to receive immediately. During a child's exclusion from school for noncompliance with this subsection, the child's parents or legal guardian shall be considered in violation of Section 26-1 and subject to any penalty imposed by Section 26-10. This subsection (5) does not apply to dental examinations and eye examinations.”

Appointments beyond the mandatory exclusion date may be accepted only for students transferring from out of state. State law allows an “out-of-state transfer student [who] does not have the proof required under this subsection (5) before Oct. 15 of the current year or whatever date is set by the school district, … may only attend classes (i) if he or she has proof that an appointment for the required vaccinations has been scheduled with a party authorized to submit proof of the required vaccinations. If the proof of vaccination required under this subsection (5) is not submitted within 30 days after the student is permitted to attend classes, then the student is not to be permitted to attend classes until proof of the vaccinations has been properly submitted.” (School Code Section 27-8.1, from Public Act 97-0910).

**Rules and Waivers**

**Invitation to Comment on Rules**

Three sets of proposed amendments recently reviewed by ISBE are available for public comment. The proposals have been posted on the agency’s website at [www.isbe.net/rules](http://www.isbe.net/rules); choose “Proposed Rules and Amendments.” Please submit any comments or suggestions to rules@isbe.net.

**Part 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision):** Responds to P.A. 98-506, effective Aug. 27, 2013, which establishes the criteria for the receipt of the State Seal of Biliteracy, an optional designation that school districts may choose to award to students who demonstrate proficiency in both a foreign language and English. *Public comment period ends Oct. 20, 2014.*

**Part 26 (Endorsements in Early Childhood Education and in Elementary Education):** Proposes new standards that articulate the knowledge and skills in several areas, including English language arts and mathematics, needed for receipt of the early childhood endorsement and to which educator preparation programs and content-area tests must align. *Public comment period ends Oct. 20, 2014.*

**Part 375 (Student Records):** Proposes a technical change to remind school districts to designate on a student’s academic transcript, which is part of the student’s permanent record, his or her receipt of the State Seal of Biliteracy or the State Commendation Toward Biliteracy; reiterates the need for school districts to retain the copy of a student's certified birth certificate or other relevant documentation in the student's permanent record; and acknowledges the change in the statutory citation for the state assessments. (See P.A. 98-972, effective Aug. 15, 2014) *Public comment period ends Oct. 20, 2014.*

**Illinois History Teacher of the Year**

**David Elbaum Named 2014 Illinois History Teacher of the Year**

David Elbaum of Adlai E. Stevenson High School in Lincolnshire was recently named the 2014 Illinois History Teacher of the Year. ISBE is a partner in the award program, which is co-sponsored by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, the HISTORY channel, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation through its Preserve America program.

Elbaum started at SHS in 2006, where he teaches 11th- and 12th-graders. He taught at Aptaskistic Junior High in Buffalo Grove prior to joining Lincolnshire District 125. Elbaum earned a master’s degree in political science from Northeastern Illinois University, a master’s degree in educational leadership from National Louis University in Wheeling and his
bachelor’s degree and teacher certification from the University of Iowa.

The History Teacher of the Year Award alternates each year to honor K-6 teachers one year and those teaching grades 7-12 the next. A national winner is chosen from the pool of winners from each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, U.S. Territories and Department of Defense Schools. Each state honoree receives $1,000 and an archive of books and resources from Gilder Lehrman and HISTORY for his or her school’s library.

**In Brief**

**Professional Development**

- The Illinois Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (IAHPERD) state convention will be held Nov. 20-21 at Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles. All health and physical education teachers, as well as others interested in promoting physical development and health, can register by clicking here.


- The 2014 annual conference of the Illinois Association of School Nurses (IASN) will be held on Oct. 24-25 in Rockford. The conference is open to registered nurses with an Illinois Professional Educator’s License in school nursing as well as registered nurses working in schools and communities. The brochure is available for download at www.iasn.org.

- National Geographic is offering teachers free online professional development courses this fall to learn about water as a resource and how to facilitate learning through outdoor watershed education. “FLOW Education: Facilitating Learning through Outdoor Watershed Education” will take place Sept. 17-Oct. 29 and is designed for classroom teachers of grades 4-9 to learn about watersheds and outdoor education using the Chesapeake Bay watershed as an example. Sign up at www.coursera.org/#course/watershed. “Water: The Essential Resource” is scheduled for Oct. 15-Dec. 17 and focuses on both ocean and freshwater subjects and provides strategies for teaching environmental topics in grades 4-8. Sign up at www.coursera.org/#course/waterandenvironment.

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**Back-to-School Parent Webinar**

**Registration Open for Back-to-School Webinar for Parents on Sept. 9**

Dr. Koch invites parents to join him for a one-hour Back-to-School Webinar at 7 p.m. Sept. 9.

The session, held in conjunction with the Illinois PTA, will cover the following topics:

- **Putting in place the new Illinois Learning Standards** – A discussion of how and why the standards drive new instructional approaches and lesson plans.

- **PARCC 2015** – Third- through eighth-graders, as well as high school students, will take online state assessments for the first time this school year. Dr. Koch will discuss these new tests and the information they will generate about children’s progress toward college and career readiness.

- **Parental Engagement** – A discussion of state initiatives to promote the vital partnership between parents and the school community to achieve student success.

Registration information is available at www1.gotomeeting.com/register/185876249.

Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions and are encouraged to log in a few minutes early to establish connections, especially if it is their first time attending a live “Go to Webinar” from their computer or mobile device.
Educator Opportunities

- The Illinois Department of Natural Resources has added two new **ENTICE workshops** dedicated to prekindergarten through third-grade educators. The workshops will take place in Moline and Champaign and discuss how children’s nonfiction science resources can help teach about fish and wildlife while supporting the Common Core Standards. More details and registration information are available at [https://www.enticeworkshops.com/](https://www.enticeworkshops.com/).

- Booker T. Washington STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) Academy in Champaign is hosting a symposium, **“Creating a Culture of School Sustainability: A Design Challenge”**, on Sept. 20. The event, presented by CannonDesign and the Council of Educational Facility Planners International (CEFPI), invites participants to explore how a sustainable ecology develops and becomes ingrained in a school’s learning environment and is a part of the school’s culture. Activities will investigate the building’s design – how the design process became a catalyst for creating a sustainable school practice and how the building supports a STEM education. More information is available at [www.cefpi.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=5725](http://www.cefpi.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=5725).

Student Opportunities

- **Infinite Scholars Program Inc.** and its collaborative partners in Illinois are hosting two Illinois Annual Fall Scholarship Fairs. The events are scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 25, from 4 to 8 p.m. at Thornton High School, 15001 Broadway, in Harvey and Friday, Sept. 26, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4 to 7 p.m. at Frederick Douglass Academy, 543 N. Waller Ave. in Chicago. For more details and to register, visit [www.infinitescholar.org/](http://www.infinitescholar.org/).

District Opportunities

- The National Center for Urban School Transformation is seeking eligible elementary, middle, high and alternative schools for its 2015 **National Excellence in Urban Education Award** program. The criteria and award application are available at [www.ncust.org](http://www.ncust.org). The application deadline is Nov. 14.

- 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. on Sept. 25 at Addison Trail High School, 213 N. Lombard Road in Addison. The cost to attend is $20 per person. The event is open to the public, but reservations are required. More details are available at the following website: [www.inspra.org](http://www.inspra.org).

Educator Resources

- Thanks to a grant from the Susan Cook House Educational Trust, the **Illinois State Museum** now offers Play Museum Outreach Kits to educators to help them and their students get the most out of a field trip visit to the Mary Ann MacLean Play Museum. Kits may be borrowed at no charge; however, a refundable damage deposit is required. The kits are available for a two-week lending period and are picked up and returned to the Illinois State Museum. For more information or to reserve a kit, contact Kara Fedje at play@museum.state.il.us or (217) 782-6044.

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).