Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

This week, the Board will be holding its annual planning session and regular business meeting in Utica. Board members will be briefed on the upcoming legislative veto session and will begin developing their legislative priorities for next spring’s legislative session. In addition, they’ll receive a briefing on the latest developments with regards to Senate Bill 16, which is legislation to change the state’s school funding formula.

The meeting begins at 10 a.m. Wednesday and will be audiocast live over the Internet via www.isbe.net.

Last week, we hosted a Back-to-School Webinar with our partners at the Illinois PTA. Nearly 400 participants joined us for a discussion on the implementation of new learning standards and assessments, as well as parent engagement and other timely topics. We entertained a number of great questions and I encourage you to share the Back-to-School materials we’ve developed to assist you in communicating with your constituencies. You may access these communication pieces at our hot topics page at http://www.isbe.net/hot-topics.htm.

We recorded this latest Back-to-School Webinar and it is posted on our hot topics page. We will also take some of the questions we didn’t have time to answer and develop a frequently asked questions (FAQ) document that will be posted soon. We have also posted a FAQ sheet from the Back-to-School Webinar for educators we hosted in August on the hot topics page and I want to thank those of you who took time to provide us with feedback on that webinar. We will keep your thoughtful suggestions in mind as we plan future webinars.

We have selected 12 finalists for the 2015 Illinois Teacher of the Year, who will be named during the “Those Who Excel” banquet Oct. 25 at the Bloomington-Normal Marriott Hotel and Conference Center in Normal. The state’s annual educator recognition program will acknowledge the contributions and accomplishments of more than 200 educators and school personnel from throughout the state and honor one individual as the Illinois Teacher of the Year.

The 2015 finalists for Teacher of the Year are:

Seth Brady – Naperville Community Unit School District 203.
Steven Elza – Township High School District 211.
Lauren Hoeft – Kildeer Countryside Community Consolidated School District 96.
Jamie Jones – Alton Community Unit School District 11.
Heather Kraus – Oswego Community Unit School District 308.
Mary Lynn Meredith – McLean County Unit 5.
Lynne Olsen – Rockford Public Schools District 205.
Jennifer Smith – Monticello Community Unit School District 25.
Emily Weiss – Grayslake Community High School District 127.
Mary Wirth – Sparta Community Unit School District 140.

Pam Reilly is the 2014 Illinois Teacher of the Year. Pam teaches second grade at Woodbury Elementary School in Sandwich Community Unit School District 430.

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.

- 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)
- Deadline to complete the ISBE Mathematics Model Curriculum team’s input survey – Sept. 20 (www.livebinders.com/play/play?id=953710)
- Illinois Alliance of Administrators of Special Education (IAASE) 16th annual fall conference – Sept. 25-26
- Application deadline for U.S. Senate Youth Program and Hearst Scholarship – Oct. 3 (www.isbe.net/spec-ed/html/hearst.htm)
- 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)
- FY 2015 School District Budget/Joint Agreement Forms – Must be submitted to ISBE no later than Oct. 31

- ISBE offices closed for Election Day – Nov. 4
- Eighth annual Conference on Best Practices in Nonpublic Special Education Programs – Nov. 6-7
- Annual Statement of Affairs (ISBE 50-37) – To be filed with ISBE by Dec. 15
- 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, Jan. 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

School Health Issues

Recommendations for School Response to Enterovirus D68

As recent media reports indicate, enterovirus D68 (EV-D68) has caused some children in the Midwest (Chicago and Kansas City, specifically) to be hospitalized. Some were treated in intensive care for the respiratory symptoms caused by the virus. Additional cases are being investigated.

Early detection and prevention of respiratory illness, particularly in school settings among students, is an important function of school staff, especially registered nurses employed in schools. All school staff should be aware that respiratory viruses can be found in secretions such as saliva, nasal mucus or sputum, all of which will be more commonly seen in the upcoming cold-and-flu season.

This virus, EV-D68, likely spreads from person to person when an infected person coughs, sneezes or touches contaminated surfaces. Many infections are mild and resolve on their own, requiring only treatment of the symptoms. Specific symptoms include fever, difficulty breathing and wheezing or asthma exacerbation. Some people with severe respiratory illness caused by EV-D68 may need to be hospitalized and receive intensive supportive therapy. There is no specific treatment or vaccine for EV-D68 infections, and no antiviral medications are currently available for treating EV-D68 infections.

School staff can protect themselves and their students from respiratory illnesses by following these steps:

- If anyone is experiencing cold-like symptoms with wheezing or difficulty breathing, they should contact their physician immediately to arrange for appropriate testing and care.
- Students who present themselves with those symptoms should be referred to their parents for medical follow-up, although exclusion from school is not required. Nurses and administrators may recommend that the child stay home from school if experiencing respiratory illness symptoms (such as fever, cough, sore throat and wheezing).
- School nurses who receive a report, whether suspected or confirmed, of a student with EV-D68 should contact their local health department for further instructions.
- Wash hands often with soap and water, especially after coughing or sneezing.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid kissing, hugging and sharing cups or eating utensils with people who are sick.
- Disinfect frequently touched surfaces, such as doorknobs and toys, especially if someone is sick.
- To protect against influenza, consider establishing a flu clinic at school this fall for staff, students and/or the community. Vaccination against influenza is recommended yearly for everyone 6 months and older.
Sources: Illinois Department of Public Health, DuPage County Health Department

More information on EV-D68 is available at: www.idph.state.il.us/health/infect/enterovirus_D68.htm.

Student Opportunities

Governor Kicks Off Student Art Contest to Design Crest for USS Illinois Submarine

Gov. Pat Quinn is pleased to invite Illinois high school students to participate in the USS Illinois Contest.

The governor is proudly partnering with the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs and the USS Illinois Commissioning Committee to announce this competition and provide students from across the state the chance to design the crest of the USS Illinois. The winning submission will adorn Illinois’ namesake ship as a symbol of the state, the distinguished crew of this state-of-the-art submarine and Illinois’ thousands of dedicated service members and veterans.

Students from both public and private schools are welcome to participate. Submissions for this historic opportunity are due Dec. 1, 2014.

More information on the rules for submission, including sample crest designs and the official submission form is available at www2.illinois.gov/gov/P20/Pages/USSIllinoisContest.aspx.

Questions about the contest can be directed to the Union League Club Public Affairs Office at publicaffairs@ulcc.org or (312) 435-5946.

Special Education Services

ISBE Seeking Volunteers for Illinois Least Restrictive Environment Data Cohort 5

The Illinois State Board of Education’s (ISBE) Special Education Services Division is seeking districts whose administrators are interested in participating in a unique data analysis partnership with the agency.

The Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) Data Cohort was conceived to provide districts with hands-on collaborative assistance in examining and understanding their placement data in order to enhance placement options for students with disabilities. Selected districts will work with ISBE technical assistance mentors on modules that guide the process and will receive support through conference calls, webinars, seminars and on-site technical assistance to gather, analyze and improve placement data.

Participating districts will assemble an administrative-level team to participate in the cohort over the span of approximately one year. Details and specific dates for LRE Data Cohort 5 can be found at www.isbe.net/spec-ed/html/lre-data-cohort.htm.

To volunteer and be considered for the cohort, please complete the form located at www.isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/lre-de-commit-form.pdf by Oct. 1. If there are any questions about the LRE Data Cohort, please contact Laura Quimby at (217) 782-5589 or via email at lquimby@isbe.net.

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 Virtual School**

**Illinois Virtual School Adds New Courses for the 2014-15 School Year**

Just in time for the new school year, the Illinois Virtual School (IVS) is ready to support students and schools with new learning opportunities.

IVS has added new online courses to the 2014-15 course catalog. Visit the IVS website at [http://ilvirtual.org](http://ilvirtual.org) to link to the course catalog for descriptions to the following new courses for the fall:

- Accounting, Semester 1
- AP Physics 1
- AP English Literature and Composition
- International Business
- Math of Personal Finance, Semester 1
- World Language Survey for Middle School

The remaining September fall term start date is Sept. 16.

New spring courses include:

- Accounting, Semester 2
- ACT Review
- Computer Literacy
- Entrepreneurship
- Math of Personal Finance, Semester 2
- Probability and Statistics

The January spring term start dates are Jan. 6 and Jan. 20.

**Nutrition and Wellness Programs**

**Webinars Focused on Physical Education and Health Available for Schools This Fall**

A series of upcoming physical education and health webinars for schools are scheduled this fall. They are:

**Enhancing P.E. in Illinois: An Overview of New Learning Standards and Physical Education Requirements** – Participants will learn about the new learning standards for physical development and health and the requirements set forth in the two new laws related to physical education. The webinar will provide a brief overview of requirements, the science behind them and the basics of when/how they need to be implemented. Speakers include Sandy Noel, physical educator and curriculum developer, and Deb Vogel, recent chair of the Enhance P.E. Task Force committee charged with revising and editing state goals 19-24 of the Illinois Learning Standards for physical development and health.

- **Date:** Oct. 1
• **Time**: 11:30 a.m. to noon  
• **Register**: [https://student.gototraining.com/r/4041656670203216384](https://student.gototraining.com/r/4041656670203216384)  
• **Sponsors**: International Alliance to Prevent Obesity and Illinois Public Health Institute

### Enhancing P.E. in Illinois: Tips for Implementing the New Learning Standards for Physical Development and Health

- The webinar will provide tips for implementing the new learning standards in schools and classrooms. Vogel and Noel will lead participants through a series of exercises aimed at helping them understand the changes and additions to the learning standards and how to adapt their class curriculum and activities to the new standards.

- **Date**: Oct. 9  
- **Time**: 2 to 3 p.m.  
- **Register**: [https://student.gototraining.com/r/3375940862491861760](https://student.gototraining.com/r/3375940862491861760)  
- **Sponsors**: International Alliance to Prevent Obesity and Illinois Public Health Institute

### The ABC's of School Wellness Policies and the Role of Parents

- In 2004, Congress established a requirement that all school districts with a federally funded school meals program develop and implement wellness policies that address nutrition and physical activity. In late 2012, the Chicago Board of Education adopted a new school wellness policy and passed a healthy snack and beverage policy. Combined, these two policies represent a significant advancement in Chicago Public Schools’ food and fitness policy. But how are schools putting policy into action? And what role do parents play? Learn more about these policies and hear firsthand from Chicago principals on their work to improve school food and fitness.

- **Date**: Sept. 17  
- **Time**: 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.  
- **Register**: [https://www4.gotomeeting.com/register/286286495](https://www4.gotomeeting.com/register/286286495)

### Healthy Halloween: Strategies for Having a Fun and Healthy Halloween Celebration at School

- Under the new school snack food policy, are school Halloween celebrations a thing of the past?

- Absolutely not! There are countless strategies to celebrate Halloween in fun and healthy ways. During this webinar, participants will hear from school leaders who have figured out how to celebrate Halloween with fun and health-promoting activities that still have that trick-or-treat spirit.

- **Date**: Oct. 1  
- **Time**: 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.  
- **Register**: [https://www4.gotomeeting.com/register/228679391](https://www4.gotomeeting.com/register/228679391)  
- **Sponsor**: Healthy Schools Campaign

### Beyond the Bake Sale: Effective and Healthy Fundraising Strategies

- The bake sale has long been a staple of school fundraising. However, this school year's healthy fundraising rules have forced the hand of many schools that have relied on the sale of candy and baked goods to find alternative school fundraising strategies. And this is not a bad thing! Hear from school principals who have moved beyond the bake sale to create fun, engaging, health-promoting and effective ways to raise money to fund key programs and initiatives at their schools. Ideas range from healthy food fundraisers to dance-a-thons to 5K races.

- **Date**: Oct. 21  
- **Time**: 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.  
- **Register**: [https://www4.gotomeeting.com/register/221478543](https://www4.gotomeeting.com/register/221478543)  
- **Sponsor**: Healthy Schools Campaign

### Webinar on Resolving Unpaid Meal Charges Scheduled for Oct. 1

- The School Nutrition Association is hosting a panelist webinar on Oct. 1 from 1 to 2 p.m. on resolving unpaid meal charges.

- Unpaid meal charge debt can threaten the quality of a school meal program. Participants will learn practical methods for resolving this issue and hear examples of how these methods were successfully used in schools across the country.

- Panelists include Kenny Thompson, founder of Feed the Future Forward and Lunch Super Hero Fund; Donna Parsons, MS, RD, SNS, state director of Child Nutrition Services with the Office for the Superintendent of Public Instruction; and Barbara
Lloyd, RDN, SNS, CD, food service director with Edmonds School District.

To register, visit https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/293732754.

National School Lunch Week is Oct. 13-17

Schools can celebrate National School Lunch Week Oct. 13-17 with the theme of “Get in the Game with School Lunch.”

The School Nutrition Association (SNA) hosts this annual celebration to recognize and showcase the contributions of school food service and nutrition operations to students all over the country.

Visit http://www.schoolnutrition.org/NSLW2014/ for a variety of useful resources.

SNA provides PowerPoint templates to help market this week for key stakeholders and food service staff at http://www.schoolnutrition.org/NSLW2014/MarketingPRResources/.

State Board of Elections

Mock Election Education Materials Available Online for Teachers

The State Board of Elections, along with ISBE, is once again sponsoring a mock election program to help schools teach students about the election process.

State Board of Elections staff has revised and updated the studies for this year, and the programs have been placed on our website.

The entire study course can be downloaded and printed for use by any teacher who wishes to use the materials.

“Mock Election 2014” is the program designed for fourth- through 12th-grade students, and “Let’s Vote” is for kindergarteners through third-graders.

To access these programs, go to www.elections.il.gov/, click on the “Educator” tab at the top of the page and then click on the “Educational Tools” link on the right side of the page.

Scam Alert


The Better Business Bureau (BBB) is alerting school districts across northern Illinois about a school supply billing scam.

Complaints are being filed against a Las Vegas business, “Scholastic School Supply,” that has allegedly sent false invoices to schools and school districts in 22 states. The districts are being billed $647.50 for a bulk purchase of text books that were never requested or received.

School districts should be aware that the contact information found on the invoices includes an email address that does not send responses when contacted, a phone number that routes to a series of voicemail boxes and a mail drop address in Sewell, N.J., or Las Vegas. Although “Scholastic School Supply” lists addresses in those locations on its invoices, the BBB has been unable to locate any corporation filings, business licenses or any other business entity documentation for it in either of those states.

Districts are urged not to pay the invoice but to instead file a complaint with the BBB at www.bbb.org. They can also contact the Federal Trade Commission at (877) 382.4357 or www.ftc.gov as well as contact their local postal inspector.

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 Etheline Ferdinand, Division of Funding and Disbursement Services, at eferdina@isbe.net or (217) 782-5256.

**Center for Performance**

**Principalflushed 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.

**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.

**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.

**In Brief**

**Professional Development**

- The Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago’s 25th Annual Conference for Teachers in Civics, Law and Government will be held Oct. 31 at Hamburger University in Oak Brook. Dr. Erwin Chemerinsky, dean of the UC Irvine School of Law, is the keynote speaker. Register at www.crfc.org/2014Conf. The foundation is also still accepting nominations for the 2014 Law-Related Education Teacher of the Year, who will be announced at the conference. To nominate a teacher, visit http://www.crfc.org/professional-development/teacher-year-awards.
- Registration for Wired Wednesdays, a collaborative professional learning opportunity from the Illinois Reading Council and the Wisconsin Reading Association, is now open. The webinars will focus on the Common Core State Standards in speaking and listening. Registration information is available at www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org.
- 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.

**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

**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

**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.

**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](http://www.isbe.net/hr/Default.htm) is available
  at [http://www.isbe.net/hr/Default.htm](http://www.isbe.net/hr/Default.htm).