Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

Last week, the Illinois State Board of Education met for its annual retreat and regular business meeting. During the retreat, Board members received a preview of the fall veto and spring legislative sessions, and provided staff with guidance on our legislative priorities going forward. They also had a chance to review measures for moving forward with strategic planning.

Part of the retreat focused on the status of Senate Bill 16, legislation aimed at improving the state’s school funding formula. SB 16 passed the Senate in May 2014. The bill is currently under review by the House of Representatives. Public hearings have not been scheduled. The State Board of Education has developed a model of how this legislation would impact local school districts based on the most recent available data (fiscal year 2013). This model can be found at www.isbe.net/efac. Later this fall, the State Board will update this model, using fiscal year 2014 data. We have updated a fact sheet that offers a brief overview of the legislation, which can be found on the Education Funding Advisory Committee's (EFAC) webpage or directly at www.isbe.net/EFAC/pdf/SB16-FactSheet-091914.pdf.

Last week, the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR) issued a certification of no objection to amendments to Part 50 that outline the process to be used to determine the school districts whose student performance ranks in the lowest 20 percent of school districts statewide. ISBE has communicated with these districts and, per 105 ILCS 5/24A-2.5(3), they are required to implement performance evaluation systems incorporating indicators and data of student growth beginning in the 2015-16 school year.

Finally, I want to make you aware of a new electronic Grants Management System (eGMS) Dashboard now available in IWAS. The eGMS Dashboard is located under the Grants Category in IWAS and is a new real-time, view-only system that reflects the current grant status and funding information, as well as previous fiscal year history of all your state and federal grants in eGMS.

A short overview of the system and features is available at www.isbe.net/egms/eGMS-dashboard-overview.pdf. Quick Help instructions are also available by choosing “Click for Instructions” in the right corner of the system if you need assistance with navigation or help with understanding the data.
elements reflected. Disbursement and expenditure reports are not in the dashboard system at this time, but they are still accessible in the Financial Reimbursement Information System (FRIS) at http://webprod1.isbe.net/FRISInquiry/. More information is on page 3.

If you have questions regarding this new system, please contact the Division of Funding and Disbursement Services at (217) 782-5256.

Thanks and 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](http://www.isbe.net).

  - 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
  - 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
  - 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 1 Comparability Analysis – Nov. 30 (available Sept. 30)
  - Deadline to enter the 2015 Illinois Arts Education Week Poster Contest – Dec. 2 ([www.isbe.net/arts-week/default.htm](http://www.isbe.net/arts-week/default.htm))
• 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
• 2015 Illinois Arts Education Week – March 16-22

Funding and Disbursement

New Electronic Grants Management System Dashboard Now Available

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For assistance with navigation as well as an understanding of the data elements reflected, Quick Help instructions are available by choosing “Click for Instructions” in the right corner of the system. Please note that disbursement and expenditure report information is not in the dashboard system at this time but is still accessible in the Financial Reimbursement Information System (FRIS) at http://webprod1.isbe.net/FRISInquiry/.

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Illinois Task Force on Civic Education

Public Hearings Scheduled to Discuss Civic Education Task Force Report

The Illinois Task Force on Civic Education invites the public to participate in a series of public hearings to discuss its recent report to the governor and General Assembly. A copy of the report is available at www.isbe.net/reports/il-civic-ed-task-force2014.pdf.

ISBE established the task force to analyze the current state of civic education, examine civic education laws outside of Illinois and make recommendations to the General Assembly, pursuant to Public Act 098-0790. (www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=098-0790&GA=98)

Public hearings are scheduled for the following dates:

• Oct. 13, 4 to 6 p.m., University of Illinois at Chicago - Student Center East
• Oct. 15, 4 to 6 p.m., Willowbrook High School in Villa Park
• Oct. 21, 4 to 6 p.m., Lanphier High School in Springfield
• Nov. 6, 4 to 6 p.m., Carbondale Community High School

Those who are unable to attend a hearing may submit comments via email at CETFR@isbe.net. Please include your first and last name and city as well as your title and affiliation. Comments will be published and will be received via email until Nov. 7. Please provide concise comments.

PARCC

Standards and Assessment Readiness Document Available for School Leaders

The Illinois Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) Educator Leader
Cadre has developed a one-page standards and assessment readiness document for school leaders.

The document highlights key considerations for each of the following areas: standards and curriculum, instruction, balanced assessment, communication and technology. A variety of resources are included to support each of the guiding questions, with links to essential materials.

The document is designed for school leaders as they initiate and continue discussion regarding standards and assessment. It is strongly recommended that school leaders use this document as a key resource in their leadership work.

Professional Development

Alignment Workshop Scheduled

Space is still available for the upcoming alignment workshop, “Detecting Evidence in Quality Lessons/Units: 4 Dimensions of Alignment in a ONE-Page Tool,” being held across the state in October.

This workshop will introduce teachers to a one-page tool, Educators Evaluating Quality Instructional Products (EQuIP) Rubric that helps identify all of the necessary criteria of quality lessons/units. Teachers will learn about resources that specifically address the four dimensions: alignment to the depth of the standards, key shifts, instructional supports and assessment.

Registration is available online at www.isbe.net/common_core/pdf/alignment-wksp-2014.pdf.

School Health Issues

Heartsaver Automated External Defibrillator Fund Grant Available

The General Assembly has appropriated $100,000 for the Heartsaver Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Fund Grant for fiscal year 2015.

The program provides matching funds to schools and other public agencies to pay for AEDs. The application is available on the Department of Public Health’s Electronic Grant Administration and Management System (EGrAMS) at www.idphgrants.com.

Applicants must demonstrate that they have the funds to pay 50 percent of the cost of the AED, as determined by the state master contract or the department. The Heartsaver AED Fund Grant award for FY 2015 is $466 or for 50 percent of the purchased AED price if less than $931.48.

The deadline to apply is Oct. 31. Grants will be limited to one unit per recipient and will be awarded in the order received until grant money is exhausted.

All AEDs purchased between July 1, 2014, and June 30, 2015, will qualify for the grant.

For more information, email DPH.GrantReview@illinois.gov or contact Paula Atteberry at paula.atteberry@illinois.gov or (217) 785-2083.

Illinois Arts Education Week

Entries Sought From High School Students for Annual Poster Contest

High school students are encouraged to enter the 2015 Illinois Arts Education Week Poster Contest.

Gov. Pat Quinn traditionally designates the third week of March as Illinois Arts Education Week. In cooperation with the Illinois Art Education Association (IAEA) and ISBE, the 2015 Arts Education Week is scheduled for March 16-22.

The contest reinforces the importance of the arts in the growth and development of all students. This year’s theme is “Art is Timeless!” The contest winner’s artwork will be featured on a poster that is sent to all public and private schools in Illinois.

Entries must be postmarked no later than Dec. 2.

The contest focuses on different grade levels (K-8 and 9-12) in alternating years. The 2015 contest is open to all public, nonpublic and home-schooled high school students.

For more information and contest criteria, visit www.isbe.net/arts-week/default.htm.
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.

Illinois Emergency Management Agency

Schools Encouraged to Participate in Annual Earthquake Awareness Drill

The Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) is encouraging all Illinoisans, including elementary and secondary schools, to participate in the Great Central U.S. ShakeOut on Oct. 16 at 10:16 a.m. The goal of this “Drop, Cover and Hold On” drill is to draw attention to the earthquake hazard that exists in Illinois, across the country and around the world.

The Great Central U.S. ShakeOut is held on the third Thursday of October each year as part of a large-scale ShakeOut event involving millions of participants from more than 40 states and territories and several other countries. More than 20.6 million people to date have registered worldwide. Nearly 300,000 of those registrants are Illinoisans.

Some of the worst earthquakes in the United States occurred during the winter of 1811-12 when earthquakes shook the Mississippi River Valley along the New Madrid Seismic Zone. The series of at least three magnitude 7 or greater earthquakes changed the landscape of the Central United States. If earthquakes of similar magnitude happened today, their effects could have catastrophic impacts on national
transportation, communication, utility and financial systems.

To be counted as a participant, schools must register through their district office or individually on the official ShakeOut website at www.shakeout.org/centralus/.

If a school cannot participate on Oct. 16, another day may be selected to conduct a “Drop, Cover and Hold On” drill. If another day is selected, the school should still register on the ShakeOut website. Once registered, the school or the district office will receive ShakeOut news and other information about earthquakes and preparedness, depending upon who completed the registration.

The ShakeOut website is also packed with free earthquake information and resources available for download. Additional earthquake preparedness and mitigation information is available at www.ready.illinois.gov and www.cusec.org.

For questions, contact Kate Mackz at IEMA at (217) 785-9925 or kate.mackz@illinois.gov.

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**School Safety**

**Railroad Urges Schools & Photographers to Avoid Train Tracks for Student Pictures**

As fall weather arrives, Union Pacific Railroad urges professional photographers and school district leaders to refrain from taking photographs of sports teams, high school seniors and other students on or near train tracks or trestles.

Recently, a Nebraska high school volleyball team tried to have their team photo taken on nearby railroad tracks. The double track main line they chose for their photograph sees more than 50 trains a day. As they began to get in position for their photograph on the railroad tracks, a railroad employee saw the team and contacted the train dispatcher in time to avoid disaster. The crew of an approaching train applied the emergency brakes to avoid hitting the students and there were no injuries.

In 2012, a teacher who taught art and photography was struck and killed by a train while taking photos on the tracks. In response to tragic and preventable incidents like this, Union Pacific is working with Professional Photographers of America on rail safety education outreach to the professional photography community.

Last year, more than 900 people were injured or killed while trespassing on railroad property in the United States, according to Federal Railroad Administration statistics.

The UP CARES (Union Pacific Crossing Accident Reduction Education and Safety) public safety initiative brings together communities in a collaborative and caring effort to promote railroad grade crossing and pedestrian safety. The initiative promotes pedestrian and driver safety through a variety of outreach channels, including grade crossing education and enforcement and related “positive enforcement” initiatives that reward drivers who observe safe practices at grade crossings.

For more information, please contact Kevin Dawson, manager public safety, at kldawson@up.com.

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**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.

**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

**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](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.


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

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**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/](http://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.

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**Scam Alert**

**Better Business Bureau Issues Alert for School Districts in Northern Illinois**

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.

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.

Student Opportunities

- Applications for the 20th annual Prudential Spirit of Community Awards for middle school and high school youth volunteers are available online at http://spirit.prudential.com. The application deadline is Nov. 4. Paper application forms are available by calling (877) 525-8491. The awards are sponsored by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals.
- 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/.

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. 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 is available at http://www.isbe.net/hr/Default.htm.