At our meeting in Champaign last week, members of the Illinois State Board of Education received an overview of the State Report Card, which will be released later this month. The Report Card has new metrics and additional capabilities that build on the functionality and enhanced features of the redesigned Report Card introduced last fall and rated tops in the nation by the Education Commission of the States.

Districts were provided with access to begin reviewing drafts of their Report Cards this week by logging into their MyIIRC accounts at https://iirc.niu.edu/MyIIRC/. The 2014 Report Card, set to go online Oct. 31 at www.illinoisreportcard.com, also reflects a state and national move toward monitoring school districts based on multiple measures of growth and performance as opposed to a single test score at one point in time.

Some of the new metrics on the 2014 Report Card include 12-month and 16-month enrollment statistics for former Illinois high school students in two-year and four-year colleges. Also added this year is the percentage of students who finish their freshman year on track for college readiness, meaning they have earned at least five full-year course credits (10 semester credits) and have earned no more than one semester F in a core course (English, math, science or social studies). This data will be reported at the high school, district and state levels.

A new metric on principal turnover has been added, reporting the number of principals who have worked at a particular school in the past six school years. The current state average for this metric is about two principals per school over six years. The 2014 Report Card also includes data on teacher retention rates, which show the percentage of teachers returning to the same school over the last three school years. The current state average for teacher retention is more than 85 percent.

This year is also the first in which each school’s 5Essentials Survey results will be posted on the School Report Card. This year’s Report Card will link to Illinois.5-Essentials.org and provide in-depth features for examining 5Essentials results.

Report Cards will be made available to the public on Oct. 31. We have provided districts with access to their report cards and we have also allowed media access, on an embargoed basis, until the Oct. 31 release. We have prepared fact sheets and other materials you can use when communicating about the 2014 Report Card and 5Essentials information to your communities. You may access this additional information at www.isbe.net/hot-topics.htm.
Finally, I want to congratulate Illinois State Board of Education member Dr. Vinni Hall, who received the National Association of State Boards of Education 2014 Distinguished Service Award. Vinni has been a member of our State Board since 2004 and currently serves as board secretary. She brings experience, compassion and a wealth of knowledge to each and every discussion. Vinni lives in Chicago and her term expires in January. She’s given us more than 10 years of her time and wisdom and rightfully deserves this honor from her peers.

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).

- **“A Deep Dive into the PARCC Accessibility Features and Accommodations” webinar** – Oct. 27 ([https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8305651824268674305](https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8305651824268674305))
- **FY 2015 Supplemental General State Aid Plan deadline** – Oct. 30
- **Deadline for districts to complete learning conditions survey form** – Oct. 31 ([www.surveymonkey.com/s/ISBELearningConditions](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ISBELearningConditions))
- **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))
- **Registration deadline for the Eighth Annual Conference on Best Practices in Nonpublic Special Education Programs** – Nov. 1 ([www.isbe.state.il.us/spec-ed/np_handouts/default.htm](http://www.isbe.state.il.us/spec-ed/np_handouts/default.htm))
- **Special Education Summer School claim deadline** – Nov. 3
- **Deadline to submit No Child Left Behind performance report** – Nov. 3
- **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))
- **Biennial Preschool for All Administrators’ Forum** – Nov. 7 ([http://ec.thecenterweb.org/site](http://ec.thecenterweb.org/site))
- **Deadline to complete all revisions to the Pupil Transportation Reimbursement Claim** – Nov. 10
- **ISBE offices closed for Veterans Day** – Nov. 11
- **Deadline to complete the 2014-15 Unfilled Positions Survey in IWAS** – Nov. 13
- **Limitation of Administrative Costs Worksheet deadline** – Nov. 14 ([www.isbe.net/sfms/AdminCaps/AdminCaps.htm](http://www.isbe.net/sfms/AdminCaps/AdminCaps.htm))
- **Part 425 (Voluntary Registration and Recognition of Nonpublic Schools)** – Public comment period ends Nov. 17
- **Green Ribbon Schools Award applications due** – Nov. 19 ([www.isbe.net/green_ribbon/pdfs/green-ribbon-app-14-15.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/green_ribbon/pdfs/green-ribbon-app-14-15.pdf))
- **School District Library Grant program deadline** – Nov. 21 ([www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/grants/schoolpercapgrant.html](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/grants/schoolpercapgrant.html))
- **ISBE offices closed for Thanksgiving** – Nov. 27-28
- **FY 2015 NCLB Monitoring Instrument** – Nov. 30
FY 2015 NCLB Title I Comparability Analysis – Nov. 30
Deadline to enter the 2015 Illinois Arts Education Week Poster Contest – Dec. 2 (www.isbe.net/arts-week/default.htm)
Annual Statement of Affairs (ISBE 50-37) – To be filed with ISBE by Dec. 15 (http://www.isbe.net/sfms/af/af.asp.htm)
ISBE offices closed for Christmas Day – Dec. 25
Deadline to submit written opt-out petition to regional superintendent of schools for Summer Food Service Program mandate (Public Act 096-0734) – Jan. 15
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.)
TECH 2015 application deadline – Feb. 3 (www.iceberg.org/tech_2015)
Dynamic Learning Maps Alternate Assessment (DLM- AA) testing window – March 23-May 1
2015 Illinois Arts Education Week – March 16-22
TECH 2015 student showcase – May 7

Center for Performance

Districts Must Submit Plans for 2015 Survey of Learning Conditions Administration

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) will again administer a survey of learning conditions (the Illinois 5Essentials Survey) this year. Districts are asked to provide their plans to take the 5Essentials or an alternate survey via an online form at www.surveymonkey.com/s/ISBELearningConditions. Districts must submit this information by Oct. 31.

Teachers, students and parents can take the 5Essentials survey any time between Jan. 12 and March 13, 2015. The survey will be required for all districts that did not participate in last year’s survey and all Race to the Top districts. The survey will also be available at no cost for school districts that participated in the 2014 survey.

This year, districts will also have the option – at their own expense – to choose an alternative to the 5Essentials from a pre-approved list of alternate surveys selected by the state superintendent of education, should they choose to do so, per a recent amendment to the Survey of Learning Conditions statute (105 ILCS 5/2-3.153). The revised statute requires school board and local union approval and provision of data from the alternative survey to ISBE for posting on the 2015 Report Card.

When filling out the online form above, districts should select whether or not they plan to take the 5Essentials survey or one of the approved alternative surveys from the dropdown box. Should school districts required to complete a learning conditions survey this year fail to complete the form through the link above by the close of business on Oct. 31, they will automatically be registered for the 5Essentials survey.

Applications Now Available for Annual TECH 2015 Student Showcase in May

Applications are now being accepted for the annual TECH 2015 student showcase on May 7, 2015, at the Illinois State Capitol building.

TECH 2015 is a not-for-profit initiative supported by a broad range of education and business organizations. Its purpose is twofold – to raise awareness of the critical role technology plays in preparing students to succeed in today’s world and show the need for increased funding for classroom technology.

All state schools are invited to apply. Selected schools will send a team of two or three students to Springfield, accompanied by one teacher or administrator. Each team will share a classroom project with state legislators from approximately 12:30 to 3 p.m. at the Capitol.

For more information about TECH 2015 and to apply, visit the TECH 2015 website at www.iceberg.org/tech_2015.

Applications will be accepted through Feb. 3, 2015.
School Health Issues

Education Department Offers Enterovirus D68 and Ebola Resources for Schools

The United States has been experiencing a nationwide outbreak of enterovirus D68 (EV-D68) associated with severe respiratory illness that has been especially harmful to children. Many school communities also have questions about the Ebola virus. To address both public health concerns, the U.S. Department of Education and its federal health partners have a number of informational resources to share with schools.

Almost all of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)-confirmed cases this year of EV-D68 infection have been among children. Many of the children had asthma or a history of wheezing. Many parents continue to be worried about the outbreak and want information about what they can do to prevent illness and protect themselves and their families. The CDC has developed information and resources for parents about EV-D68, including:

- Web Feature, “What Parents Need to Know About Enterovirus D68”
- Drop-in newsletter article (matte article), “Parents: Learn the Facts about Enterovirus D68”
- Fact sheet for parents, “What Parents Need to Know about Enterovirus D68”
- General questions and answers for the public
- Infographic: Keep Your Child from Getting and Spreading Enterovirus D68

The CDC has also issued a press release sharing news about a new lab test developed by CDC for EV-D68, which will allow more rapid testing of specimens. Because of this new test, confirmed cases of EV-D68 will appear to rise rapidly over the next seven to 10 days as specimen testing accelerates. However, changes in case counts won’t represent a real-time influx of new cases.

As enterovirus season is expected to taper off, flu activity usually begins to increase in October. While there is not a vaccine to prevent illness from enteroviruses, the single best way to protect against the flu is to get vaccinated each year. Many resources for parents and others can be found on the CDC flu website. The CDC recommends that all children 6 months old or older get a flu vaccine.

Information is also available for what schools can do to keep students and adults safe from the Ebola virus. The CDC is continually updating its information on Ebola, which is available online at www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/index.html.

The Department of Education’s Office of Safe and Healthy Students also has materials available regarding readiness and emergency management of schools in crisis situations, posted at http://rems.ed.gov/. One resource at this web link is steps the Dallas Independent School District (DISD) has taken to keep parents and community partners continually updated on the Ebola situation there, including establishing a website (www.dallasisd.org/healthupdates).

Additional materials developed by the DISD communications team included there are:
- All Staff Notice about Ebola
- Parent Letter — English
- Parent Letter — Spanish
- Ebola FAQ
- Talking with Children about Ebola
- Recognizing and Reducing Signs of Anxiety in Times of Crisis

ISBE and IDPH Provide Posters About Mandatory Disease-Reporting to Schools

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and ISBE recently partnered to send each school and district office a poster listing the infectious diseases that must be reported to the state health department.

This poster, titled “STOP and Report Infectious Disease,” should be readily available to school nurses (registered nurses) who are mandated as health care providers to report a specific disease a student or staff member may have. Both suspected and confirmed cases must be reported.

While the poster does not include specific reference to either Ebola or enterovirus D68, both fall into the classification of “unusual case or cluster of cases that may indicate a public health hazard.” Therefore, reporting is required by authority of the state of Illinois.
and the Control of Communicable Diseases Code (77 Ill. Adm. Code 690). Suspected or confirmed cases of Ebola are required to be reported “immediately” (defined as within three hours) to the local health department where the diagnosis is originating. Mandated reporters include health care providers, hospitals and laboratories or essentially anyone who has knowledge of a newly identified suspect case of Ebola.

IDPH set up a hotline for the public at (800) 889-3931. Residents can call anytime with questions, such as how Ebola is spread, who is at risk of being infected and when should someone go to the doctor.

In the case of a report of a suspected or confirmed case in a student with one of the diseases required to be reported, schools must adhere to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). In general, a school staff member may not release the name of the student or other identifying information to anyone outside the school district, including the local or state health department, without permission from the parent/guardian. If the school or health department official deems the disease a public health emergency, FERPA allows disclosure without permission from the parent or guardian. In the case of Ebola, such a situation is present.


ISBE advises the registered nurse, as the school’s mandated reporter, to contact the parent for permission (written permission or oral with a second witness) in cases. If permission is not obtained, nurses must still report the case (without identifying the student) and allow the health department to begin its investigation by obtaining information through other methods. If the suspected disease is Ebola or another declared public health threat, the health department will be able to continue its investigation with such identifying information. Routine reporting of diseases on the list on the poster, however, must be accompanied with parental permission. If permission is not received, the school nurse may ask for permission to contact the physician and assure that the physician has reported the disease.

For more information on Ebola and other matters of school health, go to www.isbe.net/school_health.htm.

---

**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)

The remaining public hearings are scheduled for the following dates:

- **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.

---

**Title Grant Administration**

**No Child Left Behind Performance Report for Fiscal Year 2014 Now Open**

Each year, all districts that received No Child Left Behind (NCLB) funds are required to submit a performance report regarding the previous school year to ISBE. The NCLB performance report is located in IWAS and can be accessed when you log into IWAS under “Reporting” and then under “Annual.”

The NCLB performance report for fiscal year 2014 is now available for you to enter your information. To help with this process, instructions have been added to the report and a short recorded webinar (17 minutes) is available for viewing at www.isbe.net/grants/html/webinar_archive.htm#nclb130913.
Please note that Section III has been removed as that data is being collected elsewhere. Since ISBE received the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Waiver Flexibility for fiscal year 2015, this year will be the last for the collection of Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), Choice and Supplemental Educational Services (SES) information. We appreciate your cooperation in providing this data one last time. We are working to further improve this data collection tool and hope to automate and/or populate more data next year.

The deadline to submit is Nov. 3, 2014. Failure to submit a complete report by this date may result in frozen NCLB funds. If you have any questions about how to submit the performance report, contact Lilibeth Gumia in ISBE’s Title Grants Division at (217) 524-4832.

Illinois Learning Standards

ISBE Seeks Pilot Schools and Districts for Model Mathematics Curriculum

ISBE is looking for districts and schools that are interested in piloting the ISBE Model Mathematics Curriculum resources.

The benefits of being a pilot district are:
- Gain access to standards-aligned resources before they are posted on the ISBE website.
- Use the resources for assessment and instruction this year.
- Become part of the development process, joining teachers from throughout Illinois in providing feedback and samples of student work to enhance the resources.

If you are interested in becoming a pilot district or school or have more questions about this opportunity, please email Diane Beedy at dineedy@isbe.net by Nov. 3.

Early Childhood

Preschool for All Administrators’ Forum Scheduled for Nov. 7 in Champaign

All Illinois Preschool for All Administrators are invited to the Biennial Preschool for All Administrators’ Forum. The forum is scheduled from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Nov. 7 at the Hilton Garden Inn, 1501 S. Neil St., in Champaign.

Dr. Steve Tozer, professor of Educational Policy Studies at the University of Illinois-Chicago, will provide the keynote address on Transformative Leadership (http://news.uic.edu/experts/steven-tozer). The forum will provide updates from ISBE and the Governor’s Office of Early Childhood Development on state and federal initiatives affecting Preschool for All (PFA) programs. Information on budgets, bilingual rules, special education blending and teacher evaluation in early childhood education, including teacher practice and student growth, will be provided.

At least one representative from each program is encouraged to attend, and there is no fee to attend this forum.

A pre-event dessert reception is planned for Nov. 6 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. and will provide an opportunity to meet informally with Reyna Hernandez, ISBE assistant superintendent for the Center for Language and Early Childhood Development, in addition to networking with other PFA administrators and representatives of the ISBE Early Childhood Division.

To register, visit the Early Childhood Center of Professional Development’s website at http://ec.thecenterweb.org/site.

Illinois State Library

FY 2015 School District Library Grant Application Now Available Online

Applications are now being accepted for the fiscal year 2015 School District Library Grant. Applications and all other information concerning the grant can be found on the Illinois State Library’s (ISL) website at www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/grants/schoolpercapgrant.html.

All ISL grant forms may not be filled out in PDF format. For complete and current information, please see “Instructions for Completing Fillable PDF Grant Forms.”

Please be aware that this year, there are two changes. The State Library is no longer requiring the signature
Almost every public school district in Illinois is eligible for this grant. ISL encourages full participation from school district libraries. If you have questions concerning your district’s eligibility or other grant issues, contact Robert Jones at rjones1@ilsos.net and (217) 785-1168 or Becky Hunter at bhunter1@ilsos.net and (217) 782-7849.

**Funding and Disbursement**

**Correction Period Open for Pupil Transportation Reimbursement Claims**

The correction period for fiscal year 2015 (2013-14 school year) annual claims for Pupil Transportation Reimbursement is now open.

All local education entities are hereby notified that the review and amendment (if needed) process is open and will end at midnight on Nov. 10. All revisions to the Pupil Transportation Reimbursement Claim must be completed and transmitted on or before midnight on Nov. 10. No revisions will be accepted after this date in order to close the claim file and schedule the three remaining quarterly payments.

Instructions for reviewing the claim are as follows:

1. Log into the ISBE Web Application Security system (IWAS).
2. Click on “System Listing” on the IWAS homepage.
3. Select "Pupil Transportation Claim Reimbursement System" under the "Annual Claims" heading.
4. Click on "Review Claim" under the "Reimbursement Claim" heading on the homepage. Do not click on "Revise Claim" button unless you need to make revisions.
5. The claim will be loaded to the screen in read-only format. Carefully review each line on the claim for possible revisions. If you entered transportation assets on the Depreciation Schedule, don't forget to click on the "Depreciation Schedule" button at the bottom of the screen and review the depreciation schedule data for possible revisions.

If you do not have revisions, you do not need to do anything. Your claim will remain as originally submitted by the statutory Aug. 15 due date.

If you have reviewed the claim and found that revisions are needed to the depreciation schedule and/or the pupil transportation reimbursement claim:

1. Click on the "Revise Claim" link under the "Reimbursement Claim" heading on the homepage.
2. You may enter notes in the "Your Comments" text box to help you remember why revisions were needed. Click on the "Revise Claim" button at the bottom of the screen to proceed with revisions to the depreciation schedule (if needed) and the pupil transportation reimbursement claim.
3. Note that all links for the reimbursement claim are open and may be revised as needed. The "Depreciation Schedule Summary" link under the "Depreciation Schedule" heading has been changed to "Calculate Depreciation Allowance." If you made any changes to transportation assets after the August submit date, you must click on this link and update the Depreciation Schedule.
4. After all revisions have been made, click on the "Review & Submit Claim." All revised claims must be resubmitted to ISBE through the proper channels (document author to the district superintendent and district superintendent to ISBE).

No revisions to the claim will be accepted after midnight on Nov. 10.

If you have questions regarding the amendment process, contact Jamie Johnson at (217) 782-5256 or jjohnson@isbe.net.

**Special Education Summer School State Aid Claim Due to ISBE Nov. 3**

The Special Education Summer School claim authorized under Section 18-4.3 is statutorily required to be received by ISBE on or before Nov. 3. Claims are for eligible students educated in 2014 summer programs and must be filed electronically via ISBE’s Web Application Security System (IWAS). No claims will be accepted or honored after the statutory date.
Eligibility requirements for pupils claimed for summer school are:

1. The pupil must be enrolled in one or more courses offered for at least 60 clock hours in the summer session.
2. The pupil must be eligible pursuant to the requirements for continued summer school services per his or her Individualized Education Program (IEP).
3. There shall not be a tuition charge to families to ensure a "free, appropriate public education."

Questions regarding completion of the Special Education Summer School claim should be directed to Jodi Whitlow, Division of Funding and Disbursement Services, at (217) 782-5256 or jwhitlow@isbe.net.

**FY 2015 Supplemental General State Aid Plans Due to ISBE Oct. 30**

Per Section 18-8.05(H)(3) of the School Code, school districts with an average daily attendance of more than 1,000 are required to submit a Supplemental General State Aid (SGSA) plan to ISBE on or before Oct. 30.

The SGSA plan shall include the identification of strategies for the improvement of instruction that give priority to meeting the educational needs of low-income students, i.e., students who are eligible for free or reduced-price meals under the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 USC 1771 et seq.) or the National School Lunch Act (42 USC 1751 et seq.)

The SGSA plan for qualifying districts must be filed electronically via the ISBE IWAS system. The SGSA system is now open for fiscal year 2015. Critical information is pre-populated for each district. A brief narrative is required along with a budget breakdown of the SGSA funds. SGSA funds may be expended in various ways but must primarily benefit disadvantaged, low-income students who generate the district funding without supplanting other funds already in place.

Questions regarding completion of the Supplemental General State Aid plan should be directed to Ethelene Ferdinand, Division of Funding and Disbursement Services, at (217) 782-5256 or eferdina@isbe.net.

---

**In Brief**

**Professional Development**

- A free **Half Day Conference for the Care of School Age Children** is being sponsored by Advocate Children’s Hospital in Oak Lawn on Oct. 28 from 7:30 a.m. to noon. Continuing education units are available. For program content or to register, call (855) 312-KIDS.
- 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](http://www.iasn.org).

**Educator Opportunities**

- The Interstate Mining Compact Commission (IMCC) seeks applications for its **Mining Awareness Educator Award**. The first-place winner receives a gift certificate for $500 worth of classroom resource materials. For more information, visit [www.imcc.isa.us/Awards.htm](http://www.imcc.isa.us/Awards.htm). Applications must be received by Feb. 1.
- The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Division of Education and the Illinois Conservation Foundation in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife program are offering a **Schoolyard Habitat Action Grant program**. Teachers and youth group leaders may receive up to $1,000 for natural resources projects. For more information and to access the application form, go to [http://dnr.state.il.us/education/CLASSRM/grants.htm](http://dnr.state.il.us/education/CLASSRM/grants.htm). The application deadline is Nov. 30.
- IDNR is offering a “virtual” trip for late-elementary school teachers, students and their parents. **Wild Illinois History** helps students in grades 3-5 focus on early French exploration, along with river and settlement geography. Teachers also get access to
lesson plans, activities, photos, posters and correlations to the Illinois Learning Standards. Try it out at www.wildillinois.org/. For more information, contact Bob Bluett, IDNR wildlife diversity coordinator, at (217) 782-7580 or bob.bluett@illinois.gov.

**Student Opportunities**

- The 41st annual **Illinois Young Author’s Conference** will take place at Illinois State University in Bloomington-Normal on May 16, 2015. Sponsored by the Illinois Language and Literacy Council and Illinois Reading Council, this daylong event is designed to honor exceptional writing by K-8 students across the state. Guidelines and registration materials can be found at www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org/vac.html or www.isbe.net/young-authors/default.htm. Volunteers are always needed and appreciated for this event. If interested, please email Dr. Christina Podraza at cpodraza@naperville203.org.

- High school and college students can enter the eighth annual **Create-A-Greeting-Card Scholarship** contest sponsored by The Gallery Collection. The deadline for submissions is Feb. 18. Contest rules and other details are available at www.gallerycollection.com/greeting-cards-scholarship.htm.

- Illinois Partners for Clean Air has launched its annual **Shoot for the Skies PSA Video Contest**, a creative competition open to Chicago area high school students in Cook, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry and Will counties. The public service announcements should educate the general public about Chicago area air quality and ways to improve it. For more information, visit www.cleantheair.org/educational-programs/shoot-for-the-skies-psa-video-contest. The submission deadline is Dec. 10.

**Employment Opportunities**

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