Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

This week the Illinois State Board of Education will be meeting in Springfield and will be framing its fiscal year 2016 budget request for K-12 education, which will be sent to the Governor and General Assembly for approval in January. The Board gathered feedback through a series of five public hearings held across the state this fall, with nearly 200 people providing testimony. Staff will present information gleaned from these hearings at Wednesday’s meeting and the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability will present its forecast for state revenues for FY 16. Board members will finalize their FY 16 budget recommendation at the January meeting.

Also this week we will honor three longtime members for their dedication and expertise during the past decade. The terms for Board members Andrea Brown, Dave Fields and Vinni Hall expire in January; all three members have already served two four-year-terms, plus an additional two years, and by law cannot serve another term.

All three worked on policies that helped improve the quality of teacher candidates and provide for more meaningful evaluations of both principals and teachers. They adopted more rigorous learning standards to prepare students for college and careers as well as a new assessment system that aims to better measure how well students are learning under the new standards. They led the charge to improve education data to better inform classroom decisions and supported the development of the new award-winning and more consumer-friendly Illinois Report Card. In 2013, they successfully advocated to stop state reductions to K-12 education funding and realize the first increase in the education budget since 2009.

The students of Illinois have been lucky to have these three educators serve them in the classroom and in the Board room. They have each had their own particular areas of interest, but shared one common goal and that is that every decision must come back to doing what’s best for kids.

Andrea, Dave and Vinni, thank you for your commitment to public education and our 2 million students. They could not have better advocates.

Happy Holidays!
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.

- Annual Statement of Affairs (ISBE 50-37) – To be filed with ISBE by Dec. 15 (http://www.isbe.net/sfms/afr/asp.htm)
- Part 30 (Programs for the Preparation of Principals in Illinois) – Public comment period ends Dec. 15
- ISBE offices closed for Christmas Day – Dec. 25
- ISBE offices closed for New Year’s Day – Jan. 1
- 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.)
- ISBE offices closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day – Jan. 19
- Employment Information System (EIS) open for data submissions – Jan. 26
- TECH 2015 application deadline – Feb. 3 (www.iceberg.org/tech_2015)
- ISBE offices closed for Lincoln’s Birthday – Feb. 12
- ISBE offices closed for Presidents’ Day – Feb. 16
- Dynamic Learning Maps Alternate Assessment (DLM-AA) testing window – March 23-May 1
- 2015 Illinois Arts Education Week – March 16-22
- Eighth annual Illinois School Wellness Conference – April 23
- TECH 2015 student showcase – May 7
- ISBE offices closed for Memorial Day – May 25
- Deadline to submit data in the Student Health Data –Vision system - June 30
- ISBE offices closed for Independence Day – July 3

Standards and Assessments

School and Classroom Participants Sought for PARCC Diagnostic Field Test

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) is seeking schools and classrooms to participate in a field test for the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) Diagnostic Assessments.

The purpose of the PARCC Diagnostic Assessments is to provide instructionally useful information about how well students have learned – or how prepared they are to learn – key content and skills tied to the Common Core State Standards in English language arts/literacy and mathematics to educators.

This is a voluntary opportunity for schools with grades 2 through 8. If your school chooses to participate, your staff and students will have gained experience with the type of items that will be on the diagnostic test and become familiar with how the test is administered. The PARCC Diagnostic Assessments will be used during the 2015-16 school year.

More information about the field test can be found here. Educators can contact Pearson’s PARCC Diagnostic Help Center from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday at (888) 493-9888 and select option #2 or email parccdiagnostic@support.pearson.com. You may also contact Jim Palmer, ISBE Student Assessment Division, at (217) 782-4823.

PARCC Infrastructure Trial Walkthrough Webinar Scheduled for Dec. 16

ISBE is holding a webinar at 10 a.m. Dec. 16 to walk through the PARCC Infrastructure Trial process.
Technology coordinators and test coordinators are encouraged to participate. There will be time dedicated to viewers’ questions.

For more information and to register, go to https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6526437502623021825.

**Rules and Waivers**

**Notice of Completed Rulemaking**

Please be advised that five sets of amendments recently adopted by ISBE are now in effect. Changes have been posted at www.isbe.net/rules/archive/default.htm. Please choose “Rules Currently in Effect” and scroll to Parts 25, 50, 51, 305 and 650.

**Part 25 (Educator Licensure):** In response to P.A. 98-610, effective Dec. 27, 2013, sets forth requirements for renewal of professional educator licenses and educator licenses with stipulations endorsed for career and technical educator; other technical changes also are being proposed.  
Effective Date: Nov. 3, 2014

**Part 50 (Evaluation of Educator Licensed Employees under Articles 24A and 34 of the School Code):** Establishes the components of the State Performance Evaluation Model for Teachers to which a school district would default should its joint committee fail to come to agreement on one or more of the components within 180 days.  
Associated Sections: 50.30, 50.200, 50.210, 50.220, 50.230  
Effective Date: Nov. 19, 2014

**Part 51 (Dismissal of Tenured Teachers under Article 24 and Dismissal of Tenured Teachers and Principals under Article 34 of the School Code):** Establishes a process for the agency’s approval of entities to offer training for school board members about performance evaluations required under Article 24A of the School Code (i.e., “PERA evaluations”).  

Associated Sections: 51.10, 51.235, 51.290  
Effective Date: Nov. 3, 2014

**Part 305 (School Food Service):** Aligns the rules to federal nutrition standards and sets a limit on the number of “exempted fundraising days” (i.e., those selling food or beverage items not meeting the standards to students) that a participating school may have on the school campus during the school day.  
Associated Sections: 305.5, 305.15  
Effective Date: Nov. 19, 2014

**Part 650 (Charter Schools):** Lists requirements for biennial reporting by charter school authorizers; sets forth the process for monitoring authorizers and withdrawing their power to authorize in certain circumstances; establishes standards for high-quality charter school authorizing; and identifies the forms to be provided when a school board submits reports of approved applications for, revisions of or renewals for charter schools to the State Board.  
Associated Sections: 650.10, 650.20, 650.30, 650.55, 650.65, 650.Appendix A  
Effective Date: Nov. 3, 2014

**Nutrition and Wellness Programs**

**Two Illinois School Nutrition Directors to Receive Prestigious National Awards**

The Illinois State Board of Education and Nutrition and Wellness Programs Division staff would like to acknowledge and congratulate Sandra Voss and Coletta Hines-Newell on the recent announcement of their national awards in the school nutrition industry.

The first award is the Foodservice Achievement Management Excellence (FAME) awards. The FAME awards are the most prestigious acknowledgement of success in the school nutrition industry. Each year the awards are presented to outstanding leaders, recognizing them for achievement, innovation and service.

The 2015 FAME Silver Special Achievement Award will be awarded to Sandra Voss, MS, RD, SNS, food and nutrition services director for Marquardt School District 15 in Glendale Heights. The award will be presented to Voss on Jan. 11 in Scottsdale, Ariz., in conjunction with the School Nutrition Association School Nutrition Industry Conference. Complete...
information about the FAME awards is available at http://fameawards.net/.

The second award is the School Nutrition Foundation’s School Nutrition Hero Award, which was established in 2014 in conjunction with the foundation’s 50th anniversary celebration. The SNF School Nutrition Hero Award is presented to five individuals nationally to recognize school nutrition professionals who are passionate about their nutrition operations and go above and beyond their daily job responsibilities in the service to children and their communities.

Coletta Hines-Newell, SNS, director of food services for Arlington Heights School District 25, will be one of the recipients. This award will be presented to Hines-Newell on March 2 in conjunction with SNA’s Annual Legislative Action Conference in Washington, D.C. Complete information about the SNF School Nutrition Hero Award is available at http://schoolnutrition.org/SNF/SpecialEvents/.

In Brief

In the News
- Through the Agricultural Education programs in Illinois schools, the National FFA Organization provides leadership, personal growth and career success training to more than 600,000 student members in grades 7 through 12 who belong to one of the 7,570-plus local FFA chapters throughout the United States, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Local Agricultural Education programs/FFA chapters and their students excelled at the recent National FFA Convention & Expo. Illinois boasts of several national winners and top 10 national rankings. Please click on the following links for the results:
  - Career Development Event (CDE) Teams
  - American Degree Recipients
  - National Proficiency Results - All Finalists
  - National Chapter Award Programs/Chapters

School Health Issues
- Registration is available for the School Health Days regional conferences taking place in five locations across Illinois in January. The conferences are for school nurses and other school health personnel. See “School Nurses

Take Action” on the Illinois Public Health Association website.

Professional Development
- The 20th annual Illinois Association for Gifted Children Convention will be held Feb. 8-10, 2015, in Naperville. Participants will have the opportunity to gather with classroom teachers, gifted coordinators, administrators, parents and exhibitors for a variety of sessions on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. For complete information – including the registration form, schedule and online hotel reservations – go to http://www.iagcgifted.org/committees/twentieth-iage-convention.html.

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

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