Message from State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

I am attending the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) 2008 Legislative Conference in Washington D.C. during the first part of this week and will return for the Board’s regularly scheduled April meeting beginning on Wednesday.

This year’s CCSSO legislative meeting should prove very interesting, since the political dynamics on the federal level are changing. Secretary Spellings will address the group on Tuesday morning. We will also have two discussions focusing on how education fits into Presidential politics, as well as hearing from representatives of the three remaining major Presidential contenders. In addition, we’ll have a session with a select group of members of Congress and hear their insights on reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act.

CCSSO has a new resource which some of you will find very useful, the Secondary School Redesign (SSR) Web Portal. The CCSSO Web Portal brings together best practices for high school reform from around the nation and identifies existing resources to assist in high school reform. It has three main components:

- Supporting Instruction
- Facilitating Transitions
- Providing Leadership

The address for the portal is http://highschool.ccsso.org.

Finally, nominations for next year’s Illinois State Board of Education Student Advisory Council are due at the end of this month. Student Advisory Council members provide a unique perspective to our Board and agency. They are invited to participate in meetings; discuss and present on issues of importance to them; and review and critique existing and proposed policies. The Council offers a unique opportunity to develop student leadership skills, to travel and to discuss key educational issues with peers, State Board members and agency staff.

Eligibility is open to any public high school student who will be a sophomore, junior or senior next year. Special consideration will be given to students from low-performing districts or schools, because of the need to hear from these students as the benchmarks for performance under No Child Left Behind increase. Applications can be downloaded at http://isbe.net/SAC/sac_application.pdf and should be returned to ISBE no later than April 30.

Thanks, and best of luck next week to staff and students on the Prairie State Achievement Exam!

Chris
Upcoming Deadlines

- **Migrant Education Program Summer 2008 Application** – April 15, 2008
- **Deadline for proposed amendments to rules regarding Driver Education (23 Ill. Adm. Code 252)** – April 21, 2008
- **Even Start Family Literacy RFP** – April 25, 2008
- **Student Advisory Council applications for 2008-2009** – April 30, 2008
- **Charter Planning Grant applications & Charter Implementation Grant applications** – April 30, 2008
- **Enhancing Education through Technology RFP** – May 1, 2008
- **Prevention Initiative Birth to Age 3 Years RFP** – May 6, 2008
- **Those Who Excel/Illinois Teacher of the Year Nominations** – May 16, 2008
- **Deadline for commenting on proposed rules – Part 25; Part 180; Part 235; Part 305; and Part 401** – May 19, 2008
- **Request for Proposals (RFP) for Advanced Placement Classes** – May 22, 2008
- **Regional Safe Schools Program (RSSP) FY 2009 application** – May 23, 2008
- **FY09 Consolidated Application to Serve English Language Learners** – June 30, 2008
- **Deadline for waiver applications to be considered by the General Assembly in Fall 2008** – August 8, 2008
- **Annual Superintendents’ Conference** – October 23 – 24, 2008

English Language Learning

**The 2008 National Refugee and Immigrant Conference will be held in Chicago on September 25-26, 2008**

The Illinois Department of Human Services, the Adult Learning Resource Center and the Illinois State Board of Education are pleased to announce the “2008 National Refugee and Immigrant Conference: Issues and Innovations” which will be held at the Holiday Inn Chicago-Mart Plaza in Chicago on **Thursday and Friday, September 25-26**. Last year 475 people from 33 states attended the conference which has become a truly national professional development event for educators, social service agency staff and other professionals who work with refugee and other immigrant children and their families.

If your student population includes refugee or other immigrant children, you will find this conference of benefit to general education and bilingual program teachers and to school administrators. Information about the conference and the call for workshop proposals can be accessed at http://www.thecenterweb.org/alrc/refugee.html. Please circulate this information to your staff and others who may be interested in attending and who might want to submit a workshop proposal. The deadline for workshop proposals is **Friday, May 2**. If you have any questions regarding the conference, please contact **Lynn Osheff**, Adult Learning Resource Center, at 224-366-8632 or by e-mail at Losheff@thecenterweb.org.

This conference is supported by a federal Refugee Children School Impact Grant administered by the Illinois Department of Human Services and by the Illinois State Board of Education, Division of English Language Learning.

**State Superintendent seeks individuals to serve on the Illinois Advisory Council on Bilingual Education**

State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch, Ed. D., is seeking five individuals to serve on the Illinois Advisory Council on Bilingual Education ( ILCS 5/14C-13). Members would serve a three year term of office and be expected to attend four meetings in the Chicago area between September 1, 2008 and June 30, 2009.

If you are interested in serving on the council, please e-mail a cover letter and resume to Robin M. Lisboa, English Language Learning, at rlisboa@isbe.net by the close of business on **Friday, May 23**.
Resumes will be reviewed and successful candidates will be notified by Tuesday, July 1.

**Foreign Language Assistance Program (FLAP) Grants to Local Educational Agencies**

The U.S. Department of Education, Office of English Language Acquisition, Language Enhancement and Academic Achievement for Limited English Proficient Students is releasing a foreign language assistance program (FLAP) grant to local educational agencies.

The Foreign Language Assistance Program (FLAP) provides grants to local educational agencies (LEAs) for innovative model programs providing for the establishment, improvement, or expansion of foreign language study for elementary and secondary school students.

Under this competition, as required by the fiscal year 2008 Appropriations Act, 5-year grants will be awarded to LEAs to work in partnership with one or more institutions of higher education (IHEs) to establish or expand articulated programs of study in languages critical to United States national security in order to enable successful students to achieve a superior level of proficiency in those languages as they advance from elementary school through high school and college.

In addition, an LEA that receives a grant under this program must use the funds to support programs that show the promise of being continued beyond the grant period and demonstrate approaches that can be disseminated to and duplicated in other LEAs. Projects supported under this program may also include a professional development component.


For guidance in preparing an application see: [http://www.ncela.gwu.edu/oela/OELAprograms/4_FLAP.htm](http://www.ncela.gwu.edu/oela/OELAprograms/4_FLAP.htm)

The deadline for notice of intent to apply was Friday, April 11. The deadline for transmitting applications is Wednesday, April 30.

**FY09 Consolidated Application Update**

Local school districts and Regional Offices of Education are advised that the FY09 Consolidated Application to Serve English Language Learners will be available for downloading at [www.isbe.net/bilingual/htmls/consolidated_application.htm](http://www.isbe.net/bilingual/htmls/consolidated_application.htm) beginning the week of April 17, 2008. Short video segments explaining how to complete the application forms for program approval and funding will also be found at this website.

To qualify for both state TBE/TPI and federal Title III funding, the completed application must be received or postmarked by **Monday, June 30**. Applications postmarked after the June 30 deadline will not be eligible for federal Title III funding. Please remember that the Consolidated Application is not yet part of the e-grant system and therefore, will only be available via downloading from the above website.

Additionally, on both May 1 and May 2, the Division of English Language Learning staff will host phone conferences to answer questions related to the application. To access the conference calls, you must RSVP to obtain a call-in number and code. The purpose of the RSVP is to assure that we have an adequate number of phone lines. To download the teleconference RSVP form, click on [www.isbe.net/bilingual/htmls/consolidated_application.htm](http://www.isbe.net/bilingual/htmls/consolidated_application.htm). You may submit written questions concerning the application to dell@isbe.net before and after the phone conferences.

Please be advised that the conference calls will take the place of the regional application workshops held in previous years.

If you have further questions, contact the Division of English Language Learning at 312-814-3850.

**Accountability**

**FY09 Regional Safe Schools Program Application Available**

The Regional Safe Schools Program (RSSP) FY 2009 application is available and may be accessed through the State Board of Education webpage at [http://www.isbe.net/accountability/html/regional_safeschools.htm](http://www.isbe.net/accountability/html/regional_safeschools.htm).

RSSP funds are distributed by formulas established in the school code. Eligible entities are Regional Offices of
Education, Intermediate Service Centers and Chicago Public Schools. Programs should use the FY 2008 award amount to complete the FY 2009 application. The due date is **Friday, May 23**.

For questions or more information, contact Sally Veach, Accountability Division, at 217-782-2948 or by e-mail at sveach@isbe.net.

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**Curriculum & Instruction**

**Request for Proposals (RFP) for Advanced Placement Classes – College Success for All Students Program**

The purpose of this grant is to support and promote Advanced Placement (AP) and pre-Advanced Placement programs at schools serving populations with 40 percent or more students qualifying for free and reduced lunch. During the past several years, AP has been expanding to include a far greater number of students than ever before.

Grant funds can be utilized to begin or expand AP or pre-AP programs as well as provide professional development for teachers and other school personnel. Professional Development is a required part of the proposal process; at least 20 percent of all funds awarded will need to be invested in training with the College Board in such areas as vertical team training and content specific training.

The requirements for this RFP are posted online at [http://www.isbe.net/curriculum/html/advanced_placement.htm](http://www.isbe.net/curriculum/html/advanced_placement.htm). A listing of eligible schools and districts is also posted on the website. This list includes both high schools that will offer AP and middle schools that will offer pre-AP. Those districts believing they meet eligibility, but not the list, must provide a school report card with low income information to be eligible. Additionally, a question and answer forum will be available for those wishing to apply. The RFP is due **Thursday, May 22**.

For more details on the RFP, or other aspects of current AP programming, please visit [http://www.isbe.net/curriculum/html/advanced_placement.htm](http://www.isbe.net/curriculum/html/advanced_placement.htm). For questions, contact Mike Hatfill, Curriculum & Instruction, at 217-557-7323 or by e-mail at dhatfill@isbe.net.

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**Data Analysis & Progress Reporting**

**2007-2008 Dental Data Collection**

A revised Dental Information Sheet and a revised Data Entry Worksheet are posted on the Illinois State Board of Education’s website. The addresses are:

- School Dental Examinations—Information Sheet: [http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/dental_information.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/dental_information.pdf)
- Dental Information--Data Entry Worksheet: [http://www.isbe.net/research/xls/dental_worksheet.xls](http://www.isbe.net/research/xls/dental_worksheet.xls)

Please share this information with your school nurses or health technicians and those submitting dental data to ISBE. Questions may be addressed to Md. Shafiquel Azam, Data Analysis and Progress Reporting Division, at 217-782-3950 or by e-mail at mazam@isbe.net.

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**Funding & Disbursements**

**Segregation of Driver Education Fees and Revenue**

Per PA 94-0426 that was enacted on January 1, 2006, all driver education fees and State reimbursement for driver education must be deposited into the school district's driver education fund as a separate line item budget entry. The money in the district’s driver education fund can only be used for the funding of a high school driver education program approved by the State Board of Education that uses instructors certified by the State Board of Education.

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**Nutrition**

**Illinois School Wellness – From A to Z Conference**

The Illinois State Board of Education, Divisions of Nutrition Programs and Curriculum and Instruction in cooperation with Action for Healthy Kids–Illinois are sponsoring a one-day wellness conference highlighting successful implementation of school wellness programs involving nutrition, nutrition education, physical activity, and physical education. In addition, to meet Public Act 094-0190’s School Health Recognition Program, the conference will recognize and celebrate schools having success with their wellness efforts. Browse an exhibit room for free resources, ideas, and networking. Early
Bird Registration ends **Tuesday, April 15.** The conference is Tuesday, May 6 at the Decatur Conference Center.

The registration form is online at [www.isbe.net/nutrition](http://www.isbe.net/nutrition). A registration fee of $25 includes lunch, refreshments, and materials.

**AG Mag and the Illinois Learning Standards**

The AG Mag, developed by Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC), is a new resource for teachers to use for classroom activities and programs. Contact your local farm bureau to request Ag Mags in packages of 30. AITC has 20 different Ag Mag titles to choose from, including Apples, Pumpkin, Dairy, Corn, Soybeans, and more. Visit their website ([www.agintheclassroom.org](http://www.agintheclassroom.org)) to view the variety of activities and resources available.

**Summer Mandate Exemption**

This is a reminder that as part of the Public Act 095-0115, Summer Mandate, all regional superintendents must send a listing of those schools where an exemption was granted. Please fax this listing to Amy Bianco, Nutrition Programs, at 217-524-6124 or mail it to:

Nutrition Programs,
Illinois State Board of Education,
100 North First Street W270
Springfield, Illinois 62777-0001
Attn: Amy Bianco

Schools affected by this legislation include any public school with at least 50 percent of the children qualifying for free and reduced-price lunch AND conducting a summer school program. In order to receive an exemption from this mandate, the school must have filed a petition with the regional superintendent by January 15, 2008. If you have any questions, please contact the Nutrition Programs Division at 800-545-7892 or 217-782-2491.

**Wellness Policy Reminder**

According to Public Act 094-0199, adopted in October 2007, "All remaining public school districts not participating in the Federal Child Nutrition Programs shall have a Local Wellness Policy in effect no later than the first day of school during 2008–2009 school year."

For guidance on developing a Local Wellness Policy, visit [http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/wellness_policy.htm](http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/wellness_policy.htm) and [http://www.kidseatwell.org/LocalWellnessPolicy.html](http://www.kidseatwell.org/LocalWellnessPolicy.html).

**Professional Development**

**Online Course for Improving Education Data**

The National Forum on Education Statistics released the first of two online courses for local education agencies (LEA). These two courses, focused on improving education data, have been developed by the National Forum on Education Statistics, and in cooperation with the Schools Interoperability Framework Association, the Council of Chief State School Officers and the Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit.

The first course, Improving Education Data Part 1-Creating a Foundation, presents concepts related to creating a culture of quality data. The four lessons in this course concentrate on establishing a culture of quality data, assessing your local education agency’s data quality, classifying education data, and examining security and confidentiality. The course is designed to be either instructor-let or self-paced and incorporates activities, discussions, presentations, and support materials.

The second course, Improving Education Data Part 2-Coordinating Data Quality will be available in the summer 2008.

These courses are available free of charge to LEAs or anyone interested in taking the courses through SIFA University. To access the courses, visit [http://www.sifinfo.org/sifau.asp](http://www.sifinfo.org/sifau.asp).

**Employment Opportunities**

**ISBE External Vacancy List**

An External Vacancy List for the Illinois State Board of Education is available at [http://www.isbe.net/hr/Default.htm](http://www.isbe.net/hr/Default.htm).

**In the News**

**Weekly news clips**
ISBE has posted highlights from last week’s education news clips at: