



# Illinois State Board of Education

Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor

## Weekly Message

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Christopher A. Koch, Ed.D.  
State Superintendent

**April 30, 2007**

### Message from State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

Good afternoon,

Recently, we've had a number of inquiries about Technology Integration Plans (TIP), how and why a district should do them, as well as a number of technical issues with completing the necessary paperwork. I know the process can be very technical and even confusing, but I would urge any district undertaking this project to take plenty of time and involve all aspects of the district so that you can maximize your impact on student achievement.

These plans, while entirely voluntary, must be in place and approved in order for a district to receive federal Enhancing Education Through Technology (EETT) and federal E-rate funds. A district can submit its TIP at anytime during the year, but plans must be approved by ISBE by June 30, in order to be eligible for E-rate funding the following fiscal year. Once the plans are approved by trained peer reviewers, they are good for three years.

We know it seems complex, and staff is trying to streamline the process to make it easier for you to submit these applications. While districts can submit the information in any fashion they wish, we've developed an electronic template that is available, which staff have spent countless hours streamlining to as narrowly meet the requirements for EETT and E-rate, as well as information ISBE needs for strategic planning purposes.

In addition, we are continuing to develop an online TIP template that will be available later this year that will allow districts to complete a consolidated e-Plan in conjunction with the School Improvement Plan and the District Improvement Plan. While districts will have the option to do stand alone plans, we're developing this to consolidate common elements from all three plans to eliminate duplication.

As we continue to use data to assist us in driving policy decisions to improve student achievement, district TIP's will become more important, locally and on a statewide level. Currently, ISBE has no way of tracking technological needs of the districts and by having these types of clearinghouses it will better enable us to understand district needs and to advocate on your behalf for resources.

Thank you and have a great week!

Chris Koch

#### Additional Resources:

- Information about the completion of a TIP and requirements that must be met are available on ISBE's website at [http://www.isbe.net/curriculum/elearning/html/tech\\_plan\\_info.htm](http://www.isbe.net/curriculum/elearning/html/tech_plan_info.htm)

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- Staff from regional Learning Technology Centers (LTC) is available to provide assistance for completion of the TIP. Information about the LTCs can be found at <http://www.isbe.net/curriculum/elearning/html/ltc.htm>

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## Upcoming Deadlines

- **Preschool for All Children Ages 3 to 5 years RFP** – May 3, 2007
- **Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Young Scholars Program** – May 7, 2007
- **Those Who Excel/Illinois Teacher of the Year nominations** – May 7, 2007
- **Deadline for commenting on Proposed Rules and Amendments: Part 180, Part 350 and Part 555** – May 21, 2007
- **Truants' Alternative and Optional Education Program (TAOEP) Professional Development RFP** – May 31, 2007
- **'Teacher Service Record' salary submission** – June 15, 2007
- **Bilingual Education Program Delivery Report** – June 30, 2007
- **Waiver applications to be considered by the General Assembly in Fall 2007** – August 10, 2007

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## Data Analysis & Progress Reporting

### Reporting of the Bilingual Education 2007 Annual Student Report (ASR)

The 2007 Bilingual Education Annual Student Report (ASR) data files are now available for downloading at the Bilingual Education Individual Student Report (ISR) System on IWAS. **Section 14C-3 of the School Code requires every school district or educational agency that enrolled limited-English proficient (LEP) students to submit such a report to ISBE.** The guide for the Bilingual Education Individual Student Report (ISR) System on IWAS is available at <http://webprod.isbe.net/BStudentRptData/doc/navguide.pdf> and the instructions for reporting the ASR can be downloaded from: <http://webprod.isbe.net/BStudentRptData/doc/instructions.pdf>

The 2007 Bilingual Education Annual Student Report (ASR) is due to ISBE on **June 30, 2007**. The Bilingual Education Individual Student Report (ISR) System on IWAS will close on July 1, 2007.

If you need assistance accessing the ISR, please call ISBE's Helpdesk at 217-558-3600. Any inquiries regarding the report should be directed to **Dr. Lilibeth Q. Gumia**, Data Analysis and Progress Reporting Division, at 217-782-3950 or [lgumia@isbe.net](mailto:lgumia@isbe.net).

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## Early Childhood Education

### Early Childhood Block Grant applications available

Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG) applications are now available through the Electronic Grant Management System (eGMS) in IWAS for school year 2007-2008 (FY08).

Three grant applications will be available – Early Childhood Block-Continuing 0-3, Early Childhood Block Continuing 3-5, and Early Childhood Continuing Preschool for All. Programs will be applying for 100% of their current funding. Applicants will complete all three applications online if they are authorized to offer programs for birth to three, three to five, and Preschool for All. All applications must be submitted to ISBE by **June 8, 2007**.

**Please note** – Programs that received new funding for Prevention Initiative in FY 07 will complete a paper application for FY 08.

If you have questions, please contact the **Early Childhood Division** at 217-524-4835.

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## English Language Learning

### Grant opportunities for Regional Offices of Education

The Division of English Language Learning is announcing an opportunity for Regional Offices of Education to apply for small amounts of grant funding for various purposes as follows:

The **FY08 ROE ELL Professional Development Grant** (July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008) provides a maximum of \$5,000 in Title III SEA Professional Development funds per eligible ROE to enable ROEs with small and rural school populations to: 1) update ROE knowledge of required services for English Language Learner (ELL) students and 2) provide professional development to rural or other small local school districts that are experiencing the enrollment of ELL students either for the first time or are now experiencing a major influx of ELL students.

The **ROE Migrant Education Outreach and School Support Grants** provide Title I Part C Migrant Education Program funds for eligible ROEs in FY07 (June 1 – September 30, 2007) and FY08 (October 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008). Funds are available to eligible ROEs in one or both funding periods for either: 1) Migrant Child Identification including outreach to school districts and employment of a trained migrant recruiter in targeted recruitment areas or 2) School Support to school districts with migrant populations but no funded migrant program services. Maximum funding levels range from \$3,000 for FY07 School Support to \$15,000 for FY08 Migrant Child Identification. Specific ROE eligibility for these grants is identified in the application.

An application packet that allows eligible ROEs to apply for one or more of the grants has already been sent to ROEs via e-mail. Completed applications must be postmarked no later than **Wednesday, May 23, 2007**. For more information, contact **Sherry Johnson** or **Beth Robinson** at 312-814-3850.

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## Fiscal Services

### Illinois School Purchasing Network

As the end of the school year approaches, I would like to take this opportunity to remind you about U.S. Communities. As you are putting together your purchasing lists for the next school year or planning building or roof repairs, I encourage you to take a look at the variety of services and supplies U.S. Communities offers. It is a great way to take advantage of already bid products and services at significantly reduced prices.

Illinois school districts saved over \$1.5 million in 2006 by purchasing through U.S. Communities. You can go to their website at [www.uscommunities.org](http://www.uscommunities.org). There is no cost to register and no minimum purchase requirements. If you have any questions, contact **Tamara Morris** at 217-785-8777 or [tamorris@isbe.net](mailto:tamorris@isbe.net).

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## Funding & Disbursements

### 2006-07 Final Public School Calendars

The ability to file the 2006-07 Final Public School Calendar is now available via IWAS on Tuesday, May 1, 2007. Please complete and transmit to the appropriate Regional Superintendent by the last day of school. **A final public school calendar must be transmitted and approved prior to filing the 2006-07 General State Aid claim.**

**HELPFUL HINT:** The unused proposed emergency days (XED) that are included at the end of the school year can be removed by correcting the Regular School End Date to the last day of actual school activity. Once the Regular School End Date has been corrected, the calendar codes after that date will be omitted.

If you have questions that are not addressed in the guidelines, you may contact the office of your **Regional Superintendent** or **Marj Beck**, ISBE, at [mbeck@isbe.net](mailto:mbeck@isbe.net) or 217-782-5256.

If you encounter technical issues with the Public School Calendar in IWAS, please contact the ISBE Call Center at 217-558-3600 during business hours: Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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## Nutrition

### 2007 – 2008 School Meals Calendar Posted

Nutrition Programs recently posted the 2007– 2008 School Meals Calendar at [www.isbe.net/nutrition](http://www.isbe.net/nutrition). To find the calendar, look under ‘Resources’ on the right side column for the calendar option.

Use this resource as an easy reference for important administrative due dates, reminders, special events, and much more!

### Subscribe to *Illinois Schools Can!* E-Newsletter

*Illinois Schools Can!* Is a new initiative to support Illinois schools in taking the *HealthierUS School Challenge* and supporting student wellness. To learn about available training, free resources, grants, and success stories, sign up for the *Illinois Schools Can!* e-newsletter at:

<http://www.kidseatwell.org/ASP/ISCNewsletterForm.asp>

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## Special Education

### 2007 Applications for 1% Cap Exceptions – application reminder

If more than one percent (1%) of students in **grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 11** are identified as significantly cognitively disabled, districts should prepare a request for an exception to the one percent cap. If the conditions for the exception are approved, then all progressing and attaining scores earned by students taking the Illinois Alternate Assessment (IAA) in reading and math will be counted as proficient in making determinations for school, district and state AYP.

**K-8 districts** may apply **now**. **High school and K-12 districts** should apply after the PSAE makeup test dates (May 9-10).

**APPLICATIONS ARE DUE FRIDAY, JUNE 1, 2007.** The form may be **MAILED** or **FAXED** to 217-782-0372 – attention Pearl Schneider.

The form and instructions are available at:  
[http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/37-58\\_percent\\_cap\\_form.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/37-58_percent_cap_form.pdf)

For additional information please contact **Pearl Schneider** at 217-782-5589 or via email at [pschneid@isbe.net](mailto:pschneid@isbe.net).

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## Teaching and Learning

### Doctor of Education Degree Program in School Executive Leadership

Pending approval from the Illinois Board of Higher Education, the University of Illinois Educational Organization and Leadership Department will offer a cohort-based Doctor of Education Degree Program in School Executive Leadership, starting Fall 2007, hosted at the Multi-University Center in Oak Brook, Ill.

This program will provide Illinois superintendency endorsement. The Educational Administration and Leadership program has a long history of excellence and a strong reputation for leadership preparation. Currently, *U.S. News and World Report* ranks the program 14 out of more than 500 educational leadership programs in the nation. Past graduates occupy positions of major responsibility in school district and educational organizations, as university professors, and in policy

positions across the state of Illinois and the nation. This program has been approved by the University of Illinois and is announced, pending approval of the IBHE.

For full consideration, all application materials must be received by **May 24, 2007**. Applications received after the deadline will be considered if openings become available within the cohort.

For more information on the program or informational meeting, please visit the following URL:  
[www.ao.uiuc.edu/eol/oakbrook/doctorate](http://www.ao.uiuc.edu/eol/oakbrook/doctorate).

For more information, contact Dr. Donald Hackmann, U of I Associate Professor & Coordinator, Educational Administration, at 800-252-1360, ext. 30230.

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## Professional Development

### Scholarship opportunity from the Illinois Restaurant Association Educational Foundation

The Illinois Restaurant Association Educational Foundation will award more than \$250,000 in scholarships to students pursuing postsecondary education in the foodservice and/or hospitality management industry. All permanent residents of Illinois majoring in the disciplines above are eligible to apply.

**Applications must be postmarked May 15, 2007.** All applicants will be notified in early July. For more information visit the Educational Foundation's scholarship page at [www.illinoisrestaurants.org](http://www.illinoisrestaurants.org).

For questions, contact Roxanne Charles, Executive Director, Illinois Restaurant Association Educational Foundation at 312-787-4000 or [roxannec@illinoisrestaurants.org](mailto:roxannec@illinoisrestaurants.org).

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## Other

### National public comment on campus and school safety

In wake of the tragic events at Virginia Tech University, the U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Attorney General's Office are seeking public comments on ways to prevent tragedies in America's schools and on college campuses.

The general public can make public comments online at: <http://www.ed.gov/admins/lead/safety/dialogue.html>. U.S. Secretary Margaret Spellings is seeking comments on three questions:

- In what ways can technology help to communicate with students and school professionals—before, during, and after a crisis situation?
- How can the various institutions involved in protecting students—schools, colleges, law enforcement agencies, the medical and mental health community, and others—share critical information in a way that protects individuals' privacy but doesn't sacrifice public safety?
- What are the most effective programs and best practices for preventing school violence and managing crises at U.S. schools and college campuses?

All suggestions will be considered as the three agencies prepare a report for President Bush that outlines how the federal government can best help states and localities keep students safe.

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## 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>.

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## In the News

### Weekly news clips

ISBE has posted highlights from last week's education news clips at: <http://www.isbe.net/news/2007/newsclips/070427.htm>.

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