Message from State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

By now all elementary schools and districts have access to the preliminary ISAT, IMAGE and IAA scores for 2007. This is exciting news and one of the very important steps in the process we are working through to get accurate assessment scores out in a timely manner. In addition, ISBE staff this week will begin the process of calculating and posting AYP for schools.

Lately, there has been a lot of focus on the assessment data. On the national level, two studies were released last week that focused on state assessments and the National Assessment of Educational Progress. One study looked at state scores and NAEP scores since the passage of No Child Left Behind, which in most cases, including here in Illinois, progress has been made. The other examined mapped state proficiency levels to NAEP, which showed a wide variety of proficient levels set by the states, here in Illinois we were in the middle of the pack.

At ISBE, our focus is on making sure that we get you the information as accurately and quickly as possible, last year’s delay was not acceptable and our staff is committed to making sure there is not a repeat this year.

Districts have been able to make demographic corrections via the Assessment correction files since May. Data correction will continue for grades 3-8 through June 29. All data will become final at the close of business June 29 and after they are finalized, no correction will be allowed.

We know that in order to make improvements you have to have accurate data, that’s why we are one of the few states that allow for data corrections after scores are posted, however, this year we will not extend the correction period after scores have been finalized.

We must adhere to very tight timelines so final AYP can be determined before school starts this fall.

We realize that many staff are not in the building during the summer and our goal is not to make any more work for you, but to provide you with the most accurate information possible and to make AYP calculations in a timely manner.

A calendar for all test dates follows this column and there will be no time for data corrections after the windows close that is why I urge you to begin your portion of data corrections now.

For more information, call 217-558-3600 or 217-782-4823 – we want to support your work and are ready to help.

Again, thank you for all your work.

Chris
Upcoming Deadlines

- ‘Teacher Service Record’ salary submission – June 15, 2007
- Student applications for 2007-2008 Student Advisory Council – June 15, 2007
- FY08 Reading Improvement Block Grant applications – June 15, 2007
- Student Health Data (Dental) – June 30, 2007
- Waiver applications to be considered by the General Assembly in Fall 2007 – August 10, 2007

Student Assessment

2007 testing update

The 2007 grades 3-8 ISAT, IAA and IMAGE scores for reading, math and science are now posted on IWAS/SIS. We are very pleased to have these data available to you at this time. The period for correcting demographics or asking for rescoring begins now and will close on June 29, 2007. There will be no extensions.

We have staff ready to assist you in this clean up process.

Rescore information is located at www.isbe.net/assessment - click on Rescore Form.

For assistance, please call 217-558-3600 or email help@isbe.net. They will transfer your questions to the appropriate staff. For more information, please go to www.isbe.net/assessment - click on Assessment Correction Conference Calls.

Grade 11 will be posted on July 20 and clean up will end August 3. Districts may continue to work on the grade 11 data now in order to prepare for the score reports. Writing will be posted later this summer. Writing does not count for AYP.

Preliminary AYP will be calculated in the next few weeks for those schools that have submitted their e-Report Card data. Superintendents will be notified via IWAS when their AYP status has been calculated.

THANK YOU EVERYONE - We thank you for your hard work all year in preparing for the test, for providing accurate data and for cleaning up the data now.

Assessment Corrections - Calendar of Events – 2007 Testing

Scores Posted – First Day to Request, Upload and View Reports with Assessment Scores File via IWAS/SIS

- ISAT, IMAGE & IAA - Grades 3-8 – Monday, June 11, 2007
- PSAE & IMAGE - Grade 11 – No later than Friday, July 20, 2007

Final Day – To send revisions to Assessment Correction file data via IWAS/SIS

- ISAT, IMAGE & IAA - Grades 3-8 – Friday, June 29, 2007
- PSAE & IMAGE - Grade 11 – Friday, Aug. 3, 2007

Reports to Districts/Schools

- Grades 3-8 Data Disks and printed district/school summary reports delivered to Districts – Friday, Aug. 31, 2007
- Grades 3-8 Printed Individual Student Reports – Monday, Sept. 17, 2007
- Grade 11 Printed Individual Student Report and other reports – Monday, Sept. 17, 2007

Accountability

Informational meetings on Choice and SES

Each year, schools are identified to offer Choice and Supplemental Educational Services (SES) to students under the requirements of Title I of NCLB. This year,
ISBE will offer informational meetings on Choice and SES in northern, central, and southern Illinois locations.

Although targeted to superintendents and Title 1 directors, the three-hour sessions are open to all interested district personnel. Attendance is encouraged in order to help districts meet the legal and logistical demands of Choice and SES implementation in an efficient and thorough manner. There is no fee to attend, but registration is mandatory in order to ensure sufficient materials are prepared.

The locations are:
- **Monday, June 25, 2007** – Naperville North High School Library
- **Tuesday, June 26, 2007** – Bloomington SD 87 District Office Community Room
- **Wednesday, June 27, 2007** – John A. Logan College Conference Center (Main Building)

For more information and to register, please visit [http://www.isbe.net/ses/html/announcements.htm](http://www.isbe.net/ses/html/announcements.htm).

Additional questions can be directed to Deb Toft, Illinois State Board of Education, at 217-782-3860 or via e-mail at dtoft@isbe.net.

## Certification

### Special Education reimbursement for behavior analyst services

PA 94-0948 went into effect January 1, 2007, to allow school districts and special education cooperatives to claim special education reimbursement for the services of a behavior analyst when the services are provided in accordance with a student’s IEP. The Behavior Analyst falls under “Other Professional Personnel” as delineated in Illinois Administrative Code 23 Part 226.800(jj)(3).

Thus, behavior analysts are professional personnel of whom no ISBE license, certificate or approval is required but who can obtain a credential from another professionally recognized credentialing body. Examples of other professions that fall into this category include physical and occupational therapists. To qualify for reimbursement, a behavior analyst must hold a certificate from the national Behavior Analyst Certification Board ([http://www.bacb.com/maint_frame.html](http://www.bacb.com/maint_frame.html)).

The employing school district or special education cooperative is responsible for maintaining documentation that these individuals are properly credentialed.

Reimbursement procedures are the same as those that are in place for all other professions that fall under Illinois Administrative Code 23 Part 226.800(jj)(3).

For additional information about the reimbursement process, please contact Sharon Conrath at sconrath@isbe.net or at 217-782-5256. For additional information on Special Education Personnel Reimbursement, please contact Judy Conboy at jiconboy@isbe.net or at 217-782-5256.

Final approval and claims are due to ISBE by August 15, 2007.

## Curriculum & Instruction

### Reading Improvement Block Grant Update

Reading Improvement Block Grant funds calculated as a result of leftover FY07 money has been loaded into the e-Grants Management System for eligible districts to claim. This grant has been extended to August 31, 2007 in an effort to provide additional time for districts to claim and use the funding.

In order to claim these additional funds, districts must create an upward amendment to the FY07 grant application through the e-Grants Management System.

To submit an amendment, go to the budget page and scroll down to see your total new allotment and the dollars you still need to budget. All amendments must be submitted no later than July 31, 2007. All funds will need to be obligated/spent and all related activities conducted by August 31, 2007 because there is no carryover provision for state funds. It is also advisable to review your application to be sure it reflects the programs and assessments that you currently have in place. If the scope of your program has changed, please address these changes in your new amendment, as well as accounting for the additional funds being awarded. If an upward amendment is not filed, no additional payments will be made and the funds for eligible districts will lapse.

## English Language Learning

### Bilingual Early Childhood Certification Assistance Program

We are pleased to inform you about a new certification opportunity for bilingual early childhood educators in Lake County. The Divisions of Early Childhood Education and English Language Learning at ISBE are working in partnership with the Northern Illinois University (NIU) and the Illinois Resource Center to
provide training, resources, and support to bilingual individuals who are committed to the field of early childhood education and who wish to become highly qualified early childhood educators. Successful candidates will earn the M.S.Ed. in Literacy Education with an emphasis in English as a Second Language (ESL)/bilingual education, and meet the requirements for the TYPE 04 Early Childhood certification along with teaching approvals for ESL and bilingual education.

For more information about the BECCA Program, please visit www.transitiontoteaching.com/becca or contact Kristy Poteete, Project Coordinator at 224-366-8539.

The application deadline for the fall cohort is June 29, 2007.

**Funding & Disbursements**

**2006-07 Final Public School Calendars**

Please be advised that all 2006-07 Final Public School Calendars should be completed and transmitted to the appropriate Regional Superintendent. As a reminder, an approved final calendar for school districts must be on file prior to transmitting 2006-07 claims for General State Aid, the Annual Pupil Transportation Reimbursement Claim and Regular Orphanage 18-3 which is new this year. The calendars and claims are completed through the IWAS system.

A Final Calendar should be transmitted on the last day of school and should reflect the actual activities of the school year including the Regular School End Date as the last day of actual school activity. If there are unused Proposed Emergency Days (Calendar Code XED) at the end of the calendar, correct the Regular School End Date, click the Save Date/Times button and transmit the calendar. As a reminder, if the district calendar does not include an Interrupted, Delayed Start or Act of God Day, the Regional Superintendent will be the final approval and no subsequent approval is needed by the Illinois State Board of Education.

If you have questions regarding the submittal of the Final Public School Calendar you may contact your Regional Office of Education or Marj Beck at the Illinois State Board of Education at mbeck@isbe.net or 217-782-5256.

**FY 2007 Transition Assistance**

The FY 2007 Transition Assistance payment has been calculated and vouchered. The voucher was dated June 5, 2007 and has been sent to the Office of the Comptroller for payment. School districts automatically qualify for the payment if their FY 2007 payments were less than their FY 2006 payments in specified programs. For FY 2007 these specified programs include: General State Aid, State Free Lunch/Breakfast Program, Transportation, Special Education (excluding Orphanage), ADA Block, Bilingual Education, Truant Alternative Optional Education Program, Career & Technical Education and Agriculture Education. Qualifying school districts and details of the FY 2007 calculations can be accessed at: http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/transition_assistance_calculations07.pdf.

Questions regarding the calculations can be directed to Toni Waggoner at 217-782-0249.

**Legal**

**Illinois Sex Offender Registry has a new mapping function**

The Illinois Sex Offender Registry (IL-SOR) has unveiled a new mapping function which will show where registered sex offenders live in your neighborhood, in relation to your home and local schools. The registry is online at: http://www.isp.state.il.us/sor. Click on “Mapping” for the new function.

Also, the Child Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth database is now operational. This database will contain information on individuals convicted of violent but non-sexually-motivated offenses against children that have petitioned the State’s Attorney to be moved from the IL-SOR to this database. It is online at: http://www.isp.state.il.us/cmvo/.

A check of both the IL-SOR and the Child Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth databases are required as part of a background check for all school employees in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9.

**Nutrition**

**Looking for Spanish Child Nutrition Outreach and Nutrition Education Materials?**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food and Nutrition Service has posted multiple Hispanic outreach initiatives and nutrition education at the following website, in an effort to increase service to this underserved population.
The information is available online at: [http://www.fns.usda.gov/cga/FactSheets/reaching.htm](http://www.fns.usda.gov/cga/FactSheets/reaching.htm).

## Special Education

### Training on new state recommended IEP forms

The Illinois State Board of Education & Special Education Leadership Academy will be conducting statewide training in June on the implementation of the new state recommended IEP forms.

This training will provide an overview of the current IEP forms developed by the Illinois State Board of Education. Participants will learn about the required components of the IEP and their connection to the Special Education Regulations and the State Performance Plan. Additionally, participants will learn about compliance issues related to the content of the IEP. Districts and special education cooperatives are encouraged to send a representative to the training.

Registration for all workshops is between 8:30 – 9 a.m. All programs are from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. There is a $10 registration fee with lunch included.

Dates and locations for the training are divided into three regional areas – Northern Illinois, Central Illinois and Southern Illinois.

**Northern Illinois** – ISBE Representatives: Dawn Camacho, Julie Evans, Karen Hilofski, Donna Schertz
- **June 19, 2007** – Holiday Inn, 18501 S. Harlem Avenue, Tinley Park, IL 708-444-1100
- **June 20, 2007** – Prairie View Golf Course, Byron, IL 815-234-4653

**Central Illinois** – ISBE Representatives: Terri McNear, Paula Stadeker, Sue Taylor
- **June 26, 2007** – Best Western Ashland House, 201 E. Ashland Avenue, Morton, IL 309-263-5116
- **June 27, 2007** – Holiday Inn, 1001 Killarney Street, Urbana IL 217-328-7900

**Southern Illinois** – ISBE Representatives: Sherry Colgrove, Marcia Kelley, Sally Tudor
- **June 26, 2007** – Holiday Inn, 1000 Eastport Plaza Drive, Collinsville, IL 618-345-2800
- **June 27, 2007** – Holiday Inn, 222 Potomac Blvd, Mt. Vernon, IL 618-244-7100

Continuing Professional Development Units (CPDU’s) will be available to participants who attend the workshop.

Registration information can be mailed to: Woodford County Special Education Association, 205 S. Engelwood Drive, Metamora, IL 61548. The phone number is 309-367-4901 and fax number is 309-367-4905. Please make checks payable to: Woodford County Special Education Association (SELA Fiscal Agent).

More registration information can be found online at: [http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/default.htm](http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/default.htm). For registration questions, contact Joan Hartnett at 309-367-4901 or via e-mail at jhartnet@schools.mtco.com.

### Special Education Directors’ Conference 2007 – Focus on Best Practice

The Illinois State Board of Education will sponsor the **Special Education Directors’ Conference 2007 – Focus on Best Practice** on July 31 and Aug. 1-2 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield.

Special Education directors and members of their staff are invited to take advantage of this statewide opportunity for the advancement of all children. Sessions will be geared toward both general education and special education, including curriculum coordinators, assessment coordinators and data coordinators/analysts.

The registration deadline is **Friday, July 13, 2007**. The conference is limited to 1,000 registrants.

More registration and conference information can be found online at: [http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/default.htm](http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/default.htm).

Teacher Resources

Helen Keller Deaf-Blind Awareness Week 2007

In order to publicize the abilities and potential of persons who are deaf-blind, Governor Blagojevich has proclaimed June 24-30, 2007 as Helen Keller Deaf-Blind Awareness Week in Illinois.

During this week, schools that are in session are encouraged to provide activities that will help students to recognize the abilities and talent that people with vision and hearing disabilities can bring to our communities. Deaf-Blind Awareness Week is celebrated annually during the week that includes Helen Keller’s June 27th birthday.

Resources and more information about Helen Keller Deaf-Blind Awareness Week are available online at: http://hknc.org/indehtmlx.

For the past 28 years, ISBE has operated the Philip J. Rock Center and School (PRC). PRC was established to provide technical assistance in the area of deaf-blindness to all Illinois early intervention programs, school programs and families. Deaf-Blind Specialists provide outreach services free of charge. Children who have significant losses in both vision and hearing are eligible for services.

The Center is located in Glen Ellyn and for further information on Illinois Deaf-Blind Services, contact Tina Lechnick, Chief Administrator at the Philip J. Rock Center and School at 630-790-2474 or via e-mail at PRC@aol.com. The web site address is: www.projectreach-illinois.org.

Notes of Success

Space Shuttle Atlantis Flight Director from Illinois

Kelly Beck, raised in Cahokia, Ill., is the Lead Space Station Flight Director for NASA’s first space shuttle mission this year, STS-117, STS-117 – Space Shuttle Atlantis.

The Atlantis launched on Friday, June 8, for an 11-day mission. During the mission, Beck will lead a team of flight directors, flight controllers, support personnel and engineering experts that will staff mission control in Houston.

The flight continues construction of the International Space Station and brings a new crew member to orbit to begin a five-month stay and will return home a station resident who has been in orbit since December.

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.

In the News

Weekly news clips