The end of FY 2008 is quickly approaching and all of us have an eye toward FY 2009. As I told you last week, the General Assembly passed a budget for FY 2009 but there are concerns that it increases expenditures beyond projected revenues. Members of the legislature met with Governor Blagojevich last week to discuss options to address the FY 2009 budget and a badly needed capital bill. We’ll continue to monitor progress.

I know many of you are working hard to close the books on FY 2008, and I have been getting a lot of questions as to when school districts can expect various payments. The regular June General State Aid (GSA) payments will be vouchered and sent to the Comptroller a few days prior to the release dates of June 10 and 20. We sent the first June GSA vouchers to the Comptroller last week, and I anticipate sending the second June GSA payment vouchers to that office no later than June 17. In addition, the accelerated July payments should be sent to the Comptroller’s office on or about June 23, with plenty of time for you to receive them prior to the end of the fiscal year.

In addition to the GSA payments, we will be sending the vouchers for all of the fourth quarter Mandated Categorical (MCAT) payments to the Comptroller’s office on or before June 20. I should note that this month the State Board will consider transferring funds between MCAT line items. This year’s Budget Implementation Bill for the first time allows for these transfers. Currently, there is insufficient funding in two of the MCAT line items, while there is excess funding in three MCAT line items. Without this Board action, we would have to prorate the Special Education—Personnel and Special Education—Transportation line items.

Hunger doesn’t take a break in the summer. I want to thank all of the schools and their staff who make the summer food programs possible. This year more than 1,600 sites statewide have signed up for the program that allows our students to get free nutritious meals and snacks during the summer months. The free meals that you provide in your breakfast and lunch programs may be the only nutritious meals some of our students receive each day.

Last year, more than 100,000 low-income children in Illinois ate free meals through the summer food programs. Governor Blagojevich signed legislation in August 2007 requiring all schools in which 50 percent or more of the student population is eligible for free or reduced-price meals and have a summer program, must operate a summer breakfast and/or lunch program that is open to the community.

Due to the new law, the number of school-based summer meal sites open to the community already has increased significantly in 2008. Although most of the increases have occurred outside of the city of Chicago, more than 1,000 sites in Chicago are expected to be open this summer, with nearly half of them open to the community. Many more
sites are expected to open across the state as summer continues, with additional site applications being approved on a daily basis.

Thanks for everything you have done to make the 2007-2008 school year a great one for our students. Have a fantastic week.

Chris

**Upcoming Deadlines**

- **FY09 Reading Improvement Block Grant application** – June 15, 2008
- **Deadline to submit 2008-09 Proposed Public School Calendar** – June 15, 2008
- **Advanced Placement fee reduction deadline** – June 15, 2008
- **Deadline for commenting on proposed rules – Part 100** – June 16, 2008
- **Deadline to submit ROE ELL Professional Development grant applications** – June 16, 2008
- **Deadline for making corrections in IWAS SIS for ISAT and IAA** – June 19, 2008
- **Deadline for commenting on proposed rules – Part 375** – June 23, 2008
- **FY09 Consolidated Application to serve English Language Learners** – June 30, 2008
- **Deadline to submit ELL service-related information to ISBE** – June 30, 2008
- **FY08 Annual Performance Report for the Reading Improvement Block Grant on IWAS deadline** – July 15, 2008
- **Special Education Directors’ Conference** – July 30-31 and August 1, 2008
- **Deadline for waiver applications to be considered by the General Assembly in Fall 2008** – August 8, 2008
- **Deadline to submit revised claims for Head Start reimbursements** – September 30, 2008
- **Annual Superintendents’ Conference** – October 23 – 24, 2008
- **FY09 School Budget Form** – October 31, 2008

**Student Health**

**Healthy Smiles – Healthy Growth Assessment**

During the 2008-2009 school year, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) will be assessing third grade students through an oral screening and a height/weight measurement. The “Healthy Smiles/Healthy Growth” assessment will be used to evaluate the state’s preventive health programs, determine the need for additional programs, and monitor the oral health and obesity trends of students.

The first assessment in 2003-2004, found that 55 percent of third graders had dental decay, 30 percent had untreated cavities and 27 percent had preventive dental sealants. In addition, 21 percent of third graders were overweight and 18 percent were at risk.

**School Participation:** IDPH will contact schools at random to request their participation in the assessment.

Students in the selected schools will need a signed consent form for the screenings. Each student will receive a letter noting the results of the oral screening plus a toothbrush, toothpaste and dental floss.

Problems with oral health in school-age children can result in increased absenteeism, poor concentration, lack of sleep, an inability to eat properly, decreased school performance and social relationship issues. Obesity is one of the leading causes of chronic disease and can be prevented with proper food habits and physical activity.

For additional information about the assessment, contact **Julie Janssen**, IDPH, 217-785-4899 or by e-mail at julie.janssen@illinois.gov.

**Legal**

**Health Examinations – Update**

**Health Examinations:** Public Act 95-0422, effective **August 24, 2007**, revised the School Code such that a
health examination was required before entering the sixth grade of any public, private or parochial school, as opposed to entering the fifth grade of any public, private or parochial school (the Public Act did not change any of the other instances when a health examination is required). ISBE has been asked whether students who had received a health examination prior to entering the fifth grade in the 2007-08 school year will, because of the new law, again have to receive a health examination before entering the sixth grade in the 2008-2009 school year. Just last week, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) filed emergency rules which make clear that such students would not have to receive another health examination.

(Additionally, as noted last week, the General Assembly recently passed HB 5717, which states that a student that received a health exam within one year prior to starting the fifth grade in the 2007-2008 school year is not required to receive an additional health exam when the student attends school for the 2008-2009 school year, unless the student is starting school for the first time. While the need for this legislation has effectively been mooted by the emergency rules, the State Board has been in support of this legislation and as soon as it is acted upon by the Governor, will inform districts.)

The full legislation for HB 5717 can be found on the Illinois General Assembly’s website at:

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Shafiqul Azam, Data Analysis and Progress Reporting, at 217-782-3950 or by e-mail at mazam@isbe.net.

Vision Examinations – Update

Vision Examinations: Public Act 95-671, effective Tuesday, January 1, 2008, requires that all children enrolling in kindergarten in a public, private or parochial school and any student enrolling for the first time in a public, private or parochial school shall have an eye examination.

- Each such child is to present proof of having been examined by a physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches or a licensed optometrist within the previous year before October 15 of the school year. If the child fails to present proof by October 15, the school may hold the child’s report card until either (a) the child presents proof of a completed eye examination or (ii) the child presents proof that any eye examination will take place within 60 days after October 15.
- This requirement may be waived for children who show an undue burden or a lack of access to a physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches who provides eye examinations or to a licensed optometrist. Moreover, parents or legal guardians who object to eye examinations on religious grounds shall not be required to submit their children to the examination if such parents or legal guardians present to the appropriate local school authority a signed statement of objection, detailing the grounds for the objection.
- Each public, private and parochial school is required to give notice of this eye examination requirement to the parents and guardians of students. Every school shall report to the State Board of Education by June 30 the number of children who have received the required eye examination, indicating, of those who have not received the required eye examination, the number of children who are exempt from the eye examination on religious grounds, the number of children who have received a waiver, and the total number of children in noncompliance with the eye examination requirement.

Because of recent emergency rulemaking by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), updated final forms for the Eye Examination Waiver and the State of Illinois Eye Examination Report are now posted on the IDPH’s website. To the extent possible, both ISBE and IDPH ask that the final forms, as opposed to the draft forms we had previously posted in this message be used. That said, for purposes of school district’s compliance for the 2008-2009 school year, ISBE will accept use of the draft forms.

- The Eye Examination Waiver can be accessed online at:
http://www.idph.state.il.us/HealthWellness/EyeExamWaiver.pdf.

- The State of Illinois Eye Examination Report can be accessed online at:
• The ISBE Eye Examination Information Sheet can be assessed online at:
  http://www.isbe.net/research/htmls/immunization.htm#eyes.
If you have any questions regarding these requirements, please contact Mr. Shafiquil Azam, Data Analysis and Progress Reporting, at 217-782-3950 or by e-mail at mazam@isbe.net.

Student Assessment

2008 ISAT and IAA scores posted in IWAS SIS

The ISAT and IAA scores were posted in IWAS SIS on Monday, June 2. All corrections need to be made and submitted by 5 p.m. on Thursday, June 19. There will be no extensions.

Please review your data for any errors or omissions and make sure you examine both Summary and Detail Assessment Score Reports for errors and missing students.

If you require technical assistance, please contact the Call Center at 217-558-3600 during business hours: Monday-Friday 7 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Data Analysis & Progress Reporting

AYP status reports for elementary and middle schools are now available in IWAS

The 2008 School AYP Status Report is now available in IWAS for those elementary and middle schools that have completed their E-Report Card data. This report should be considered final unless schools request rescoring or make further corrections related to AYP data elements. These Reports will be generated on a daily basis as schools complete their E-Report Card data.

Curriculum & Instruction

New report identifies effective sex education programs

A new report, “Science and Success: Sex Education and Other Programs That Work to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, HIV and Sexually Transmitted Infections,” identifies effective programs to help young people reduce their risk for pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV.

The second edition, recently published by Advocates for Youth, describes 26 programs that met rigorous criteria for inclusion and strongly affected the behaviors or sexual health outcomes of young people who viewed them. Twenty-three of the programs include information about abstinence and contraception within the context of sexual health education. Of the three that do not include sexual health education, two are early childhood interventions, and one is a service-learning program.

The programs and their evaluations are divided into three sections in the report.

• Section 1 describes programs designed for and evaluated in school settings, including some that are linked to reproductive health care.
• Section 2 describes programs implemented by community agencies outside the school or clinic environment.
• Section 3 describes clinic-based programs.

A table summarizing program settings as well as the grade range, locale, and populations served by each is included.

• The full report is available at:
• An executive summary is available at:

ISBE receives award for Scaling up Response to Intervention

Illinois applied for recognition and assistance from the U.S. Department of Education on Wednesday, March 5, in the “Scaling up of Evidence-based Practices” competition. In April, ISBE was notified that we were a finalist and at the end of May we were notified of the award.

Illinois was selected to participate in the “Active Scaling States” category, which is for those states that are fully engaged in capacity building for scaling up.
The proposal can be found at: http://www.isbe.net/curriculum/Default.htm.

**Governmental Relations**

**Legislative update**

The General Assembly adjourned on Saturday, May 31. A number of education-related bills passed both chambers and have been sent to the Governor for action.

Please refer to http://isbe.net/gov_relations/default.htm for an updated list of legislation that ISBE tracked and that passed both chambers. The link will be updated as the Governor acts upon legislation.

If you have any questions, please contact Nicole Wills, Governmental Relations, at 217-782-6510 or by e-mail at nwills@isbe.net.

**English Language Learning**

**ROE ELL Professional Development Initiative grant**

The Division of English Language Learning is announcing an opportunity for eligible Regional Offices of Education (ROEs) to apply for grants for FY09 to provide professional development to local rural or other small districts with state and federal laws related to serving English Language Learning (ELL) students, including the identification, assessment and provision of academic instruction to ELL students.

The ROE ELL Professional Development Initiative Grant (July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009) provides $6,000 in FY09 Title III SEA Professional Development funds per eligible ROE with small and rural school populations to:

- update ROE knowledge of laws related to English Language Learners and required services for ELL students; and
- provide professional development to rural or other small local school districts that either are experiencing the enrollment of ELL students for the first time or are now experiencing a major influx of ELL students.

Funds are available for ROEs that received FY08 grants as well as eligible ROEs that did not apply in FY08. The criteria for ROE eligibility are identified in the application, which can be accessed on the Division of English Language Learning ROE professional development webpage at: http://www.isbe.net/bilingual/pdfs/initiative_grant.pdf

ROEs may apply for this grant individually or in consortia. Completed applications must be postmarked no later than Monday, June 16. All proposals must be submitted to:

Robin M. Lisboa, Division Administrator
Illinois State Board of Education
English Language Learning Division
100 W. Randolph Street, Suite 14-300
Chicago, IL 60601-3268-3169

For more information, please contact Sherry Johnson at 312-814-3850.

**Federal Grants & Programs**

**Title I private school consultation**

Each district that receives Title I funds must participate in on-going consultations with officials of the private schools located within the district to determine the private school’s needs. In addition, each district must consult with officials of a private school located outside the district that enrolls students who live within the district. Consultation normally must be in a meeting of some type and not done just by telephone.

For FY09 there is a new consulting sheet that must be signed by the private school and public school district. The sheet, “LEA Affirmation of Consultation with Private School Officials,” must be signed by each individual private school prior to approval of the NCLB grant. This sheet was mailed to each district at the time the allocation sheets were sent.

The U.S. Department of Education has released a Title I Resource Tool Kit entitled “Ensuring Equitable Services to Private School Children.” This tool kit may be found at the following website: http://www.ed.gov/programs/titleiparta/ps/titleitoolkit.pdf

If you did not receive the consulting sheet, please contact Pam Bokamp, at 217-524-4832 or by e-mail at pbokamp@isbe.net to request a copy.
Funding & Disbursements

Driver education changes effective July 1

Effective July 1, all driver education programs will experience significant changes per PA 95-0310. The most important change per the new law requires that all six hours of behind-the-wheel instruction must be taught in a dual-control vehicle under the direct instruction by an ISBE-certified driving instructor on public roadways.

The use of driving simulators, multiple-car instruction and range practice can only be used in addition to the required hours of instruction; therefore, those practice methods cannot be counted toward the required six hours of behind-the-wheel instruction.

PLEASE NOTE: Students who complete behind-the-wheel instruction prior to July 1 will still be allowed to count simulator, multiple-car instruction and range practice as part of the required six hours of instruction. Students who complete behind-the-wheel instruction after July 1 -- even if that instruction began before July 1 -- must demonstrate that all six hours were completed in a dual-control vehicle under the direct individual instruction by a certified driving instructor on public roadways.

Another significant change of the new law is the elimination of district policies that allowed students to take a proficiency test after three hours of behind-the-wheel instruction in order to not complete the remaining three hours. All students must complete a minimum of 30 hours of classroom and six hours of behind-the-wheel instruction as set forth in Section 27-23 of the School Code.

As a reminder, the Secretary of State (SOS) promulgated a rule that defines “enrollment” for the purposes of issuing instruction permits. Those rules became permanent Friday, April 4, 2008, and prohibit issuing a permit to a student more than 30 days before the student begins participation in an approved driver education course. To review the SOS’s rule, please see Sections 1030.65(a) and (f) of rules governing the Issuance of Licenses (92 Ill. Adm. Code 1030.65(a) and (f) – http://www.ilga.gov/commission/jcar/admincode/092/09201030000650R.html).

In addition, the restriction on when a permit may be provided to a student will be reinforced in State Board of Education rules (Part 252) that are expected to take effect later this summer (see http://www.isbe.net/rules/proposed/default.htm).

Nutrition

Head Start – meals

The recent passage of the “Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007” (Public Law 110-134) included changes to the eligibility criteria used in Child Nutrition Programs. Effective December 12, 2007, all children participating in Head Start are automatically eligible for free meals without further application or eligibility determination.

In the past, only those children who were income eligible for Head Start were considered automatically eligible for free meals in the Child Nutrition Programs. School food authorities (SFAs) may submit revised Claims for Reimbursements for all reimbursable meals served to Head Start enrollees not previously claimed at the free rate served on December 12, 2007, and beyond.

If such a revision is requested, the SFA must refund any money received from the households of such children. For this reason, revised claims for reimbursements are due to ISBE no later than Tuesday, September 30.

Emergency Care for Choking poster

The Emergency Care for Choking poster must be displayed in all food establishments, including school cafeterias. This poster was recently updated and is still available at no cost from the Illinois Department of Public Health.

To order free copies for your schools, please contact:

Illinois Department of Public Health
Division of Emergency Medical Services & Highway Safety
500 East Monroe Street, Floor 8
Springfield, Illinois 62701

You can also call 217-785-2080 to order the poster.

Teacher Certification

Education Certification System available

On Tuesday, July 1, the State Board of Education will make the Educator Certification System (ECS) available...
to the public. ECS was designed to assist educators in reviewing their certification files and reporting NCLB highly qualified data and other information. ECS also allows districts to review certification information for educators employed in their districts. The public search portal will provide the public with easy access to limited information about the teachers employed in their children’s district.

The new portal will be accessed by visiting the main ISBE website at www.isbe.net and clicking on “ECS.” The additional search portal is separate from the individual/district portal. Educators will still have a separate log-in to access their personal information and complete file information on ECS. Districts will also continue to have access to more complete information about educators through the administrator portal.

For additional information on ECS, contact Patrick Murphy, Educator Preparation & Recertification, at 217-782-2447 or by e-mail at pmurphy@isbe.net.

### Professional Development

#### School Safety Conference

A school safety conference for school administrators will be held at the Bolingbrook Golf Club on **Wednesday, Sept. 24, and Thursday, Sept. 25.**

The conference is designed to heighten safety awareness by bringing together experts in the field of school safety and crisis prevention. Participants will learn how to enhance safety and security in their schools on a day-to-day and long-term basis.

The event is **free of charge** and will feature speakers from the Illinois State Board of Education, the Illinois State Police, the Illinois Attorney General’s Office, and local law enforcement agencies among others.

For more information and to register for the conference, go to: [http://info.vvsd.org/safety/](http://info.vvsd.org/safety/).

### 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).

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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/2008/newsclips/080606.htm](http://www.isbe.net/news/2008/newsclips/080606.htm)