June typically provides a slower pace for school personnel, as students go home for the summer and administrative staff can concentrate on working in their offices. This June, however, is proving to be anything but typical. Tornadoes, thunderstorms and flooding have meant that many of you have had to focus your attention on buildings, buses and other capital investments. Temperatures now seem to be consistently in the 80’s and even reached the 90’s in some parts of Illinois last week, so hopefully the hot summer weather will mean an end to this spring’s storms.

As I have been traveling throughout the state during the past few weeks, I have been getting an increasing number of questions about what districts can do to mitigate some of the costs associated with cleaning up after the floods. State-sponsored programs can assist districts with building damage due to the extreme weather under a couple of options; however, these options may not be available to districts in areas with tax caps unless they utilize a referendum.

The first program that may help is the Temporary Relocation Loan/Grant which is intended to be used when it is necessary to move students from the permanent location due to a disastrous event, such as a fire, tornado or the condemnation of a building. Districts would have to provide ISBE with any proceeds from insurance and would have to pledge to levy a 5-cent tax for a maximum of seven years or until the amount requested is paid back. If the expenditures are greater than the total of the seven-year tax, then the amount above that tax and insurance proceeds would be considered a grant.

Some of the eligible expenses under the Temporary Relocation Loan/Grant include lease/rental, renovation, salaries, transportation, utilities, architect, attorney fees and other expenses. You can find out more at http://www.isbe.net/construction/html/t_relo_details.htm or download an application at http://www.isbe.net/construction/pdf/F35-82_application_temporary_relocation.pdf. ISBE currently has a very limited amount of funding for this program, and applications must be received by June 30, 2008, for damages incurred during this fiscal year.

Additionally, if districts have building violations due to the flooding, tornadoes or other severe weather, then they can submit a health/life and safety (HLS) amendment to their Regional Superintendent and ISBE for approval after they have consulted with an architect. Some examples of what could qualify would be asbestos removal, wall damage/moisture or structural damage. These amendments can be processed quickly through our new electronic HLS system on IWAS. If approved, then districts may then use the 5-cent tax levied under the HLS law or tax-backed bonding authority to pay for these repairs. More information on HLS can be accessed at http://www.isbe.net/construction/health_safety/default.htm.

If you have questions, then please contact our School Business Services Division at 217-785-8779. I also must point out again that these options may not be available to districts in areas subject to tax caps without a referendum.

Finally, I would like to thank Regional Superintendent Ray Scheiter and District Superintendent Rodger Hannel of West Pike Community Unit School District #2 for their assistance in providing flood relief.
With their help, the education community contributed to the flood fighting efforts by providing a place for National Guardsmen to shower and use school facilities in Kinderhook. As situations arise, we may again be asked to coordinate the state response and utilization of schools. Someone from ISBE may reach out to you if your assistance is needed and I want to thank you all in advance for helping our communities in this time of need.

Thanks and have a safe week.

Chris

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**Upcoming Deadlines**

- FY09 School Improvement Grant – Section 1003(g) deadline to submit letter of intent – June 27, 2008
- FY09 Consolidated Application to serve English Language Learners – June 30, 2008
- Deadline to submit ELL service-related information to ISBE – June 30, 2008
- FY09 School Improvement Grant – Section 1003(g) deadline to submit proposals – July 15, 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

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**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.

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**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.

Special Education

**SEA determination**

The Illinois State Board of Education received its determination letter on the implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) from the U.S. Department of Education. Illinois was placed in the “needs assistance” category along with the vast majority of other states. The Department’s determination is based on the totality of the State’s data and information including the State’s FFY 2006 Annual Performance Report (APR) and the revised State Performance Plan (SPP), other State-reported data, and other publicly available information.

Specific factors affecting the Office of Special Education Programs’ (OSEP) determination of needs assistance for Illinois included that the State:

1. Reported 92.4 percent compliance for Indicator 15 (timely correction of noncompliance), with progress from 86.22 percent;
2. Reported 90.5 percent compliance for Indicator 16 (complaint timelines), with slippage from 95.7 percent;
3. Reported 93.1 percent compliance for Indicator 17 (due process timelines), with progress from 90.0 percent; and
4. Indicator 4A (suspension/expulsion) did not complete the review required by 34 CFR 300.170(b) for all districts identified in FFY 2005, with significant discrepancies.

OSEP also concluded that the State did not provide valid and reliable data for Indicators 9 and 10 (disproportionately), but provided a plan to collect the data for reporting in next year’s APR/SPP submission. For these reasons, OSEP was unable to determine that Illinois met requirements under section 616(d). OSEP noted high levels of compliance reported for Indicators 11 and 12, and the correction of noncompliance for Indicator 13.

Illinois’ determination for the FFY 2005 APR also was “needs assistance.” In accordance with section 616(e) of the IDEA and 34 CFR 300.604, if a State is determined to need assistance for two consecutive years, the Secretary must take one or more of the follow actions:

1. Advise the State of available sources of technical assistance that may help the State address the areas in which the State needs assistance;
2. Direct the use of State-level funds on the area or areas in which the State needs assistance; or
3. Identify the State as a high-risk grantee and impose special conditions on the State’s Part B grant award.

Pursuant to these requirements, the Secretary has advised Illinois of the technical assistance related to Indicator 4A (suspension/expulsion), Indicator 9 (disproportionate representation – child with a disability), Indicator 10 (disproportionate representation – specific disability category), Indicator 15 (timely correction of noncompliance), Indicator 16 (complaint timelines), and Indicator 17 (due process timelines). Illinois must report in its FFY 2007 APR submission on:

1. The technical assistance sources from which Illinois received assistance; and
2. What actions Illinois took as a result of the technical assistance.
**Curriculum & Instruction**

**June is National Internet Safety month**

Does your district offer an Internet Safety curriculum to your students? If you do not or if you are not sure exactly what types of information are available, why not check out the best practices that other school districts are using which are now posted on the ISBE website at: www.isbe.net/curriculum/html/internet_safety.htm.

There are a number of resources and activities that will help make sure your students are Internet safe. If you have an Internet safety program you think other schools would benefit from, please e-mail your information to Marci Johnson at marjohns@isbe.net.

Please watch the Weekly Message for information on the Internet Safety Contest that will kick off in October and in which all public and non public elementary and high schools can participate.

**Federal Grants & Programs**

**FY 2009 School Improvement Grant**

The Grants and Programs division is announcing a new competitive grant, the School Improvement Grant – Section 1003(g), that will provide funding to eligible schools for their school improvement efforts. For more information, please visit http://www.isbe.net/sos/htmls/sip_1003.htm

This grant is being provided through the Title I, Part A, Section 1003(g) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (NCLB) to schools that have been identified as being in need of improvement, corrective action, or restructuring.

A list of Illinois’ qualifying schools is available at: http://www.isbe.net/sos/excel/school_status.xls

Individual grants of $50,000 to a maximum of $500,000, with an average of $50,000 to $250,000, will be awarded to 25-35 eligible schools. Based on appropriations and demonstrated progress, the schools may receive level funding for two additional one-year periods. These grants will be awarded equitably by the system of support regions.

A map of the state’s ten regions is available at: http://www.isbe.net/sos/pdf/respro_map.pdf.

An audio teleconference will be held on **Tuesday, June 24** from 10 – 11:30 a.m. to review the grant proposal requirements. To access this teleconference, dial 800-559-2403 or 847-619-6534 and enter the conference #: 21937766.

To be considered for the grant, school districts must submit a letter of intent to apply on behalf of their eligible school(s) by 4 p.m. on **Friday, June 27**. Separate proposals for each eligible school are due no later than 4 p.m. on **Tuesday, July 15**, with awards to be announced in mid to late August. Fax copies will not be accepted.

To be considered, the eligible school must demonstrate through its proposal that it has the greatest need and strongest commitment to implement research-based strategies and practices that will improve student achievement and move the school out of improvement status.

Each funded school must make every effort to achieve the following goals:

- Increase the number and percentage of students scoring as proficient on the state assessments;
- Make adequate yearly progress and move out of improvement status; and
- Make decisions regarding the use of the funds based on data and create a system that provides continuous feedback and improvement.

If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Martha (Marti) Woelfle in the Grants and Programs division at 217-524-4832 or by e-mail at mwoelfle@isbe.net.

**Choice and SES workshops**

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has prepared a technical assistance workshop to help districts with the basics of Parent Choice and Supplemental Educational Services (SES) and provide an opportunity to ask questions of ISBE staff coordinating these programs.

Three workshops will be offered on **Monday, July 7**, **Tuesday, July 8, and Wednesday, July 9**. Workshops are free to participants, but each district must register in order to ensure that sufficient materials will be available at each workshop. All interested districts are invited regardless of their school improvement status.
The provision of Parent Choice and Supplemental Educational Services, both a part of Title I of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, is complicated and challenging for local districts. Choice requires districts to notify parents of the option to enroll their children in schools that are not in improvement status and to provide any required student transportation associated with such a change in building enrollment. Funds for the transportation costs come through Title I, Part A, and districts need to be aware of compliance requirements when receiving NCLB funds.

SES requires districts to provide additional academic support, typically in the form of tutoring, which is free to low-income students at Title I schools identified to participate in SES. Issues for districts include parent notification materials, contracts with SES providers, billing and payment issues with those providers, and compliance concerns with state and federal law. The number of SES schools across the nation increases each year due to the number of schools not making Annual Yearly Progress (AYP), which results in an increase in the number of districts implementing SES.

Districts are encouraged to attend the Choice and SES workshops. For more information, please visit: http://www.isbe.net/ses/pdf/ses_workshop_0708.pdf.

**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 take place in a meeting, not just a telephone conversation.

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.

**Fiscal & Procurement**

**Illinois Textbook Relocation program**

According to the Illinois School Code (105 ILCS 5/18-17), after secular textbooks have been on loan from the Illinois Textbook Loan Program for a period of five years or more, such textbooks may be disposed of by schools in such a manner as their respective school boards shall determine, following a written notification to the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE).

To assist with this requirement, ISBE administers a Textbook Relocation Program to exchange, trade, or transfer textbooks and instructional materials between schools. The Textbook Relocation Program website provides a listing of available used textbooks and instructional materials. Schools can also list textbooks and instructional materials that they want to make available to other schools on the website. Textbooks and instructional materials purchased with funds other than the Illinois Textbook Loan Program may also be listed on the website.

Schools are encouraged to use the Illinois Textbook Relocation Program. Specific details are contained on the website. If you have questions, please contact the Illinois Textbook Loan Program staff at 217-782-0734.

The website is listed on the ISBE home page or can be directly accessed at: http://isbe.net/htmls/textbook_relocation.htm.

**Accountability**

**PE Exemption Report update**

The Physical Education Exemption Report as required by 105 ILCS 5/2-3.97 will be submitted as a web-based application for the school year (2007-2008) that ends Monday, June 30. This report is now available through IWAS for public school district administrators, school document authors, and Regional Office of Education personnel to submit the survey reports electronically. Paper copies of surveys will not be accepted.
Please note each public school district must submit a completed survey on or before **Friday, August 15** of the individual physical education exemption policies (as per 105 ILCS 5/27-6) the district allows and the corresponding number of students exempted per policy. The completed district survey report will be forwarded through IWAS to the respective ROE office and they will submit the report to ISBE on or before **Friday, August 15**.

A User Guide is accessible for your reference once you login to the Physical Education Exemption Report. To access the Report through IWAS, login to your account and click on System Listing (located in the menu on the left-hand side of the page). The survey report is located under “Reporting.”

If you have questions regarding the components of this survey as it relates to individual allowable exemptions, please contact Lynne Robinson in the Accountability Division at 217-782-2948. If you have technical questions regarding IWAS, please contact the Help Desk at 217-558-3600.

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### Teacher Resources

#### Helen Keller Deaf-Blind Awareness Week

In order to publicize the abilities and potential of persons who are deaf-blind, Governor Blagojevich has proclaimed **Sunday, June 22 - Saturday, June 28** 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](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.

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### 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/).

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### 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](http://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](mailto:pmurphy@isbe.net).
The Center is located in Glen Ellyn. 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 by e-mail at PRC@aol.com.

The web site address is: www.project-reach-illinois.org.

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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/2008/newsclips/080613.htm