This week will be a busy one in Springfield as lawmakers continue their work into overtime and the Illinois State Board of Education has its June meeting. By now, you’ve probably already heard that Governor Blagojevich has advanced the 23rd and 24th state aid payments to June, which will help districts as they wrap up their books for the fiscal year. I know districts have many concerns because of the uncertainties involved with not having a state budget in place and I will make sure you stay informed as we receive additional information about the budget.

This week, along with its normal course of business, the State Board will be reviewing several proposals which may influence the future of Illinois’ public schools.

As many of you know, the Board has made preparing our students for success beyond graduation from high school a priority, working with the Coalition for Illinois High Schools and other interested parties to improve rigor and results. We’re also partners with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Office of the Governor in the Illinois College and Workforce Readiness Project.

At this week’s board meeting, representatives from the Gates Foundation and other members of the partnership will be presenting to the board regarding longitudinal data systems. They will look at Illinois’ Student Information System that will allow us to track student progress from year to year and compare and contrast it with national benchmarks. They’ll also offer suggestions on how we can improve Illinois’ system to better allow educators to use data more efficiently in the classroom.

Also this week, the board will hear a presentation on the Burnham Plan for Illinois school reform. Presenters will include Max McGee, Superintendent of Wilmette S.D. 39 and former State Superintendent, Dave Bonnette, Retired Superintendent of River Forest S.D. 90, Mary Ellen Guest from A+ Illinois, Jo Anderson, Executive Director of the IEA and Mitch Roth, General Counsel of the IEA.

The Burnham Plan, named for famed Chicago architect Daniel Burnham, would cost approximately $3 billion. It would set GSA funding at EFAB levels, fully fund mandated categoricals, set special education reimbursement at 33% and include a school construction program.

Both discussions will take place on Wednesday during the Education Policy Planning Committee.

I hope you have a great week.

Chris
**Upcoming Deadlines**

- Student Health Data (Dental) – June 30, 2007
- Waiver applications to be considered by the General Assembly in Fall 2007 – August 10, 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.

**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.

**Nutrition**

**Department of Defense Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program**

The food distribution program has just finished another successful year participating in the Department of Defense (DoD) Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program. For the 2006-2007 school year, Illinois was allocated just over $2 million dollars for schools to spend on fresh fruits and vegetables.

Fresh fruits and vegetables are an excellent way for schools to provide healthy meals to schoolchildren. All of the funds were used in the current fiscal year and most schools in the program are looking forward to next year’s opportunity to participate.
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 Stadker, 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.state.il.us/spec-ed/default.htm](http://www.isbe.state.il.us/spec-ed/default.htm).

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.us/spec-ed/default.htm](http://www.isbe.net.us/spec-ed/default.htm).


For additional information or for special accommodations, contact **Mary Long**, Illinois State Board of Education, at 217-782-5589, or via e-mail at malong@isbe.net.

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/index.html](http://hknc.org/index.html).

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.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: