Message from State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

I hope everyone had a relaxing Fourth of July and got to spend time with family and friends. Despite the shortened work week last week, staff members with our Divisions of Student Assessment and Data Analysis and Progress Reporting are moving forward with processing the 2007 assessment results. We are on time with reporting results and in some cases, we are ahead of schedule.

The assessment correction window for grades 3-8 (ISAT, IAA and IMAGE) has now closed. All of these data are now considered final and no corrections will be allowed.

In addition to finalizing scores for grades 3-8, we have posted the preliminary Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) to IWAS for all elementary schools and elementary districts. AYP for grades 3-8 will be finalized by August 1.

Our PSAE schedule remains on the same timeline; we will have scores available via IWAS for your review no later than July 20, which will allow for time to make corrections to the data if needed. The cleanup window on PSAE closes August 3. After August 3, these results become final and no further corrections will be allowed. I would urge all schools to move through this correction process sooner rather than later, as the system could become overwhelmed if everyone tries to make entries on that final day.

I want to thank all of you for your assistance in getting your information to us accurately and in a timely manner. We have seen a significant reduction in the number of “orphan tests,” or those tests we could not identify with a student or the school where the student took the test. Out of more than 750,000 tests taken in grades 3-8 this year, we had less than 610 “orphan tests.”

In addition, staff is now working on the 2007 Report Card. While we have information from a vast majority of our schools, we still have not received the necessary data from all schools. Some of the most commonly omitted data that we need for the Report Card include class size, attendance, parental involvement and graduation data. ISBE staff will be reaching out to those schools that have not yet provided us with the needed information.

We understand that in many schools staffing is limited during the summer. That is one of the reasons that I must applaud you for stepping up and assisting us in making sure that we have the most accurate information possible. Adhering to these tight timelines is necessary so that we can have final AYP determinations to you prior to the start of the 2007-2008 school year.

Again, thank you for all your work.

Chris
Upcoming Deadlines

- **Applications for Migrant Education Program funding** – July 31, 2007
- **Waiver applications to be considered by the General Assembly in Fall 2007** – August 10, 2007
- **Applications for Illinois Mathematics and Science Partnership grant program** – August 21, 2007

Legal

**Fall Criminal History Record Information Symposium – Sept. 19**

In an effort to inform non-criminal justice users regarding the Illinois Criminal History Record Information program, the Illinois State Police, Bureau of Identification in conjunction with the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police will be holding their annual *Fall Criminal History Record Information Symposium*. The symposium is scheduled for 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on **Wednesday, September 19, 2007**, at the Capitol City Center in Springfield, Ill.

In order to protect children, the elderly, and people with disabilities, it is important that CHRI users make good hiring and licensing decisions regarding potential child care providers, health care workers, local governmental, school, and retail employees, as well as general employment staff. We will educate attendees on the following matters:

- Role of ISP, BOI as the State Central Repository
- Uniform Conviction Information Act
- Name Check vs. Fingerprint Check
- Processing Procedures
- Sex Offender Registration Database
- Accessing FBI CHRI Records
- How to Interpret the Illinois Rap Sheet
- Inquiry & Response Methods
- Fiscal Procedures
- New Legislation
- The Adam Walsh Child Safety and Protection Act

The registration deadline is **Friday, Aug. 31, 2007**. For additional questions, contact Tammi S. Kestel, Assistant Bureau Chief, Illinois State Police, Bureau of Identification, at: Tammi_Kestel@isp.state.il.us.

Nutrition

**Spend Two Hours Online to Get Two CPDU Credits this summer**

The Illinois Nutrition Education & Training Program – a not-for-profit statewide program funded by the Illinois State Board of Education – is offering a two-hour online course, *Nutrition Education That Works: An Integrated Approach*.

The course explores statistics that indicate children are not meeting current health recommendations and how schools can be a part of the solution to improve children's health. The presentation provides educators with the information and skills needed to integrate nutrition education into core curricula.

Course content includes an introduction to Team Nutrition curricula and newly updated nutrition guidance. The course’s intended audience is pre-K through grade five policymakers, administrators and school staff.

For more information, visit [www.kidseatwell.org](http://www.kidseatwell.org).

**National Food Service Management Institute’s Resource Guide**

The National Food Service Management Institute’s (NFSMI) Resource Guide has been cataloged into 14 functional areas for easier reference.

The 14 functional areas are:
1. Customer Service
2. Sanitation, Food Safety, and Employee Safety
3. Financial Management and Record Keeping
4. Food Production
5. Procurement
6. Program Accountability
7. Nutrition and Menu Planning
8. General Management
9. Personnel Management
10. Facility Layout and Design and Equipment Selection
11. Environmental Management
12. Marketing
13. Computer Technology
14. Nutrition Education

A variety of useful resources for the 14 categories can be found online at: http://www.nfsmi.org/Information/Guide.html.

Special Education

Update: 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. Strands for the conference are:

♦ Transition
♦ Literacy
♦ Research-based Interventions
♦ Disproportionality

Also, due to recent developments with Part 226 Special Education rules, two new conference sessions have been added. Following the regularly scheduled sessions which will end at noon on Thursday, August 2, participants will be given time for lunch on their own and will then have the option of attending the two sessions listed below:

1:15 – 2:15 Session on Major Changes to Part 226 (Response to Scientific, Research-Based Interventions, Class Size, Case Load and Age 22)

2:15 – 2:30 Break

2:30 – 3:30 Session on Collective Bargaining Issues Pertaining to Part 226

Following JCAR’s action on June 13 to lift the filing probation on remaining Sections of Part 226, the Part 226 regulations were finalized on June 28, 2007.

The registration deadline for the conference is Friday, July 13, 2007. The conference is limited to 1,000 registrants. Registration forms can be accessed under the “What’s New” section on the Special Education homepage at www.isbe.net or by selecting the following links:


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.

Professional Development

Superintendents’ Conference Registration is now open

The Illinois State Board of Education is pleased to announce the Thirtieth Annual Superintendents’ Conference to be held Thursday and Friday, Sept. 6 and 7, 2007, at the Hilton Springfield Hotel.

Registration for the annual conference is now open. The registration brochure is posted online at http://www.isbe.net/supts_conf/supts_conference_reg.pdf

Dr. Ronald F. Ferguson will serve as the keynote speaker. Dr. Ferguson, a lecturer in public policy, is an economist and senior research associate at the Malcolm Wiener Center for Social Policy and has taught at Harvard since 1983. Much of his research since the mid-1990s has focused on racial achievement gaps, appearing in publications of the National Research Council, the Brookings Institution, and the U.S. Department of Education, in addition to various books and scholarly
journals. His teachings and publications cover a variety of issues related to education and economic development.

For conference questions, contact Leigh Ann Smith at 217-782-6434 or via e-mail at lsmith@isbe.net.

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
ISBE has posted highlights from last week’s education news clips at: