August is National Immunization Awareness month and it’s an extremely timely topic as our students prepare to return to the classroom. As you know, proof of immunization is a requirement for students, but unfortunately not all parents are aware of this. I hope you are able to use this as an opportunity to provide information to parents on the need for immunizations, as well as vision, dental, and health screenings.

We will be issuing a press release later this week in partnership with the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) as one way of raising awareness of this issue. By making sure that all students are vaccinated for the upcoming school year, we’re taking another step toward ensuring their success. We all know that a healthy child is more likely to attend school and to learn.

While most immunizations are given prior to the age of two, boosters are often needed. This is also a good time for you and your staff to ask whether or not you are up to date on your shots because, just as a student may get sick and miss school, adults often get sick and miss work.

In addition to immunizations, all students enrolling in kindergarten and any student enrolling for the first time in Illinois, whether in private or public school, must have an eye examination. The eye exam must be performed by a licensed optometrist or medical doctor who performs eye exams and is licensed by the IDPH. All vision screening must be completed prior to October 15.

Finally, I would like to remind you that even though the law has changed the health exam requirement from fifth to sixth grade for this school year, recently Governor Blagojevich signed clarifying legislation that a student who had a health exam for fifth grade last year is not required to get another one for sixth grade this year. ISBE worked with the IDPH and legislators to make this change for one year in order to ease a burden on families. All students enrolling in sixth grade next year will be required to have the health exam.

Thanks and have a great week.

Chris

Upcoming Deadlines

- Special Education Directors’ Conference – July 30 – 31 & August 1
- Migrant Education application deadline – July 31
- Regular Orphanage Tuition Section 18-3 Claims – July 31
- Final amendments for FY 08 grants ending August 31 – August 1
● Special Education Excess Cost Claims – August 1
● Waiver applications to be considered by the General Assembly for Fall 2008 deadline – August 8
● Regular/Vocational/Special Education Transportation Claims – August 15
● PE Exemption Report survey due – August 15
● Special Education Personnel Claims – August 15
● Special Education Private Facility Claims – August 15
● Rules Part 35 Mentoring Program for New Principals deadline for public comment – August 25
● Head Start reimbursement deadline to submit revised claims – September 30
● Annual Superintendents’ Conference – October 23 – 24
● FY09 School Budget Form – October 31

Legal

Health Examinations – Update

Health Examinations: The Governor signed HB 5717 - Public Act 95-0737 - into law on Wednesday, July 16. This law 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 is pleased to inform districts of the Governor’s action.

As a reminder, 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. The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) earlier this summer filed emergency rules which make clear that such students would not have to receive another health examination.


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

Criminal background checks web guide available


The guidance is an important resource to schools and districts as they are required to perform background checks on all certified and non-certified applicants for employment with a school district.

For additional information on the web guide, contact the Illinois State Police, Bureau of Identification Customer Service, 815/740-5160 or askisp@isp.state.il.us; or Jessica Riddick, Legal Division, 312-814-2223 or jriddick@isbe.net.

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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**Curriculum & Instruction**

**Illinois WWII Veterans’ Memorial Board Classroom Project**

More than 30 students and teachers from across Illinois converged on the Illinois State Library in Springfield July 21-25 and participated in the statewide WWII project designed to digitally capture the stories of Illinois WWII veterans. The project is funded by the Illinois World War II Veteran’s Memorial Board and administered by the Illinois Learning Technology Centers and its partners.

During the training, the teams received a laptop, video/audio equipment and training in digital story telling techniques. They then interviewed and recorded WWII veterans’ stories and experiences and produced documentaries on their veterans. Students also digitally recorded their own reactions to the experiences and connections made with the WWII veterans they interviewed. Final products were presented to the veterans on the last day of the training.

The combination of the authentic interview and digital storytelling of Illinois WWII era experiences motivated the students and introduced them and their instructors to new avenues of study. In addition, they acquired an appreciation for the contributions and dedication of the “Greatest Generation” to the common cause of maintaining democracy and freedom worldwide.

During the next school year, teams of students and teachers across the state will interview at least ten WWII veterans and create digital documentaries based on their interviews. The documentaries will be posted on-line as part of the Illinois WWII Veteran’s Memorial Project. They will also be submitted to The Library of Congress Veterans History Project (http://www.loc.gov/vets).

**Comprehensive Intervention Model Institute held August 11-15**

A professional development opportunity will be offered through the Reading Recovery Training Center at National-Louis University in Lisle, Illinois, from **Monday, August 11, to Friday, August 15**. School teams will be introduced to Linda Dorn’s Comprehensive Intervention Model (CIM) as a Response to Intervention (RtI) design.

CIM provides a problem-solving framework for selecting the most appropriate interventions that are aligned across classroom, small group, and one-to-one configurations to ensure a seamless RtI approach with simultaneous support meeting the immediate needs of struggling literacy learners. Participants will learn about selecting appropriate services, collaborating with teachers across intervention programs, and using various assessments to monitor student progress. Registration is limited to school teams attending with their Reading Recovery staff.

To register for CIM, contact **Rebecca Olsen** at 630-874-4148 or rolson@nl.edu by **Friday, August 1**.

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**Special Education**

**Early Childhood Special Education Transition Data collection update**

Beginning **Friday, August 1**, Early Childhood Special Education Transition Data (SPP Indicator 12) will be collected through the Student Information System (SIS). Districts should no longer fax the Early Intervention to Early Childhood tracking form to the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE).

Districts will still be required to submit the Early Intervention to Early Childhood tracking form to the Child and Family Connections (CFC) office.

Please note that only students who enroll in the district should be entered in SIS. Children whose parents refuse
services or children who are determined ineligible for special education services should not be enrolled in SIS unless they enroll in a district program.

For more information on this data collection, please refer to the ISBE SIS Data Elements and the ISBE SIS Users Manual located on the SIS webpage at: www.isbe.net/sis. The Early Childhood Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) is located at http://www.isbe.net/sis/pdf/questions_answers_0508.pdf.

If you have questions regarding Early Childhood Special Education Transition, please contact Pamela Reising Rechner at 217-524-4835, or Sally Tudor, Scott Beever or Gwendolyn Williams at 217-782-5589. If you have technical questions regarding SIS, please contact the SIS Help Desk at 217/558-3600.

**Nutrition**

**Online Child Nutrition Courses available soon**

Need training, but have a minimal travel budget or can’t take time away from the cafeteria or office? A solution will soon be here!

The National Food Service Management Institute (NFSMI) will soon be offering continuing education courses online at low or no cost to support the professional development and training of child nutrition program personnel! The continuing education units (CEU) may be used for certification and credentialing requirements with the School Nutrition Association (For more information on certification and credentialing requirements, go to http://www.schoolnutrition.org).

Topics include:

- Meeting the Wellness Challenge
- Procurement Training for Child Nutrition Programs
- Serving It Safe
- Implementing and Evaluating School Wellness Policies
- Culinary Techniques for Healthy School Meals
- Foundations in Child Nutrition Program Management
- Financial Management.

These advanced online courses accommodate your busy lives by using the latest Internet technology that will allow you to take each course on your own schedule and give you access from work, school, or home! For more information on these upcoming online courses and other training opportunities, go to http://www.nfsmi.org.

**Free Wellness Activation Kits**

Help your school lead the revolution for healthy kids. Order a Free Wellness Activation kit today! The School Wellness Kits provide a fun and engaging way for you and others in your school to impact student health through improved nutrition and physical activity. The National Dairy Council®, Midwest Dairy Council, St. Louis District Dairy Council, and the National Football League® are offering schools a free Wellness Activation Kit to help students make positive changes in their eating and exercise habits. These kits include display pieces that can be used throughout the school and will feature kid-centric nutrition and “Play 60” messages.

Online tools support the Wellness Activation kits and will include items like a student “pledge” to eat healthy and be physically active, success stories, sticker art, and logos.

The wellness materials and Web site can be used to complement the school’s wellness programs, or to help a school implement Game On! The Ultimate Wellness Challenge — a new program from Action for Healthy Kids. This program is targeted at elementary and middle schools—though any school may order a kit. (One per school.) You may order online at www.SchoolWellnessKit.org to ensure availability and timely delivery.

**2007-2008 Outlook Newsletter Index Posted**

If you are looking for an article in a previous Outlook newsletter issue, visit the posted Outlook indexes to help you find it easier. Go to http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/newsletters.htm and click on the year you desire. The articles are sorted alphabetically by topic area.

**Funding & Disbursements**

**Program Accounting Manual Changes and FY 2009 grants**

Effective Tuesday, July 1, extensive changes occurred to the Illinois Program Accounting Manual (IPAM). Part 110 (Program Accounting Manual) and Part 125 (Student
Activity Funds and Convenience Accounts) were combined into the new Part 100 (Requirements for Accounting, Budgeting, Financial Reporting and Auditing).

A summary presentation of the changes can be found at: http://www.isbe.net/finance/pdf/IASBO_workshops.pdf.

Specific details of how the changes relate to state and federal grant documents are provided below.

- Object 600 “Other Objects” include costs previously reported under Objects 700 (Transfers) & 800 (Tuition).

- Object 700 was renamed “Non-Capitalized Equipment,” previously “Transfers.” Some local education agencies (LEAs) have locally defined a capitalized equipment threshold higher than the $500 defined by ISBE. Under the new rules, equipment with a per unit cost equal to or ABOVE the LEA’s capitalized threshold will be classified in Object 500 – Capital Outlay. All other equipment with a per unit cost BELOW the LEA’s capitalized threshold would be classified in Object 700 – Non-Capitalized Equipment.

- Example: LEA with $5,000 capitalized threshold $4,000 equipment item would be classified in Object 700 (Non-Capitalized Equipment) $7,000 equipment item would be classified in Object 500 (Capital Outlay) $ 499 equipment item would be in object 400 (Supplies and Materials)

- Object 800 “Termination Benefits,” previously “Tuition.” The Object 800 column would be shaded completely or deleted since federal and state grants do not allow termination benefits as a direct cost. Termination benefits may be included as an indirect cost, if applicable.

- Object 500 (Capital Outlay) + Object 700 (Non-Capitalized Equipment) will be included in the Indirect Cost calculation: Direct Costs minus (Object 500 + Object 700) multiplied by the indirect cost rate equals the maximum indirect costs allowable Example: $100,000 – $5,000 x 2.33% = $2,213 (maximum indirect cost amount allowed)

- Function 4100 was renamed “Payments to Other LEAs and Governmental Units” (adds LEAs to the title). The definition has not changed – the costs included in this function are public LEAs and/or governmental units.

- Revenue codes of 4720 – Perkins Title IIA State Leadership, 4740 – Perkins Title IIB Corrections and 4745 – Perkins Title IIC Secondary are summarized in IPAM under revenue code of 4799.

Although these changes took effect on July 1, please be advised that all FY 2009 state and federal grant applications, paper or electronic, will retain the old function and object titles.

This is due to the fact that many FY 09 paper and electronic grants were developed under the old function and object titles and there was insufficient time to convert all grant documents and internal systems to conform to the IPAM changes. Internal modifications of the paper grant forms and electronic systems will occur over FY 2009 to accommodate the changes in time for FY 2010 grants. Please note that all local education agencies will be required to crosswalk expenditures budgeted and reported on all FY 2009 state and federal grants to their FY 2009 Annual Financial Report.

To facilitate the completion of FY09 state and federal grant budgets, amendments, and expenditure reports, please consider the following points:

ISBE grant forms: Your records:
Obj 700 – Transfers Obj 600 – Other Objects
Obj 800 – Tuition Obj 600 – Other Objects
Obj 500 – Capital Outlay Obj 500 – Capital Outlay
Obj 500 – Capital Outlay Obj 700 – Non-cap Equip

After review of the summary presentation, if you have specific questions on the IPAM changes or the Annual Financial Report, please contact the Division of School Business and Support Services at 217-785-8779. If you have any questions on state or federal grants, please contact the Division of Funding and Disbursement Services at 217-782-5256.

August 1 deadline for amendments to FY 2008 state and federal grants ends August 31

Please be advised that per Policy Statements #2 and #3 on page 3 of the State and Federal Grant Administration
Policy and Fiscal Requirements and Procedures: All state and federal project end date extension requests and final budget amendments must be received by the Illinois State Board of Education no later than 30 calendar days prior to the end date of the project.

Friday, August 1 is the deadline for all final amendments for FY 2008 federal or state-funded grants with a project end date of Sunday, August 31. Budget increases for state-funded grant projects must have been received by Monday, June 30, even if the project end date has been extended.

For grant applications in the electronic Grants Management System (eGMS), accessed through IWAS, the deadline is also referenced on the Program Overview page under “Amendment Due Date.”

Teacher Resources

Information Sought for CDC Review of School Policies on E-Bullying

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) (<http://www.cdc.gov/>) is conducting a review of state, district, and school policies related to the use of technology such as cell phone text messaging and picture taking, blogs, and instant messaging to perpetrate aggression against peers. This includes such acts as making threats, spreading rumors and sending embarrassing photos.

The CDC has requested that districts or schools that have such a policy provide it or the appropriate contact information to Marci Hertz at mhertz@cdc.gov or by calling 770-488-2547 by Friday, August 1.

Student Opportunities

16th annual First Freedom Student Competition

The Council for America's First Freedom announces the 16th annual First Freedom Student Competition. This national essay contest offers 9th - 12th grade students an opportunity to compete for a $3,000, $1,500 and $750 award, as they examine the First Amendment and the history and relevance of religious freedom in America and the world today.

This year’s topic introduces students to George Washington’s famous statement about “mere” toleration in his 1790 letter to the Jewish congregation of Newport, Rhode Island. Students will identify the basic principles of religious liberty espoused in this primary document and will further research and assess how well the United States has lived up to Washington’s ideal. In addition to the monetary award, the first-place winner and his or her teacher (or other adult chaperone) will receive an all-expense-paid trip to Newport, Rhode Island in mid-August 2009 for the annual VIP reading of President Washington’s historic letter.

For guidelines and registration information, visit www.firstfreedom.org. Click on the red button under Council News. Student online registration is due by Monday, November 24 with the postmark entry deadline on Friday, November 28.

If you have not signed up for your complimentary copy of The Constitution and Religion in the Classroom, click on the blue button (under the competition button) to preview and order your copy today. The free 16-page teacher’s manual and DVD contain answers and guidance to the most-frequently-asked questions about religion in the classroom.

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: http://www.isbe.net/news/2008/newsclips/080725.htm.