The budget work by lawmakers continues to be the focus of conversations here in Springfield, as well as in cities, towns and villages throughout our state. I know you are watching the process as closely as you can. State board staff members have been working with Governor Blagojevich’s office and lawmakers as they craft our FY 2008 budget and I can tell you all parties remain committed to education.

I understand districts have a lot of questions and without a state budget there is an awful lot of uncertainty as you plan for the coming school year.

As budget negotiations continue in the month of August, ISBE employees will be at the office providing support services to you as normal. Please continue to make your PSAE data corrections as these scores will become final on August 8. AYP for grades 3-8 is being finalized today. AYP for grade 11 will be finalized no later than August 10.

I have been asked a number of times: What does it mean for General State Aid payments if there is no budget? The first GSA payment is due on August 10, and the Comptroller has indicated that as long as a budget is in place by August 8, payments should be made on time.

I know these are anxious times for us all and I promise that we will pass along information as it becomes available.

Chris

Upcoming Deadlines

- Special Education Excess Cost Pupil Reimbursement Claim – August 1, 2007
- Waiver applications to be considered by the General Assembly in Fall 2007 – August 10, 2007
- Class Size Reduction Pilot Program Continuation Application – August 10, 2007
- Annual Pupil Transportation Reimbursement Claim – August 15, 2007
- Special Education Private Facility Tuition Reimbursement Claim – August 15, 2007
- Special Education Personnel Reimbursement Claim – August 15, 2007
- Applications for Illinois Mathematics and Science Partnership grant program – August 21, 2007

Student Assessment

Assessment Corrections – Calendar of Events – 2007

Final Day – To send revisions to Assessment Correction file data via IWAS/SIS
• PSAE & IMAGE - Grade 11 – Wednesday, Aug. 8, 2007

Reports to Districts/Schools
• Grades 3-8 Data Disks and printed district/school summary reports delivered to Districts – Friday, Aug. 31, 2007
• Grades 3-8 Printed Individual Student Reports – Monday, Sept. 17, 2007
• Grade 11 Printed Individual Student Report and other reports – Monday, Sept. 17, 2007

AYP: Final AYP for grades 3-8 will be posted by August 1, 2007. Final AYP will be being posted no later than August 10 for grade 11. Notification will be provided to the superintendent via IWAS. Reading and math are the only two content areas that count towards AYP and the target for AYP is 55% for 2007.

FINAL DAY FOR CLEAN UP - Districts have until Aug. 8, 2007 to clean up their grade 11 data and request rescoring. Rescore information will be posted on www.isbe.net/assessment. We recognize that this is not a convenient time for districts but in order to provide AYP before school begins, the state must adhere to this timeline.

Please do not wait until the last day to load to IWAS – this slows down the process and you may not have time to correct any errors.

For information or questions, call 217-558-3600 or e-mail: help@isbe.net.

Curriculum & Instruction

Continuing application for Class Size Reduction Pilot Program

The Illinois State Board of Education has released a continuing application for the state FY08 Class Size Reduction Pilot Program (CSRPP). Those districts which were funded in FY07 should request the same number of teachers, if still needed, as awarded for FY07, following the program-specific guidance included with the application. Funding of the FY08 grants are contingent upon the final FY08 State appropriation.

The continuing application for eligible districts is now available at ISBE’s web site at: www.isbe.net/curriculum/pdf/CSRPP_application.pdf.

Should sufficient state funding be available in FY08 after the continuation grants are funded, a Request for Proposals will be available to fund new applicants and additional classrooms.

For more information, contact Randy Burge, Curriculum & Instruction Division, at 217-557-7323 or rburge@isbe.net.

Certification

New Principal Mentoring Program

Many of you are anxiously awaiting the start of the New Principal Mentoring Program that was to begin July 1, 2007, pending funding by the General Assembly. The program cannot be implemented until Illinois has adopted a new budget and determined the funding level for this program. At that time, the State Superintendent of Education will make a determination to implement based on the amount of funding and the number of first-year principals who are required to participate in the mentoring program.

You will be notified through this bulletin if and when the New Principal Mentoring Program will begin for the 2007–2008 school year. At that time, district superintendents must provide the names, administrative certificate numbers and assigned schools of the individuals identified for the program if it has not yet been done.

There are still many district superintendents who have not reported the number of new principals who will need mentoring. This information should be sent immediately by e-mail to dwilliam@isbe.net or by letter to the attention of Dennis Williams, Illinois State Board of Education, Certification Division, 100 N. First Street, S-306, Springfield, IL 62777-0001.

If you are not sure of the number of new principals that meet this requirement, use the following criteria.

• Any individual, who is hired as a principal in Illinois to work during the 2007–2008 school year, must participate in this program for the duration of his or her first year as a principal.

• This requirement does not apply to any individual who has previously served as an assistant principal in Illinois and who was
employed as an administrator on an administrative certificate for five or more years.

- The requirement also does not apply to any individual who is hired for the 2007–2008 school year as a principal by the school district in which the individual last served as an assistant principal; however, those individuals may choose to participate in this program or their school district can require them to participate.

**Federal Grants & Programs**

**Illinois Youth Survey Conference Call Training – August 27, 2007**

This teleconference will provide an overview of the Illinois Youth Survey, focusing primarily on the upcoming survey administration in spring of 2008. We will discuss the main survey content areas, the risk and protective factors addressed by the survey, the online survey option, results that are available to participating schools including the individual school report, district level report, county report and the State Report. Several handouts will be available, including the most recent statewide survey results.

For more information, please contact Donna Prather at 1-866-497-9727 or via e-mail at dprather@chestnut.org; or Alan Markwood at 1-866-345-4497 or at amarkwood@chestnut.org. Both numbers are toll-free. At the Illinois State Board of Education, contact Albert J. Holmes at 312-814-3618. For registration, call Kelly Kindred at Prevention First, Inc., at 1-800-252-8951, ext. 122.

More information can be found on the IYS website at [www.illinoisyouthsurvey.org](http://www.illinoisyouthsurvey.org).

**Nutrition**

**Recent Improvements in Commodities Help Schools Serve Up the Dietary Guidelines to Students**

In an effort to improve the nutritional makeup of the USDA donated government commodities, the USDA office has informed the Nutrition Division of the following improvements to reflect the Dietary Guidelines for Americans 2005 (DGAs). We will continue to provide further updates on nutritional improvements to schools as they occur.

**Trans fats**

The DGA recommend keeping trans fatty acid consumption as low as possible. Accordingly, beginning this school year 2008, the USDA has revised our specifications for frozen potato rounds, ovens, and wedges to eliminate the trans fats from them. Hence, hydrogenated oils or oils that may increase the total fat content cannot be used in processing these products. As a result of removing the trans fats from these potato products, schools may receive some product where the primary packaging will have a slightly greasy appearance resulting from the use of non hydrogenated oils that do not solidify like hydrogenated oils. However, the potato rounds, ovens, and wedges will be healthier products, and they can be served in the same manner as in the past. In the meantime, the USDA procurement agency, the Agricultural Marketing Service, will be working with vendors to have them switch to commercial poly bags to reduce the greasy appearance on the packaging.

**Sugars**

The DGA recommend that we choose and prepare foods with little added sugars (caloric sweeteners). Added sugars provide calories but few or no vitamins or minerals. Thus, the USDA commodity specification for
canned applesauce has been revised to require it to be unsweetened. However, schools will continue to receive sweetened applesauce for a while until vendors begin to produce applesauce from their fall crops of apples. At that point, all canned applesauce will be unsweetened.

**Whole Grains**
The DGA also recommend increasing consumption of whole grains. In addition to the USDA’s current offerings of whole wheat flour and brown rice, we just recently made whole grain spaghetti and whole grain pasta-rotini available for schools to order. We are also hopeful to see a quick-cook brown rice and whole grain macaroni offered shortly.

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### Rules & Waivers

**Notice of Completed Rulemaking**

Please be advised that three more rulemakings recently adopted by the State Board of Education are now in effect. These rules have been posted on the agency’s web site at [www.isbe.net/rules](http://www.isbe.net/rules); choose “Rules Currently in Effect” and scroll to the relevant Part number. If you print the affected Sections, please be sure to include the table of contents, which changes each time a Part is revised.

**Part 25 (Certification)**

New provisions for the “teacher leader” endorsement and the alternative route to administrative certification for NBPTS-certified teachers; pay for student teaching; thumb-printing requirement for certification test-takers; miscellaneous.

**Affected Sections:** 25.30, 25.85, 25.314, 35.335, 25.620, 25.750, and 25.755

**Effective Date:** July 16, 2007

**Part 350 (Secular Textbook Loan)**

Technical update to eliminate the bonding requirement for vendors in conformance with the revised statute.

**Affected Section:** 350.15

**Effective Date:** July 16, 2007

**Part 555 (Children’s Mental Initiative Grants)**

New rules implementing children’s mental health support grants and grants for the implementation of the Social and Emotional Learning Standards.

**Affected Sections:** All

**Effective Date:** July 16, 2007

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### School Business & Support Services

**10 Year Survey and amendments, Annual Inspection and ROE Annual Reporting**

The Illinois State Board of Education is in the process of automating the submission of 10 Year Survey and amendments, Annual Inspection and ROE Annual Reporting documentation in order to better oversee the Health/Life Safety Code (H/LS) for public school facilities. A key component driving the effectiveness of the new H/L S Processing System is a current, complete, and accurate facility inventory listing.

All school districts are being e-mailed facility listings that should be updated and submitted to ISBE by **August 10, 2007**. The facility listings should be updated to include information for all leased, owned or otherwise occupied buildings that are not present on the attached listing. Regional Superintendents will receive copies of their related districts’ emails.

The success of the automated H/LS system will depend upon districts’ assistance in providing or correcting any missing or inaccurate information related to the listed buildings. It is important to note that only physical or “street” addresses of the corresponding building should be included. Post Office Box numbers should not be included.

We recommend that districts enter comments and revisions directly on the list, along with a facility list contact name and phone number, making a copy for their records before returning the revised original to the Illinois State Board of Education at the address below.

**Attn.: Mary Baksys**

Illinois State Board of Education
School Business and Support Services Division, (N-330)
100 North First Street
Springfield, Illinois 62777

The revised original may also be e-mailed back to ISBE at [finance@isbe.net](mailto:finance@isbe.net) or faxed to ISBE at 217-782-6096.

If you have any questions, please contact **Mary Baksys**, School Business & Support Services, at 217-785-8779.
Professional Development

2007 Sustainable University Symposium

All interested students, faculty, school board members and administrators are invited to attend the second annual Sustainable University Symposium. The symposium, hosted by the Illinois Green Government Coordinating Council, is Tuesday, Aug. 14, 2007 from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m.

The day-long event will be held at Illinois State University’s College of Business Building, 410 S. University in Normal.

Panelists at the symposium will discuss ways to improve everyday operations to protect air and water quality and reduce energy consumption. Registration is free and open to anyone interested in making Illinois the greenest state in the country.

Additional information, including registration, can be found online at: www.GreenSolutions.il.gov. For any questions, contact Jamie S. Caston, policy advisor, Office of Lt. Governor Pat Quinn, at 312-814-6671 or Jamie.Caston@illinois.gov.

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