Message from State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

I am writing to inform you that a plan is now in place to ensure all our local schools can open their doors and begin the school year as scheduled if a state budget agreement is not in place in time to disburse the General State Aid (GSA) payments scheduled for August.

Governor Blagojevich has directed the Illinois Finance Authority (IFA) to make available up to $175 million for local school districts in financial need to access in the event that scheduled GSA payments are delayed due to the current budget impasse. The $175 million being made available is larger than the average semi-monthly GSA payment for all districts during FY 2007. Any school district in need of assistance in lieu of the normal GSA payment would be able to apply for funding through the Local School District Project Notes Program by contacting the Illinois State Board of Education at 217-782-4321.

Governor Blagojevich has directed the IFA to undertake this program at no additional cost to the local school districts. Interest on the funds would be paid by the State of Illinois once an agreement has been reached on Illinois’ FY 2008 budget. Once a new state budget has been enacted, districts that participate in this program would have their FY 2008 GSA payments reduced by the amount advanced through the IFA. Participating districts would incur no additional costs.

I understand that this is an anxious time for many of you and thank you for your patience and understanding. It is my hope that a state budget can be agreed upon soon; however, I hope knowing that a plan is in place will ease the burden on your district as you prepare for the new school year.

Chris

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Upcoming Deadlines

- **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 was posted by August 1, 2007. Final AYP will be 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 rescores. Rescore information will be posted on [www.isbe.net/assessment](http://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.

**AYP Appeals process**

Please do not forget there is a new process for filing AYP appeals. More information – including a revised procedural guidance, a sample timeline and new forms to begin the appeal process, – is available online at [www.isbe.net/assessment/pdfs/appeals_status.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/assessment/pdfs/appeals_status.pdf).

Please direct any AYP Appeal questions or concerns to Melina Wright, NCLB Liaison, at 217-782-7362; fax: 217-782-5333; or email at: mewright@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 the 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., at1-800-252-8951, ext. 122.

More information can be found on the IYS website at www.illinoisyouthsurvey.org.

School Business & Support Services

School Treasurer Bonds

Section 3-8 and Section 8-2 of the School Code (105 ILCS 5/3-8 and 105 ILCS 5/8-2) require Regional Superintendents of Schools to file an affidavit with the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) showing which treasurers of school districts in their region are properly bonded. This affidavit must be filed before September 1 of each year. Copies of the actual school treasurer bond do not have to be filed with ISBE.

Section 8-2 of the School Code (105 ILCS 5/8-2) requires each treasurer of a school district to be properly bonded. The penalty of the bond shall be 25 percent of the amount of all bonds, notes, mortgages, moneys and effects of which the treasurer is to have custody. The bond shall be increased or decreased from time to time, as the increase or decrease of the amount of notes, bonds, mortgages, moneys and effects may require. The bond shall be payable to the township trustees of schools over the district or payable to the school board of the district, whichever is applicable. The bond shall be filed with the Regional Superintendent of Schools. School districts do NOT need to file a copy of their bonds with ISBE.

For additional information on the State Board of Education interpretation of this Section, please refer to the State Superintendent’s Weekly Message for June 12, 2006, which can be accessed at http://www.isbe.net/board/archivemessages/archivemessage_06.htm.

Section 3-8 of the School Code (105 ILCS 5/3-8) describes the duties of the Regional Superintendent of Schools upon receipt of the treasurer bonds. When the bond of any school treasurer is filed with the Regional Superintendent of Schools, the Regional Superintendent shall carefully examine it. If the bond is found to be in all respects according to law and the sureties sufficient, the Regional Superintendent shall endorse his/her approval and file it with the papers of his/her office. If the bond is in any respect defective, or if the sureties are insufficient, the bond shall be returned for correction.

Electronic version of the Affidavit, and other information, can be found online at www.isbe.net/sfms/html/t_bonds.htm.

Nutrition

Expect Mailing to School Food Authorities and Individual School Sites this Month

Two separate mailings occurring this month will provide useful resources for school food authorities (SFAs) and individual schools sites in the National School Lunch Program. As a service to schools, Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) Nutrition Programs is mailing the following

To SFAs

- School-Based Child Nutrition Programs Administrative Handbook, July 2007
- School-Based Child Nutrition Programs Calendar School-Year 2007-2008
- USDA’s School Meals Initiative (SMI) Tools for Success CD

To individual school sites

- School-Based Child Nutrition Programs Administrative Handbook, July 2007
- School-Based Child Nutrition Programs Calendar—School Year 2007–2008

If you have questions regarding these materials, please contact the Nutrition Division at 217-782-2491 or 800-545-7892; or via e-mail at cnp@isbe.net.
Please contact Michelle Heninger, School Business & Support Services Division, at 217-785-8779 or via e-mail at mheninge@isbe.net with any follow-up questions.

**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/LS 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 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.

**Clarification on age-related guidelines for provision of FAPE**

A recent legislative change has amended Article 14 of the Illinois School Code, clarifying the age of eligibility for services to students with disabilities. HB817, amending Section 14-1.02 of the School Code [105 ILCS 5/14-1.02], was signed into law and took effect on July 16, 2007, as Public Act 95-0014, which can be viewed at http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=095-0014&GA=095.

This Act specifies that a student with disabilities who requires continued public school educational services for transition to adult life is eligible to receive those services through age 21, inclusive, which extends through the day before the student’s 22 birthday. This requirement mirrors the eligibility provisions included in ISBE’s recent amendment to Part 226 of its Rules. [See 23 Ill. Admin. Code 226.50].

Questions regarding implementation of P.A. 95-0014 can be directed to ISBE’s Special Education Division at 217-782-5589.

**Teacher Resources**

**‘Heads Up: Concussion in Youth Sports’**

To help ensure the health and safety of young athletes, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in collaboration with 26 leading organizations, has developed the new, "Heads Up: Concussion in Youth Sports," tool kit for youth sports coaches, parents, and athletes.

The tool kit offers important information on preventing, recognizing, and responding to a concussion—a type of traumatic brain injury—to coaches, parents and athletes involved in youth sports.

A concussion is a brain injury caused by a bump or blow to the head that can change the way your brain normally works. Even what seems to be a mild bump or blow to the head can be serious. As many as 3.8 million sports- and recreation-related concussions are estimated to occur in the United States each year.

CDC wants to equip coaches, parents, and young athletes across the country with the, "Heads Up: Concussion in Youth Sports," tool kit, which contains a:
• Fact sheet for coaches, parents and athletes on concussion;
• Clipboard with concussion facts for coaches;
• Magnet with concussion facts for coaches and parents;
• Poster with concussion facts for coaches and sports administrators; and
• Quiz for coaches, athletes and parents to test their concussion knowledge.

The "Heads Up: Concussion in Youth Sports" tool kit can be ordered or downloaded free-of-charge at: http://www.cdc.gov/ConcussionInYouthSports.

To view the MMWR on sports- and recreation-related traumatic brain injury: http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5629a2.htm.

To learn more about concussion or for more information on CDC’s concussion and TBI-related educational materials, research, and programs, please visit CDC’s Injury Center on the Web at www.cdc.gov/injury. For questions, please contact CDC toll-free at 1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636).

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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: www.isbe.net/news/2007/newscaps/070803.htm.