Good afternoon.

Given the fact that legislators and policy makers have now vacated Washington DC for their summer hiatus, I figured it might be safe to provide a quick update on where the FY07 federal education budget stands at this point.

You may recall hearing earlier that President Bush and the House had sought to eliminate about $272 million from the FY07 spending bill—money that had been included in FY06 for the “Ed Tech” state grants.

On July 20, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved a competing spending measure that did put back the $272 million, but really did nothing more to provide notable funding increases. Short of the ed tech put-back, there is not too much encouraging about where we sit at present. For instance, the Senate committee included no increases for either special education nor Title I (although there is a small amount of money—$100 million—for the new grants proposed by the administration to help states assist low-performing districts under NCLB). The following table shows the FY07 spending levels at this point for the major K-12 programs (and is taken from information provided by the National Association of State Boards of Education):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>FY06</th>
<th>Administration Request</th>
<th>FY07 House Committee</th>
<th>FY07 Senate Committee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title I</td>
<td>$12.7 billion</td>
<td>$12.7 billion</td>
<td>$12.7 billion</td>
<td>$12.7 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Education</td>
<td>$10.58 billion</td>
<td>$10.68 billion</td>
<td>$10.73 billion</td>
<td>$10.58 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading First</td>
<td>$1.03 billion</td>
<td>$1.03 billion</td>
<td>$1.03 billion</td>
<td>$1 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perkins Voc-Ed</td>
<td>$1.2 billion</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>$1.2 billion</td>
<td>$1.2 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tech Prep</td>
<td>$105 million</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>$105 million</td>
<td>$105 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Capacity Grants</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>$200 million</td>
<td>$200 million</td>
<td>$100 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher Quality Grants</td>
<td>$2.9 billion</td>
<td>$2.9 billion</td>
<td>$2.6 billion</td>
<td>$2.7 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21st Century Learning</td>
<td>$981 million</td>
<td>$981 million</td>
<td>$981 million</td>
<td>$981 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title V</td>
<td>$99 million</td>
<td>$99 million</td>
<td>$150 million</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safe Drug-Free Schools</td>
<td>$347 million</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>$310 million</td>
<td>$310 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tech. State Grants</td>
<td>$272 million</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>$272 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Language Grants</td>
<td>$669 million</td>
<td>$669 million</td>
<td>$669 million</td>
<td>$669 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Assessments</td>
<td>$407 million</td>
<td>$407 million</td>
<td>$407 million</td>
<td>$407 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The House and Senate will most likely not bring their education appropriations bills to the floor until after the elections. For those of you who have some access and sway with our elected representatives in DC, this would be a good time to make the case for appropriations priorities with key staffers.

In a related vein of special interest for our CTE friends, the Perkins vocational education program has been reauthorized for a five-year period and it looks as if President Bush will sign it into law. In an it’s-about-time moment, the term “vocational education” in the law is replaced by “career and technical education.”

As the dog days of summer lead to thoughts of school starting, make sure to enjoy a little bit of time for yourselves in whatever of your summer is left. Have a great week.

Randy Dunn
Upcoming Deadlines

- Waiver applications to be considered by General Assembly in November – August 11, 2006
- Submissions to CeRTS to be processed before September – August 14, 2006
- Special Education Private Facility Reimbursement Claim - August 15, 2006
- Special Education Personnel Reimbursement Claim - August 15, 2006
- Regular/Vocational/Special Education Transportation Reimbursement Claim - August 15, 2006
- Rules Public Comment Deadline, Part 65 and Part 365 – August 21, 2006
- Affidavit of School Treasurer Bonds submitted by Regional Superintendents - September 1, 2006
- Rules Public Comment, Part 265 – September 5, 2006
- Rules Public Comment Deadline, Special Education – September 15, 2006

High School Resources

Materials available online

There is now a button on the right side of the Illinois State Board of Education home page that links to a new High School Resources page. This page: http://www.isbe.net/high_school/default.htm includes downloadable videos of the presentations from the High School Challenge Conference in June.

School Business and Support Services

New laws impact FY 2007 School District Budget Form

Two new laws effective July 1, 2006 impact the FY2007 School District Budget Form:
- PA 94-0234 - Submission of Budgets to ISBE and Deficit Budget Requirements
- PA 94-0714 - Reporting Vendors Contracts of $1,000 or more

School District Reorganization Public Act 94-1019 Guidance Documents available online

On July 10, 2006, Governor Rod R. Blagojevich signed Senate Bill 2795 into law, creating Public Act 94-1019. Public Act 94-1019 allows new options for school district reorganization that have not been available in the past, while retaining current existing options and standardizes the reorganization process from petition requirements to referendum vote. Public Act 94-1019 also eliminates duplicate sections of the School Code by consolidating four of the school district reorganization School Code Articles (Articles 7A, 11A, 11B and 11D) into a new Article 11E.

The State Board of Education has developed guidance documents to help school districts and local citizens interested in investigating school district reorganization options under new Article 11E. These guidance documents are available online at: http://www.isbe.net/sfms/html/pa_94-1019.htm

Please contact Michelle Heninger at 217-785-8779 or e-mail her at mheninge@isbe.net with any follow-up questions.

Funding and Disbursement

Interrupted school days due to heat

A major responsibility of a local school superintendent is the health and safety of students. Section 18-12 of the School Code allows the use of Interrupted School Days for “adverse weather conditions”. As a reminder, with regard to extreme heat the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) allows four options:
- Amend the public school calendar to start school at a later date
- Dismiss after 5-clock-hours of instruction
- Utilize an Emergency Day
- Utilize an Interrupted Day

If an Emergency Day is utilized it is strongly recommended that an Amended Calendar be submitted electronically through IWAS to the Regional Office of Education (ROE) for approval, to assure that the most up to date Public School Calendar is available on-line via the School Calendar Inquiry. If an Interrupted Day is utilized, an Amended Calendar must be submitted electronically through IWAS, within 30 days of occurrence, to the ROE, who will forward it to ISBE for approval. The Calendar Code for Emergency Day is ED. The Calendar Code for an Interrupted Day is XID. The
calendar code XID requires Student Attendance Time to verify a minimum of 1 instructional clock hour was conducted as well as a brief explanation of why the day was interrupted.

ISBE’s current policy further states that if the announcement is made in advance (i.e., on the previous day) that school will be closing on any day or days after less than 5 clock hours because of heat, you must use an emergency day(s). You cannot count that shortened day as a full-day of attendance under those circumstances.

We hope the reminder of this information will be helpful for the upcoming school year. For further technical assistance regarding the completion of public school calendars, please contact your Regional Office of Education or Marj Beck at mbeck@isbe.net or 217-782-5256.

**Hurricane Education Recovery Act update**

The United States Department of Education has granted additional funding for the Hurricane Education Relief Act (HERA) and extended the obligation deadline from July 31, 2006 to September 30, 2006.

As additional funds become available, ISBE will make payments to those districts that have a need for HERA funding. Please indicate your need for additional HERA funding to cover either current or future expenditures/obligations though September 30, 2006, by sending an e-mail to Jamie Johnson at jjohnson@isbe.net specifying:
- No HERA costs over current payments have occurred or will occur through September 30, 2006. A final expenditure report will be submitted as soon as possible (through the period of September 30, 2006) and any unexpended funds will be returned.
- Additional funding will be needed for HERA costs that have occurred or will occur through September 30, 2006. A final expenditure report will be submitted (through the period of September 30, 2006) by the due date of October 31, 2006.

Other HERA details include:
1. All HERA funds must be expended or obligated by September 30, 2006. There is no carryover provision with this program. Any funds not obligated by September 30, 2006 under this program must be returned by check payable to the Illinois State Board of Education; Funding and Disbursements Services (E-320), 100 North First Street, Springfield, Illinois 62777 to the attention of Jamie Johnson.
2. Project completion reports are required to show cumulative expenditures and obligations from the beginning of the project thru September 30, 2006.
3. Obligations must be liquidated within 90 days of the September 30, 2006, project end date. If obligations are shown on the completion report, a final expenditure report (with -0- obligations) must be submitted no later than December 31, 2006;
4. Public and non-public expenditures/obligations should be included on the expenditure reports up to the total amount awarded.

If you have questions regarding this program, please contact Jamie Johnson at 217-782-5256.

**Nutrition**

**Comment period extended for management of donated foods**

The Food and Nutrition Service, United States Department of Agriculture, is extending the public comment period on the proposed rule entitled “Management of Donated Foods in Child Nutrition Programs, the Nutrition Services Incentive Program and Charitable Institutions,” which was published in the Federal Register on June 6, 2006. This rule proposed to revise and clarify requirements with respect to the distribution, management and use of donated foods in the National School Lunch Program and other child nutrition programs. Most significantly, it would establish specific requirements to ensure that school food authorities and other recipient agencies in child nutrition programs receive the value of donated foods provided to food service management companies for use in providing school lunches and other meals. To obtain detailed information on the comment period and to view the rules, go to http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html, search RIN0584-AD45.

**Over 100 educators have completed first online training program**

The Illinois Nutrition Education and Training (NET) Program debuted its first online training program in spring 2006 and over 100 educators have completed the program so far. Congratulations to the first 55 Illinois school educators (http://www.kidseatwell.org/e-Learning educators.doc) to complete the program. Each received two CPDU credits and a check for $100 to spend on nutrition education materials for their classroom.

The first web-based training program, Nutrition Education That Works: An Integrated Approach for PreK-5 Educators, is helping Illinois teachers meet new wellness policy goals and Illinois learning standards by...
integrating nutrition education into core curricula. You can access this free course at Illinois NET Online Training: [http://www.kidseatwell.org/onlinetraining.html](http://www.kidseatwell.org/onlinetraining.html) and earn two CPDU credits too.

**School-Based Child Nutrition Programs**  
**FY 2007 Renewal Application now available**

The fiscal year (FY) 2007 annual application for participation for school-based Child Nutrition Programs (National School Lunch, School Breakfast, Special Milk and/or the Illinois Free Breakfast and Lunch Programs) covering October 1, 2006, through September 30, 2007, is now available online through the Child Nutrition ACES (Application and Claim Entry System). Please complete the application as soon as possible but no later than September 15, 2006. Instructions for completing the application process are available at [http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/pdf/nslp_app_instructions.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/pdf/nslp_app_instructions.pdf).

If you have any questions, please call the Nutrition Programs Division at 800-545-7892 or 217-782-2491. If you have any technical questions regarding IWAS (ISBE Web Application Security) accounts, please call the ISBE Helpdesk at 217/558-3600.

**Legislative Update**

**Bills signed into law**

Below is a summary of legislation Governor Blagojevich has enacted. To view the full text of a bill, you must access the General Assembly web site at [www.ilga.gov](http://www.ilga.gov). On the left hand side of the page, type in the bill number [ex. HB 1463] (HB for a House Bill, SB for a Senate Bill) and click on "full text". Make sure you look at the enrolled version to see the correct version of the bill signed into law.

For additional information, contact Nicole Wills or Josh Jacobs in ISBE’s Governmental Relations Division at 217-782-6510.

**HB 5416 (PA 94-0973)** requires that ISBE adopt rules for the qualifications of persons performing reviews and inspections of school buildings which are consistent with recommendations made by the task force appointed by SB 383 (PA 94-225). This law allows that if a municipality wishes to perform construction inspections under the jurisdiction of a regional superintendent of schools, the entity must register with the regional superintendent of schools. Inspections performed by municipalities must be based on the building code authorized in the School Code and be at no cost to the district.

**SB 860 (PA 94-1039)** requires ISBE to establish a principal mentoring program beginning July 1, 2007 (subject to appropriation) to allow experienced principals to serve as mentors to new principals during their first year as a principal. Provides for an alternative route to administrative certification for certain National Board certified teachers. Creates a teacher leader endorsement. Requires the ISBE to certify an organization to establish a master principal designation program. Establishes a task force to review the Illinois Administrators' Academy and recommend revisions to the program. Requires all school districts (except Chicago) establish a principal evaluation plan. Sets forth requirements for the evaluation plan and provides for failure to evaluate a principal at least once during the term of the contract. Requires the Chicago school district to establish a principal mentoring program. Effective immediately.

**SB 2197 (PA 94-1011)** provides that counties and municipalities may adopt ordinances to regulate truants within their jurisdiction, which may include fines for violators. A minor who is reported by the regional superintendent of schools as a chronic truant may be referred to a community based youth service agency for truancy intervention services if it is determined the local school did not provide the appropriate interventions.

**SB 2202 (PA 94-1034)** provides that the student teaching portion of the practical experience may be satisfied through placement in any of grades pre-kindergarten through 3, provided that the student is under the active supervision of a cooperating teacher who is certified and qualified in early childhood education. Provides that paraprofessionals with at least one year of experience in a school or community-based early childhood setting who are enrolled in early-childhood teacher preparation programs may be paid and receive credit while student teaching with their current employer, provided that their student teaching experience meets the requirements of their early-childhood teacher preparation program.

**SB 2235 (PA 94-0979)** changes the name of the Grow Our Own Teacher Act to the Grow Your Own Teacher Act. Defines "developmental classes" and makes changes to the definition of "parent and community leaders" and "schools serving a substantial percentage of low-income students". References to "student" and "participant" are replaced with "candidate" throughout the Act. ISBE must establish criteria that address the inclusion in the planned program of strategies derived from community organizing that will help candidates develop tools for working with parents and other community members. The legislation also provides for partial loan forgiveness for shortened periods of service in hard-to-staff schools or hard-to-staff teaching positions. School districts may use those portions of the grant money designated for the...
expenses of supporting the work experiences of candidates and providing mentors for graduates or other applicable public funds to pay participants in programs under the initiative for student teaching required by an accredited teacher preparation program.

**SB 2336 (PA 94-0981) (ISBE Initiative)** amends the School Breakfast and Lunch Program Act and the Childhood Hunger Relief Act by making changes concerning the breakfast incentive program, the report the State Board of Education provides to the Governor and the General Assembly concerning school breakfast and lunch programs, surveys to identify parental interest in school breakfast programs and barriers to establishing school breakfast programs, the requirement that a school district establish a school breakfast program for certain schools and opting out of the school breakfast program requirement.

**SB 2477 - Amendatory Veto** changes the definition of "municipal corporation" until July 1, 2011 to include a school district that (i) was organized prior to 1860, (ii) is located partly within a city originally incorporated prior to 1840, and (iii) entered into a lease with a Public Building Commission prior to 1993, and its board of education.

**SB 2630 (PA 94-0937)** allows that each school district may make suitable provisions for instruction in bullying prevention in all grades and include such instruction in the courses of study regularly taught. School Boards may also collaborate with a community-based agency providing specialized curricula in bullying prevention whose ultimate outcome is to prevent sexual violence. ISBE may assist in developing instructional materials and teacher training in relation to bullying prevention. "Bullying prevention" includes instruction in intimidation, student victimization, sexual harassment, sexual violence and strategies for student-centered problem solving regarding bullying. Effective immediately.

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### Professional Development

#### Raising Student Achievement conference dates set

The 2006 Raising Student Achievement Conference, sponsored by Regional Offices of Education of Illinois in Collaboration with the CPS Office of Technology Services eLearning and Intermediate Service Centers will be held on December 4-5, 2006 at Pheasant Run Resort, St. Charles, Illinois. For more information, visit [http://www.roeachievementconference.org/](http://www.roeachievementconference.org/).

### ISBE employment opportunities

#### External Vacancy List

An External Vacancy List for the Illinois State Board of Education is available at: [http://www.isbe.net/hr/Default.htm](http://www.isbe.net/hr/Default.htm).

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### In the News

#### Weekly news clips

Highlights from last week’s education news clips are posted at: [http://www.isbe.net/news/2006/newsclips/060804.htm](http://www.isbe.net/news/2006/newsclips/060804.htm)