Weekly Message from State Superintendent Randy Dunn

Good afternoon. I’m writing today from a VERY rainy Chicago. As often is the case when I work out of this office, I am taking my daughter to dinner. We had planned to spend a beautiful late-August evening eating outdoors. Now, however . . .

Many of you are aware of the strong support Illinois has given to National Board Teacher Certification over the past years.

It is my pleasure today to tell you about the debut of a new statewide system of professional development and mentoring support that builds upon the knowledge and skills of Illinois’ National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs). This innovative program is being launched this week and is known as the System-wide Transition toward Accessible Nationally Certified Educators (STANCE). Seven informational meetings about STANCE are being held at locations across the state to provide an explanation of this initiative. Information is available online at: http://www.isbe.net/profprep/PDFs/NBInfoMtgs81706.pdf

In addition to supporting educators seeking National Board Certification, the system will provide high quality professional development for Illinois Master Certified Teachers, including training in the 21st Century Educator Initiative (ICE21), Standard Aligned Classrooms (SAC), Ruby Payne’s work on the effects of poverty and a Focused Walk to Evaluate Student Engagement in Schools.

STANCE will also focus on teacher retention and the improvement of instruction through a tiered multi-year support system that utilizes the talents and abilities of existing NBCTs. These Master Certified Educators’ efforts will be coordinated by Regional Support sites and will assist the neediest schools and their educators, including those on the Academic Watch List, Academic Early Warning List, and/or those serving 50% or more students who receive free or reduced lunches. This effort will also seek to increase the number of National Board Certified Teachers and School Counselors in areas of the state with schools that have few or no nationally certified educators.

In addition, the Regional Support sites will assist with the processing of the Illinois Teaching Excellence program payments to school districts and provide National Board candidate application fee support (based on available funding). Information is available at: http://www.ilga.gov/commission/jcar/admincode/023/023000250F04440R.html The September 2006 NB application information will be available on the website September 13 at http://www.i-kan.org/nbpts_newsflash.htm. The NB fee support “window” will open September 15 and close October 16.

This Title II/Teacher Quality-funded effort will be accessible through each of Illinois’ 45 Regional Offices of Education and three Intermediate Service Centers, with seven of these serving as the Regional Support sites. Iroquois/Kankakee ROE #32, under the leadership of Vickie Hensley, Assistant Regional Superintendent of Schools, is the primary point of contact.

Please contact your Regional Office of Education (ROE) or Intermediate Service Center (ISC) if you are interested in learning more about STANCE or to arrange an informational meeting and/or an awareness session for National Board Certification in your area or school. Contact information for ROEs and ISCs is available at:

I very much look forward to working with Vicki, the I-KAN Regional Office and all of the ROEs/ISCs as they take over this leadership role for Illinois in regard to National Board Certification.

Have a great week.

Randy Dunn

**Upcoming Deadlines**

- Affidavit of School Treasurer Bonds submitted by Regional Superintendents - **September 1, 2006**
- Rules Public Comment, Part 265 – **September 5, 2006**
- Implementation of new Educator Certification System (ECS) – **September 5, 2006**
- Rules Public Comment – Donated Food – **September 7, 2006**
- Rules Public Comment Deadline, Special Education– **September 15, 2006**
- Rules Public Comment Deadline – Early Childhood Block Grant – **September 25, 2006**
- Burroughs Award Nominations – **October 13, 2006**

**NBPTS Training**

**Illinois National Board Professional Preparation and Support System**

Informational meetings detailing the new Illinois NBPTS support structure continue as follows:

- **Tuesday, August 29, 2006 - Tazewell County ROE #53** - Kelly Avenue Grill 3610 Kelly Ave. (Route 9/Court St. and Veterans) **Pekin**; 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. - Refreshments provided
- **Wednesday, August 30, 2006 – Clinton / Marion / Washington Counties ROE #13** - Microtel Convention Center, **Carlyle** - 6 to 8 p.m. - Refreshments provided
- **Thursday, August 31, 2006 - Hamilton/Jefferson Counties ROE#25** - Hamilton Jefferson ROE #25, 1714 Broadway, **Mount Vernon** - 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. - Refreshments provided
- **Tuesday, September 5, 2006 - ISC #4 - Chicago Heights** - 253 W. Joe Orr Road, **Chicago Heights** - 4 to 6 p.m. - Refreshments provided
- **Wednesday, September 6, 2006 - Champaign Ford ROE #9** - Media Center at Champaign Ford ROE #9, 200 S. Fredrick, **Rantoul** - 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. - Refreshments provided
- **Tuesday, September 12, 2006 - DeKalb ROE #16 - Kishwaukee College** - 21193 Malta Rd, Malta - 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

R.S.V.P. to mmathis@i-kan.org or vhensley@i-kan.org what meeting you plan to attend. Topics covered will include:

- Transition Plan for the new National Board Professional Preparation and Support System
- Illinois Teaching Excellence Program Payments Application Process
- National Board Candidate Subsidy Fee Support

Please email questions you would like addressed at the informational meetings to vhensley@i-kan.org.

**Student Assessment**

**Data Correction deadline extended**

The deadline for grade 3-8 data corrections has been extended to Friday, September 8. This extension means that student, school and district paper reports and data disks for grades 3-8 will not be delivered to districts until mid to late October.

The grade 11 IAA and IMAGE reports are posted for corrections. As soon as we know when PSAE is posted, we will notify districts. There will be at least a two week window to clean up grade 11 data after PSAE is posted. The following still applies as stated in an earlier e-blast:

We have 4000 students that have test scores but are not accounted for at their home districts. They took the test but because of some mismatched data they are not showing up on districts’ Assessment Score reports on IAWAS. If these students are not corrected and moved over to the school and district IWAS Assessment Score and Correction files the missing students will count against a district and schools’ AYP participation rate.

Staff has been working with districts. If you need assistance, please call 217-558-3600, 217-782-4823 or email help@isbe.net.
Funding and Disbursement

**FY 07 ADA Safety and Education Block Grant Calculations**

The FY 2007 ADA Safety and Education Block Grant payments have been calculated for each school district and can be accessed at [http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/ADABlockGrantFY07.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/ADABlockGrantFY07.pdf). Payments will be vouchered by October 30 and April 30 per statute. If you have questions about these calculations please contact Jim Mathes jmathes@isbe.net, Division of Funding and Disbursements at 217-782-5256.

Teacher Certification

**Local Professional Development Committee Membership**

All districts that have maintained Local Professional Development Committees (LPDCs) must report membership information using the form Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) 77-12, Membership of Local Professional Development Committees.

In addition, all LPDC members must create an account in the Educator Certification System (ECS) at [http://www.isbe.net/ECS](http://www.isbe.net/ECS) after September 5, 2006 when the ECS system is released to the public. LPDC members, other than the chairpersons, will not be able to view Statements of Assurance or make recommendations online until we have received ISBE 77-12 and the files have been updated so that members have the permissions to either make recommendations (chairperson) or read Statements (LPDC members) online.

Districts that have decided, in conjunction with their exclusive representation, if applicable, to dissolve their LPDCs, may use ISBE 77-12 to notify ISBE. (Districts that have already deleted their LPDCs online through CeRTS do not submit the form.)

If LPDC changes take place in the future, districts can submit the form at any time by downloading ISBE 77-12 from [http://www.isbe.net](http://www.isbe.net) by clicking on “Certification” and then “Forms.”

The State Board is offering training for the LPDC chairpersons only at the following dates and locations:

* **Wednesday, September 6 – 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.**
  Chicago Public Schools/Chicago Charter Schools*

* **Thursday, September 7 – 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.**
  North Cook Intermediate Service Center #1

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**Rules**

**Notice of Completed Rulemaking**

Please be advised that two 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; 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 675 (Providers of Supplemental Educational Services)**

These amendments strengthen the Code of Ethics and set forth the method by which providers’ performance will be evaluated. Also included are revisions related to the calculation of providers’ district program costs, as well as new material on the timeframe for implementation of programs.

**Affected Sections:** 675.30, 675.60, 675.70, 675.90, 675.100, 675.150, 675.175, 675.210, 675.230, 675.240, 675.245, 675.250, 675.Appendix A, 675.Appendix B and 675.Appendix C.

**Effective Date:** August 18, 2006

**Part 1500 (Joint Rules of the Office of the State Fire Marshal and the Illinois State Board of Education: School Emergency and Crisis Response Plans)**

This is a new set of rules implementing the School Safety Drill Act [105 ILCS 128].

**Affected Sections:** All

**Effective Date:** August 18, 2006
School Business and Support

Reorganization Feasibility Studies

Funding is now available for FY 2007 School District Reorganization Feasibility Studies. Feasibility studies are a tool to be used by school districts wanting to investigate the advantages and/or disadvantages of reorganization options. Interested school districts should submit a proposed agreement with an independent contractor(s) to their Regional Office of Education (ROE). The ROE will submit the agreement to the State Board of Education (ISBE) for approval.

Each study will be funded on a base tier according to the number of school districts involved in the study. Studies will be funded an additional tier based on the combined enrollment of the districts involved in the study. Studies are funded between $4,000 and $7,500 based on the procedure listed above. Funds are available on a “first come – first served” basis. In order to receive reorganization feasibility study funds in FY 2007, agreements must be approved by both ROE and ISBE and studies must be completed and approved for payment no later than June 30, 2007.

Procedures, funding allotment and sample forms are available at: [www.isbe.net/sfms/html/feasibility.htm](http://www.isbe.net/sfms/html/feasibility.htm)

If you have any questions, please contact Michelle Heninger at 217/785-8779 or e-mail her at mheninge@isbe.net.

Data Analysis

Update: Fall Data Collections

Fall Housing/Enrollment Report (87-03)

Opens: September 29
Due Date: October 31

The 2006-07 Fall Housing/Enrollment Report (87-03) will be available via IWAS on September 29 at [https://sec1.isbe.net/iwas](https://sec1.isbe.net/iwas) and must be received by ISBE by October 31, 2006. All public schools, including special education, regional and the department of corrections are to report students housed as of September 29 by gender, ethnicity and grade level.

District administrators should approve new users prior to this date and, like last year, have the option of entering data for some or all of their schools. A printable version of the data collection form will be available on the ISBE website the first week of September [ftp://help.isbe.net/webapps/FallHousing/87-03.pdf](ftp://help.isbe.net/webapps/FallHousing/87-03.pdf). There are not any changes to the form this year.

Reminder:

ROE/ISC programs are to report multiple program sites under one RCDTS number. Regional Alternative Schools should be reported under school number 9201, Regional Safe Schools under 9301 and where applicable, Regional ALOP programs under 9501.

Unfilled Positions Survey (87-07)

Opens: October 2
Due Date: November 15

The Unfilled Positions Survey (87-07), which has been on IWAS the past five years, will be available October 2 and is to be submitted to ISBE by November 15. As in years past, Districts are to report the number of budgeted positions they were unable to fill as of October 1, 2006. To avoid duplicating unfilled positions reported by public districts, Special Education and Vocational Centers should only report unfilled special education cooperative employee positions or vocational center employee positions.

Nutrition

Deadline Approaching for Public Comment on Donated Food Rule

The deadline for 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,” is September 7, 2006. This rule proposes 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](http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html), search RIN0584-AD45.

New School-Based Child Nutrition Programs Wall-Size Calendar

Nutrition Programs mailed a new School-Based Child Nutrition Programs calendar to each school building in the NSLP program last week. The calendar includes important deadlines and upcoming events. Important information is also printed on the back side, so please take time to read and/or copy this information. Additional copies are available upon request from Nutrition Programs at 800-545-7892 or 217-782-2491.
Professional Development

The University of Illinois at Chicago’s Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning (CASEL) announces a Free Public Lecture by *New York Times* best-selling author and CASEL founder Daniel Goleman on Socially Intelligent Education on Monday, September 18, 2006, from 11 a.m. to noon at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

In 1995, Goleman wrote *Emotional Intelligence* and in 2006, Goleman built on this work and the growth in brain research to produce a new book, *Social Intelligence*.

Illinois was the first state in the nation to create student Social and Emotional Learning Standards for all preschool through high school students. In his UIC address, Goleman will feature highlights from his new book and describe implications for educational practice. He will discuss Illinois’ example as one that should inform our nation’s conception of what it means to be an educated person and the steps educators can and must take to prepare our children for 21st Century citizenship.

More information about venue and registration for this lecture will be available in coming weeks from CASEL at http://www.casel.org/home/index.php.

Classroom Resources

**Drug Abuse Prevention materials available from NIDA**

The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), part of the National Institutes of Health in the Department of Health and Human Services is the lead Federal agency for research on drug abuse and addiction and works to prevent substance abuse among our Nation's youth.

As a new school year begins, NIDA reminds schools of its NIDA Goes Back to School campaign for children, teens and the adults who influence them. The campaign is a source for FREE science-based publications and teaching materials that emphasize the consequences of drug abuse on the brain and the body.

To learn more about the campaign or order the free materials, go to [www.BacktoSchool.drugabuse.gov](http://www.BacktoSchool.drugabuse.gov). You can place larger orders by calling (800) 729-6686.

Legal

The 94th Illinois General Assembly passed several new laws designed to provide more protections to our children while in school, from mandated reporting to background checks and penalties to be imposed on teachers for failure to disclose certain prior convictions when applying for a position with a school district. This week we provide guidance on information a principal or teacher must provide to parents regarding the Illinois Sex Offender Registry and recap the other laws as a refresher as we head into another school year.

**Information Available to Parents Regarding Registered Sex Offenders (P.A. 94-994)**

P.A. 94-994 makes several changes to the sex offenders’ registration law [730 ILCS 150/3] and the information sex offenders must provide upon registration that is available to the public. Link to P.A. 94-994: [http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?name=094-0994&GA=094](http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?name=094-0994&GA=094)

In keeping with these changes, a further amendment to 730 ILCS 150/3 affects principals and teachers of public and private elementary and secondary schools in Illinois. Per P.A. 94-994, during either school registration or parent-teacher conferences, a principal or a teacher must notify the parents of children attending the school that they may access information regarding registered sex offenders that is available to the public. This law is intended to increase awareness of the Illinois Sex Offender Registry (I-SOR) and to encourage parents to review the information available to them. ISBE suggests that school boards review this new law and advise their principals and teachers how best to make this information available to parents.

The Illinois Sex Offender Registry is available through a link on the Illinois State Police website, at [http://www.isp.state.il.us/](http://www.isp.state.il.us/). Individuals may search the database by name, zip code or county. Access is free.

**School Personnel and School Board Member Obligations under ANCRA (P.A. 94-0888) (July 10, 2006)**

P.A. 94-0888 makes some significant changes to reporting requirements under the Abused & Neglected Child Reporting Act (ANCRA), which imposes mandatory reporting obligations on individuals whose work involves the care and welfare of children. Link to P.A. 94-0888: [http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?name=094-0888&GA=94&SessionId=50&DocTypeId=HB&DocNum=5375&GAD=.8&Session](http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?name=094-0888&GA=94&SessionId=50&DocTypeId=HB&DocNum=5375&GAD=.8&Session)

First, the definition of “school personnel” in the law has been clarified to specifically include “administrators and both certified and non-certified school employees” as mandated reporters. Thus, almost any individual who is employed by a school or school district is required to
report suspected child abuse to the DCFS Hotline. There may have been a misperception in the past that “school personnel” meant only teachers were mandated to report suspected child abuse; however, P.A. 94-0888 makes clear that the “school personnel” is defined more broadly. ISBE suggests that all schools review their mandated reporter policies to ensure that all school employees are aware of their obligations under ANCRA.

Second, P.A. 94-0888 imposes a new obligation on school board members. If during either an open or closed session of a board meeting a board member hears an allegation of suspected child abuse of an enrolled student, that board member is now obligated to direct the superintendent of the district (or another school administrator equivalent to the superintendent) to report the suspected abuse to the DCFS Hotline. Thus, while a board member may report suspected abuse to DCFS but is not obligated to do so, the board member must now direct a district superintendent to report the suspected abuse. School districts and school boards are encouraged to revise any pertinent board policies to ensure that current and future board members are aware of their new obligations under ANCRA.

Creation of Child Murderer/Violent Offender Against Youth Notification Law and Database (P.A. 94-945) (July 17, 2006)

P.A. 94-945 creates the Child Murderer/Violent Offender Against Youth Notification Law and Database, under which the Illinois State Police will require individuals convicted of certain violent but not sexually-based offenses to register with local law enforcement and be listed in the Database and which will also include information currently listed on the LEADS database. The Illinois State Police must create this database by June 2007. This Database is intended to be a companion to the Sex Offender Registry and will be available and searchable on the Internet through a link on the Illinois State Police website. Please note that with the creation of this Database, the Sex Offenders Registry will no longer include individuals who have been convicted solely of non-sexually based offenses against children. Link to P.A. 94-945:


Adults and minors convicted of certain violent offenses against a child or children that are not sexually-based offenses will be required to register with local law enforcement in the municipality in which the individual resides, works or attends school. Violent offenses that will require registration include: kidnapping, aggravated kidnapping, unlawful restraint, aggravated unlawful restraint; any attempt of those offenses; first degree murder; child abduction; and forcible detention.

School districts are mandated to check the Child Murderer/Violent Offender Against Youth Database in conjunction with any background check (once it becomes available). For individuals applying for teacher certification or currently holding certificates, being listed on the Child Murderer/Violent Offenders Against Youth Database itself will not automatically prohibit certification or employment (unless by district policy), but certain offenses that will require registration under P.A. 94-945 upon conviction are indeed prohibitive of certification and employment.

ISBE suggests that school districts review any policies regarding child sex offenders visiting campus or juvenile sex offenders enrolling in the district to determine if any changes should be made regarding P.A. 94-945.

Portability of Background Checks for Substitutes and other Concurrent Employees (P.A. 94-875) (July 24, 2006)


This amendment applies only to substitutes, concurrent part-time employees and educational support personnel concurrently employed by more than one district seeking employment in another district outside of the educational service region in which they are currently employed. For these individuals, a regional superintendent may now share the results of the individual’s background check with other regional superintendents.

Prior to P.A. 94-875, regional superintendents were permitted to share this information only with districts within his or her educational service region. Many substitutes and other part-time or educational support employees are employed by multiple districts, often in different educational service regions and this led to the prospective employee submitting to numerous background checks. Now, for a substitute, concurrent part-time employee and educational support personnel concurrently employed by more than one district, upon request that a regional superintendent take his or her fingerprints for a background check, the regional superintendent may instead request a copy of the individual’s background check from another regional superintendent in an educational service region in which the individual is currently employed. Thus, the background checks for these individuals are now portable across educational service region boundaries. A regional superintendent or a district may still require a new
background check at their discretion. School districts are encouraged to review this new law to determine whether policies regarding background checks for these prospective employees should be revised.

**Failure to Disclose Prior Sex Offense Convictions to Employer is Unprofessional Conduct (P.A. 94-991)** (August 21, 2006)

P.A. 94-991 amends the School Code section regarding suspension and revocation of teaching certificates for teachers who engage in conduct that is immoral or unprofessional. Link to P.A. 94-991: http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=094-0991&GA=094

Per P.A. 94-991, failure of an individual to disclose on an application for employment that he or she has previously been convicted of a sex offense as defined in 105 ILCS 5/21-23a or of any offense committed in another state or against the laws of the United States that would be punishable as a sex offense in Illinois, is considered evidence of unprofessional conduct and therefore, may be grounds for suspension or revocation of the teacher’s certificate. This law helps clarify what unprofessional conduct is and puts applicants for employment on notice that failure to comply with employment application questions could be grounds for suspension or revocation of their teaching certificate. A district wishing to initiate suspension or revocation proceedings under 105 ILCS 5/21-23 should contact its regional superintendent. Please note that applicants for a teaching certificate are already required to disclose on the application for that certificate certain criminal history, including any prior convictions for sex offenses (felony or misdemeanor) and 105 ILCS 5/21-1 provides for certificate suspension or revocation for failure to properly respond to application questions.

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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.

**In the News**

**Weekly news clips**

Highlights from last week’s education news clips are posted at: http://www.isbe.net/news/2006/newsclips/060825.htm.