Message from State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

I hope things are starting to settle into place for a successful year for you, your staffs and, most importantly, your students. I have just finished reviewing your comments from this year’s Superintendents’ Conference and appreciate those as we begin planning for next year’s conference. Many attending suggested a later date for the conference and we are seriously considering such a change.

What a difference a year makes, or in this case less than a year. Every school and district now has access to its Report Card data. In the 21 years the Illinois State Board of Education has been producing Report Cards this is the earliest we have ever had them completed.

One of my primary objectives since being named State Superintendent was to make sure this year’s testing cycle was successful. After last year’s delays I am very proud of the cooperation and efforts that all of you, ISBE staff and our contractors put forth to make sure we accomplished this task early. We will look at what went right this year and work together to see what improvements can be made so that we can ensure that the delays that plagued us in 2006 do not repeat themselves.

I gave you a brief summary on assessments at the Superintendents’ Conference earlier this month, and I would like to add more details now. Our ISAT and IMAGE results are promising; however, we are seeing some decline with our PSAE and IAA data which suggest that there is still much work to be done, particularly at the high school level.

The percentage of students meeting and exceeding standards for ISAT increased from 77% in 2006 to 78.7% in 2007 and, for IMAGE, the percentage of students meeting and exceeding standards increased to 63.4% from 61.6% last year. Our statewide PSAE average fell from 54.3% last year to 52.6% this year and the state average on IAA declined 3.5 points to 59.1%.

**ISAT Statewide Averages Percentage Meets/Exceeds:**

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<thead>
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<th>Grade</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2006</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>Grade 8</td>
<td>81.3</td>
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</table>

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Science  2007  2006  
Grade 4  79.8  79.8  
Grade 7  79.3  80.9  

PSAE Statewide Averages Percentage Meets/Exceeds:

Reading  2007  2006  
Grade 11  54.1  58.4  

Math  2007  2006  
Grade 11  52.7  53.6  

Science  2007  2006  
Grade 11  51.0  50.8  

While it is important to take time to celebrate our accomplishments, we must stay committed to improving the outcomes for every student. I continue to appreciate your leadership in doing so.

Finally, there have been a number of incidents already this year involving bomb threats and weapons being brought into our schools. If you haven’t already done so, please take the time to review and update your schools’ emergency plans and make sure to inform your staffs of such plans and any needed updates. While we hope we never have to use these plans, knowing what to do in a crisis can mean the difference between life and death.

Have a great week. Fall begins on Sunday!

Chris

Upcoming Deadlines

- **Application for Recognition of Schools (ARS)** – Applications to local Regional Office of Education – September 30, 2007
- **46th Annual United States Senate Youth Program** – Student Applications – October 3, 2007
- **2007 Homeless Education Poster Contest** – Registration Deadline – October 11, 2007
- **Thomas Lay Burroughs Award Nominations** – October 12, 2007
- **Application for Recognition of Schools (ARS)** – Applications to ISBE from ROE offices – October 15, 2007
- **FY07 NCLB Performance Report** – October 19, 2007
- **2007-08 Fall Housing/Enrollment Report (87-03)** – October 31, 2007
- **Unfilled Positions Survey (87-07)** – November 15, 2007

Data Analysis & Progress Reporting

**2007 Report Cards Are Now Available on IWAS**

The 2007 report cards are now available to district superintendents on the secure E-Report card site on IWAS. Go to IWAS and click on the E-Report Card and then go to Step 3- Early Access. This year you will note that the school improvement page is not included in the actual report card. However, the Word document that was used in the past is still available for your use and should be posted to your local website along with the report card.

We encourage you to review the report cards and provide them to your local board at your earliest convenience. The public report card site will open on October 31, 2007.
Questions about the report cards should be directed to 217-782-3950.

**Update: Fall Data Collections**

**Fall Housing/Enrollment Report (87-03)**

Opens: September 28  
Due Date: October 31

The 2007-08 Fall Housing/Enrollment Report (87-03) will be available via IWAS on September 28 at [https://sec1.isbe.net/iwas](https://sec1.isbe.net/iwas) and must be received by ISBE by **October 31, 2007**. All public schools, including special education, regional and the Department of Corrections are to report students housed as of September 28 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 is now available on the ISBE website at: [ftp://help.isbe.net/webapps/FallHousing/87-03.pdf](ftp://help.isbe.net/webapps/FallHousing/87-03.pdf)

**New for 2008:**

- The Bilingual Census instructions have changed significantly this year due to changes in the school code. Foreign exchange and Pre-K students are to be included in the counts this year. There are also major changes in the criteria for determining LEP students. Please see the blank form at the above link for the new instructions.

**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 1  
Due Date: November 15

The Unfilled Positions Survey (87-07), which has been on IWAS the past five years, will be available October 1 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, 2007. 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.

**English Language Learning**

**Illinois Refugee and Immigrant Conference – Oct. 22 – 23**

"Strengthening Refugee Families: Issues, Best Practices and Innovations," the fourth annual Illinois Refugee and Immigrant Conference, will be held on **Monday, October 22 and Tuesday, October 23** at the Holiday Inn Chicago-Mart Plaza in Chicago. Our student population is changing and this locally based national conference provides Illinois teachers and school administrators with an excellent opportunity to be updated on best practices in educational, health and family service practices for working with refugee and immigrant students and their families.

This conference is sponsored by the Illinois State Board of Education, in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Human Services, the Illinois Department of Public Health, various other state government agencies and social service agencies, Chicago Public Schools, the University of Illinois at Chicago and the Adult Learning Resource Center.


For more information about the conference, contact Sherry Johnson, Division of English Language Learning, at sjohnson@isbe.net or call Tatiana Davidson at Adult Learning Resource Center at 224-366-8622.

**Technology Support**

**Upgrading Minimum Browser Requirements**

ISBE is planning on upgrading minimum browser requirements for accessing IWAS, ECS and other web-based applications beginning **October 1, 2007** in order to stay current with advances in technology. Please update your browsers with the latest supported browsers based on your operating system (visit [https://sec1.isbe.net/iwas/htm/browser_min_req.shtml](https://sec1.isbe.net/iwas/htm/browser_min_req.shtml) for
more details). This will help to prevent any potential browser issues when using ISBE web-based applications.

If you need assistance with upgrading your browser, please contact your technical support personnel. If you have any additional need for technical support, please contact our ISBE Call Center at 217-558-3600 or help@isbe.net.

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**Funding & Disbursements**

**FY 2008 Special Education Extraordinary Calculations**

The FY 2008 Special Education Extraordinary amounts have been calculated and can be accessed at [http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/08_HB_4225_Distribution.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/08_HB_4225_Distribution.pdf).

The breakdown of the FY 2008 distribution is as follows:

- FY 2008 Appropriation $314,600,000
- Chicago District 299 (29.2%) $91,863,200
- Balance to Distribute $222,736,800
- Balance to Distribute at 85% (Dist Best 3 ADA) $189,326,280
- Balance to Distribute at 15% (Poverty) $33,410,520

Per Section 14-7.02b, 2008 begins the first fiscal year where all funding is being distributed to school districts based on 85% on their Best 3 Months Average Daily Attendance and 15% Poverty after Chicago District 299 is subtracted from the final appropriation. If you have questions regarding these calculations you may contact Jodi Whitlow, Funding and Disbursement Services, at jwhitlow@isbe.net or 217-782-5256.

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**Legal**

**ISBE Guidance: Residency, Immigrant Pupils, Homeless Pupils and Student Fees & Waivers**

In the past few weeks we have received a number of calls concerning district enrollment policies that do not comply with relevant laws. ISBE takes such compliance issues very seriously and is working tirelessly to ensure that every district in Illinois is in compliance. Please review your district’s enrollment policy to ensure it is consistent with applicable laws, as described in the attached guidance: [http://www.isbe.net/pdf/registration_guidance.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/pdf/registration_guidance.pdf).

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**Educator Preparation & Recertification**

**School Districts May Now Implement New Principal Mentoring Program**

State Superintendent Christopher Koch has determined that the appropriation for the Illinois New Principal Mentoring program is sufficient to fully implement the program for the 2007-2008 school year. Local school district superintendents must decide which approved provider (and program) will best serve its new principal(s). A list of the 43 approved providers and contact information can be found at [http://www.isbe.net/pdf/Certified_Providers.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/pdf/Certified_Providers.pdf). Some providers may charge additional fees above the appropriation for mentoring. If you have any questions, please check with your provider. Providers will begin assigning mentors to new principals and services will begin immediately.

Each school district must now provide ISBE with a list of the names and administrative certificate numbers of new principals who will be mentored for the 2007-2008 school year. Forward that information to:

Attn: Dennis Williams
E-310
Illinois State Board of Education
100 N. First Street
Springfield, IL 62777-0001

It can also be sent via e-mail to Dennis Williams at dwilliam@isbe.net. The deadline for identifying the new principals is **Monday, October 15, 2007**.

Please remember that the Illinois New Principals Mentoring Program is mandatory for every person who is working as a principal for the first time. However, this requirement does not apply to any individual who has previously served as an assistant principal for five or more years and who is hired as a principal by the school district in which the individual last served as an assistant principal.

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**Federal Grants & Programs**

**FY07 NCLB Performance Report**
The FY07 NCLB Performance Report is now ready to receive data. Every district that receives funds for Titles I, IIA, and IVA must complete this report prior to October 19, 2007. The information that districts supply through this report must be forwarded to the United States Department of Education for funds to continue to flow to these NCLB Programs.

The FY07 NCLB Performance Report is located in the IWAS system on the ISBE web site. If you have questions or need help, please call Gail Buoy, Federal Grants and Programs Division, at 217-524-4832.

Safe Schools Activities for FY08

The Illinois State Board of Education in conjunction with the Regional Office of Education #12/Safe Schools has released the listing of Safe School Activities for FY08.

The training sessions will be held in several locations throughout the state. There are 15 separate training sessions that cover seven content areas. The full listing, including registration and fee information, is available online at: http://www.isbe.net/pdf/safe_school_2008.pdf.

For more information, contact Diane Taylor, ROE 12 office, at 618-395-8626 or dtalyor@roe12.net.

Nutrition


If you missed the Developing School Food Safety Program Based on the Process Approach to Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) Principles Workshops held earlier this summer, register for this one-day workshop in Springfield.

Participants will be introduced to the Process Approach to HACCP Principles. The Process Approach allows for a more practical application of food safety procedures. Participants will receive information and work with hands-on activities they can take back to their schools and immediately use in the development of a food safety plan or revision of a current food safety plan.

The workshop will be held at the Route 66 Hotel & Conference Center in Springfield, beginning at 9 a.m. and concluding at 3 p.m. Pre-registration is required. To register, visit www.isbe.net/nutrition. Under Resources, click on Workshops/Trainings.

State School Breakfast Program Start-up Grant: Funds are Available - $3,500 per Eligible School

The Illinois State Board of Education is pleased to announce the availability of grants to promote start-up funding for implementing School Breakfast Programs. The state-funded School Breakfast Start-Up Incentive Grant is designed to assist schools in overcoming some of the barriers associated with starting a new program and provides up to $3,500 per school for eligible costs.

A School Food Authority (SFA) may complete an application packet for schools that will start a School Breakfast Program during the 2007-2008 school year. ISBE will accept grant applications for the state breakfast start-up grant applications until monies are exhausted or through June 30, 2008.

More information is available online at http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/breakfast_state.htm#start.

Vote for School Lunch Campaign Begins – Celebrates National School Lunch Week

The School Nutrition Association has opened the election for the National School Lunch Campaign. Students may vote online at www.VoteForSchoolLunch.org.

The candidates include Jesse Wrap, Pippa Potato, Patty Mac ‘n’ Cheese, Biff Burger and Yumi Rice Bowl. The campaign will help educate parents and students about the current school meals programs. Schools are encouraged to participate in National School Lunch Week events, October 15-19, 2007, and the Vote for School Lunch Campaign and election through the following means:

- Design a Candidate: students draw, sketch or design new candidates and submit to their school contests. Up to three winners from each school can be submitted to a national panel to be judged and three national winners will be professionally re-created to run in the 2008 “Vote” campaign
- Election day: schools set up voting booths and establish a voting day
- Costume contests: students and staff create fun costumes and dress up as their favorite characters.
• Cafeteria debates: members of the student government represent each candidate
• Essay contests: invent a Cafeteria Bill of Rights or amend the Cafeteria Constitution
• Recipe write-ins: solicit entries for creative versions of each candidate
• Media campaigns: Get school paper/broadcast journalism department to “follow the campaign trail”

A National School Lunch Week menu is available online at http://docs.schoolnutrition.org/meetingsandevents/nslw2007/nslw.asp.

The Food Allergy & Anaphylaxis Network Offers Free School Food Allergy Program

As incidences of food allergies increase, school staff need useful resources to prevent any complications from occurring. One such resource is the Food Allergy & Anaphylaxis Network (FAAN) multimedia School Food Allergy Program. The School Food Allergy Program includes written materials, a video/DVD titled, Keeping Our Children Safe, an EpiPen® and TwinJect® epinephrine auto-injector trainers, and instructional DVDs’ an allergy awareness poster, peer-education materials, and a Food Allergy Action Plan form.

Request the complimentary program at www.foodallergy.org.

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**Curriculum & Instruction**

**Effective and Promising Teen Pregnancy Prevention Programs for Latino Youth**

The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy has released a report highlighting effective and promising teen pregnancy prevention programs for Latino youth.

This report details six programs that have been shown through careful evaluation to delay sex, improve contraceptive use, and/or reduce teen pregnancy. This list of programs is a starting point for those interested in helping Latino teens avoid too-early pregnancy and parenthood. To download a copy visit: http://www.teenpregnancy.org/works/pdf/Science_Says_32_latino_programs.pdf.

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**Thomas Lay Burroughs Award Nominations**

The State Board of Education invites you to nominate your local board president for the Thomas Lay Burroughs Award for the State’s Outstanding School Board President.

This award was created in 1991 in memory of the late ISBE chairman and is presented each November at the IASB/IASA/IASBO conference in Chicago. This year, the conference will be held on November 16-18 and the award will be presented Sunday morning, November 18.

Nominations should be submitted as indicated below by the close of business on Friday, October 12, 2007. You may send your nomination to Jean Ladage via e-mail to: jladage@isbe.net. Please indicate in the Subject line of the e-mail: Burroughs Nomination. If you have questions, call Jean Ladage or Marsha Moffett, Board Services at 217-557-6626. For nomination information and format please go to: http://www.isbe.net/pdf/burroughs_award.pdf.

**State Board Recognition Program**

The State Board of Education continues the process of being proactive in its efforts to recognize the exemplary achievements of students, teachers, school administrators, and local board members in Illinois. These achievements would be such that they truly stand out from the ordinary.

Upon review and acceptance, the State Board of Education will pass a resolution describing the particulars of the achievement.

The signed resolution would be presented in one of the following three ways:
- mailed to the recipient(s);
- personally awarded to the individual(s) at their respective school(s); or
- presented to recipient(s) during the State Board meeting at which their resolution is approved.

If you would like to nominate an individual or a group for this recognition, please use the Recognizing Achievement form available online in the Resources box at http://isbe.state.il.us/board/Default.htm.

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**Teacher Resources**
‘Read for the Record’ – Sept. 20, 2007

All Illinois schools are invited to participate in Jumpstart’s Read for the Record national reading campaign on Thursday, September 20, 2007.

Read for the Record is a national campaign designed to encourage hundreds of thousands of children and adults from across the country to read the same book on the same day. Through this campaign, Jumpstart is asking Americans to support early education opportunities for all children by reading the official campaign book, The Story of Ferdinand, together on September 20 to break the record for the largest shared reading experience ever, which was set by 150,000 people on August 24, 2006 during the inaugural year of Jumpstart’s Read for the Record campaign.

Reading activities on September 20 can range from personal sessions between an adult and a child to big group events with hundreds of people gathering together for a large community reading session.

More information and registration information is available online at www.readfortherecord.org.

Henry B. Betts Award

The Henry B. Betts Award honors individuals whose work and scope of influence have significantly improved the quality of life for people with disabilities, and who will be a force for change in the future.

Since 1989, the Betts Award has been presented to individuals who have, through their work, helped lead the societal transformation that is producing better outcomes and higher expectations for the diverse groups that make up the disability community in the U.S. and around the world.

Typically, one outstanding living individual is selected to receive the Award, which includes $50,000 cash. The nomination deadline is Tuesday, October 9, 2007. More information is available online at http://www.aapd.com/awards/awards08/betts_app08.html.

ASCD Outstanding Young Educator Award

The Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) Outstanding Young Educator Award nominee is an education professional, 40 or younger, who demonstrates exemplary commitment and contribution to the profession. Their creative and innovative accomplishments within their classroom, school, district, state, or region have had a significant impact on student performance and achievement and provide an ongoing model of excellence in encouraging all learners to succeed. They consistently exhibit leadership.

The winner receives a check for $10,000 and is profiled in Educational Leadership magazine and honored at the next year’s ASCD Conference. The nomination deadline is Monday, October 15, 2007.


Student Opportunities & Honors

2007 Homeless Education Poster Contest

All Illinois students in grades 5-12 are encouraged to participate in an art poster contest of original art focusing on homelessness and its impact on families, children, and youth in education. The registration deadline is October 11, 2007, with artwork submitted by October 20, 2007. State first, second, and third place winners will receive Series EE Savings Bonds and other awards at an award ceremony in Springfield on November 20, 2007, during the week after National Hunger & Homeless Awareness Week.

More information, including rules and registration, is available online at:
- http://www.isbe.net/homeless/default.htm

In addition, questions can be directed to Peggy Dunn, Homeless Education Coordinator, Accountability Division at madunn@isbe.net or 217-782-2948.

National & State apparel contest winner

Meryl Idzerda, a 2007 graduate of Antioch Community High School, recently received the American Sewing Guild’s Rising Star Award. The Guild, sponsored by the Simplicity Pattern Company, selected Meryl’s imitation of a Dennis Basso jacket as the winner of its national Creativity Contest.
As the contest winner, Meryl will receive $500, a Babyloc sewing machine and year’s membership in the Guild. The jacket will also be featured on the Guild’s website and in a future issue of Notions. Meryl’s jacket had previously been recognized as a statewide winner by the Illinois Family, Career and Community Leaders of America. The jacket was a class project for Antioch teacher Laureen Carl’s Apparel Design and Construction class.

### 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: