Message from State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

I know many of you were in school on Columbus Day, but I hope everyone had a chance to enjoy the holiday. To date, 270 districts have modifications to hold class on Columbus Day so students and personnel in more than two-thirds of our school districts were out in observance of the holiday.

This is a good time to remind you that we are working with several groups to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln’s birth. We are planning several events and activities for the bicentennial, including asking schools in session on that day to join together in having their students recite the Gettysburg Address. Currently, 808 districts have approval to be in session on Lincoln’s Birthday, and if you would like to request a modification to be in attendance that day, then you have until February 6 to complete the necessary paperwork. Detailed information about the waiver process is available on our website at [http://www.isbe.net/isbewaivers/](http://www.isbe.net/isbewaivers/) or you may contact Rules and Waivers staff at 217-782-5270.

We have added to our website a new page devoted to the Lincoln Bicentennial. The Lincoln page can be accessed at [http://www.isbe.net/htmls/abe.htm](http://www.isbe.net/htmls/abe.htm) and contains information about the celebration and links to other agencies involved in the celebration. It also includes a Lincoln fact that changes everyday.

In addition, the “Looking for Your Lincoln Hero” contest officially kicked off this week. “Looking for Your Lincoln Hero” is a global art and essay contest meant to personalize Lincoln’s legacy on a worldwide stage. Winners will be chosen from several categories: kindergarten through grade 6, grades 7 through 12, college students, and adult authors. For more information on the contest, you can go to [http://www.myhero.com/myhero/go/specialevents/introsignin.asp?id=1](http://www.myhero.com/myhero/go/specialevents/introsignin.asp?id=1).

Finally, I know there are a lot of questions about Response to Intervention (RtI), especially as the deadline for districts to submit their transition plans draws closer (due January 1, 2009). There are a number of resources available to you as you put together your plan and begin implementation. It is important to note that the RtI plan is embedded within the District Improvement Plan, available at [http://iirc.niu.edu/](http://iirc.niu.edu/), and is not a separate plan or template itself. Remember also that RtI is not a new program; it is simply a way to reflect on what is needed for good teaching and learning to occur.

The ISBE RtI homepage is at [http://www.isbe.net/RtI_plan/default.htm](http://www.isbe.net/RtI_plan/default.htm). You’ll find two webinars that were recently held to assist districts as well as a self-assessment template, resource manual and other resources. Additionally, our Regional Offices of Education are offering training. ISBE has worked with the ROEs to provide materials that will assist you in better understanding what RtI is and how to develop your local plan. Illinois ASPIRE sites are also a good resource to use ([http://www.illinoisaspire.org/welcome/](http://www.illinoisaspire.org/welcome/)). Check
with both your local ROE and Illinois ASPIRE site for trainings and dates.

I think it’s important to remember that in many districts, RtI is not something that’s new. It is about getting students the resources they need as soon as we know they need them. Simply put: it’s good teaching. If you are evaluating data about student performance and responding to that information with interventions which, in turn, are having an impact, then you are doing exactly what you should be doing. You are being asked to use scientifically based interventions like RtI because it will lead to improved student performance!

Thanks and have a great week.

Chris

Upcoming Dates & Deadlines

- Capital Needs Assessment Survey – October 17
- Thomas Lay Burroughs award nominations – October 17
- NCLB Performance Report submitted in IWAS – October 20
- Part 75 (Incentive Grants for Agricultural Science Teacher Education): Public comment ends – October 20
- Annual Superintendents’ Conference – October 23 – 24
- SGSA Expenditure Plans due in IWAS – October 30
- Arts Education Week Poster Contest Entries – October 31
- School District Budgets – October 31
- Pupil Transportation Reimbursement Correction Period ends – November 7
- Limitation of Administrative Costs Worksheet Section 17-1.5 – November 14
- Health and Immunization Data due in IWAS – November 15
- Part 130, Part 235, Part 245 and Part 525: Public comment ends – November 17
- School District Library grant applications – November 26
- NCLB Monitoring Instrument & NCLB Title I Comparability submissions – November 30
- Looking for Your Lincoln Hero submissions – December 1
- Waiver applications to be considered by the General Assembly during Spring 2009 session – January 9

E-Bulletins

New NCLB Guidance Resource

The State Board of Education is adding a new section to the Weekly Message – E-Bulletins. These bulletins will be posted on the ISBE website and will contain guidance and technical assistance for districts to meet the requirements of NCLB. They will address issues of concern for superintendents, Title I directors and other educators and professionals working with schools in Illinois.

When a new or updated E-Bulletin is posted, it will be announced in this section. Bulletins will be updated as needed and should be referenced when questions of NCLB compliance are raised. If you have a suggestion for an E-Bulletin topic, please e-mail it to NCLB@isbe.net.

To access E-Bulletins, go to http://www.isbe.net/e-bulletins/default.htm.

Funding & Disbursements

Revised Census Data Affects FY 10 Title I Low Income

Recently, the U.S. Department of Education notified the State Board of Education that they have revised Title I allocations nationwide. The total change for Illinois is an additional $169,748 in the total grant award. Poverty
counts, which are used to determine annual Title I district allocations, did not change. One of the options provided as guidance for allocation of the additional funds was to make the upward adjustments in the FY10 allocations. Accordingly, since districts have already started approved Title I programs at the time of notification, ISBE has decided not to make the change to current year FY09 funds, but to address the changes in the next FY10 year.

Many districts will not be affected by this small increase and for those that do experience an increase, additional allocations will be released with the projections for FY10. No district will experience a decrease in allocation, or a change in eligibility due to this adjustment. Again, there will be no change to the current year FY09 Title I grant.

For questions about the Title I allocation process or these revisions, contact Sally Cray in the Division of Funding and Disbursement Services by e-mail at scray@isbe.net or 217-782-5256.

**Annual Claim for Pupil Transportation Reimbursement Correction Period**

All local education entities that transmitted a 2007-08 annual claim via the Pupil Transportation Claim Reimbursement System (PTCRS) in IWAS are hereby notified that the review and amendment process (if needed) is open now through midnight Friday, November 7. All revisions must be completed and transmitted by this date. No revisions will be accepted after Friday, November 7, in order to close the claim file and schedule the three remaining quarterly payments.

**Instructions for Reviewing the Claim:**

1. Log into the ISBE Web Application Security system.
2. Click on "System Listing" on the IWAS homepage.
3. Select "Pupil Transportation Claim Reimbursement System" under the "Annual Claims" heading.
4. Click on "Review Claim" under the "Reimbursement Claim" heading on the homepage. **Do not click on “Revise Claim” button unless you need to make revisions.**
5. The claim will be loaded to the screen in read-only format. Carefully review each line on the claim for possible revisions. If you entered transportation assets on the Depreciation Schedule, don't forget to click on the "Depreciation Schedule" button at the bottom of the screen and review the depreciation schedule data for possible revisions.

**No action is necessary if you have no revisions.** Your claim will remain as originally submitted by the statutory August 15th due date.

**Instructions for Revising the Claim:**

If you reviewed the claim and found that revisions are needed to the depreciation schedule and/or the pupil transportation reimbursement claim, you should:

1. Click on the "Revise Claim" link under the "Reimbursement Claim" heading on the homepage.
2. You may enter notes in the "Your Comments" text box to help you remember why revisions were needed. Click on the "Revise Claim" button at the bottom of the screen to proceed with revisions to the depreciation schedule (if needed) and the pupil transportation reimbursement claim.
3. Note that all links for the reimbursement claim are open and may be revised as needed. The "Depreciation Schedule Summary" link under the "Depreciation Schedule" heading has been changed to "Calculate Depreciation Allowance." If you made any changes to transportation assets after the August submit date, you must click on this link and update the Depreciation Schedule.
4. After all revisions have been made, click on the "Review & Submit Claim." All revised claims must be resubmitted to ISBE through the proper channels (Document Author to the District Superintendent and District Superintendent to ISBE.)

**No revisions to the claim will be accepted after Friday, November 7, 2008.**

For questions on the amendment process, contact Jamie Johnson at 217/782-5256 or at jjohnson@isbe.net.

**Grants & Programs**

**District Improvement Plans**

District superintendents and school principals should note that if your district or school is in academic status, as indicated on your IWAS AYP page, you must have a current, locally approved improvement plan posted on the Interactive Illinois Report Card website. If you do not have a current plan, you are required to submit one based on your 2008 AYP this school year.
Plan submission details can be found on the ISBE website in the “Frequently Asked Questions” at: http://www.isbe.net/sos/pdf/imp_plans_faq.pdf.

To access the ISBE resources for improvement plans see: http://www.isbe.net/sos/htmls/improvement_process.htm.

Per NCLB and the federal requirements, the clock started ticking when data were first posted on the IWAS site. For technical assistance with developing your plan, contact your area RESPRO (Regional System of Support). For RESPRO contact information, map of service and additional resources go to: http://www.isbe.net/sos/htmls/respro.htm.

Educator & School Development

New Division Created

In July, ISBE combined the Educator Preparation and Recertification Division with the Accountability Division to form Educator and School Development. This new division seeks to ensure educator and school compliance with all relevant Illinois laws, rules and regulations. Specific functions of the Division include: granting recognition to public, nonpublic and charter schools; coordinating public school compliance with regional offices of education; granting certificates of approval to private business and vocational schools; implementing and monitoring the professional development and growth of Illinois teachers, administrators and school service personnel; ensuring educator compliance with NCLB; and overseeing the approval and monitoring of university professional preparation programs for educator certificates.

For more information on Educator and School Development, go to: http://www.isbe.net/esd/default.htm or call 217-782-2948.

Educator Certification

The Division of Educator Certification oversees compliance with Illinois laws, rules, and regulations related to the issuance of educator credentials. Specific functions of the division include processing and issuing teacher certificates and endorsements, school service personnel and school administrator certificates, and paraprofessional letters of approval; providing training and support for educator certification to regional offices of education and universities and colleges; coordinating candidate testing for state certification; and administering the “Grow Your Own Teachers” initiative.

For more information on Educator Certification, go to: http://www.isbe.net/certification/default.htm or call 217-557-6763. For questions related to recertification, please contact the Educator and School Development Division at 217-782-2948.

Administrators’ Academy Information

The Illinois Administrators’ Academy (IAA) Review Task Force recommended that the State Board of Education establish a web-based, centralized clearinghouse to publicize all IAA courses being offered across the state.

In response, ISBE has required Academy providers to submit additional information when applying to deliver IAA sessions. This information is now posted on the Educator Certification System (ECS), which will serve as the “centralized clearinghouse.”

The public can now access Academy information through the main ECS website at: http://www.isbe.net/ECS/default.htm.

Information on approved Administrators’ Academy workshop sessions is available under: 1) information on all approved Administrators’ Academies; and 2) workshop sessions scheduled to offer approved Administrators’ Academies.

Data Analysis & Progress Reporting

Health and Immunization Data Collection

The 2008-2009 Student Health Data - Immunization data collection system will be open in IWAS starting Thursday, October 16. The deadline for submitting these data is Saturday, November 15.

URLs for important related documents are provided below.


- Immunization and Compliance with State Law: http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/immunization_requirements.pdf
Eye Examination Data Collection
The 2008-2009 Student Health Data – Vision data collection system will be open in IWAS starting Thursday, October 16. The deadline for submitting these data is June 30, 2009.

URLs for two important related documents are provided below.

· User Guide:
  http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/vision_iwas_guide.pdf

· Data Entry Worksheet:
  http://www.isbe.net/research/xls/eye_exam_wksht.xls

Please share this information with your school nurse or health technician and those responsible for submitting the Eye Examination data to the State Board of Education. Questions may be addressed to Mr. Shafiqul Azam in the ISBE Data Analysis and Progress Reporting Division at 217-782-3950 or mazam@isbe.net.

External Assurance
NCLB Monitoring Instrument
The FY09 NCLB Monitoring Instrument is now available for completion and submission in the IWAS system. The due date is Sunday, November 30th.

All districts receiving NCLB funding are required to submit the document every year. This year a few additional questions have been added to ensure compliance with federal regulations. As before, the previous year’s information will be imported to the document and the district should ensure its accuracy before submitting.

An additional annual requirement is the NCLB Title I Comparability documentation. It is also due by Sunday, November 30th. All districts receiving Title I funds must complete the document. “Exempt” districts must at least fill out and submit the Information page and Section I. Failure to comply may result in program funds being frozen.

If you have questions concerning the Title I Comparability or the Monitoring Instrument, please contact Paul Williams, External Assurance, 217/782-7970 or pwilliam@isbe.net.

SIFA University Offers Second Data Quality Course
The U.S. Department of Education’s National Forum on Education Statistics released the second of two online courses for local education agencies. These two courses, which focus on improving education data, have been developed by the National Forum on Education Statistics, and in cooperation with the Schools Interoperability Framework Association (SIFA), the Council of Chief State School Officers and the Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit.

The second course, Improving Education Data Part 2—Coordinating Data Quality, is now available. This course looks at information for data coordinators/stewards around the responsibilities of their role and planning quality data initiatives for local education agencies (LEAs). The eight lessons in this course center on the data coordinator/steward responsibilities, data flow and cycles, data entry, creation and use of a data dictionary, development of a data calendar, types of data errors, validation and audit of data, and communication.

Each of these courses is based upon the Forum’s Data Quality Curriculum Task Force’s curriculum resource and is available free of charge to LEAs or anyone interested in taking the courses through SIFA University. Providing professional development for LEAs around quality data is vital in analyzing longitudinal data and ultimately improving teaching and learning.

To access SIFA courses, visit http://sifinfo.org/sifau.asp.

· Data Entry Worksheet: http://www.isbe.net/research/xls/immunization_worksheet.xls

· How to Calculate Actual Unduplicated Count: http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/UnduplicatedCount.pdf

Please share this information with your school nurse or health technician and those responsible for submitting the Health/Immunization data to the State Board of Education. Questions may be addressed to Mr. Shafiqul Azam in the ISBE Data Analysis and Progress Reporting Division at 217-782-3950 or mazam@isbe.net.
Curriculum & Instruction

Fall Networking for Information Symposium

The Fall Networking for Information (NFI) Symposium is scheduled for Wednesday, November 5, and Thursday, November 6, at Eagle Ridge Inn & Resort in Galena.

The symposium offers two sessions from which to choose: “Enhancing Education with Online and Electronic Games” and “On Being a Better Technology Leader: Choices & Journeys.” Curriculum coordinators and classroom teachers will find the first session of particular interest; technology coordinators will appreciate either session.

To register for Fall Networking for Information, go to http://www.kidsroe.org/KIDS/Catalog/Class.cfm?clsNumber=4726 or call LoriAnne Ludemann at 815-921-8475.

Nutrition

Commodity Training Available

Three half-day training sessions are scheduled for those of you who would like better management of U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) commodities. These trainings will focus on the Illinois Commodity System, placing the annual commodity order, diversions to processors, the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program, and monthly processes.

Training Dates and Locations

Nov. 21—Fairview Heights, Four Points by Sheraton
Dec. 1—Springfield, Illinois Education Association
Dec. 16—Rolling Meadows, Holiday Inn

Registration for all trainings begins at noon with training from 12:30 to 4 p.m. Register for this free training at: http://webprod1.isbe.net/cnscalendar/asp/EventList.asp.

Reprocessed Commodity Taste Test

The annual reprocessed commodity taste test is scheduled for Wednesday, November 5, in Bloomington at the Interstate Center. If you have never diverted commodities to a processor or if you divert every year, we encourage you to attend this event to learn about options available when processing commodities.

The taste test will allow you to try the different commodities that will be available for the 2010 school year. There is no cost and you need not divert commodities to attend. A brief presentation will explain the commodity reprocessing before the taste tests begin.

The Illinois School Nutrition Association (ISNA) is sponsoring the event. For more information or to register, go to the ISNA’s website at http://www.ilsna.net/.

Bridging the Gap in School Meal Service Procurement Training

All school food authorities (SFAs) conducting a new procurement or considering contracting for school meal services for the 2009—2010 school year are highly encouraged to attend Bridging the Gap in School Meal Service Procurement training.

The training is designed to assist SFAs who contract or are seeking to contract for meal services with a food service management company or meal vendor in meeting all requirements associated with the Invitation for Bid and Contract process.

Registration begins at 8 a.m. with training held from 8:30 a.m.—3 p.m. For dates, locations and pre-registration information, go to: http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/workshops.htm.

Important note: The date previously announced for the Gurnee location has been changed to Wednesday, November 19.

School Business Services

Annual Statement of Affairs

Section 10-17 of the School Code (105 ILCS 5/10-17) requires school districts and joint agreements to publish the Annual Statement of Affairs (ASA - ISBE Form 50-37). The ASA form must be completed and published in the residing district’s local newspaper by December 1, annually, and submitted to ISBE by December 15, annually. ISBE must publish the reports on its website by January 15, annually.

Instructions for FY 2008 ASA publication and submission are posted on the ISBE website. The form is located at www.isbe.net, Select Division Links under Fiscal Support Services, then School Business Services,
Forms and Annual Statement of Affairs. The direct link is: http://www.isbe.net/sfms/afm/asp.htm.

New Rule for Contracts Exceeding $25,000
In January 2008, the school code [105 ILCS 5/10-17] was amended to add requirements concerning Contracts Exceeding $25,000, beginning with FY2008, in conjunction with submission of the ASA. The new provisions include the following requirements:

1. A school board must list on the district’s Internet website all contracts over $25,000.
2. In conjunction with submitting the ASA to ISBE by December 15, the district shall submit an annual report on all contracts over $25,000. The excel spreadsheet labeled “Contracts Exceeding $25,000” will be used by all school districts (excluding Joint Agreements) and is included in the ASA (ISBE Form 50-37).

For complete details, see Guidance for Reporting Requirements on Contracts Exceeding $25,000 at: http://www.isbe.net/sfms/afm/guidance_contracts.pdf.

For further questions on the new rule, contact the School Business Services Division at 217-785-8779 or by e-mail at finance1@isbe.net.

School Budgets due October 31
Reminder: All school district budgets must be adopted within or before the first quarter of each fiscal year. Joint agreement budgets must be adopted annually by September 1.

All budgets must be entered and adopted on the applicable form provided by the State Board at: http://www.isbe.net/sfms/budget/2009/budget.htm.

The School District Budget Form 50-36 must be submitted electronically to ISBE within 30 days of adoption and no later than Friday, October 31.

In accordance with PA 94-0234 and beginning Friday, October 31, ISBE will send notifications to school districts that are not in compliance with the budget adoption process.

Limitation of Administrative Costs Worksheet

School districts must complete and submit the Limitation of Administrative Costs Worksheet - Section 17-1.5 to the State Board of Education’s School Business Services Division by Friday, November 14. The Illinois School Code requires school districts to limit the growth of “administrative” expenditures to a maximum of 5 percent from one fiscal year to the next. The provisions of Section 17-1.5 took effect July 1998.

School districts with administrative expenditures per pupil in the 25th percentile or below (4th quartile) that wish to waive the administrative cap via a school board resolution must:
1. Publish notice of a public hearing.
2. Conduct a public hearing.
3. Have an appropriate waiver resolution approved by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the school board members.
4. File a copy of such resolution with the State Board of Education within 45 days of approval.

The Limitation of Administrative Costs Worksheet, quartile rankings for all school districts, and a sample waiver resolution for qualifying districts can be accessed at: www.isbe.net/sfms/AdminCaps/AdminCaps.htm.

Additionally, the worksheet is included in the Illinois School District Annual Financial Report – June 30, 2008 (ISBE 50-35). The worksheet included in the School District Budget Form July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009 (ISBE 50-36) is a working document for local use only and will not be accepted for official submission. Worksheets will be verified with the district’s School District Budget Form July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009 (ISBE 50-36) and the district’s Annual Financial Report – June 30, 2008 (ISBE 50-35). Inaccurate worksheets will be returned to districts for correction.

For questions, contact Michelle Heninger at mheninge@isbe.net or Christine Kolaz, both of whom are in School Business Services at 217-785-8779.

Legal
Assignment of Students to Elementary and Secondary Schools

The Office for Civil Rights (OCR) in the U.S. Department of Education issued the attached guidance in order to provide state educational agencies and local
educational agencies with information about how OCR assesses the use of race in assigning students to schools.

The purpose of this guidance is to ensure that students are assigned to elementary and secondary schools on a nondiscriminatory basis consistent with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and its implementing regulations at 34 C.F.R. Part 100.

We encourage you to share with your staff the information in the letter that is linked below. To view the Title VI Assignment of Students Letter click here: [http://www.edpubs.org/lyris/8-29-08TitleVIAssignmentDearColleagueLtr.pdf](http://www.edpubs.org/lyris/8-29-08TitleVIAssignmentDearColleagueLtr.pdf).

**Lincoln Bicentennial**

**Signed, Sealed, Delivered**

The Illinois Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission has launched a statewide envelope design contest with categories for kindergartners through adults. Winning designs will be featured on special limited-edition envelopes to be sold before and during **February 2009**.

The State Board of Education is a coordinating partner with the Commission by serving to enlist schools and students to participate in the envelope design contest. Contestants are not limited to students in Illinois schools, but anyone and everyone interested in participating in the Bicentennial art contest. Winners will be recognized in Springfield on **February 12, 2009**.

The U.S. Postal Service will offer a special Bicentennial cancellation on Lincoln’s 200th Birthday, **February 12, 2009**, at the Old State Capitol Historic Site in Springfield. Those who purchase the Bicentennial envelopes will have the opportunity to cancel them that day for a truly one-of-a-kind collectible. Funds raised from the sale of the envelopes will benefit the Tinsley Project, the effort to turn the Lincoln-Herndon Law Offices building in downtown Springfield into a living history site, complete with Post Office identical to the one that operated in the building from 1841-1849. Next February, the U.S. Postal Service will also issue a block of four stamps to commemorate Lincoln’s 200th Birthday.

The top 200 envelope designs submitted will be used to create an exhibit entitled "Lincoln: As We Know Him" in the Old State Capitol during February and July 2009.

Those interested in submitting artwork for consideration should follow the rules and requirements below:

1. The categories for design entries include students in grades K – 7 and grades 8 – high school; college students and adult amateur artists; and adult professional artists. Please designate the category you are entering.

2. If the entrant is under age 18, the artist release must be submitted by parent, legal guardian or teacher.

3. Entrants must submit artwork that is proportionate to fit on a standard number 10 envelope with enough space left for address and postage.

4. The contest is open to Illinois residents only.

5. Entrants must submit the original, color artwork as a 300dpi or larger jpeg file to hpa.bicentennial@illinois.gov.

6. Entrants will be judged on their representation and interpretation of an image of Abraham Lincoln.

7. Entrants must supply the following information upon submission of artwork: Name, Address, Telephone Number, and E-mail Address.

8. Entries must be received on or before **Saturday, November 1**.

**International Education Week**

**Fostering Global Responsibility & Leadership**

The ninth annual International Education Week is **Monday, November 17**, through **Friday, November 21**. This year’s theme recognizes that all nations must work together to develop future leaders who have an open-minded, comprehensive world view.

The U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of State sponsor the initiative to highlight the importance of international education and exchange.

We encourage you to promote international education during this week and throughout the school year. For activities to commemorate this week, go to: [http://iew.state.gov](http://iew.state.gov).
**Awards & Grants**

**National Excellence in Urban Education Award**

The National Center for Urban School Transformation (NCUST) is accepting applications for the Excellence in Urban Education Award. The award recognizes the dedication and talent or urban school educators and students. Districts are encouraged to nominate schools for this award.

Ten schools will receive the 2009 Excellence in Urban Education Award. Winners will be announced at the NCUST Symposium in San Diego on **May 7-8, 2009**. They will receive travel costs and a check for $1,000 among other prizes.

The application deadline is **Friday, November 14**. For eligibility criteria and application information go to [http://www.ncust.org](http://www.ncust.org), e-mail ncust@mail.sdsu.edu or call 619-594-7905.

**IVPA Youth-Led Mini Grants**

The Illinois Violence Prevention Authority (IVPA) and its Youth Advisory Board (YAB) are pleased to announce the release of the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the FY 09 Youth-Led Violence Prevention Mini Grant. The RFP is available on IVPA's website, [www.ivpa.org](http://www.ivpa.org). Community organizations and government agencies are eligible to apply for 12-month grants (1/1/09-12/31/09) for up to $5,000 to implement youth-led violence prevention projects.

The Youth Led Mini Grants will allow youth and community agencies to develop or enhance youth violence prevention programming. The purpose of this grant is to support youth efforts in identifying resources and community issues, and designing and implementing projects that address and prevent youth violence. Additionally, the grant encourages youth leadership, empowerment and peer recognition.

In partnership with the Illinois Center for Violence Prevention (ICVP), IVPA and YAB members will be hosting Bidders Conferences throughout the state. The Bidders Conferences are geared toward youth, and we strongly encourage youth attendance at the workshop in your area. Participants will be provided with an overview of the RFP and budget requirements in addition to a mini-training on positive youth development and violence prevention.

Please refer to the IVPA website at [www.ivpa.org](http://www.ivpa.org) for the Bidders Conference schedule or to download the RFP.

For questions about IVPA or the RFP, contact **Sara Moffitt** at 312-814-8261 or sara.moffitt@illinois.gov. For questions about ICVP or YAB, contact **Brooke Tafoya** at 312-986-9200 or btafoya@icvp.org.

**Professional Development Opportunities**

**High School to College Success Report Regional Meetings**

A series of regional meetings are planned for this fall to discuss the pilot Illinois High School to College Success Report. The State Board of Education, Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE), and Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) have developed the report, which will be piloted in early 2009.

The regional meetings will be held to inform secondary and postsecondary educators about the pilot report and how the data may be used to support and promote collaborative discussions among its stakeholders. Participants are encouraged to attend one of the regional meetings as a team. For secondary entities, consider inviting the district superintendent, principal, curriculum director, department chairs, union representative and guidance counselor. For postsecondary entities, consider inviting the chief academic officer, admissions officer, and other staff.

**Regional Meeting Dates & Sites:**

**Thursday, Oct. 30:** College of DuPage, Glen Ellyn

**Wednesday, Nov. 5:** Southwestern Illinois College, Belleville

**Thursday, Dec. 4:** Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield

**Tuesday, Dec. 16:** Harold Washington College, Chicago

To register for a regional meeting go to: [http://www2.learningpt.org/ILHS2008/](http://www2.learningpt.org/ILHS2008/).

There is no registration cost and breakfast and lunch will be provided. Please register no later than one week before the meeting date.
For questions about the pilot Illinois High School to College Success Report contact:

- **Mark Williams**, Illinois State Board of Education, mawillia@isbe.net or 217-782-4620;
- **Brian Durham**, Illinois Community College Board, Brian.Durham@illinois.gov or 217-524-5502; or
- **Debbie Meisner-Bertauski**, Illinois Board of Higher Education, meisner-bertauski@ibhe.org or 217-757-7357.

### 17th Annual Illinois HIV/STD Conference

The State Board of Education is again co-sponsoring the 17th Annual HIV/STD Conference, *A New Frontier: Integrating Medicine, Services & Technology*. The conference is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 28**, through **Thursday, October 30**, at the Hilton Springfield Hotel.

The goal of the conference is to provide new ideas and practical information to assist in developing a comprehensive approach to prevent the further spread of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).


A limited number of scholarships waiving the registration fee are available for Illinois teachers and school staff. For further information, contact **Glenn Steinhausen** at 217/557-7323 or gsteinha@isbe.net.

### Fine Arts Conference

Meeting The Challenge XIX, a fine arts conference for educators, is scheduled for **Tuesday, November 18**, at Sauk Valley Community College near Dixon, Illinois. The conference theme is *Integrating the Fine Arts into the Core Curriculum*. The conference is being arranged by the Whiteside Regional Office of Education and Sauk Valley Community College.

Three workshop sessions will be held in drama, visual arts, and music and dance. Many sessions are hands-on and will provide curriculum that participants can duplicate in their classrooms. This year, several sessions will highlight the Lincoln Bicentennial Celebration. Participants will receive 5 CPDUs for attending.

Registrations postmarked by **Friday, October 31**, will be eligible for a discount. Conference information and the registration form can be accessed on the Whiteside Regional Office of Education website at: [www.whitesideroe.org](http://www.whitesideroe.org). For questions or a conference flyer, call 815-625-1495.

### Student Opportunities

#### C-SPAN Studentcam Documentary Contest

The 2009 C-SPAN Studentcam Documentary Contest asks students to create a documentary addressing the following: “What is the most urgent issue for the new president to address and why?”

The national competition invites students in grades 6-8 and 9-12 to enter the contest. Students can upload their entry forms and videos online at: [http://www.studentcam.org/](http://www.studentcam.org/)

A total of $50,000 in prizes will be awarded, which includes 75 student awards and 11 teacher awards. The deadline for entries is 5:00 p.m. (ET), **January 20, 2009**. Winners will be announced **March 10, 2009**. The Grand Prize winner with the best overall entry will receive $5,000, with multiple cash prize awards of $250, $500, $750, $1,500, and $3,000.

Complete contest details and an entry form are available at the competition’s website: [http://www.studentcam.org/](http://www.studentcam.org/)

### 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](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: [http://www.isbe.net/news/2008/newsclips/081010.htm](http://www.isbe.net/news/2008/newsclips/081010.htm)