Upcoming Deadlines

- Educators to Saudi Arabia – November 27
- Public Comment on Rules Part 232 (Summer Bridges) and Part 270 (Advanced Placement) - November 27
- Annual Statement of Affairs in local newspapers – December 1
- Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Museum field trip grants – December 15
- Annual Statement of Affairs to ISBE – December 15
- Annual Immigrant Education Program (IEP) Data Report – December 15
- Love Your Veggies™ Grant – December 15
- NCUST Excellence in Education Awards – December 18
- Certificate of Tax Levy – December 26
- Waiver applications to be considered by General Assembly in Spring 2007 – January 12, 2007
- Non-Certified Staff Salary Study - March 31, 2007

Table of Contents

- Upcoming Deadlines ................................................... 1
- Student Assessment ................................................... 1
- Curriculum and Instruction ........................................ 3
- Fiscal Services ............................................................ 3
- English Language Learning ....................................... 3
- United States Department of Education .................... 3
- Federal Grants and Programs .................................... 3
- Student Opportunities................................................. 4
- Research and Resources............................................ 4
- Professional Development ......................................... 5
- Illinois Department of Public Health .......................... 5
- Nutrition ....................................................................... 5
- Employment Opportunities ........................................ 4
- In the News .................................................................. 4

Student Assessment

ACCESS for ELLs® - Pre-ID label information

The pre-ID labels for the ACCESS for ELLs® language proficiency test will be handled differently than last year.

ISBE Student Assessment has made changes to help TBE/TPI coordinators and district staff in charge of Limited English Proficient (LEP) services.

ISBE will pull all the names and student demographic information for LEP students in grades Kindergarten through 12 from the Student Information System (SIS). Every student identified as LEP will receive a pre-ID label for ACCESS.

Districts are encouraged to make sure that LEP students have their State ID numbers and current demographic information entered into SIS before November 22, 2006. ISBE vendor MetriTech will use this information to produce the pre-ID labels which will be sent to districts around January 9, 2007.
Data Analysis

Non-Certified Staff Salary Study Survey

Beginning with the 2006-2007 school year, the paper-based Non-certified Staff Salary Survey will be replaced by a web-based online system. School districts are requested to submit their Non-certified Staff Salary data online via a secure connection over the Internet known as ISBE Web Application Security (IWAS). The system will be opened for data entry on March 1, 2007 and the last date for submission of data is March 31, 2007.

Technology Services

ROE Accounting Package phase-out

Based on the results of a survey of the ten Regional Offices of Education (ROE) still using the Regional Office of Education Accounting Package (RAP) ISBE has made the determination to permanently phase RAP out on July 1, 2008.

The phase-out period will allow the ROEs currently using the RAP system to use that system for one more fiscal year cycle (2007-2008 ending June 30, 2008). For assistance on other accounting packages please contact Scott Norton at 217-558-3617 or by email at snorton@isbe.net.

Government Relations

Epinephrine auto-injectors

This year Public Act (PA) 94-0792 was passed, expanding the 2001 law allowing children to carry asthma inhalers, to include epinephrine auto-injectors (Epi-Pens).

An epinephrine auto-injector is a disposable medical device for immediate self-administration by a person with a risk of anaphylaxis, which is a severe allergic reaction to insect bites/stings, foods, drugs and other allergies, including exercise-induced anaphylaxis. Students are permitted to carry this medication for self-administration as prescribed while at school and while participating in school events if the school has received the written consent of the physician, the parent and the parent acknowledges with his or her signature that the school incurs no liability due to the self-administration or medicine by the pupil.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Matt Maloney at the American Lung Association Metropolitan Chicago for more information: mmaloney@alamic.org.

PA 94-0792 is available online at: http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/billstatus.asp?DocNum=2898&GAID=8&GA=94&DocTypeID=SB&LegID=24007&SessionID=50

Curriculum and Instruction

Arts and Foreign Language RFP

ISBE will release an RFP for Arts and Foreign Language Assistance Planning Grants on December 1, 2006. Eligible applicants are school districts, public university laboratory schools, charter schools and area career centers. The purpose of the grant is to provide resources to plan for initiating, expanding or improving instruction in arts or foreign language. Applicants are required to attend one of three bidders’ conferences scheduled in Bloomington on December 6, Schaumburg on December 7 or Carbondale on December 12. For further information, contact Roberta Volkmann at rvolkman@isbe.net or 217/557-7323.

Fiscal Services

Illinois Textbook Loan Program

The Illinois Textbook Loan Program will open for school ordering November 15, 2006 and will close on March 15, 2007. The Fiscal Year 2007 program will service grades 9-12. ISBE sent out school packages November 8, 2006, to all administrators with grades nine through 12 students. If you have any questions, please call 217-782-0734.

English Language Learning

Celebrating Our Gains, Expanding Our Aims

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) Division of English Language Learning in cooperation with the Illinois Association for Multilingual Multicultural Education and Illinois Resource Center, invites educators to "Celebrating Our Gains, Expanding Our Aims, the 30th Annual Statewide Conference for Teachers of Linguistically and Culturally Diverse Students, December 11 through 14, 2006.

The conference will be held at the Oakbrook Hills Marriott Resort, 3500 Midwest Road, Oakbrook, Illinois 60523, phone 630-850-5555.

More than 2500 conference attendees will choose from more than 150 concurrent sessions blending theory and
practice in literacy, content area instruction, academic standards and student assessment. Participants will hear from experts in the field including: Tim Boals, Carlos Cortez, Fred Genesee, Kenji Hakuta, Else Hamayan, Kathryn Lindholm-Leary, Robert Marzano and Donna Ogle.

For more information, visit http://www.thecenterweb.org/irc/index.html or call the Illinois Resource Center at 847-803-3112.

Federal Grants and Programs

21st CCLC Workshops to begin November 27

Based on statewide evaluation data, a need for training on the topics of sustainability and evaluation of local 21st CCLC programs was identified. Therefore, beginning on November 27, ISBE will provide Sustainability Workshops in the Chicago area and in Springfield. Evaluation Workshops, which will assist grantees with measuring the success of their local programs, will be provided during January and February of 2007. These January trainings will be held in Chicago, Matteson and Springfield.

Each grantee should check the 21st CCLC list serv for specific details regarding registration for these workshops. Other questions may be directed to Gail Meisner, Federal Grants and Programs Division, 217-524-4832.

Final School Improvement Planning Audio Conference set

Access Info and materials now available

ISBE will host the final audio conference session to talk about the requirements and timelines for revised school improvement plans. The final session will be held December 12 from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Please access School Improvement under Hot Topics on the ISBE home page for access information for these audio conferences and to download materials pertinent to the audio conference.

Schools currently in Academic Warning and Watch Status are encouraged to participate in one of these sessions. Schools with preliminary data indicating academic status should also participate.

Schools that have not made adequate yearly progress (AYP) for two consecutive years are required to revise their school improvement plans. Schools have three months to revise their plans following notification of academic status. Though not required to revise their plans at this time, schools in Academic Warning and Watch status with approved plans on file with ISBE for FY07 are welcome to participate in these sessions. ROE and RESPRO staff serving schools in status are encouraged to participate in these sessions.

Notification of status related to the state assessment results will start the clock ticking for revising school improvement plans. As soon as final notification occurs, schools will have the full three months for planning, followed by a 45 day peer review process and local board approval. At the end of that period, district superintendents must post the approved plans using the Illinois e-Plan School Improvement Template at the Interactive Illinois Report Card website http://iirc.niu.edu/. Please contact Federal Grants and Programs at 217-524-4832 with any questions about these audio conferences.

Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities needs assessment online

In an effort to provide the best prevention program information and quality statewide, ISBE has developed an online questionnaire that addresses different facets of the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities (SDFSC) programs: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=295452814037

The questionnaire focuses on district needs related to prevention in the areas of school safety, substance abuse/addiction topics, cultural competence, policy, curricular, prevention research and evaluation. ISBE will use the information to develop improved prevention education.

Answers will be confidential and reported by region. While completing the questionnaire is strictly voluntary, ISBE encourages districts to participate. ISBE will share the results during the Illinois Statewide 2007 NCLB Conference, February 14 through 16, 2007.

If you have questions, please contact Albert Holmes at 312-814-3618 or aholmes@isbe.net.

Student Opportunities

Illinois Fatherhood Initiative—“What My Father Means to Me”

- Each student is asked to write a 250 word (or less) essay on the theme “What My Father Means to Me,” describing their relationship with their father or father figure. Father figures can
include: uncles, brothers, coaches or other persons of influence to the student.

- Each student will receive a Certificate of Participation as well as coupons for other prizes. Each student will also have a chance to win a $1,000 Bright Start college scholarship and an invitation to the May 2007 Faces of Fatherhood Celebration at U.S. Cellular Field.
- The Top 100 Schools that participate in the Essay Contest will be awarded a Best Buy Gift Card, compliments of IFI.
- Twelve of the essay finalists and their Fathers or Father Figures will be invited to attend the June, 2007 IFI Fatherhood Celebration Dinner in Chicago.
- Essay contest materials will be available online in November at http://www.4fathers.org.
- The contest officially begins on December 1, 2006. Essays must be postmarked on or before Friday March 9, 2007.

Professional Development

Meeting The Challenge XVII fine arts conference planned

Meeting The Challenge XVII, a fine arts conference for all educators, has been planned for January 5, 2007 at Sauk Valley Community College, outside Dixon, Illinois. The theme of this fine arts conference arranged by the Whiteside Regional Office of Education and Sauk Valley Community College is Integrating the Fine Arts into the Core Curriculum.

Three workshop sessions will be available to each participant in the areas of drama, visual arts, music and dance. Many of the sessions are hands-on and will provide curriculum which participants should be able to duplicate in their classrooms. The full day of activities will be awarded 5 CPDUs. Registrations postmarked by Friday, December 8, 2006 will be eligible for an early-bird discount and confirmations of registrations will follow by FAX.

Full conference information, including registration form, is available on the Whiteside Regional Office of Education website of www.whitesideroe.org. For further questions or to request a flyer, please contact 815-625-1495.

University of Illinois announces new cohort-based program in Oak Brook

The Department of Educational Organization and Leadership at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is offering a new cohort-based program in Oak Brook beginning Summer 2007. Prospective students can pursue either the Master of Education or Advanced Certificate degree. The Oak Brook based Educational Administration Program is designed to meet both the degree requirements of the College of Education and the certification requirements for the State of Illinois General Administrative Endorsement (Type 75). Admitted students will enter the cohort program together and continue through their course work as a group. Applications for admission to the fall cohort must be submitted by April 2, 2007. An informational meeting is scheduled at the Multi-University Center, 1010 Jorie Boulevard in Oak Brook from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, December 6, 2006. For more information on the program or informational meeting, please visit: http://www.ed.uiuc.edu/eol/edadmin/home.html

Upcoming November Events at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum

- For more information about the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum visit us online at http://www.alplm.org/intro_0a_content.html or email HPA.ALPLM.Events@illinois.gov.

Nutrition

Illinois Schools Can! initiative to start

The Illinois Nutrition Education and Training (NET) Program will soon implement an Illinois Schools Can! initiative to assist elementary schools in taking the HealthierUS School Challenge. Components of this two year initiative include an electronic newsletter, migrant opportunities that support schools taking the HealthierUS School Challenge and a statewide Principals Step and Crunch Challenge that will enlist principals, teachers, students, parents and foodservice professionals to serve as role models for students in practicing healthy eating and being physically active.

Watch http://www.kidseatwell.org/ for more information to be posted soon. In the interim, please call NET 800/466-7998 to find out how you can be involved!
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: