Message from Interim State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

Good afternoon.

As I enter my second week as interim, I am reminded by the extensive work taking place on behalf of Illinois students. As the central prairie became covered with ice and snow, districts responded with closings keeping student safety a priority. Communities pulled together to assist those without power opening gymnasiums and auditoriums. State offices, including our own, managed to conduct business even while employees’ homes were dark and cold. Illinoisans never fail to impress me.

This week’s board meeting will include action on proposed state regulations for special education. I appreciate the extensive public comment the agency has received on the proposed regulations. We have modified the proposed regulations to accommodate many of the concerns raised. My recommendation to the board will continue to focus on the need to for districts to provide interventions when they first see children failing, regardless of a label or use of a discrepancy model. Further, the recommendations to our board on class size take a clear position on the potential damage that results from the categorical treatment of children and make it clear that caseload determinations should be the domain of local districts and not state agencies. The state regulation proposals that will go before our board are stronger because of the public involvement in the process. For those wishing to see the final version please go to http://www.isbe.net/board/meetings/dec06/part_226_sped.pdf.

As you will see in the Student Assessment article below, we have posted Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) determinations for elementary, junior high and middle schools online. Appeals on AYP determinations for these schools are due January 10, 2007.

Chris Koch

Upcoming Deadlines

- Annual Statement of Affairs to ISBE – December 15
- Annual Immigrant Education Program (IEP) Data Report – December 15
- Love Your Veggies™ Grant – December 15
- Application for School Recognition – December 15
- NCUST Excellence in Education Awards – December 18
- Certificate of Tax Levy – December 26
- AYP Appeals, Elementary, Middle, Junior High – January 10
- Waiver applications to be considered by General Assembly in Spring 2007 – January 12, 2007
- Non-Certified Staff Salary Study - March 31, 2007
Student Assessment

AYP determinations posted for elementary, junior high and middle schools

Final 2006 Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) school results are now available through IWAS to superintendents for elementary and junior high/middle schools that contain any grades three through eight, but no grades higher than eight. AYP was calculated for the first time for schools in the non-SIS districts and recalculated for schools in the SIS districts. Elementary District AYP will be available this week. High school/district AYP results are still unavailable. AYP will not be made public by ISBE until School Report Cards are publicly posted.

With this notification of final AYP, schools with grades 3 through 8 who want to appeal have 30 calendar days to submit a letter to ISBE. These letters need to be sent to the Illinois State Board of Education and post marked by January 10, 2007. For more information about the appeal process, please call Andrea Wingo at 217-782-2223 or email awingo@isbe.net. (Appeals based on final AYP for high schools and districts should be submitted after final AYP for high schools and districts has been determined.)

Please go to http://www.isbe.net/assessment/ and click on Process to Appeal School or District Improvement Status or http://www.isbe.net/assessment/pdfs/appeals_status.pdf.

Assessing Limited English Proficient Students

Section 14C-3 of the Illinois School Code and Section 228.25(c) (1) and (3) of the Administrative Code require school districts to assess each student who has been identified as having limited English proficiency (LEP).

Thus, all identified LEP students must be assessed during the annual ACCESS examination each year until he or she achieves a “proficient” score. As a result, Friday, January 12 has been established as the final date for identifying LEP students.

School districts are strongly encouraged to see http://www.isbe.net/assessment/default.htm and http://www.isbe.net/bilingual/htmls/access.htm for links to ACCESS, the annual examination for English language proficiency.

Accountability

Annual Application for Recognition of Public Schools

If you have not submitted the Annual Application for Recognition of Public Schools as of this date, please follow the directions for submission via your respective Regional Superintendent’s Office as soon as possible. The original due date was extended 30 days this year and ISBE Accountability still has several outstanding applications. These must be received in this office (via the respective Regional Superintendent’s Office) no later than the close of business on December 15, 2006 to ensure that the recognition status of your district/school will not be affected.

If you have any questions, please contact Henri Fonville or Lynne Robinson in ISBE’s Accountability Division at 217-782-2948.

Student Opportunities

Hearst Scholarship winners selected

Congratulations! Over the course of two days of interviews with 18 semi-finalists, a three-judge ISBE panel has selected two high school students to represent Illinois in the 45th annual William Randolph Hearst/United States Senate Youth Program. First and second alternates were also selected.

Illinois’ representatives and alternates are:
- Nicholas Hanson of United High School in Monmouth
- Lian States of Fairfield Community High School in Fairfield
- First alternate: Blair Baldwin of Whitney M. Young Magnet High School in Chicago
- Second alternate: Andrew Schroeder of Warren Township High School in Gurnee

The two student representatives will participate in an all-expenses-paid week-long educational trip to Washington, D.C., March 3 through 10, 2007, where they will visit legislators, policy-makers and museums. Each will also receive a $5000 college scholarship.

Data Analysis

2006-07 Non-public Enrollment

Please find enrollment reported to the Illinois State Board of Education from all non-public schools as of November 28, 2006 online at: http://www.isbe.net/research/xls/np_enrollment_07.xls.
There are two spreadsheets provided; one is sorted in Region-County-District-Type order by school district and the other is sorted alphabetically by district name. Each non-public school that voluntarily chose to report its 2006-07 enrollment is connected by jurisdiction to the corresponding public school district. Please note that reported non-public enrollment cannot be changed; however, non-public schools which are not listed may report their enrollment as of September 30, 2006 to the Illinois State Board of Education via IWAS.

Non-public schools that have not reported enrollment data to the Illinois State Board of Education are strongly encouraged to do so as it greatly impacts the amount of Federal funding under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) for each school district. Information on how public and non-public enrollment affects IDEA district allocations can be found at http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/idea_calc_np_prop_share.pdf. Transmission will be open for non-public schools that have not reported their enrollment for the majority of this school year.

Questions regarding non-public enrollment should be directed to the Division of Data Analysis and Progress Reporting at 217-782-3950.

Questions regarding the IDEA allocation process should be directed to the Division of Funding and Disbursement Services at 217-782-5256.

Further information about the call-in session is available at: http://www.isbe.state.il.us/CSR/html/conference.htm.

ISBE advises administrators of school in academic status to review student progress from other available local data, to identify the degree to which instruction is aligned to the Illinois Learning Standards and to measure the progress of strategies and activities in their existing school plans. The resulting information from these activities will assist in determining priorities for the required plan once state assessment data are finalized. It is imperative that schools continue to work towards eliminating achievement gaps in the school.

**Funding and Disbursement**

**FRIS Inquiry on ISBE Homepage**

The Financial Reimbursement Information System Inquiry is now located at the top of the ISBE Homepage. FRIS Inquiry is a useful tool that provides state and federal grant information to all local education agencies. Entities can search by their organization name or Region-County-District-Type code to retrieve grant information as far back as 1995. There are useful summary reports including due dates for filing expenditure reports, projects with frozen payments as well as a summary of all grant payments that can be generated by dates entered by the user. A useful “Help” link for navigation is located at the top of the FRIS Inquiry homepage. If you have further questions regarding FRIS Inquiry please contact the Division of Funding and Disbursement Services at 217-782-5256.

**ROE Services**

**Physical Fitness Facility Medical Emergency Preparedness Act**

The Illinois Department of Public Health has released a memorandum that addresses important issues pertaining to the Physical Fitness Facility Medical Emergency Preparedness Act (210 ILCS 74), also known as the Colleen O’Sullivan Law. The law and related rules mandate the use of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) in certain settings. Although the law was enacted January 1, 2005, the volume of questions and concerns prompted the Illinois Department of Public Health to release this memorandum in hopes of clarifying the issue. The memorandum can be accessed on the Division of ROE Services website at http://www.isbe.net/regionaloffices/.

Please forward this information as necessary. Please contact Brandy Lane at the Illinois Department of Public Health at Brandy.Lane@illinois.gov or 217-785-2080 for more information.
Special Education

**IDEA 2004: Issues, Implications and Strategies in the Development of Transitions Plans and Understanding State Performance Plan Indicators 13 and 14**

The Special Education Leadership Academy and Illinois State Board of Education present *IDEA 2004: Issues, Implications and Strategies in the Development of Transitions Plans and Understanding State Performance Plan Indicators 13 and 14* which will provide an intensive look at the issues in regard to IDEA 2004 and the State Performance Plan Indicators 13 and 14.

The primary focus will be Indicator 13 and the development of transition plans. After a brief overview of the transition components outlined in IDEA 2004, participants will focus on the development of transition plans that are reflective of the Indicator 13 requirements and most importantly, transition plans that will lead to successful outcomes for students with disabilities. Data entry will be discussed briefly as will issues involving Indicator 14.

Speaker **Sue Walter** is a transition Consultant for the Illinois State Board of Education Special Education Services Division. She previously served as the Training and Technical Assistance Coordinator for the Transition Outreach Training for Adult Living Project (TOTAL), a federal outreach training grant administered by the Illinois State Board of Education. In this capacity, she developed a variety of transition-related training materials and has traveled around the state to reach educators, parents, students and community providers on topics related to secondary transition.

Choose the date and location most convenient for you:

**Northern Illinois**
- January 11, 2007
  - Holiday Inn, 18501 S. Harlem, Tinley Park/708-444-1100
- January 12, 2007
  - Prairie View Golf Course, Byron/815-234-4653

**Central Illinois**
- February 7, 2007
  - Ashland House, 201 E. Ashland, Morton/309-263-5116
- February 8, 2007
  - Holiday Inn, 1001 Killarney, Urbana/217-328-7900

**Southern Illinois**
- February 15, 2007
  - Holiday Inn, 222 Potomac Blvd, Mt. Vernon/618-244-7100

**February 19, 2007**
- Holiday Inn, 1000 Eastport Plaza Drive, Collinsville, IL 618-345-2800

Registration: 8:30 to 9 a.m.; Program: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Continuing Professional Development Units (CPDUs) and Social Work Continuing Education Units will be available to participants who attend the workshop.

$25.00 Registration fee, lunch included. Please make checks payable to: *Woodford County Special Education Association.*

**Name_________________________________________**
**Position_______________________________________**
**City_____________________State______Zip_________**
**Phone_________________Email____________________**

Mail registration fee to:
Woodford County Special Education Association
205 S. Engelwood Drive, Metamora, IL 61548
Phone 309-367-4901 Fax 309-367-4905

Please direct registration questions to: **Joan Hartnett,**
Phone: 309-367-4901, Email: jhartnet@schools.mtco.com

Cancellation Policy - If you cannot attend, please call at least seven working days prior to the workshop date to cancel your reservation. No refund will be given after that date, but alternates will be accepted when original registrant cannot be present at the workshop.

**Illinois Department of Public Health**

**Recommendations to limit pertussis transmission and control pertussis outbreaks in Illinois secondary schools**

Pertussis (also called “whooping cough”) is a bacterial respiratory infection that spreads from person-to-person with close contact. Coughing episodes can persist for up to 10 weeks and, in between coughing episodes, it is not unusual for infected individuals to be symptom free.

More than 470 cases of pertussis have been reported in Illinois this year. A significant proportion of these cases have occurred among secondary school students. This is because the protection received from pertussis vaccination administered in early childhood begins to wear off after five-years to 10-years, leaving pre-teens...
and teenagers, as well as adults, at risk for this highly contagious illness.

The impact of pertussis in a population of susceptible students may result in the following outcomes:
- Pertussis is not life-threatening to most healthy secondary school students, this group may be in contact with younger children, infants and children with chronic illnesses who are a high risk of developing serious complications of pertussis, including pneumonia, seizures and death.
- Pertussis outbreaks in schools, in which numerous students are ill, often last for many months and can be disruptive to academic, athletic and extracurricular activities.
- If students with pertussis from your school are not properly treated and restricted from extracurricular activities, they may spread pertussis to students at other schools, thereby creating the potential for new outbreaks.

Measures that can be taken to help limit the impact of pertussis on your school and community include vaccination and identification of students with pertussis

**Vaccination**
In early 2006, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued guidelines regarding use of a cellular pertussis vaccine (TdaP) to prevent pertussis in adolescents. Recommendations for use of this vaccine are outlined in the attached CDC Vaccine Information Statement (VIS), which also contains advice pertinent to vaccination of school nurses and faculty. Parents should be strongly encouraged to contact their children’s health care provider in order to find out if they should receive a pertussis booster shot with TdaP. For more information regarding vaccination, visit: [http://www.immunize.org/vis/tdap.pdf](http://www.immunize.org/vis/tdap.pdf)

**Identification of Students with Pertussis**
Students with characteristic or persistent cough illness should be referred for medical evaluation, which should include evaluation for pertussis. Attached is a pertussis “Health Beat” fact sheet with detailed information about pertussis signs and symptoms. Physicians and school nurses should report pertussis cases to the local health department within 24 hours of case confirmation in order to help ensure that appropriate public health measures are taken for each case. Schools with pertussis cases should consult with their local health department about performing enhanced surveillance for cough illness that may be due to pertussis. For more information please visit [http://www.idph.state.il.us/public/hb/hbpertus.htm](http://www.idph.state.il.us/public/hb/hbpertus.htm).