

ESEA Flexibility Waiver Request Illinois Stakeholder Meetings

	Meetings	Target Audience	Location
1.	October 14, 2011	Statewide System of Support Coordinators	Utica, Illinois
2.	November 29, 2011	Core Stakeholder Vetting Group Superintendents, Teachers, Principals	Bloomington, Illinois
3.	November 29, 2011	Illinois Association of Title I Directors	Springfield, Illinois
4.	November 30, 2011	Title I Consolidated Community of Practitioners	Springfield and Chicago – V-TEL
5.	December 7-8, 2011	Illinois State Advisory Council ISAC on the Education of Children with Disabilities	Springfield, Illinois
6.	December 5, 2011	Gifted and Talented Advisory Council	Springfield, Illinois
7.	December 6, 2011	Illinois Advisory Council on Bilingual Education	Oak Brook Hills Marriott Resort 3500 Midwest Road Oak Brook, IL 60523
8.	December, 20 2011	Superintendents Stakeholder Group	Springfield, Illinois
9.	January 9, 2012	Educators that work with diverse learners: students with disabilities, students learning English as an additional language, and students from poverty (Title I)	Northern Illinois University Extension Campus Naperville, Illinois
10.	Wednesday, January 25, 2012	Illinois Alliance of Administrators of Special Education (IAASE)	Crowne Plaza Hotel Springfield, IL
11.	Thursday, January 26, 2012	Stakeholder meeting <i>hosted by IEA</i>	3440 Liberty Drive Springfield, IL 62704
12.	Friday, January 27, 2012	Core Stakeholder Vetting Group Superintendents, Teachers, Principals	Holiday Inn & Suites 3202 East Empire Street Bloomington IL 61704
13.	Monday, January 30, 2012	Stakeholder meeting hosted by IEA	1555 Bond St., Suite 121 Naperville, IL 60563-0112
14.	Tuesday, January 31, 2012	Illinois Stakeholders	John A. Logan College and Conference Center Batteau Room (Room F103)

	Meetings	Target Audience	Location
			700 Logan College Road Carterville, IL 62918 Phone – 618-985-3741
15.	Thursday, February 2, 2012	Illinois Stakeholders	President Abraham Lincoln Hotel and Conference Center Main Floor Ballroom 701 East Adams Springfield, IL 62701 Phone - 217-544-8800
16.	Friday, February 3, 2012	Illinois Stakeholders	Rock Falls Hotel “E” Hennepin Room 2105 First Avenue South Rock Falls, IL 61071 Phone – 815-626-5500
17.	February 3, 2012	North Cook ELL Education Service Provider Group	Des Plaines
18.	Monday, February 6, 2012	Title I Consolidated Community of Practitioners	Chicago, Illinois
19.	Tuesday, February 7, 2012	NCLB Conference - ESEA flexibility Request: College and Career Ready Expectations	Sheraton Chicago Hotel and Towers 301 E North Water St, Chicago, IL 60611 (312) 464-1000
20.	Tuesday, February 7, 2012	NCLB Conference - ESEA flexibility Request: State Developed Differentiated Recognition Accountability and Support	Sheraton Chicago Hotel and Towers 301 E North Water St, Chicago, IL 60611 (312) 464-1000
21.	Tuesday, February 7, 2012	NCLB Conference - ESEA flexibility Request: Effective Teachers and Principals	Sheraton Chicago Hotel and Towers 301 E North Water St, Chicago, IL 60611 (312) 464-1000
22.	Tuesday, February 7, 2012	CHSE: Champaign for High School Equity National Urban League, National Council of La Raza, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Leadership Conference on the Civil Rights Education Fund, Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, League of United	Webinar for members.

	Meetings	Target Audience	Location
		Latin American Citizens, National allocation of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials Educational Fund, alliance for Excellent Education, National Indian Education Association, Southeast Asia Resource Action Center	
23.	Wednesday, February 8, 2012	NCLB Conference - ESEA flexibility Request: College and Career Ready Expectations	Sheraton Chicago Hotel and Towers 301 E North Water St, Chicago, IL 60611
24.	Wednesday, February 8, 2012	NCLB Conference - ESEA flexibility Request: State Developed Differentiated Recognition Accountability and Support	Sheraton Chicago Hotel and Towers 301 E North Water St, Chicago, IL 60611
25.	Tuesday, February 7, 2012	NCLB Conference - ESEA flexibility Request: Effective Teachers and Principals	Sheraton Chicago Hotel and Towers 301 E North Water St, Chicago, IL 60611
26.	Friday, February 10, 2012	ACT Now Coalition- Coalition of Afterschool programs	208 S. LaSalle Street – Suite 1490 Chicago, IL 60604
27.	Wednesday, February 15, 2012	Chicago Public Schools Administrative Team	CPS Central Office 125 S. Clark Street Chicago
28.	Wednesday, February 15, 2012	Stakeholders – Hosted by the PTA	Jane Addams Junior High School 700 S. Springinsguth Road, Schaumburg.
29.	Thursday, February 16, 2012	Stakeholders – Hosted by PTA	Morton West HS 2400 S. Home Avenue Berwyn, IL



Illinois State Board of Education

Weekly Message

Gery J. Chico, Chairman
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Christopher A. Koch, Ed.D.
 State Superintendent

Sept. 26, 2011

Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

Late last week President Obama announced his plans to allow states to seek waivers to the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) or the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). It is very likely that we will seek a waiver to NCLB. Philosophically we support the broad principles that have been outlined thus far, but we really do need to see the details and determine the type of flexibility for which we would be eligible, as well as, any and all requirements that need to be put in place by the State and school districts in exchange for such flexibility.

I was at the White House when the President made his announcement, and he made it clear that the goals for ESEA will remain high. He stressed the need to have rigorous standards to challenge students and educators alike to increase America's global competitiveness. Many of you are aware that some feel that the President has overstepped his authority and is trying to circumvent the Congress to modify existing law through the waiver process. My preference remains a newly authorized ESEA; however, short of reauthorization I believe we must explore a waiver opportunity.

The U.S. Department of Education (USED) has outlined areas specifically in which they want to move education through the waiver process, which include requiring states seeking waivers to:

- Adopt college and career ready standards and assessments;
- Develop a new generation of accountability, recognition and support systems; and
- Improve evaluation of principal and teacher effectiveness.

I believe that Illinois is well-positioned to receive a waiver. USED has said that waivers will be available in several areas, but most notably we would have the ability to seek flexibility from: the 2013-14 requirement of 100 percent of students meeting and exceeding state standards; district and school improvement requirements; and additional uses of federal funds.

We have received more than 550 responses to our survey (<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ESEAWaivers>) seeking input from the field as to where you would like to see changes in ESEA. I encourage you to continue to provide input in response to that survey instrument for the next couple of weeks, as we receive additional guidance from the USED. So far, your responses have tracked very closely with the flexibilities that are being offered. More than half of you have said that you favor flexibility for a new accountability model, which is more realistic based on student growth and you also favor additional flexibility to utilize Title I funds for more school-wide activities.

We will be working with the USED staff over the next couple of weeks to better understand the waiver process and we will also continue to analyze the applications to determine what will be required from the state and districts if we do seek a waiver so that we know what our options are and how it will impact our students and educators here in Illinois.

Have a good week.
 Chris

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Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

- Parent Involvement Fall Summit, Hilton Lisle – Oct. 3
- 21st CCLC New Grantee Workshop, Bloomington Marriott Convention Center – Oct. 4
- ARRA FTE jobs and vendor data for the quarter ending Sept. 30 due at ISBE – Oct. 5
- 21st CCLC New Staff Workshop, Bloomington Marriott Convention Center – Oct. 5
- 21st CCLC Fall Workshop, Bloomington Marriott Convention Center – Oct. 6
- 21st CCLC Project Directors Meeting, Bloomington Marriott Convention Center – Oct. 6
- National Dropout Prevention Conference in Schaumburg – Oct. 9-12
- ISBE offices closed for Columbus Day – Oct. 10
- Parent Involvement Fall Summit, The Pavilion Marion – Oct. 11
- Parent Involvement Fall Summit, Double Tree Alsip – Oct. 13
- 2011 Reduction in Force Survey deadline – Oct. 17
- 2011-12 School District Budget form – Adopted by Sept. 30 and due to ISBE by Oct. 30
- Parent Involvement Fall Summit, Hilton Springfield – Nov. 1
- Parent Involvement Regional Summit in Springfield – Nov. 1
- National Refugee and Immigrant Conference: Issues and Innovations in Chicago – Nov. 7-8
- Gifted Advisory Council ISBE Springfield Office – Nov. 8
- 2010-11 LEA Annual Financial Report – Due to ROEs/ISCs Oct. 14 and due to ISBE Nov. 15 (with the exception of those who received an “Extension of Time” approval letter)
- ISBE offices closed for Thanksgiving – Nov. 24 and 25
- FY12 NCLB Monitoring Instrument – Nov. 30
- FY12 NCLB Title I Comparability Analysis – Nov. 30
- 2012 Illinois Arts Education Week Poster Contest deadline – Nov. 30
- FY 12 School Technology Revolving Loan Program (STRLP) application deadline – Dec. 1
- Postmark deadline for waiver applications to be considered by General Assembly in Spring ’12 – Jan. 13

PEAC

Educators Invited to Upcoming Public Forums Scheduled Across the State

Teachers and administrators can weigh in on recommended changes to their evaluation systems at upcoming forums to be held across the state. Meetings will be held from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the following cities:

- Oct. 5: **Waukegan**, Trapp Auditorium, Waukegan High School, 2325 Brookside Ave.
- Oct. 6: **Elgin**, Auditorium, Elgin High School, 1200 Maroon Drive
- Oct. 11: **Lombard**, Glenn Westlake Middle School, 1514 S. Main St.
- Oct. 17: **Belleville**, Belleville-East Campus, 2555 West Boulevard
- Oct. 25: **Marion**, meeting site to be determined
- Oct. 27: **Bloomington**, meeting site to be determined

Additional forums will be held in Chicago and Rock Island – exact dates and sites to be determined.

The 90-minute sessions will provide a chance for educators to learn what the state’s Performance Evaluation Advisory Council of educators and experts has recommended. Participants will have an opportunity to share their thoughts with leaders of the Illinois State Board of Education before the new rules are drafted.

Register at <http://www.teachplus.org/page/regional-educator-forums-123.html>. Watch for additional details under “What’s New?” at <http://www.isbe.net/PEAC/>. For questions, e-mail peacinfo@isbe.net.

U.S. Department of Education

President Obama to Deliver Annual Back-to-School Speech on Sept. 28

President Barack Obama will deliver his third annual Back-to-School Speech at 12:30 p.m. CDT on Wednesday, Sept. 28, 2011. The president will speak at Benjamin Banneker Academic High School in Washington, D.C. Information on a live stream of President Obama’s Back-to-School Speech will be coming soon at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/back-to-school>.

Schools across the country can watch the speech live on MSNBC as a special feature of NBC News' "Education Nation" – part of NBC's weeklong commitment to education reports and programming across the network's shows and platforms beginning Sept. 25. In past years, President Obama has encouraged students to study hard and take responsibility for their education, urging students to set goals, to believe in themselves, and to be the authors of their own destinies.

External Assurance

NCLB Monitoring Instrument and NCLB Title I Comparability

The FY12 NCLB Monitoring Instrument is available for completion and submission in the IWAS system. The due date is Wednesday, Nov. 30.

All districts receiving NCLB funding are required to submit the document every year. As before, the previous year's information will be imported to the document and the district should ensure its accuracy before submitting. Each "Comment/Proof Indicator" should contain documents that support your answers.

There is a sample list of proof indicators on the External Assurance Web site at http://www.isbe.net/ea/htm/proof_indicators.doc.

The Title I Comparability analysis will load your previous year's data as it relates to teacher's names and positions if you used the "pupil/staff" ratio in your comparison. This application is also located on the IWAS system, districts that are "exempt" may simply select the "Exempt" radio button and then "Submit." Their submittal requirements will have been met when the superintendent submits it.

Districts requiring a comparison will have all of their district's school buildings imported from the FY12 NCLB Consolidated Application. Districts will have to account for all of their buildings through exclusions or in a comparison with other schools of similar student enrollment and grade spans. The written procedures and board approved equivalency policies and salary schedules for districts will need to be added in their appropriate window. Current student enrollment for each building will need to be supplied for any of the comparison ratios you select to use.

Districts will need to define the various comparison classifications. For example if a district has both large

and small elementary schools with similar grade spans, they may define both in the system to avoid comparing larger and smaller schools in the same comparison. Classifying the buildings according to enrollment size should be based on the larger schools having at least twice the enrollment size of the other schools with a similar grade span. A "User's Guide" is located on the menu bar of the comparability application and on our External Assurance Website.

All districts receiving Title I funds must complete the document. Failure to comply will result in program funds being frozen and a recovery of expenditures of Title I funds in buildings where they are determined to be non-comparable.

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

Data Analysis and Progress Reporting

2011 Reduction in Force Survey Now Available on IWAS

The 2011 Reduction in Force Survey is available on IWAS. The deadline for districts to submit this report of tenured and non-tenured teacher dismissals due to reduction in force is Oct. 17, 2011. Per Section 10-20.26 of the School Code, the survey also requests information on the number of teachers rehired and positions eliminated.

Your timely response to this data collection is greatly appreciated. Please note that the Oct. 15 deadline in statute falls on a weekend this year. For this reason, the deadline to submit has been moved to the next ISBE business day after the weekend, i.e., Oct. 17. If you have questions about the survey, please contact Niann-Tsyr Chern in the Data Analysis and Progress Reporting Division at (217) 782-3950 or nchern@isbe.net.

Funding and Disbursement Services

Child Nutrition Claims – Due Date Changes

In June 2011, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) provided clarification to the Child Nutrition

Program Regulations and 60-90 Day Claim Guidance in regards to claim due dates. Previously the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) instructed program sponsors that all original claims must be submitted within 60 calendar days after the end of the claiming month and that upward revised claims must be submitted within 90 calendar days after the end of the claiming month in order to be paid with program funds.

The USDA has clarified that federal regulations require ALL valid final claims to be submitted no later than 60 calendar days following the last day of the full month covered by the claim. This means that all original claims and upward revisions are due within 60 calendar days. Downward revisions may continue to be submitted at any time.

Effective with October 2011 claims, all original claims and upward revised claims must be submitted by sponsors within 60 calendar days of the end of the claiming month in order to be paid with program funds.

CLAIM DUE DATES

Claim Month	Due Date
October	Dec. 30
November	Jan. 29
December	March 1 (Feb. 29 if leap year)
January	April 1 (March 31 if leap year)
February	April 29
March	May 30
April	June 29
May	July 30
June	Aug. 29
July	Sept. 29
August	Oct. 30
September	Nov. 29

If you have any claim questions, call (217) 782-5256.

Updated Handbook for Federal and State Grant Recipients Available Online

The Division of Funding and Disbursement Services have made extensive changes to the State and Federal Grant Administration Policy, Fiscal Requirements and Procedures handbook, which can be accessed at http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/fiscal_procedure_handbk.pdf. The grants handbook is a useful reference document for state and federal grant recipients on a variety of general grant related issues. The handbook does not replace or supersede any unique program requirements, statute or rules.

Highlights of the major changes include:

- New glossary of acronyms and grant terms (Pages 2-5)
- Revisions to Grant Policy Statements (Pages 6-7)
- New language on state and federal payment schedules and expenditure reports (Pages 15-17)
- New language on supporting documentation for salaries and wages per Federal OMB Circular A-87 (Page 30)
- New language on time and effort reporting (Pages 31-33)
- New section on Grant Funds Recovery Act (Pages 39-40)
- New section on supplement vs. supplant and maintenance of effort (Pages 43-45)

Questions? Contact Kim Lewis at kewis@isbe.net or Sally Cray at scray@isbe.net or (217) 782-5256.

Sept. 30, 2011, ARRA Jobs and Vendor Data Due Oct. 5, 2011

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs and vendor data for the quarter ending Sept. 30, 2011, is due at the Illinois State Board of Education on or before Wednesday, Oct. 5.

ARRA data reporting includes two primary elements: the number of jobs funded in the reporting quarter with ARRA dollars and a single payment made to a vendor, using ARRA dollars, in the amount of \$25,000 or more. All ARRA data must be reported via the ARRA Reporting System in IWAS. Please refer to the ARRA Reporting Instructions at http://www.isbe.net/arra/pdf/arra_reporting_inst.pdf for detailed reporting procedures.

ARRA data must be reported regardless of whether any jobs were funded or any payments were made to a vendor of \$25,000 or more in the reporting quarter. Please follow these three steps below to properly calculate the jobs FTE that must be reported for the period ending Sept. 30.

- **Step 1:** Determine the number of hours in a full-time schedule for ARRA funded employees between July 1 and Sept. 30 (i.e. an employee works 40 hours a week for 13 weeks, the quarterly hours in a full-time schedule is 520 hours). Note: This figure may change depending on the type of employee.
- **Step 2:** Determine the number of hours employees were paid with ARRA funds for the reporting quarter ending Sept. 30.

- **Step 3:** Divide the number calculated in Step 2 by the quarterly hours in a full-time schedule calculated in Step 1. This calculation should be performed for each employee funded with ARRA dollars. The formula for reporting can be represented as:

$$\frac{\text{Total Number of Hours ARRA Funded Within Reporting Quarter}}{\text{Quarterly Hours in a Full-Time Schedule}} = \text{FTE}$$

Sept. 30 ARRA data must be reported for the following ARRA programs if your LEA has been awarded or received funds:

- Title I Low Income – Revenue Code 4851, CFDA #84.394
- Title I Low Income Neglected – Revenue Code 4852, CFDA #84.394
- Title I Low Income Delinquent – Revenue Code 4853, CFDA #84.394
- Title I School Improvement – Revenue Code 4854, CFDA #84.394
- Title I School Improvement (1003g) – Revenue Code 4855, CFDA #84.388
- IDEA Part B Preschool – Revenue Code 4856, CFDA #84.392
- IDEA Part B Flow Through – Revenue Code 4857, CFDA #84.391
- Title II D Enhancing Education Through Technology – Revenue Code 4861, CFDA #84.386
- McKinney Vento Homeless Education – Revenue Code 4862, CFDA #84.387
- Education Jobs Fund Program – Revenue Code 4880, CFDA #84.410 (If compensation and/or benefits have been or will be requested for employees from July through September)

If you have any questions, contact Funding and Disbursement Services at (217) 782-5256.

EDUCATION JOBS ARRA REPORTING

REMINDER – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY: If the LEA has submitted or plans to submit an expenditure report requesting reimbursement of qualifying expenditures (i.e. compensation and benefit costs) between July 1 and Sept. 30 the full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs and vendor data must be reported for the period ending Sept. 30 even if an expenditure report for reimbursement has yet to be filed for that reporting quarter. For example, if the LEA is going to submit in mid-October an Ed Jobs expenditure report requesting reimbursement of compensation and benefits expended

during the reporting quarter ending Sept. 30, the LEA is required to report FTE jobs and vendor data to ISBE on or before the required ARRA reporting deadline of Oct. 5 even though the expenditure report has not yet been submitted by the LEA. This is true for any subsequent quarter.

Further, once the LEA begins to request Ed Jobs expenditure reimbursement they are obligated to report ARRA FTE jobs and vendor data via the ARRA Reporting System every subsequent quarter until all Ed Jobs Funds have been requested and reported, even if no expenditure reports for reimbursement have been submitted in the current ARRA reporting quarter. For example, if the LEA requested reimbursement and reported ARRA data through June 30 but has no Ed Jobs expenditures between July 1 and Sept. 30, they must still submit ARRA FTE jobs and vendor data for the Sept. 30 ARRA reporting quarter that reflects that 0 FTE jobs or vendor payments were funded with Ed Jobs dollars during the reporting quarter. Again, the LEA must continue to submit ARRA data reports for each reporting quarter, beginning with the quarter in which the compensation funding start date occurs until all Ed Jobs funds have been requested and reported.

If you have further questions, contact Jim Mathes at jmathes@isbe.net or Marj Beck at mbeck@isbe.net. Both can be reached at (217) 782-5256.

Selected ARRA Programs Final Obligation Date Sept. 30, 2011

The final date for grant recipients that have been awarded funds under selected programs for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) is Sept. 30, 2011. This date is applicable to all grant recipients with active FY 2011 projects that were provided project date extensions to Sept. 30. However, if an ARRA grant recipient with a FY 2011 project that ended June 30 or Aug. 31 has unexpended funds that could be obligated by Sept. 30, please contact the Division of Funding and Disbursement Services at 217-782-5256 to request an extension to obligate those funds. It is critical that all activities and final ARRA obligations occur on or before Sept. 30. Extensions past Sept. 30 cannot be granted. Any unexpended funds reflected on final expenditure reports must be returned. The list of the ARRA programs that will expire are provided below with the ARRA program name, followed by the revenue codes, and the corresponding federal CFDA #.

- **Title I Low Income;** Revenue Codes 4851, 4852, 4853, 4854; Federal CFDA# 84.389

- **Sp Ed IDEA Part B Preschool**; Revenue Code 4856; Federal CFDA# 84.392
- **Sp Ed IDEA Part B Flow Through**; Revenue Code 4857; Federal CFDA# 84.391
- **Title II D Technology**; Revenue Code 4861; Federal CFDA# 84.386
- **McKinney Vento Homeless**; Revenue Code 4862; Federal CFDA# 84.387

To assist you with what constitutes an obligation please see below:

- **If the obligation is for:** Acquisition of real or personal property. **The obligation is made:** On the date on which a written commitment to acquire the property has been made.
- **If the obligation is for:** Personal services by an employee. **The obligation is made:** When the service has been performed.
- **If the obligation is for:** Personal services by a contractor (not an employee). **The obligation is made:** On the date on which a binding written commitment to obtain the services has been made.
- **If the obligation is for:** Performance of work other than a personal service. **The obligation is made:** On the date on which a binding written commitment to obtain the work has been made.
- **If the obligation is for:** Public utility service. **The obligation is made:** When the service is received.
- **If the obligation is for:** Travel. **The obligation is made:** when the travel is taken.
- **If the obligation is for:** g) rental of real or personal property. **The obligation is made:** When the property is used.
- **If the obligation is for:** h) a preagreement cost that was properly approved by the State. **The obligation is made:** When the preagreement costs were approved by the State.

If you have any questions, call (217) 782-5256.

CDC

School Health Guidelines to Promote Healthy Eating and Physical Activity

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Division of Adolescent and School Health recently released the School Health Guidelines to Promote Healthy Eating and Physical Activity. This new resource updates and combines previous guidelines last published in the 1990s. Schools play a critical role in improving the

dietary and physical activity behaviors of students and the critical health outcomes and diseases they influence, such as obesity, diabetes and heart disease.

Developed in collaboration with nutrition and physical activity experts across the nation, the guidelines identify the most effective policies and practices schools can implement to help young people adopt and maintain healthy eating habits and a physically active lifestyle. CDC synthesized research and best practices related to promoting healthy eating and physical activity in schools, culminating in nine guidelines. These guidelines were informed by the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, the Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans and the Healthy People 2020 objectives related to healthy eating and physical activity among children and adolescents (including associated school objectives).

Collectively, the nine guidelines serve as the foundation for developing, implementing, and evaluating school-based healthy eating and physical activity policies and practices for students. Individually, they emphasize and address:

- Coordination in developing, implementing, and evaluating healthy eating and physical activity policies and practices.
- School environments that support healthy eating and physical activity.
- Healthy food choices at school.
- Comprehensive physical activity programs with quality physical education.
- Health education that provides students with the knowledge, attitudes, skills, and experiences they need for healthy eating and physical activity.
- Health, mental health, and social services to address healthy eating, physical activity, and related chronic disease prevention.
- Partnering with families and community members to develop and implement healthy eating and physical activity policies, practices, and programs.
- Providing a school employee wellness program that includes healthy eating and physical activity services.
- Employing qualified individuals, and providing professional development opportunities for staff working in school health-related positions.

Each of the guidelines is accompanied by a set of strategies that can help schools work toward achieving each guideline. Although the ultimate goal is to implement all nine guidelines, not every strategy will be

appropriate for every school, and some schools, due to resource limitations, might need to implement the guidelines incrementally.

Bullying Prevention

Coalition Working to Implement Task Force's Recommendations

Gov. Quinn signed the Illinois Prevent School Violence Act amendments just in time for the 2010-11 school year. Now, efforts are under way continuing to implement the act's important tenets, which include the first-ever definition of bullying in Illinois law, enumerated categories of students particularly vulnerable to bullying, and an expansion of the law's reach to include private, non-religious schools. For a copy of the act, go to <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/96/PDF/096-0952.pdf>.

The act created the Illinois School Bullying Prevention Task Force to examine bullying and ways to effectively prevent it. For a copy of the recommendations, go to http://www.isbe.net/SBPTF/pdf/sbptf_report_030111.pdf.

The Prevent School Violence Illinois coalition, a group of organizations across the state committed to effective bullying prevention and intervention, has taken up the work of implementing the task force's recommendations by raising awareness, connecting stakeholders, and providing expertise and resources. Drawing from the recommendations, the coalition recognizes:

- That bullying negatively affects every person within a school community and the climate of the school community itself;
- That bullying prevention is most effective when it accounts for the unique issues of a particular school community;
- That the impacts of systemic issues (e.g., racism, classism, religious bias, adultism, disability discrimination and homophobia) contribute to negative environments for youth and adults;
- That Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) is as important as math and English; and
- That overreliance on punitive school discipline detracts from a school community's ability to provide optimal conditions for learning and development and must be replaced by restorative measures.

For more about Prevent School Violence Illinois, contact Sarah Schriber at sarah@illinoisafeschools.org or (312) 368-9070, ext. 323.

Special Education

Timely and Meaningful Consultation Documentation Reminder for Districts

It's the time of the year when districts should be planning to complete its annual timely and meaningful consultation ("TMC") with private schools and families of home-schoolers with disabilities. Please remember that this is a requirement for any district that has known home-school students and private school students with disabilities regardless of whether your district has funds to expend on such students. Also, please note the requirement to provide families in your district with a public notice of the TMC requirement even if you do not have any private schools in your district. The specific steps for conducting TMC can be found in our guidance memos located at http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/Memo_08-2_Clarification.pdf, http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/guidance_06-3.pdf and http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/guidance_06-2.pdf. The affirmation form can be accessed at <http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/pvtschAppA.pdf>.

Please plan on completing your TMC by no later than Oct. 15, 2011, and submitting your documentation of the TMC by Nov. 1, 2011. For questions, contact Special Education Services at (217) 782-5589.

Public Act 97-0284 Addresses 70/30 Rule in Regards to Speech/Language Students

Due to the passage and immediate implementation of Public Act 97-0284, districts will no longer have to include students with an eligibility of Speech/Language only when determining the composition of a classroom for the purpose of meeting the 70/30 rule, provided each student meets the following criteria:

- The student must be receiving only speech services outside of the general education classroom.
- The instruction provided the student in the general education classroom does not require modification.

Those districts with classrooms not meeting the 70/30 rule even after excluding Speech/Language students from the count of students with individualized education plans (IEPs) will still need to apply for a deviation. In

completing the required documentation, districts will still be required to include information regarding Speech/Language students for data-gathering purposes only. Instructions and the form for completing a deviation request can be found at http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/34-38_deviation_70-30.pdf. Please direct any questions to Betty Hendrickson at bhendric@isbe.net or Jason Pals at jpals@isbe.net or call (217) 782-5589.

Career and Technical Education

Webinar on High School to College Success Report to be Held Oct. 11

The Webinar “Illinois High School to College Feedback Report 101: An Introduction to the New Illinois High School to College Success Report” is set for 1:30-2:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 11.

In June 2011, the Illinois State Board of Education, the Illinois Community College Board and the Illinois Board of Higher Education released the first High School to College Success Report. This presentation will cover the origin, scope, and uses of this report.

For more information and to register, visit <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/913636961>.

Nutrition

Applications Available Online for Share Your Breakfast Grants

Targeting schools with 50 percent or greater free-and reduced-price eligibility, competitive grants ranging from \$750-\$1,000 are available through Kellogg’s and Action for Healthy Kids Share Your Breakfast program.

The primary goal is to increase the average daily participation in breakfast of the grantees by 25 percent. A secondary goal is to mobilize parents and youth as advocates and implementers of the school breakfast initiatives through Action for Healthy Kids’s core school health programs, Game On! The Ultimate Wellness Challenge, Fuel Up to Play 60, and Students Taking Charge.

A Webinar on this grant opportunity is set for 3-4 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 21, 2011. The due date to submit the application is Sept. 30. Visit the following Website to register for the Webinar and complete the application: <http://www.actionforhealthykids.org/campaigns/breakfast/>.

Innovation and Improvement

ISBE’s 2011 Parent Involvement Regional Summits Return in October

The Illinois State Board of Education's Division of Innovation and Improvement is pleased to announce the 2011 Fall Parent Involvement Regional Summits to be offered at four Illinois locations. The Regional Fall Summits, created for Title I School Teams, have been developed to assist districts and schools in the development and planning of strategies that sustain parent partnerships and to improve skills that join families and schools on a common path to student achievement.

Summit 2: This working session will resume the work started in the spring summits. Using data specific to each school, this session will lead the school’s team through an evaluative action planning process and the development of a ready-to-implement plan that will satisfy family engagement requirements for school improvement planning. Break-out sessions will serve elementary, middle school and high school levels with practitioners from the spring Summits returning to provide support.

Participants will:

- Take away ready-to-implement strategies for family engagement.
- Build a network of support for future work in family engagement.
- Gain experience in tools and processes that will assist in future school improvement planning.

NOTE: School teams must complete the assignment from the spring summits prior to attending the fall summits. The assignment can be found at <http://www.illinoisparents.org/isbesummitinfo.htm>.

School Title I Teams should include administrators, school faculty and parents who are not employees of the school or district which they represent. Fall summit dates and times are listed below:

- Monday, Oct. 3 – Lisle Hilton, Lisle
- Tuesday, Oct. 11 – Williamson County Pavilion, Marion
- Friday, Oct. 14 – DoubleTree, Alsip
- Tuesday, Nov. 1 – Springfield Hilton, Springfield

All sessions are from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. with check-in beginning at 9 a.m. Lunch will be provided. Schools

can register their teams of two or more for one of the sessions at <http://webapps.isbe.net/ISBEConference> or www.IllinoisParents.org. Please note the registration closing dates below.

- Lisle – Extended to Sept. 26
- Marion – Sept. 28
- Alsip – Sept. 28
- Springfield – Oct. 17

The Illinois State Board of Education's Parent Involvement Regional Summits are the collaborative work of The Academic Development Institute, Great Lakes West Comprehensive Center and the Illinois Parent Information Resource Center (PIRC).

Public Act 94-1039

An Important Update on the Illinois New Principal Mentoring Program

Per Public Act 94-1039, school districts are charged with the responsibility of ensuring each first year principal in Illinois is mentored by a qualified, highly-trained mentor if adequate state funding has been made available to support the Illinois New Principal Mentoring program. Since funding for the new principal mentoring program was reduced to \$1 in the fiscal year 2012 state budget, school districts will not be required to have their first year principals mentored unless funding is restored prior to the start of the calendar year.

School districts may choose, and are encouraged to, continue to provide local district mentoring for new principals in lieu of the state program. Please contact the mentoring provider in your area to learn more about new principal mentoring options that may be available. (http://www.ilprincipalmentoring.org/contact_info/Provider%20Contact%20Page.html) ISBE will continue to update school districts about the Illinois New Principal Mentoring program as information becomes available.

School Opportunities

Schools Encouraged to Participate in International Walk to School Day

The 15th annual International Walk to School Day is set for Wednesday, Oct. 5. The event aims to encourage safer and improved routes to school, healthier habits and environmental concern.

This event is organized by the National Safe Routes to School Program. Details and resources related to the

event are available at <http://www.walktoschool.org> and <http://www.dot.il.gov/green/IWTSD.html>. In Illinois, the event is sponsored by the Illinois Safe Routes to School Program and IDOT's Green Initiative. Schools are encouraged to inform IDOT of their plans to participate. Contact IDOT at william.e.hall@illinois.gov or (815) 434-8520.

Schools that plan to participate in the event are encouraged to spend time instructing students on pedestrian and bicycle safety prior to International Walk to School Day. Additional information on bicycle and pedestrian safety is available through the Illinois Department of Transportation Website at <http://www.dot.il.gov/bikemap/litlist.html>.

Recycling Competition Kicks Off Next Month

Keep America Beautiful is holding a nationwide recycling competition for K-12 schools. The Recycle-Bowl is separated into two divisions, the Competition Division and the Open Division. Schools can choose to register for either, based on eligibility requirements and the school's ability to meet division standards.

The registration deadline is Oct. 10, and the competition kicks off Oct. 17. For official rules and more information, visit <http://recycle-bowl.org> or e-mail info@recycle-bowl.org. Keep America Beautiful, which was established in 1953, is a volunteer-based community action and education organization. To learn more, visit <http://www.kab.org>.

Professional Development

Annual Statewide Child Abuse Prevention Conference Coming Up

Registration is open for the 17th annual Statewide Child Abuse Prevention Conference, which is set for Oct. 20 and 21 in Springfield. This year's conference is titled "Safe and Healthy Children – Making the Investment."

The conference features four plenary sessions and 21 breakout sessions addressing current and emerging issues in the field of child development and wellbeing. The conference is for professionals working with children and families in any related field – education, early childhood, social work, healthcare, counseling, law enforcement, home visiting and more.

Register at <http://www.preventchildabuseillinois.org>.

National Refugee and Immigrant Conference Coming Up in Chicago

The 2011 National Refugee and Immigrant Conference: Issues and Innovations is set for Nov. 7-8, 2011, in Chicago. This conference is a collaboration of the Illinois State Board of Education, the Illinois Department of Public Health, the Illinois Department of Human Services, Chicago Public Schools, The Center/Adult Learning Resource Center, Heartland Health Outreach, Heartland Alliance for Human Needs and Human Rights, Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights and the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago.

The registration fee is \$250 for both days or \$125 per day. For more information, including the conference overview and registration packet, go to <http://www.thecenterweb.org/alrc/refugee.html>. If you have any questions regarding the conference, contact Lynn Osheff at (224) 366-8632 or losheff@cntrmail.org.

Student Opportunities

Publishing Company Offers Scholarship for Create-A-Greeting Card Contest

The Prudent Publishing Co. is holding its fifth annual Create-A-Greeting Card Scholarship Contest. The winner receives a \$10,000 scholarship, and a \$1,000 prize goes to the winner's school. The deadline to enter is Jan. 14.

High school students (ages 14 or older) are eligible to compete. (College students and military personnel are also eligible.) Participants should register at <http://www.gallerycollection.com/greetingcardscontests.htm>. Visit the Website for complete rules.

Annual Prudential Spirit of Community Awards Honor Top Student Volunteers

Illinois students in grades 5-12 can apply for the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards.

The deadline to apply for the 17th annual awards is Nov. 1 with winners to be announced Feb. 7. The top middle school and high school volunteer from Illinois will have an opportunity to travel in the spring to Washington, D.C. The awards are presented by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

Apply at <http://spirit.prudential.com> or <http://www.principals.org/spirit>. A paper version of the application form is available by calling (877) 525-8491.

In the News

Jacksonville's Don Jolly Named Illinois History Teacher of the Year

The Illinois State Board of Education and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History has selected Don Jolly of Jacksonville as the 2011 Illinois History Teacher of the Year. Jolly is a sixth-grade teacher at Our Saviour School in Jacksonville, where he has served as geography team coach, organizes the school's annual Geography Bee, and co-chairs the biannual History Fair.

Jolly graduated from Macalester College in St. Paul, Minn., and received an Master of Arts in Germanic studies at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. Don was selected as a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer to Sierra Leone, where he served as a secondary school teacher from 1969 to 1972. Following his return to Jacksonville, Don began his lengthy teaching career of over 30 years at Jefferson and South Schools in Jacksonville Public School District 117. Jolly has served on the board of the Illinois Council for the Social Studies and was president in 2010. In 1996, he received the local Bill Russell Award for Innovative Teaching. In 2005, he was a recipient of a community Those Who Care Award. The Illinois Council for the Social Studies honored Don with its Excellence in Social Studies Teaching Award in 2007, and, in 2008, Don received the prestigious Golden Apple Illinois Award for Excellence in Teaching.

The winner of the National History Teacher of the Year Award will be announced soon. The award is sponsored by the Gilder Lehrman Institute, the History Channel and Preserve America. For more information, visit http://www.gilderlehrman.org/education/htoy_overview.php.

Weekly News Clips

ISBE has posted highlights from last week's education news clips at <http://www.isbe.net/news/2011/newsclips/110926.htm>.

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>.



Illinois State Board of Education

Weekly Message

Gery J. Chico, Chairman
 Dr. Christopher J. Ward, Vice Chair
 Dr. Vinni M. Hall, Board Secretary
 James W. Baumann
 Dr. Andrea S. Brown
 Dr. David L. Fields
 Steven R. Gifford
 Lanita J. Koster
 Melinda A. LaBarre

Christopher A. Koch, Ed.D.
 State Superintendent

Oct. 3, 2011

Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

Members of the Illinois State Board of Education met last week in Bloomington for their annual strategic planning session and September Board meeting. They were able to review elements of ISBE's strategic plan (http://www.isbe.net/reports/strategic_plan11.pdf), and also to discuss pursuing a possible waiver to No Child Left Behind. While the preference remains to see a new law, the consensus of the group is to move forward with exploring the possibility of a waiver. I will have more on that in the weeks ahead as more information becomes available and we begin to develop our plan, which we will likely submit in February.

The Board also approved nine individuals to become the initial members of Illinois' State Charter School Commission. This group's primary responsibility will be to consider the appeals of charter proposals that have been denied, revoked or not renewed by a local school board, ensuring to only authorize quality charter schools and reject those that are inadequate. The process at the local level will remain the same; those entities interested in starting a charter school will need to apply to and work with local districts first, and only if they are denied can they appeal to the State Charter School Commission (which serves a very similar role to that played in the past by the State Board).

In addition to authorizing charter schools, the Commission must monitor the performance and legal compliance of each charter school authorized by the Commission and determine if the charter merits renewal, nonrenewal or revocation. The Commission must also produce a report every two years on best practices in charter school authorizing, including evaluating applications, oversight and renewal of charter schools.

The initial appointments made by the Board to the State Charter School Commission include:

- Paul Swanstrom, former Superintendent, Joliet Township High School District 204, Crete
- Sean Denney, lobbyist, Illinois Education Association, Evanston
- Mike Jacoby, Executive Director, Illinois Association of School Business Officials, DeKalb
- Jaime Guzman, Chief Advisor to the Board of Trustees, City Colleges of Chicago, Chicago
- Glen Barton, former Chairman and CEO, Caterpillar Inc., Peoria
- Greg Richmond, President and CEO, National Association of Charter School Authorizers, Chicago

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- Angela Renee Rudolph, Program Officer, Joyce Foundation
- Patricia Van Pelt-Watkins, Executive Director, TARGET Area Development Corp., Chicago
- Rudy Valdez, General Manager – Asia Programs, Hamilton Sunstrand Corp., Rockford

Commission members will serve on staggered terms of office beginning with initial 2-, 3-, and 4-year terms (after which all terms will be 4 years). Their terms are scheduled to begin Nov. 1, 2011.

Have a good week.

Chris

Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

- **Parent Involvement Fall Summit, Hilton Lisle** – Oct. 3
- **ARRA FTE jobs and vendor data for the quarter ending Sept. 30 due at ISBE** – Oct. 5
- **21st CCLC New Staff Workshop, Bloomington Marriott Convention Center** – Oct. 5
- **21st CCLC Fall Workshop, Bloomington Marriott Convention Center** – Oct. 6
- **21st CCLC Project Directors Meeting, Bloomington Marriott Convention Center** – Oct. 6
- **National Dropout Prevention Conference in Schaumburg** – Oct. 9-12
- **Parent Involvement Fall Summit, The Pavilion Marion** – Oct. 11
- **Parent Involvement Fall Summit, Double Tree Alsip** – Oct. 13
- **2011 Reduction in Force Survey deadline** – Oct. 17
- **2011-12 School District Budget form** – Adopted by Sept. 30 and due to ISBE by Oct. 30
- **Supplemental General State Aid (SGSA) plan deadline** – Oct. 30
- **Parent Involvement Fall Summit, Hilton Springfield** – Nov. 1
- **Parent Involvement Regional Summit in Springfield** – Nov. 1
- **National Refugee and Immigrant Conference: Issues and Innovations in Chicago** – Nov. 7-8
- **Gifted Advisory Council ISBE Springfield Office** – Nov. 8
- **2011-12 Unfilled Positions Survey deadline** – Nov. 15
- **2010-11 LEA Annual Financial Report** – Due to ROEs/ISCs Oct. 14 and due to ISBE Nov. 15 (with the exception of those who received an “Extension of Time” approval letter)
- **FY12 NCLB Monitoring Instrument** – Nov. 30
- **FY12 NCLB Title I Comparability Analysis** – Nov. 30
- **2012 Illinois Arts Education Week Poster Contest deadline** – Nov. 30
- **FY 12 School Technology Revolving Loan Program (STRLP) application deadline** – Dec. 1
- **Nonpublic Registration, Enrollment, and Staff Report deadline** – Dec. 31
- **Postmark deadline for waiver applications to be considered by General Assembly in Spring ’12** – Jan. 13
- **2011-12 Teacher Salary Study data form deadline** – Feb. 1
- **2011-12 Noncertified Staff Salary Study survey** – Feb. 1

Funding and Disbursement Services

Fiscal Year 2012 Supplemental General State Aid Plans Due Oct. 30

Per Section 18-8.05(H)(3) of the School Code, school districts with an average daily attendance of more than 1,000 are required to submit a Supplemental General

State Aid (SGSA) plan to the Illinois State Board of Education on or before Oct. 30 for the use of the funds resulting from the supplemental General State Aid for the improvement of instruction in which priority is given to meeting the education needs of disadvantaged children.

The SGSA plan for qualifying districts must be filed electronically via the ISBE IWAS System. The SGSA system is now open for fiscal year 2012. Critical

information is pre-populated for each district. A brief narrative is required along with a budget breakdown of the SGSA funds. SGSA funds may be expended in various ways but must primarily benefit disadvantaged, low income students that generate the district funding without supplanting other funds already in place.

If you have questions regarding the SGSA program, please contact Jim Mathes in the Division of Funding and Disbursement Services at jmathes@isbe.net or (217) 782-5256.

Preliminary Fiscal Year 2012 Mandated Categorical Prorations

Preliminary prorations have been calculated for all 2010-11 mandated categorical claims that will be vouchered in FY 2012. Payments are vouchered quarterly on or before Sept. 30, Dec. 30, March 30 and June 20 each fiscal year per statute. The first quarter September payment for each local education agency (LEA) was vouchered Sept. 26 and can be found in the Financial Reimbursement Information System Inquiry, which can be accessed at <http://webprod1.isbe.net/FRISInquiry/>.

The proration percentages reflected below are preliminary because the 2010-11 LEA claims for all these programs will be opened in early October future for correction. Final prorations and remaining quarterly payments will be calculated in December. If you have questions regarding this information, contact the Division of Funding and Disbursements at (217) 782-5256.

- Special Education Personnel – 100 percent
- Special Education Private Facility – 89.6 percent
- Special Education Funding for Children Requiring Special Education Services – 100 percent
- Special Education Transportation – 100 percent
- Regular/Vocational Transportation – 74 percent

Data Analysis and Progress Reporting

2011-12 Noncertified Staff Salary Study

The Noncertified Staff Salary Study survey is now available in IWAS for submission of 2011-2012 school year data. URLs for two useful documents are provided below.

- **Worksheet:**
http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/2007_ncss_worksheet.pdf

- **Example for completing the survey:**
http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/2007_ncss_instruct.pdf

The deadline date for submission is Feb. 1, 2012. Districts with fewer than 1,000 enrolled students as of the last school day in September 2010 may ignore this message.

Questions can be directed to Md. Shafiqul Azam in the ISBE Data Analysis and Reporting Division at (217) 782-3950.

2011-12 Nonpublic Registration, Enrollment, and Staff Report

The Nonpublic Registration, Enrollment, and Staff Report (87-01) for school year 2011-2012 is now available in IWAS at <https://sec1.isbe.net/iwas>. Completed reports must be received by ISBE no later than Dec. 31, 2011.

Nonpublic schools that have registered with ISBE at least once in the past must submit their data online via IWAS. Nonpublic schools that have never registered with ISBE must submit data using the paper form 87-01 available at http://www.isbe.net/research/htmls/np_entity.htm.

Public district administrators should communicate with nonpublic school administrators within their district boundaries and encourage them to submit registration, enrollment, and staff data. A portion of the public district funding allocation calculated for the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) uses nonpublic enrollment data that are reported voluntarily by nonprofit elementary and secondary schools.

Nonpublic schools seeking recognition: You must submit your Nonpublic Registration, Enrollment, and Staff Report before you can apply for recognition.

Questions can be directed to Md. Shafiqul Azam in the ISBE Data Analysis and Reporting Division at (217) 782-3950.

2011-12 Teacher Salary Study Form Now Available on IWAS

The 2011-12 Teacher Salary Study data form is now available on IWAS. The deadline for districts and other local education agencies that employ teachers to complete and submit the form is Feb. 1, 2012. You will also need to provide a copy of your salary schedule/policy and negotiated agreement, unless you

have done so already in a prior year and they are still in effect. Please send copies to the Data Analysis and Progress Reporting Division at this address: Illinois State Board of Education, 100 N. First St., S-284, Springfield, IL 62777.

If you do not employ teachers this school year, click on the appropriate button and log off; you do not need to complete the form. Questions about completing the form can be directed to Ms. Niann-Tsyr Chern in the Data Analysis and Progress Reporting Division at (217) 782-3950 or nchern@isbe.net.

2011-2012 Unfilled Positions Survey Now Available in IWAS

The 2011-2012 Unfilled Positions Survey is now available in IWAS for data entry. The deadline for completing the survey and submitting it to ISBE is Nov. 15, 2011. Districts are to report the number of budgeted positions they were unable to fill as of Oct. 1, 2011. All districts are required to complete the survey, even districts that did not have any unfilled positions. To avoid duplicating unfilled positions reported by public school districts, other reporting entities (e.g., special education cooperatives) should only report their unfilled employee positions.

Questions about the survey content can be directed to Jim Sweeney in the ISBE Data Analysis and Progress Reporting Division at jsweeney@isbe.net.

Special Notice

Collecting Household/Student Socioeconomic Information

This notice is being provided to assist schools and districts in reporting income status (FRL/Low Income) for students in their schools or districts that:

- Do not participate in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), or
- Do participate in the Community Eligibility Option Program (CEO) under the NSLP

The purpose of this notice is to provide schools and districts that meet one of the above criteria with information about how they may collect household/student socioeconomic information for state or federal programs that may require such information.

Collection of Socioeconomic Status: Numerous state and federal programs utilize household/student income

eligibility status at an aggregate as well as individual level. Available at http://www.isbe.net/sis/pdf/69-72_hshld_income.pdf, is an Income Benefit Application Form to assist schools and districts that do not participate in the NSLP or that do participate in the CEO program under the NSLP.

This form may be provided to all households/students for whom the school/district does not already have income eligibility information. The socioeconomic data determined by use of this Income Benefit Application Form can be used to indicate the socioeconomic status of individual students in the Student Information System (SIS), other state and federal programs, assessments and fee waivers.

In utilizing the income information provided by each household/student, the school/district should determine socioeconomic status by utilizing the federal Income Eligibility Guidelines for School Year 2012, located at http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/governance/notices/iegs/ieg_s.htm.

If you have questions regarding this notice or the determination of socioeconomic status based on the Income Benefit Application Form, contact Matt Vanover in ISBE's Public Information Division at (217) 782-4648.

Those Who Excel

Annual Banquet Sells Out

The Those Who Excel banquet set for Saturday, Oct. 22, at the Bloomington-Normal Marriott Hotel and Conference Center is at maximum capacity. No additional tickets are available. We apologize for any inconvenience. Thank you for your participation and support.

For more information about the Those Who Excel/Teacher of the Year Program, visit http://www.isbe.net/those_who_excel.htm. Meet this year's Illinois Teacher of the Year finalists at <http://www.isbe.net/news/2011/sept14.htm>.

Curriculum and Instruction

Carol M. White Physical Education Program Grant Recipients Recognized

The U.S. Department of Education awarded 76 grants totaling \$35 million to Local Education Agencies (LEAs)

and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) who plan to implement comprehensive, integrated physical activity and nutrition programs for their students through the Carol M. White Physical Education Program (PEP). Grant recipients must implement programs that help students make progress toward meeting their state standards for physical education. We congratulate the Illinois schools and CBO receiving funding:

- Waukegan CUSD 60, \$341,858
- Frida Kahlo Community Organization, \$560,269
- Meridian Community Unit School District 223, \$388,900

RFP Released Regarding Illinois Mathematics and Science Partnerships

The Illinois State Board of Education has released an RFP for a partnership comprised of a high-need LEA, IHE faculty from the departments of education, science, technology, engineering, and/or mathematics and membership from scientists, mathematicians, engineers, or other professionals from businesses, industries, not-for-profit organizations, and/or for-profit organizations with demonstrated interest in improving the quality of mathematics teachers. The partnership may also include membership from Regional Offices of Education (ROEs) and Intermediate Service Centers (ISCs). The partnership will design and implement professional learning programs that effectuate sustainable improvement in mathematics education, specifically focused on grade 6 through grade 12. The primary focus of the program design will be to provide teachers an opportunity to strengthen their subject matter knowledge, skills and attitudes as they begin the transition from the Illinois Learning Standards to the New Illinois State Learning Standards Incorporating the Common Core – Mathematics.

The RFP is available at the following site:
<http://www.isbe.net/curriculum/html/math.htm>.

For more information, contact Gil Downey in the Curriculum and Instruction Division at gdowney@isbe.net or (217) 557-7323.

Nutrition

Schools Encouraged to Celebrate First National Farm to School Month

October marks the first National Farm to School Month. In 2010, Congress passed a bill making October Farm to School Month. What are you doing to celebrate in your

school? Farm to school can vary from serving local fresh produce in school meals, to school gardens, to education in the classrooms. This year's theme is "Bring a Farmer or Chef to

School." Invite a local farmer or master gardener to visit your school and teach

children about agriculture or invite a local chef to teach children about cooking with local fresh produce.



Here are some resources:

- The University of Illinois Extension Office is a great resource for schools. For more information on their services and locations, visit <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/state/>.
- The Let's Move Campaign has a Chefs Move to Schools program, in which chefs that are interested in educating children on nutrition and food can sign up to volunteer their time. To view this list, visit <http://www.letsmove.gov/chefs-move-schools>.
- Another great resource is a farm to school fact sheet, produced by the Farm to School Network. It is available at <http://www.farmtoschoolmonth.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/fact-sheet1.pdf>.
- General information: <http://www.farmtoschoolmonth.org>

Whether your school already implements farm to school or not, October is a great month, to either kick start farm to school or celebrate the accomplishments that your school has already achieved. If you are having any great Farm to School events, we would love to hear about them, contact Lindsay Blough at lblough@isbe.net.

PEAC

Educators Invited to Upcoming Public Forums Scheduled Across the State

Teachers and administrators can weigh in on recommended changes to their evaluation systems at upcoming forums to be held across the state. Meetings will be held from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the following cities:

- Oct. 5: **Waukegan**, Trapp Auditorium, Waukegan High School, 2325 Brookside Ave.
- Oct. 6: **Elgin**, Auditorium, Elgin High School, 1200 Maroon Drive

- Oct. 11: **Lombard**, Glenn Westlake Middle School, 1514 S. Main St.
- Oct. 17: **Belleville**, Belleville-East Campus, 2555 West Boulevard
- Oct. 25: **Marion**, meeting site to be determined
- Oct. 27: **Bloomington**, meeting site to be determined

Additional forums will be held in Chicago and Rock Island – exact dates and sites to be determined. The 90-minute sessions will provide a chance for educators to learn what the state’s Performance Evaluation Advisory Council of educators and experts has recommended. Participants will have an opportunity to share their thoughts with leaders of the Illinois State Board of Education before the new rules are drafted.

Register at <http://www.teachplus.org/page/regional-educator-forums-123.html>. Watch for additional details under “What’s New?” at <http://www.isbe.net/PEAC/>. For questions, e-mail peacinfo@isbe.net.

External Assurance

NCLB Monitoring Instrument and NCLB Title I Comparability

The FY12 NCLB Monitoring Instrument is available for completion and submission in the IWAS system. The due date is Wednesday, Nov. 30.

All districts receiving NCLB funding are required to submit the document every year. As before, the previous year’s information will be imported to the document and the district should ensure its accuracy before submitting. Each “Comment/Proof Indicator” should contain documents that support your answers.

There is a sample list of proof indicators on the External Assurance Web site at http://www.isbe.net/ea/htm/proof_indicators.doc.

The Title I Comparability analysis will load your previous year’s data as it relates to teacher’s names and positions if you used the “pupil/staff” ratio in your comparison. This application is also located on the IWAS system, districts that are “exempt” may simply select the “Exempt” radio button and then “Submit.” Their submittal requirements will have been met when the superintendent submits it.

Districts requiring a comparison will have all of their district’s school buildings imported from the FY12

NCLB Consolidated Application. Districts will have to account for all of their buildings through exclusions or in a comparison with other schools of similar student enrollment and grade spans. The written procedures and board approved equivalency policies and salary schedules for districts will need to be added in their appropriate window. Current student enrollment for each building will need to be supplied for any of the comparison ratios you select to use.

Districts will need to define the various comparison classifications. For example if a district has both large and small elementary schools with similar grade spans, they may define both in the system to avoid comparing larger and smaller schools in the same comparison. Classifying the buildings according to enrollment size should be based on the larger schools having at least twice the enrollment size of the other schools with a similar grade span. A “User’s Guide” is located on the menu bar of the comparability application and on our External Assurance Website.

All districts receiving Title I funds must complete the document. Failure to comply will result in program funds being frozen and a recovery of expenditures of Title I funds in buildings where they are determined to be non-comparable.

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

Rules and Waivers

Invitation to Comment on Rules

Several proposed rulemakings recently reviewed by the Illinois State Board of Education are available for public comment. The proposals have been posted on the agency’s Website at <http://www.isbe.net/rules>; choose “Proposed Rules and Amendments.” Please submit any comments or suggestions to rules@isbe.net.

Part 425 (Voluntary Registration and Recognition of Nonpublic Schools)

Incorporates modifications requested by representatives of religious schools in the State related to timelines for receipt of registration and recognition materials, and addresses various staff concerns over administration of the nonpublic school recognition program.

Affected Sections: 425.20, 425.30, 425.40, 425.50

Deadline for Public Comment: Nov. 28, 2011

Special Education

Conference on Best Practices for NonPublic Special Education Programs Coming Up

Registration is open for the fifth annual Conference on Best Practices for Nonpublic Special Education Programs, which will be held Nov. 15-16 at the Oak Lawn Hilton.

Go to <http://webapps.isbe.net/ISBEConference/> to register. Click on “Schedule at a Glance” for an overview of the conference. The hotel has a block of rooms reserved for the conference. That information can be found in the brochure on the registration page.

Questions? Contact Paul Nijensohn at pnijenso@isbe.net or Sarah Sebert at ssebert@isbe.net.

Timely and Meaningful Consultation Documentation Reminder for Districts

It’s the time of the year when districts should be planning to complete its annual timely and meaningful consultation (“TMC”) with private schools and families of home-schoolers with disabilities. Please remember that this is a requirement for any district that has known home-school students and private school students with disabilities regardless of whether your district has funds to expend on such students. Also, please note the requirement to provide families in your district with a public notice of the TMC requirement even if you do not have any private schools in your district. The specific steps for conducting TMC can be found in our guidance memos located at http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/Memo_08-2_Clarification.pdf, http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/guidance_06-3.pdf and http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/guidance_06-2.pdf. The affirmation form can be accessed at <http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/pvtschAppA.pdf>.

Please plan on completing your TMC by no later than Oct. 15, 2011, and submitting your documentation of the TMC by Nov. 1, 2011. For questions, contact Special Education Services at (217) 782-5589.

Thomas Lay Burroughs Award

Nominations Sought for Award to Honor Outstanding School Board President

The Illinois 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 Nov. 18-20 and the award will be presented that Sunday morning (Nov. 20).

Nominations should be submitted as indicated below by the close of business on Oct. 14, 2011. You can 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 at (217) 557-6626. For nomination information and format please go to http://www.isbe.net/pdf/burroughs_award.pdf.

School Opportunities

Schools Encouraged to Participate in International Walk to School Day

The 15th annual International Walk to School Day is set for Wednesday, Oct. 5. The event aims to encourage safer and improved routes to school, healthier habits and environmental concern.

This event is organized by the National Safe Routes to School Program. Details and resources related to the event are available at <http://www.walktoschool.org> and <http://www.dot.il.gov/green/TWTSD.html>. In Illinois, the event is sponsored by the Illinois Safe Routes to School Program and IDOT’s Green Initiative. Schools are encouraged to inform IDOT of their plans to participate. Contact IDOT at william.e.hall@illinois.gov or (815) 434-8520.

Schools that plan to participate in the event are encouraged to spend time instructing students on pedestrian and bicycle safety prior to International Walk to School Day. Additional information on bicycle and pedestrian safety is available through the Illinois Department of Transportation Website at <http://www.dot.il.gov/bikemap/litlist.html>.

Professional Development

Annual Statewide Child Abuse Prevention Conference Coming Up

Registration is open for the 17th annual Statewide Child Abuse Prevention Conference, which is set for Oct. 20

and 21 in Springfield. This year's conference is titled "Safe and Healthy Children – Making the Investment."

The conference features four plenary sessions and 21 breakout sessions addressing current and emerging issues in the field of child development and wellbeing. The conference is for professionals working with children and families in any related field – education, early childhood, social work, healthcare, counseling, law enforcement, home visiting and more.

Register at <http://www.preventchildabuseillinois.org>.

Student Opportunities

Chicago TIBETcenter Organizes Essay Contest for 11th-Graders

Eleventh-graders in Illinois are eligible to take part in an essay contest sponsored by the Chicago TIBETcenter. Three winners will be selected to each receive a \$1,000 prize and an invitation to attend and read their essay during the Dalai Lama's public talk set for April 26 at Loyola University Chicago.

The essay topic, which was selected by the Dalai Lama, is "How can an attitude of non-violence counteract the prevalence of violence in our families, in our communities, and in international relations; and how can we as individuals cultivate and promote such an attitude?"

The deadline for essay submissions is Jan. 31. For complete rules and additional information, visit http://tibetcenterchicago.org/High_Schools.html. In addition, Illinois high school principals can request one of a limited number of tickets available for one of their students to attend the April 26 event. Visit the Website above for details.

The Chicago TIBETcenter (<http://www.TIBETcenterchicago.org>) is a not-for-profit Tibetan art and cultural organization.

In the News

Jacksonville's Don Jolly Named Illinois History Teacher of the Year

The Illinois State Board of Education and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History has selected Don Jolly of Jacksonville as the 2011 Illinois History Teacher of the Year. Jolly is a sixth-grade teacher at Our Saviour

School in Jacksonville, where he has served as geography team coach, organizes the school's annual Geography Bee, and co-chairs the biannual History Fair.

Jolly graduated from Macalester College in St. Paul, Minn., and received a Master of Arts in Germanic studies at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. Don was selected as a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer to Sierra Leone, where he served as a secondary school teacher from 1969 to 1972. Following his return to Jacksonville, Don began his lengthy teaching career of over 30 years at Jefferson and South Schools in Jacksonville Public School District 117. Jolly has served on the board of the Illinois Council for the Social Studies and was president in 2010. In 1996, he received the local Bill Russell Award for Innovative Teaching. In 2005, he was a recipient of a community Those Who Care Award. The Illinois Council for the Social Studies honored Don with its Excellence in Social Studies Teaching Award in 2007, and, in 2008, Don received the prestigious Golden Apple Illinois Award for Excellence in Teaching.

The winner of the National History Teacher of the Year Award will be announced soon. The award is sponsored by the Gilder Lehrman Institute, the History Channel and Preserve America. For more information, visit http://www.gilderlehrman.org/education/htoy_overview.php.

Weekly News Clips

ISBE has posted highlights from last week's education news clips at <http://www.isbe.net/news/2011/newsclips/111003.htm>.

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>.



Illinois State Board of Education

Weekly Message

Gery J. Chico, Chairman
 Dr. Christopher J. Ward, Vice Chair
 Dr. Vinni M. Hall, Board Secretary
 James W. Baumann
 Dr. Andrea S. Brown
 Dr. David L. Fields
 Steven R. Gilford
 Lanita J. Koster
 Melinda A. LaBarre

Christopher A. Koch, Ed.D.
 State Superintendent

Oct. 17, 2011

Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

This week during its October meeting the Board will review Report Card data. Specifically, members will be reviewing publicly and releasing to the media statewide test score averages as well as information about statewide numbers for Adequate Yearly Progress. The numbers again support our case for seeking a waiver from the onerous labels of No Child Left Behind.

While members will be discussing statewide numbers, they will not be discussing specific school information. Individual schools and districts may release their report card information to the public at anytime and must do so by Oct. 31. As in years past, we have already made available to members of the media Report Card information on an embargoed basis. That publication embargo will lift on Oct. 31 when we will make all Report Card information available on our website.

Later this week, we will submit to the U.S. Department of Education our application for the Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge (ELC). We are working with the Illinois Department of Human Services (DHS), Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), the Illinois Early Learning Council (IELC) and outside consultants to develop the application and will be seeking \$70 million.

Our application is designed to provide consistency and ensure improvement in the quality of Early Childhood programs by focusing on educational and developmental components, family support and staff competency. By working collaboratively with DHS, DCFS and the IELC, we will ensure that Illinois has a coordinated system of high-quality early learning and development services available, particularly for children and families considered to be at risk.

Additionally, a portion of the grant will be used to continue the agency's efforts to develop and implement a kindergarten readiness survey to continually measure a student's progress during the kindergarten year. The survey is meant to provide parents and schools with information about a student's development and will not be a timed, bubble filling exercise. Our Board has proposed administrative rules for public comment whereby, starting in the 2014-15 school year, any school district that offers kindergarten (whether full or half day) would be required to administer the Kindergarten Individual Development Survey, or KIDS, as long as sufficient funding is provided by the State for both administration and professional development.

Finally, on Saturday we will recognize nearly 200 individuals for their service to Illinois students at our 37th annual Those Who Excel Awards. These 198 exemplary teachers, administrators, student support personnel, educational service personnel, community volunteers, board members and teams are each beacons of light in our education community. The evening will culminate with the naming of our 2011-12 Illinois Teacher of the Year. The event is sold out and promises to be an exciting evening.

Have a great week.
 Chris

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Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

- **2011 Reduction in Force Survey deadline** – Oct. 17
- **2011-12 School District Budget form** – Adopted by Sept. 30 and due to ISBE by Oct. 30
- **Supplemental General State Aid (SGSA) plan deadline** – Oct. 30
- **Parent Involvement Fall Summit, Hilton Springfield** – Nov. 1
- **Parent Involvement Regional Summit in Springfield** – Nov. 1
- **National Refugee and Immigrant Conference: Issues and Innovations in Chicago** – Nov. 7-8
- **Gifted Advisory Council ISBE Springfield Office** – Nov. 8
- **2011-12 Unfilled Positions Survey deadline** – Nov. 15
- **2011-12 Immunization/Health Examination Data Collection deadline** – Nov. 15
- **2010-11 LEA Annual Financial Report** – Due to ROEs/ISCs Oct. 14 and due to ISBE Nov. 15 (with the exception of those who received an “Extension of Time” approval letter)
- **ISBE offices closed for Thanksgiving** – Nov. 24 and 25
- **Part 25 (Certification) and Part 375 (Student Records)** – Public comment period ends Nov. 28
- **FY12 NCLB Monitoring Instrument** – Nov. 30
- **FY12 NCLB Title I Comparability Analysis** – Nov. 30
- **2012 Illinois Arts Education Week Poster Contest deadline** – Nov. 30
- **FY 12 School Technology Revolving Loan Program (STRLP) application deadline** – Dec. 1
- **2011-2012 Teacher Service Record data deadline** – Dec. 15
- **Nonpublic Registration, Enrollment, and Staff Report deadline** – Dec. 31
- **Postmark deadline for waiver applications to be considered by General Assembly in Spring ’12** – Jan. 13
- **2011-12 Teacher Salary Study data form deadline** – Feb. 1
- **2011-12 Noncertified Staff Salary Study survey** – Feb. 1
- **2011-12 Eye Examination Data Collection deadline** – June 30

Finance and Audit Committee

ISBE to Hold Series of FY 2013 Budget Hearings Across the State

The Illinois State Board of Education’s Finance and Audit Committee will host a series of hearings on the FY 2013 budget over the next several months. The public is invited to attend. Please check back to the ISBE calendar and meetings website for updates to the following schedule of hearings: <http://isbe.net/calendar/default.htm>.

Those wishing to participate in these hearings may sign-in upon arrival at each location. Please provide 15 copies of written testimony and provide cost estimates (including a detailed budget) for programs being discussed. Please address how proposed programs align to the Board’s Strategic Plan Goals.

- **GOAL 1:** Every student will demonstrate academic achievement and be prepared for success after high school.
- **GOAL 2:** Every student will be supported by highly prepared and effective teachers and school leaders.
- **GOAL 3:** Every school will offer a safe and healthy learning environment for all students.

Here are the dates, location and time of the meetings scheduled:

- **Wednesday, Oct. 19:** Springfield, ISBE, Board Room, 100 N. First St., 4-6 p.m.
- **Monday, Oct. 24:** Edwardsville, Jon Davis Wrestling Center, 6168 Center Grove Road (Across the street from the high school), 3-5 p.m.
- **Thursday, Oct. 27:** Champaign, Ford Counties Regional Office of Education, Robeson Pavilion Room A & B, Champaign Public Library, 200 W. Green St., 3-5 p.m.
- **Tuesday, Nov. 1:** Wheeling, Wheeling School Dist. 21, Admin Office, 999 W. Dundee Road, 3-5 p.m.
- **Tuesday, Nov. 29:** Chicago, James R. Thompson Center, Room 16-503, 100 W. Randolph, 3-6 p.m.

The Finance and Audit Committee FY 2013 Budget Hearings will be accessible to persons with disabilities. Persons planning to attend who need special accommodations should contact the Board office no later than the day before the meeting they wish to attend. Contact the Superintendent's office at the State Board of

Education: Phone, (217) 782-2221; TTY/TDD, (217) 782-1900; fax, (217) 785-3972.

Individuals unable to attend the budget hearings can send e-mail to isbefy13@isbe.net, which will be monitored by agency staff to receive additional testimony.

Search for School District Liaison

Request for Sealed Proposal for School District Liaison Posted

The Illinois State Board of Education has released an RFSP for a School District Liaison, which has been posted on the Procurement Policy Board's website.

The selected contractor will coordinate a local school district ombudsman initiative and serve as the contact for program coordination services and site visits with local school districts, including without limitation, local school districts with persistently low-performing schools. In addition, he or she shall collect and monitor data and performance objectives for school districts under state oversight and present and share such information with state and local personnel as appropriate. The contractor will also provide technical assistance and other support services to school boards, school district superintendents, school district senior leadership, regional offices of education and higher education, etc., on fiscal, compliance, and other issues, and perform such other tasks as may be assigned by the state superintendent or his designee. The contractor shall be primarily located at the ISBE facility in Springfield, Illinois, unless assigned elsewhere by the state superintendent or his designee.

The School District Liaison is solicitation number 22022627. Registration on the Illinois Procurement Bulletin is required for a potential bidder to view the RFSP, download files that accompany the solicitation or receive automatic e-mail notifications for addendums, award postings etc. Register at <http://www.purchase.state.il.us/ipb/registration.nsf/RegMainFrameset?OpenFrameset>.

PEAC

Survey on Recommended Changes to Educator Evaluation Systems

Can't attend a regional meeting to discuss Illinois' recommended changes to educator evaluation systems? Teachers and school leaders can still learn about and help shape the Performance Evaluation Advisory Council's

draft recommendations to the Illinois State Board of Education for revamping educator evaluations. View the presentation on potential changes to teacher and principal evaluations; this is the same presentation used in regional meetings. Then, share your opinions on the proposed evaluation systems by taking the online survey. Both are available at <http://bit.ly/pxL96K>.

So far, about 450 educators from across the state have attended meetings to learn about developing new evaluation systems, voice questions and concerns and take in this survey. Additional forums are scheduled for Oct. 17 in Belleville, Oct. 25 in Marion, Oct. 26 in Rock Island and Oct. 27 in Bloomington.

Your input is critical to create a system that will improve educators' professional development, provide meaningful feedback, and give teachers the tools to help every child achieve. Have a question or comment? Email peacinfo@isbe.net.

Data Analysis and Progress Reporting

2011-12 Immunization/Health Examination Data Collection

The Student Health Data – Immunization system is now available in IWAS for school year 2011-2012 data submission. Completed reports must be received by ISBE no later than Nov. 15, 2011. Below are links to important related documents. Please use them for assistance with submitting your data.

- **User Guide:**
http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/Immunization_user_guide.pdf
- **Immunization and Compliance with State Law:**
http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/immunization_requirements.pdf
- **How to Calculate Unduplicated Count:**
<http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/UnduplicatedCount.pdf>
- **Data Entry Worksheet:**
http://www.isbe.net/research/xls/immunization_worksheet.xlsx
- **Health and Immunization Questions and answers:**
<http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=32907>

A report must be submitted for every eligible school, without exception. Schools that are not the home school

for any student should submit the report by selecting the option which allows them to declare they have no data to report.

Please share this information with the school nurse or health technician and those submitting the Immunization/Health Examination data to the Illinois State Board of Education. Questions can be directed to the Data Analysis and Progress Reporting Division at (217) 782-3950.

2011-12 Eye Examination Data Collection

The Student Health Data – Vision system is now available in IWAS for school year 2011-2012 data submission. Completed reports must be received by ISBE no later than June 30, 2012.

Below are links to important related documents. Please use them for assistance with submitting your data.

- **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
- **Information Sheet:**
http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/eye_examinations.pdf

A report must be submitted for every eligible school, without exception. Schools that are not the home school for any student should submit the report by selecting the option which allows them to declare they have no data to report.

Please share this information with the school nurse or health technician and those submitting the Eye Examination data to the Illinois State Board of Education. Questions can be directed to the Data Analysis and Progress Reporting Division at (217) 782-3950.

2011-12 Noncertified Staff Salary Study

The Noncertified Staff Salary Study survey is now available in IWAS for submission of 2011-2012 school year data. URLs for two useful documents are provided below.

- **Worksheet:**
http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/2007_ncss_worksheet.pdf

- **Example for completing the survey:**
http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/2007_ncss_instructions.pdf

The deadline date for submission is Feb. 1, 2012. Districts with fewer than 1,000 enrolled students as of the last school day in September 2010 may ignore this message.

Questions can be directed to Md. Shafiqul Azam in the ISBE Data Analysis and Reporting Division at (217) 782-3950.

2011-12 Nonpublic Registration, Enrollment, and Staff Report

The Nonpublic Registration, Enrollment, and Staff Report (87-01) for school year 2011-2012 is now available in IWAS at <https://sec1.isbe.net/iwas>. Completed reports must be received by ISBE no later than Dec. 31, 2011.

Nonpublic schools that have registered with ISBE at least once in the past must submit their data online via IWAS. Nonpublic schools that have never registered with ISBE must submit data using the paper form 87-01 available at http://www.isbe.net/research/htmls/np_entity.htm.

Public district administrators should communicate with nonpublic school administrators within their district boundaries and encourage them to submit registration, enrollment, and staff data. A portion of the public district funding allocation calculated for the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) uses nonpublic enrollment data that are reported voluntarily by nonprofit elementary and secondary schools.

Nonpublic schools seeking recognition: You must submit your Nonpublic Registration, Enrollment, and Staff Report before you can apply for recognition.

Questions can be directed to Md. Shafiqul Azam in the ISBE Data Analysis and Reporting Division at (217) 782-3950.

2011-12 Teacher Service Record Open in IWAS

The 2011-2012 Teacher Service Record is now open for districts and other reporting entities to provide data on full- and part-time employees working as of Oct. 1, 2011, in a position that requires a teaching, administrative or school service personnel certificate issued by the Illinois State Board of Education. This includes any retiree

working in a position requiring certification, performing duties other than as a substitute.

The deadline for submitting these data is Dec. 15, 2011.

Questions about completing the Teacher Service Record can be directed to the ISBE Data Analysis and Progress Reporting Division at tsr@isbe.net or (217) 782-3950.

Rules and Waivers

Invitation to Comment on Rules

Two proposed rulemakings recently reviewed by the Illinois State Board of Education are available for public comment. The proposals have been posted on the agency's website at <http://www.isbe.net/rules>; choose "Proposed Rules and Amendments." Please submit any comments or suggestions to rules@isbe.net.

Part 25 (Certification)

Addresses approval of speech-language pathology programs, requires educator preparation programs to address the State Board's social and emotional learning standards, and implements several pieces of recently enacted legislation.

Deadline for Public Comment: November 28

Part 375 (Student Records)

Clarifies school district and nonpublic schools' requirements under the Illinois Student School Records Act (105 ILCS 10) relative to the retention, maintenance, and transfer of student records.

Deadline for Public Comment: November 28

Career and Technical Education

Workshops on Common Core and the High School to College Success Report

The Illinois Community College Board, the Illinois Board of Higher Education and the Illinois State Board of Education will host four workshops throughout the state this November.

These workshops will focus on Common Core College Readiness Standards and the High School to College Success Report, and will facilitate collaboration, as well as, further examine and identify collaborative opportunities between secondary and postsecondary institutions. Teams consisting of secondary and postsecondary representatives are encouraged to attend.

Register at

<http://iccbdbsrv.iccb.org/reachingthegoal/register.cfm>.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND THE WORKSHOPS?

- K-12 – Superintendents, Principals, Regional Superintendents, Guidance Counselors, CTE Regional Staff, Curriculum Directors, etc.
- Higher Education – Presidents, Chief Academic Officers, Deans, Enrollment/Admissions Management, etc.

WHEN? All workshops are scheduled from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Here are the dates and locations:

- Nov. 1, Moraine Valley Community College
- Nov. 2, Malcolm X College
- Nov. 7, Richland Community College
- Nov. 8, Southwestern Illinois College

NOTE: These workshops will assume you have previewed the following informational materials:

- 1) The High School to College Success Report webinar, which is being held on Oct. 11. Reserve your webinar seat at <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/913636961>. An archived version of the webinar will be available soon after the live event. If you attended the summit in June, you do not need to view this webinar.
- 2) Introductory Common Core materials. Pay particular attention to the two webinars located at the following website under Common Core Facts on the right side of the screen: http://www.isbe.net/common_core/default.htm. There are a number of other items in this section that include basic information on common core.

Assessment

Assessment Network Training: 2012 ISAT and IAA

The Assessment Network Web site hosted by Pearson will be open from Oct. 31, 2011, to Dec. 21, 2011. This is the Web portal that allows districts and Chicago schools to do the following for the 2012 administration of ISAT and IAA:

- Verify ISAT and IAA test material quantities,
- Order ISAT special format tests like reader scripts and Braille forms,
- Verify or correct the District/Chicago school ISAT and IAA Coordinator information,

- Verify or correct the mailing address for receipt of ISAT and IAA test materials,
- Place additional orders after receipt of initial shipment of test materials.

There will be two Webinar training sessions for the Assessment Network.

- Tuesday, Oct. 25, 10-11:30 a.m.
- Tuesday, Nov. 8, 1:30-3 p.m.

Registration information for these Webinars will be posted next week on the ISAT and IAA Web sites at <http://www.isbe.net/assessment/isat.htm> and <http://www.isbe.net/assessment/iaa.htm>.

2012 and 2013 Assessment Dates Now Available Online

Assessment testing dates for ISAT, PSAT, IAA, and ACCESS for Spring 2012 and Spring 2013 are available online at <http://www.isbe.net/assessment> (click on 2012 or 2013 on the right side under Quick Reference Charts).

PSAE Examination: 2012 Establishment Meeting

The week of Oct. 3, 2011, ACT sent school principals an establishment mailing. This mailing contains directions for establishing the school to be a PSAE test site and how to appoint PSAE testing staff for spring 2012.

This establishment mailing also contains important information about how to order PSAE test materials and how to view a PSAE Test Administration Training Webinar. Please visit the PSAE website (<http://www.isbe.net/assessment/psae.htm>) to view information included in this establishment mailing (under the heading “2011-2012 Information for PSAE Test Supervisors/Accommodations Coordinators”).

Ordering ACCESS Test Materials

Test material ordering begins Monday, Oct. 17, 2011, for the ACCESS for ELLs™ assessment. All students with limited English proficiency in Illinois publicly-funded schools are required to participate. Instructions will be sent via email from the test vendor, MetriTech [(800) 747-4868]. Please ensure that appropriate district staff email addresses are updated in MetriTech’s ACCESS Coordinator list.

For more information, visit MetriTech’s ACCESS website at <https://www.metritech.com/wida/login.aspx>

Join the Assessment Listserv

To join the Assessment Listserv, through which the division sends periodic updates, please visit <http://www.isbe.net/assessment> and click on “Join the Student Assessment Listserv” on the right side under Resources.

Nutrition

National School Lunch Program Verification Completion Deadlines

Each year local education agencies (LEAs) that participate in the National School Lunch and/or Breakfast Programs are required to have completed verification activities no later than Nov. 15 in preparation for completing the online verification summary report that is due Dec. 15.

Verification Timeline:

- **Oct. 1** – Count number of approved applications on file by category, and begin verification process. For school year 2011-12, Oct. 1 falls on a weekend day. This count should be taken no later than the morning of Oct. 3.
- Prior to doing the application count, LEAs should access the Electronic Direct Certification system to directly certify any students currently eligible for free or reduced price meals through use of a household eligibility application (HEA). Students that can be directly certified should not have their HEA included in the Oct. 1 application count.
- **Last operating day of October** – Count number of ALL free and reduced-price eligible students by category.
- For the 2011-12 school year, LEAs will need to provide separate student counts by site for Direct Certified students, and separate student counts by site for all other Categorically Eligible students (Foster child, homeless, migrant, runaway, Head Start, or Even Start). Counts for students that were approved for free or reduced benefits based on a household eligibility income or SNAP/TANF application can continue to be counted as they have been in previous years. Student counts will be needed for the Verification Summary Report (VSR). All schools and/or districts will need to provide student counts, including Community Eligibility Option and Provision schools and/or districts.

- Nov. 15 – Ensure verification process is complete.
- Dec. 15 – Deadline to submit VSR.

Verification efforts are not required:

- For children certified under the Direct Certification Process including children documented as foster child, migrant, runaway, homeless or Head Start.
- For children in residential child care institutions (RCCIs) except for locations that have applications for day students attending the institution.
- In schools only participating in the Special Milk Program and/or Illinois Free program.
- In schools in which all students are served with no separate charge for food service and no special cash assistance is claimed; i.e., non-pricing programs claiming only the paid rate of reimbursement.
- In LEAs in which all schools participate in Provisions 1, 2 or 3, except in those years in which applications are taken for all students in attendance; i.e., the base year. Appropriate student counts are still required.
- In LEAs in which all schools participate in the Community Eligibility Option. Appropriate student counts are still required.

For questions or guidance on the verification process, visit http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/forms_sbn.htm or call (800) 545-7892.

Free Training Available to Support Healthy School Meals and School Wellness Policies

Final federal rules for healthier school meals will soon be published. Proposed rules for new requirements for school wellness policies and national nutrition standards for all food sold and served in schools during the school day will also soon be available for comment. The Illinois Nutrition Education and Training Program's free workshops, webinars and online training programs can help teachers, school foodservice staff and school wellness teams take steps to prepare for these upcoming changes. In addition, Illinois NET training and assistance is also available to school wellness teams striving to be recognized in the HealthierUS School Challenge. For a complete list of available training programs, visit KidsEatWell.org.

Scheduling a training program at your school is easy. Just call Illinois Nutrition Education and Training at (800)

466-7998. You can also tap into the variety of resources available at KidsEatWell.org under the Healthy Schools tab, which includes Nutrition Education, School Wellness Policies and School Meals pages.

Classrooms First Commission

School and District Efficiency Survey Under Way Online

Do you have ideas for how public schools and districts can be more efficient?

With the expectation of continued budgetary challenges for P-12 education in Illinois, the Classrooms First Commission, chaired by Lt. Gov. Sheila Simon, is collecting innovative and practical ideas for improving school and district efficiency while preserving and enhancing classroom learning opportunities for students.

Suggestions may address individual schools, districts, multiple districts, regions or the state as a whole. The more survey responses the commission receives, the more informed its recommendations will be.

Access the survey at <http://www.ltgov.il.gov> to submit ideas. Suggestions can be entered one at a time, with no limit to how many surveys may be completed.

School Health Issues

Office of the Illinois General Announces Availability of Epinephrine Auto-Injectors

Dey Pharma is offering its EpiPen 2-Pak and EpiPen Jr 2-Pak (epinephrine) Auto-Injector 0.3/0.15 mg at a discounted price of \$112.10 each to all public and private pre-school, kindergarten, elementary, middle and high schools in the U.S.

EpiPen Auto-Injectors are now exclusively available in the EpiPen 2-Pak or EpiPen Jr 2-Pak packaging configurations in the U.S. Each EpiPen 2-Pak contains two EpiPen Auto-Injectors and a training device. The training device contains no drug product or needle. Schools can obtain EpiPen 2-Paks and EpiPen Jr 2-Paks by following these steps:

- Obtain a valid prescription for EpiPen 2-Paks or EpiPen Jr 2-Paks.
- Call Cindy Holt at BioRidge Pharma at (973) 845.7600 to request an order form or go to the BioRidge Pharma website at <http://www.bioridgepharma.com> and click on

the Dey EpiPen School Price Discount Program banner to download an order form.

- Fax the completed order form with a copy of a valid prescription to BioRidge Pharma, Attn: Cindy Holt at (973) 845.1088 or scan and email it to info@bioridgepharma.com.
- BioRidge Pharma will find a pharmacy near your school that is able to fill the prescription and forward the copy of your prescription to the pharmacy.
- The pharmacy will notify you when the EpiPen 2-Paks or EpiPen Jr 2-Paks can be picked up at the pharmacy. Be sure to bring the original prescription with you to turn in to the pharmacy.
- Your school (or school district) will pay the pharmacy the reduced price for the EpiPen 2-Pak or EpiPen Jr 2-Pak.

For additional information or questions, contact Dey Pharma customer service at (800) 395-3376.

The Illinois Attorney General's Office recently released guides for schools, parents and physicians on the Emergency Epinephrine Act. An article and fact sheets on Public Act 97-0361 is available on the Illinois State Board of Education's School Health Issues web page at http://www.isbe.net/school_health.htm.

District Opportunities

Illinois Response to Intervention Network to Focus on SSOS Districts

In June of this year, ISBE awarded a grant to Lee/Ogle ROE 47 to implement the Illinois Response to Intervention (RtI) Network. Funded under Illinois' State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG) from the U.S. Department of Education, the Illinois RtI Network will provide standardized professional development, technical assistance and coaching to district and school teams and parents throughout the state. These services will focus on improving student performance in grades K-12 through the implementation of a multi-tiered system of instruction, intervention and assessment, including RtI, with an emphasis on:

- Administrative leadership;
- Scientific, research-based reading and math curricula and instruction at grades K-12;
- Data-based decision making;
- Universal screening and progress monitoring; and
- Parent involvement.

Over the last few months, ROE 47 has worked with ISBE's SPDG Project Director and other ROEs across the state to hire staff for the Illinois RtI Network. These regionally-based staff will be working with district teams to support implementation of a multi-tiered system of student supports as part of the district and school improvement process. This work will be coordinated with the Statewide System of Support (SSOS) and other ISBE initiatives, including but not limited to, the Illinois PBIS Network, Project CHOICES and the Parent and Educator Partnership.

With staff now in place, the Illinois RtI Network is ready to proceed with the identification of school districts to participate in the project. Initially, the districts served by the project will be those that are on improvement or corrective action status under SSOS and have a high percentage (40 percent or more) of students from low-income backgrounds. To solicit the participation of districts that meet the criteria delineated above, within the next two weeks the Illinois RtI Network will be providing information directly to district superintendents about the district selection process. It is expected that the network will be able to serve approximately 63 of these districts during the current school year.

Illinois RtI Network staff contact names, email addresses and phone numbers for the district selection process will be provided when the information referenced above is disseminated to each eligible district. In the interim, questions about the Illinois RtI Network or the district selection process may be directed to Dr. Pamela Radford, Statewide Project Administrator for the Network, at pradford@west40.org or to Kathryn Cox at ISBE (kcox@isbe.net).

Special Education

Screening, Assessment and Support Services (SASS) Update

SASS provides intensive mental health services for children and youth who may need hospitalization for mental health care. When a child is at risk to himself or others, and any time you or others think a child is having a mental health crisis, the CARES line can be contacted. Please take note and remind your schools: It is neither appropriate nor legal for schools to tell parents that they need to have their child screened before they will be allowed to return to school.

For more information regarding the appropriate use of SASS and the CARES line, go to <http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=30884>.

Illinois Service Resource Center

Support Available for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students

ISBE's Illinois Statewide Technical Assistance Center (ISTAC) is comprised of several projects that provide onsite support and training for educators. The Illinois Service Resource Center is the ISTAC component that provides behavioral support at all three tiers of the RTI model for students who are deaf and hard of hearing. Free services include data collection coaching, support in developing classroom-wide behavior support programs, training and follow-up coaching on FBA/BIP, classroom observation and facilitation of home-school teams for students needing intensive level support, home visits with families, free online CPDUs, and a library by mail that includes return postage.

For more information on ISRC, visit <http://www.isrc.us>.

Internet Program

Cable Company Unveils Discounted Internet Service for Low-Income Families

The Federal Communications Commission joined Comcast at a recent event in Washington, D.C., to announce the cable company's Internet Essentials program, which aims to provide discounted broadband service to low-income Americans.

"We know that the three biggest barriers to broadband adoption are cost, digital literacy and relevance – that many Americans don't see broadband as relevant to their lives," said FCC chairman Julius Genachowski. "By helping to close the adoption gap, this program will prepare the next generation, create new opportunities for more jobs and economic growth, and will make a positive difference in the lives of many Americans." Comcast's Internet Essentials will provide families with children eligible for a free lunch under the National School Lunch Program with low-cost Internet service, affordable computers and digital literacy training. Comcast offers the Internet service to eligible customers for \$9.95 a month, plus tax, promising no price increases, activation or equipment rental fees. Budget computers are also available at initial enrollment for \$149.99 plus tax.

For complete eligibility details and additional information, visit <http://www.internetessentials.com>. The site includes a link for educators, community organizations and others to share the program offer with their communities.

Professional Development

National Association for Multicultural Education to Hold Conference in Chicago

The National Association for Multicultural Education's annual conference is scheduled for Nov. 2-5 in Chicago. The conference is intended for students, teachers and administrators to learn ways to incorporate multicultural education into their curriculum and methods to decrease achievement gaps.

For more information, visit <http://nameorg.org>. The National Association for Multicultural Education is a non-profit organization that advances and advocates for equity and social justice through multicultural education.

Discussion on Dyslexia Set for Nov. 1 in Joliet

An informational discussion on dyslexia will be held 6:30 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 1, at the University of St. Francis Recreation Center, 500 Wilcox St., Joliet. Registration is under way. The free event, titled "Dyslexia: Translating Scientific Practice Into Legislative Action – It's Time!," is presented by the University of St. Francis and state Reps. Pam Roth and Linda Chapa LaVia. CPDUs are available. The discussion features Dr. Sally Shaywitz and Dr. Bennett Shaywitz, both of the Yale Center for Dyslexia and Creativity.

For more information, visit Dyslexia in Illinois at <http://dyslexiaill.wordpress.com>, the Yale Center for Dyslexia and Creativity at <http://dyslexia.yale.edu>, the Illinois branch of the International Dyslexia Association at <http://www.readibida.org> and the Learning Ally at <http://learningally.org>.

In the News

Weekly News Clips

ISBE has posted highlights from last week's education news clips at <http://www.isbe.net/news/2011/newsclips/111017.htm>.

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>.



Illinois State Board of Education

Weekly Message

Gery J. Chico, Chairman
 Dr. Christopher J. Ward, Vice Chair
 Dr. Vinni M. Hall, Board Secretary
 James W. Baumann
 Dr. Andrea S. Brown
 Dr. David L. Fields
 Steven R. Gifford
 Lanita J. Koster
 Melinda A. LaBarre

Christopher A. Koch, Ed.D.
 State Superintendent

Oct. 24, 2011

Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

Our Board reviewed statewide Report Card data last week during its regular monthly meeting. This was a good opportunity for us to begin digging into data and thinking about what our No Child Left Behind waiver proposal will look like. We know that 80 percent of districts and 65 percent of schools not making Adequate Yearly Progress is unjustifiably insulting and not an accurate or realistic reflection of the work going on in our schools.

The average score on the ISAT increased to 82 percent meets/exceeds (m/e) this year from 80.9 m/e last year. There were increases in all ISAT tests except for sixth and seventh grade math and seventh grade science, which had slight declines. The composite score on the PSAE dropped 2.5 points from the previous year and all subject scores were down as well. We believe that reduction is primarily due to an administrative rule adopted by ISBE better ensuring that for 2011, and all future years, all 11th-graders take the state assessment. The rule resulted in an increase of about 12,500 PSAE test takers from 2010 to 2011.

I continue to be concerned about the disconnect between the ISAT and the PSAE. Simply put, we know the PSAE is a much more difficult test measuring college and career readiness goals and the ISAT is not as challenging. As we move to implement the rigorous Common Core learning standards and the new assessments based on those standards, the alignment between elementary and high school assessments will be more congruent. In the meantime, we must find a bridge in our assessment system to better align these tests. Any waiver application we submit to the U.S. Department of Education will include some type of back mapping to offer a more accurate comparison of our current ISAT and PSAE scores.

It's worth noting that we have seen some closure of the achievement gap at the elementary level at the same time that we see an increase in our minority and low-income populations. Since 2006, the percent of African-American students meeting or exceeding proficiency standards on the ISAT has increased by 11 points while Latino students have increased their performance by 2.5 points. The percent of students with IEP's meeting benchmarks has increased by 5 percent and low-income students posted an 8.1 point gain.

Finally, congratulations to Josh Stumpenhorst who was named the 2012 Illinois Teacher of the Year. He is a sixth-grade teacher at Lincoln Junior High School in Naperville Community School District 203 and was chosen from nine finalists. Mr. Stumpenhorst is in his ninth year of teaching. He coaches basketball and track and works closely with the student council and computer club.

Again, congratulations to Mr. Stumpenhorst, all of the finalists for Teacher of the Year and the other entire educators honored at Saturday's Those Who Excel banquet. Being in the same room with that many people committed to providing the best education possible to Illinois' students is truly energizing.

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Thanks for all you do for honor students every day.

Chris

Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

- **2011-12 School District Budget form** – Adopted by Sept. 30 and due to ISBE by Oct. 30
- **Supplemental General State Aid (SGSA) plan deadline** – Oct. 30
- **Conference on Best Practices for Nonpublic Special Education Programs registration deadline** – Oct. 31
- **Parent Involvement Fall Summit, Hilton Springfield** – Nov. 1
- **Parent Involvement Regional Summit in Springfield** – Nov. 1
- **National Refugee and Immigrant Conference: Issues and Innovations in Chicago** – Nov. 7-8
- **21st CCLC Full Service Community Schools “How to” Orientation Kaskaskia College, Centralia** – Nov. 8
- **21st CCLC New Grantee Workshop, Marriot Convention Center, Normal** – Nov. 9
- **21st CCLC Fiscal and Evaluation Workshop, Marriot Convention Center, Normal** – Nov. 10
- **21st CCLC Full Service Community Schools “How to” Orientation Holiday Inn, Rockford** – Nov. 15
- **21st CCLC Full Service Community Schools “How to” Orientation Comfort Inn, Orland Park** – Nov. 17
- **Limitation of Administrative Costs Worksheet deadline** – Nov. 15
- **2011-12 Unfilled Positions Survey deadline** – Nov. 15
- **2011-12 Immunization/Health Examination Data Collection deadline** – Nov. 15
- **2010-11 LEA Annual Financial Report** – Due to ROEs/ISCs Oct. 14 and due to ISBE Nov. 15 (with the exception of those who received an “Extension of Time” approval letter)
- **ISBE offices closed for Thanksgiving** – Nov. 24 and 25
- **Part 25 (Certification), Part 375 (Student Records), and Part 425 (Voluntary Registration and Recognition of Nonpublic Schools)** – Public comment period ends Nov. 28
- **FY12 NCLB Monitoring Instrument** – Nov. 30
- **FY12 NCLB Title I Comparability Analysis** – Nov. 30
- **2012 Illinois Arts Education Week Poster Contest deadline** – Nov. 30
- **FY 12 School Technology Revolving Loan Program (STRLP) application deadline** – Dec. 1
- **Gifted Advisory Council ISBE Springfield Office** – Dec. 5
- **2011-2012 Teacher Service Record data deadline** – Dec. 15
- **Part 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision) and Part 151 (School Construction Program)** – Public comment period ends Dec. 19
- **Nonpublic Registration, Enrollment, and Staff Report deadline** – Dec. 31
- **Postmark deadline for waiver applications to be considered by General Assembly in Spring ’12** – Jan. 13
- **Deadline to submit written opt-out petition to regional superintendent of schools for Summer Food Service Program mandate (Public Act 096-0734)** – Jan. 15
- **Part 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision) and Part 235 (Early Childhood Block Grant)** – Public comment period ends Jan. 30
- **2011-12 Teacher Salary Study data form deadline** – Feb. 1
- **2011-12 Noncertified Staff Salary Study survey** – Feb. 1
- **2011-12 Eye Examination Data Collection deadline** – June 30

School Business Services

Limitation of Administrative Costs Worksheet Deadline is Nov. 15

Section 17-1.5 of the 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. School districts must file the Limitation of Administrative Costs Worksheet with the Illinois State Board of Education’s School Business Services Division by Nov. 15, 2011.

A blank Limitation of Administrative Costs Worksheet is at <http://www.isbe.net/sfms/AdminCaps/AdminCaps.htm>.

Additionally, the Limitation of Administrative Costs Worksheet is included in the Illinois School District Annual Financial Report – June 30, 2011 (ISBE 50-35). If a completed Limitation of Administrative Costs Worksheet is submitted along with the school district's Annual Financial Report, a separate worksheet does not also have to be submitted. Please note that the worksheet included in the School District Budget Form July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012 (ISBE 50-36) is a working document for local use only and will not be accepted for official submission of the Limitation of Administrative Costs Worksheet.

Submitted Limitation of Administrative Costs Worksheets will be verified to the district's submitted School District Budget Form July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012 (ISBE 50-36) and the district's submitted Annual Financial Report – June 30, 2011 (ISBE 50-35). Inaccurate Limitation of Administrative Costs Worksheets will be returned to districts for correction.

Districts exceeding the limitation may amend their budgets prior to June 30, 2012, to become in compliance with the limitation. Districts unable to amend their budgets would have to waive the limitation in order to become in compliance. School districts with administrative expenditures in the 25th percentile or below (4th quartile) may waive the limitation following a public hearing and with the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the members of the school board. Any district waiving the limitation shall notify ISBE within 45 days of such action. If a school district that is ineligible to waive the limitation by board action exceeds the limitation solely because of circumstances beyond the control of the district and the district has exhausted all available and reasonable remedies to comply with the limitation, the district may request a waiver from the General Assembly pursuant to Section 2-3.25g of the School Code. Procedures for requesting a waiver in accordance with Section 2-3.25g of the School Code can be found at <http://www.isbe.net/isbewaivers/default.htm>.

Quartile rankings for all school districts and a sample waiver resolution for qualifying districts can be accessed at <http://www.isbe.net/sfms/AdminCaps/AdminCaps.htm>.

If you have any questions, contact Michelle Heninger, School Business Services Division, at (217) 785-8779 or mheninge@isbe.net.

Curriculum and Instruction

2011-2012 ISBE Technology Plans Writing Guidance Webinar Scheduled for Oct. 27

If your district has a technology plan that will expire on June 30, 2012, please note that there is a new technology plan template on the IIRC. ISBE will be conducting a webinar to guide districts through the new template and provide writing guidance.

The 2011-2012 ISBE Technology Plans Writing Guidance webinar is set for 1-2 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 27. Space is limited. Reserve your webinar seat at <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/460140976>. This webinar will provide a walkthrough of the new, streamlined, Technology Integration Plan template and provide writing guidance for districts submitting a 2011-2012 Technology Plan.

System Requirements: For PC-based attendees, Windows 7, Vista, XP or 2003 Server; for Macintosh-based attendees, Mac OS X 10.5 or newer.

Illinois Secretary of State

School District Library Grant Application Available

Applications are being accepted for the FY 2012 School District Library Grant. Applications and all other information concerning the grant can be found at http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/what_we_do/schoolpercapgrant.html.

This year's deadline to submit the grant application and signature page is Dec. 30. For questions concerning the grant, please contact Robert Jones at rjones1@ilsos.net or (217) 785-1168, or Becky Hunter at bhunter1@ilsos.net or 217-782-7849.

Finance and Audit Committee

ISBE to Hold Series of FY 2013 Budget Hearings Across the State

The Illinois State Board of Education's Finance and Audit Committee will host a series of hearings on the FY 2013 budget over the next several months. The public is invited to attend. Please check back to the ISBE calendar and meetings website for updates to the following schedule of hearings: <http://isbe.net/calendar/default.htm>.

Those wishing to participate in these hearings may sign-in upon arrival at each location. Please provide 15 copies of written testimony and provide cost estimates (including a detailed budget) for programs being discussed. Please address how proposed programs align to the Board's Strategic Plan Goals.

- **GOAL 1:** Every student will demonstrate academic achievement and be prepared for success after high school.
- **GOAL 2:** Every student will be supported by highly prepared and effective teachers and school leaders.
- **GOAL 3:** Every school will offer a safe and healthy learning environment for all students.

Here are the dates, location and time of the remaining meetings scheduled:

- **Monday, Oct. 24:** Edwardsville, Jon Davis Wrestling Center, 6168 Center Grove Road, 3-5 p.m.
- **Thursday, Oct. 27:** Champaign, Ford Counties Regional Office of Education, Robeson Pavilion Room A & B, Champaign Public Library, 200 W. Green St., 3-5 p.m.
- **Tuesday, Nov. 1:** Wheeling, Wheeling School Dist. 21, Admin Office, 999 W. Dundee Road, 3-5 p.m.
- **Tuesday, Nov. 29:** Chicago, James R. Thompson Center, Room 16-503, 100 W. Randolph, 3-6 p.m.

The Finance and Audit Committee FY 2013 Budget Hearings will be accessible to persons with disabilities. Persons planning to attend who need special accommodations should contact the Board office no later than the day before the meeting they wish to attend. Contact the Superintendent's office at the State Board of Education: Phone, (217) 782-2221; TTY/TDD, (217) 782-1900; fax, (217) 785-3972.

Individuals unable to attend the budget hearings can send e-mail to isbefy13@isbe.net, which will be monitored by agency staff to receive additional testimony.

PEAC

Survey on Recommended Changes to Educator Evaluation Systems

Can't attend a regional meeting to discuss Illinois' recommended changes to educator evaluation systems? Teachers and school leaders can still learn about and help shape the Performance Evaluation Advisory Council's

draft recommendations to the Illinois State Board of Education for revamping educator evaluations. View the presentation on potential changes to teacher and principal evaluations; this is the same presentation used in regional meetings. Then, share your opinions on the proposed evaluation systems by taking the online survey. Both are available at <http://bit.ly/pxL96K>.

Hundreds of educators from across the state have attended meetings to learn about developing new evaluation systems, voice questions and concerns and take in this survey. Additional forums are scheduled for Oct. 25 in Marion, Oct. 26 in Rock Island and Oct. 27 in Bloomington.

Your input is critical to create a system that will improve educators' professional development, provide meaningful feedback, and give teachers the tools to help every child achieve. Have a question or comment? Email peacinfo@isbe.net.

Data Analysis and Progress Reporting

2011-12 Immunization/Health Examination Data Collection

The Student Health Data – Immunization system is now available in IWAS for school year 2011-2012 data submission. Completed reports must be received by ISBE no later than Nov. 15, 2011. Below are links to important related documents. Please use them for assistance with submitting your data.

- **User Guide:**
http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/Immunization_user_guide.pdf
- **Immunization and Compliance with State Law:**
http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/immunization_requirements.pdf
- **How to Calculate Unduplicated Count:**
http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/Unduplicated_Count.pdf
- **Data Entry Worksheet:**
http://www.isbe.net/research/xls/immunization_worksheet.xlsx
- **Health and Immunization Questions and answers:**
<http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=32907>

A report must be submitted for every eligible school, without exception. Schools that are not the home school

for any student should submit the report by selecting the option which allows them to declare they have no data to report.

Please share this information with the school nurse or health technician and those submitting the Immunization/Health Examination data to the Illinois State Board of Education. Questions can be directed to the Data Analysis and Progress Reporting Division at (217) 782-3950.

2011-12 Eye Examination Data Collection

The Student Health Data – Vision system is now available in IWAS for school year 2011-2012 data submission. Completed reports must be received by ISBE no later than June 30, 2012.

Below are links to important related documents. Please use them for assistance with submitting your data.

- **User Guide:**
http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/vision_iwas_guide.pdf
- **Data Entry Worksheet:**
http://www.isbe.net/research/xls/eye_exam_wsht.xls
- **Information Sheet:**
http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/eye_examinations.pdf

A report must be submitted for every eligible school, without exception. Schools that are not the home school for any student should submit the report by selecting the option which allows them to declare they have no data to report.

Please share this information with the school nurse or health technician and those submitting the Eye Examination data to the Illinois State Board of Education. Questions can be directed to the Data Analysis and Progress Reporting Division at (217) 782-3950.

2011-12 Teacher Service Record Open in IWAS

The 2011-2012 Teacher Service Record is now open for districts and other reporting entities to provide data on full- and part-time employees working as of Oct. 1, 2011, in a position that requires a teaching, administrative or school service personnel certificate issued by the Illinois State Board of Education. This includes any retiree working in a position requiring certification, performing duties other than as a substitute.

The deadline for submitting these data is Dec. 15, 2011.

Questions about completing the Teacher Service Record can be directed to the ISBE Data Analysis and Progress Reporting Division at tsr@isbe.net or (217) 782-3950.

Nutrition

School Meal Service Procurement – The Invitation for Bid and Contract Process

This training is designed to assist school food authorities (SFAs) who currently contract or are seeking to contract for school meal services with a food service management company or meal vendor in meeting all requirements associated with the Invitation for Bid and Contract process. Participants will better understand the three-step document submission and review process and receive training in developing Invitation for Bid and contract documents that meet federal and state regulations and statutes.

The training is presented in three separate webinar sessions and participants should try to “attend” all three sessions. All SFAs conducting a new procurement or considering contracting for school meal services are highly encouraged to participate in the training. Participants must be employees of the school food authority (school or district).

Pre-registration is required and is available on the Nutrition Programs Division website at <http://www.isbe.net/nutrition>.

Session 1: The “Appetizer” — Introduction and General Requirements, 1-3 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2011

Session 2: The “Entree” — Invitation for Bid and Contract Prototype, 1-3 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2011

Session 3: The “Side Dishes” — Attachments and Exhibits, 1-3 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2011

Special Education

Registration Deadline Oct. 31 for the Fifth Annual Conference on Best Practices for NonPublic Special Education Programs

Registration closes Oct. 31 for the fifth annual Conference on Best Practices for Nonpublic Special

Education Programs, which will be held Nov. 15-16 at the Oak Lawn Hilton.

Go to <http://webapps.isbe.net/ISBEConference/> to register. Click on “Schedule at a Glance” for an overview of the conference. The hotel has a block of rooms reserved for the conference. That information can be found in the brochure on the registration page.

Questions? Contact Paul Nijensohn at pnijenso@isbe.net or Sarah Sebert at ssebert@isbe.net.

Rules and Waivers

Invitation to Comment on Rules

Four proposed rulemakings recently reviewed by the Illinois State Board of Education are available for public comment. The proposals have been posted on the agency’s website at <http://www.isbe.net/rules>; choose “Proposed Rules and Amendments.” Please submit any comments or suggestions to rules@isbe.net.

Part 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision)

Responds to several recently enacted statutes, particularly proposing a process to approve entities that will provide training for school board members, as is required under P.A. 97-8, effective June 13, 2011.

Deadline for Public Comment: December 19

Part 151 (School Construction Program)

Adds special education cooperatives to the entities eligible to apply for energy efficient grants under the School Construction Program, a change made by P.A. 97-205, effective July 28, 2011.

Deadline for Public Comment: December 19

Part 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision)

Proposes that starting in the 2014-15 school year, any school district that offers kindergarten (whether full or half day) be required to administer the Kindergarten Individual Development Survey, or KIDS, and to participate in pilot administrations of the survey in the two years previous to full implementation (if chosen), unless a school district can provide evidence of capacity issues that would prevent participation.

Deadline for Public Comment: January 30

Part 235 (Early Childhood Block Grant)

Addresses numerous requirements related to coordinating the administration of the programs funded under the

block grant with those early childhood initiatives offered through other state agencies, including participation in a quality rating system and an electronic personnel registry.

Deadline for Public Comment: January 30

Invitation to Comment on Rules

Two proposed rulemakings recently reviewed by the Illinois State Board of Education are available for public comment. The proposals have been posted on the agency’s website at <http://www.isbe.net/rules>; choose “Proposed Rules and Amendments.” Please submit any comments or suggestions to rules@isbe.net.

Part 25 (Certification)

Addresses approval of speech-language pathology programs, requires educator preparation programs to address the State Board’s social and emotional learning standards, and implements several pieces of recently enacted legislation.

Deadline for Public Comment: November 28

Part 375 (Student Records)

Clarifies school district and nonpublic schools’ requirements under the Illinois Student School Records Act (105 ILCS 10) relative to the retention, maintenance, and transfer of student records.

Deadline for Public Comment: November 28

U.S. Departments of Education and State

Annual International Education Week Kicks Off on Nov. 14

The 12th annual International Education Week starts Nov. 14. This year’s theme is International Education: Inspiring Students Locally to Succeed Globally. International Education Week is a joint initiative of the U.S. Departments of Education and State. This annual initiative aims to promote international understanding and build support for international educational exchange by encouraging the development of programs that prepare Americans to live and work in a global environment and attract future leaders from abroad to study in the United States.

“President Obama and I are passionate about providing all of our children with an education that will enable them to succeed in a globally competitive economy where knowledge and innovation are more important than ever,” stated U.S. Secretary of Education Arne

Duncan in a recent letter. “And, with the world's economies and societies becoming more and more interdependent, it is almost impossible to distinguish between domestic and international issues.” Visit <http://www2.ed.gov/about/inits/ed/international/iew.html> to read it in its entirety.

Additional information, including a list of ways to get involved and more, is available on the Department of State's website at <http://iew.state.gov/index.cfm#nogo>.

Illinois Service Resource Center

Support Available for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students

ISBE's Illinois Statewide Technical Assistance Center (ISTAC) is comprised of several projects that provide onsite support and training for educators. The Illinois Service Resource Center is the ISTAC component that provides behavioral support at all three tiers of the RTI model for students who are deaf and hard of hearing. Free services include data collection coaching, support in developing classroom-wide behavior support programs, training and follow-up coaching on FBA/BIP, classroom observation and facilitation of home-school teams for students needing intensive level support, home visits with families, free online CPDUs, and a library by mail that includes return postage.

For more information on ISRC, visit <http://www.isrc.us>.

Classroom Opportunities

Illinois First Amendment Center Offers Free Materials for Educators

The Illinois First Amendment Center in Springfield has free materials available for all grades that teach awareness, understanding and appreciation for the First Amendment. Many of the materials are paired with curriculum guides vetted by educators. Available materials include posters (including student-designed posters), videos (for both high school and lower grades), coloring books, flash cards, curriculum guides and more. All of the materials are free and many can be downloaded online at <http://www.ifac.us>.

For items that must be mailed, the Illinois First Amendment Center charges a nominal postage fee to cover actual postage. There are no shipping/handling charges. All of the materials may be previewed online at www.ifac.us and either downloaded or ordered from the

website. For additional information, contact David Porter at dporter@illinoispress.org.

Student Opportunities

Entries Sought for Illinois Work Zone Safety Calendar Contest

The Illinois Department of Transportation is asking elementary students in kindergarten through sixth grade to help promote work zone safety through art. IDOT, the Illinois State Board of Education, the American Traffic Safety Services Foundation and the Illinois Chapter of the American Traffic Safety Services Association are sponsoring the seventh annual Illinois Work Zone Safety Calendar Contest.

This year's theme is “See Orange. Slow Down. Save Lives.” There are three categories for the competition divided by grades: K-1, 2-4 and 5-6 grades. Each school must select the top four posters from each category (12 posters total) and submit them to IDOT by Nov. 30. Children are eligible to participate in the contest even if their school chooses not to participate. The child's parent or guardian can submit the drawings to IDOT.

The top 30 entries, 10 from each category, will move on to a judging panel who will determine the 12 finalists to be displayed in the 2013 Illinois Work Zone Safety Calendar. The top two finalists in each category will move on to compete in a national calendar contest.

For more information, go to <http://www.dot.state.il.us/trafficsafety/WZS/WZScontest.html> or contact IDOT's contest coordinator, Jessica Keldermans, at (217) 785-3062.

Professional Development

Discussion on Dyslexia Set for Nov. 1 in Joliet

An informational discussion on dyslexia will be held 6:30 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 1, at the University of St. Francis Recreation Center, 500 Wilcox St., Joliet. Registration is under way. The free event, titled “Dyslexia: Translating Scientific Practice Into Legislative Action – It's Time!,” is presented by the University of St. Francis and state Reps. Pam Roth and Linda Chapa LaVia. CPDUs are available. The discussion features Dr. Sally Shaywitz and Dr. Bennett Shaywitz, both of the Yale Center for Dyslexia and Creativity.

For more information, visit Dyslexia in Illinois at <http://dyslexiail.wordpress.com>, the Yale Center for Dyslexia and Creativity at <http://dyslexia.yale.edu>, the Illinois branch of the International Dyslexia Association at <http://www.readibida.org> and the Learning Ally at <http://learningally.org>.

In the News

Weekly News Clips

ISBE has posted highlights from last week's education news clips at <http://www.isbe.net/news/2011/newsclips/111024.htm>.

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>.



Illinois State Board of Education

100 North First Street • Springfield, Illinois 62777-0001
www.isbe.net

Gery J. Chico
Chairman

Christopher A. Koch, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Education

November 7, 2011

The Honorable Robert Daiber
Madison County #41
Suite 438, PO Box 600
157 North main Street
Edwardsville, IL 62025

Dear The Honorable Daiber,

Late last month President Obama announced his plans to allow states to apply for waivers from the federal No Child Left Behind Act, also known as the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Illinois Leadership supports the waiver opportunity and is committed to working with our stakeholders to develop and submit a strong waiver request early next year. It is critical that we engage stakeholders early in the process and hear from a diverse group of citizens to inform our waiver request and develop the system that puts Illinois children first. Our waiver request will be based upon the Board's goals to better prepare every student for success in college and careers. It will raise expectations for all students and will be focused on closing achievement gaps. Illinois is a diverse state and we know prescriptive solutions simply don't work. Our waiver request will include flexibilities in spending, supports and reforms to best meet the local needs, while at the same time raising expectations for students and educators through implementation of higher learning standards and an evaluation system based on measured progress. **You have been identified as a key stakeholder and I hope you will accept this invitation to participate in a meeting designed to obtain your input.**

Date: Tuesday, November 29, 2011
Time: 9:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. (Continental Breakfast and Lunch provided)
Location: Marriott Hotel & Conference Center
201 Broadway Avenue
Normal, Illinois 61761
1-309-862-9000

The meeting goals include eliciting feedback from stakeholders on the various components of the Illinois ESEA Flexibility Waiver Request and determining the level of stakeholder support for the components of the Waiver Request.

Please complete your registration at <http://tinyurl.com/ISBEESEAFlex> no later than Wednesday, November 23, 2011.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susie Morrison".

Susie Morrison
Deputy Superintendent

CC: Jason Leahy
Brent Clark
Audrey Soglin
Dan Montgomery



Illinois State Board of Education

Gery J. Chico, Chairman

Dr. Christopher Koch, State Superintendent

Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)

Flexibility Waiver

Stakeholders Meeting

November 29, 2011

Marriott Hotel and Conference Center, Bloomington-Normal, Illinois

9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Meeting Purpose

- To elicit feedback from stakeholders about the Illinois Elementary and Secondary Education Act flexibility waiver request
- To identify the level of stakeholder support for components of the waiver request
- To identify changes that may need to be made to the waiver request

Meeting Anticipated Outcomes

Participants will:

- Review the current accountability system and the flexibility provided by the waiver
- Develop an understanding of the process for requesting the flexibility waiver and current ideas for the next generation accountability system
- Provide critical feedback on the components of the flexibility request and make recommendations for developing a comprehensive and cohesive next-generation accountability system

Agenda

8:30 a.m. Registration and continental breakfast

9:00 a.m. Opening

- Welcome and introductions
- Agenda overview

9:10 a.m. ESEA Flexibility

- An overview
- Vision For the Next Generation Accountability System



Illinois State Board of Education

Gery J. Chico, Chairman

Dr. Christopher Koch, State Superintendent

9:45 a.m. Breakout Sessions with Intense Focus on Guiding Principles (Round 1)

- College and Career Readiness Expectations for all Students
- Differentiated Accountability
- Differentiated Recognition and Supports
- Supporting Effective Instruction and Leadership

10:30 a.m. Break

10:45 a.m. Breakout Sessions Continued (Round 2)

- College and Career Readiness Expectations for all Students
- Differentiated Accountability
- Differentiated Recognition and Supports
- Supporting Effective Instruction and Leadership

11:35 a.m. Breakout Sessions Continued (Round 3)

- College and Career Readiness Expectations for all Students
- Differentiated Accountability
- Differentiated Recognition and Supports
- Supporting Effective Instruction and Leadership

12:20 p.m. Lunch

1:00 p.m. Breakout Sessions Continued (Round 4)

- College and Career Readiness Expectations for all Students
- Accountability
- Differentiated Recognition and Supports
- Supporting Effective Instruction and Leadership

1:45 p.m. Break

2:00 p.m. Report Out

2:30 a.m. Wrap Up

3:00 p.m. Adjourn



Illinois State Board of Education

100 North First Street • Springfield, Illinois 62777-0001
www.isbe.net

Gery J. Chico
Chairman

Christopher A. Koch, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Education

November 22, 2011

In Illinois, we believe that strong standards can and do help our schools achieve. However, we need a system that also recognizes and encourages growth. This year, the rigid benchmarks of the federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) have deemed that only eight Illinois high schools made “adequate progress”, while 656 failed. While no one questions the need for educational improvement in Illinois and the nation as a whole, this stark statistic does not paint a true picture of Illinois’ schools, nor the progress many of our schools have made toward closing achievement gaps. In fact, aspects of the law have put ‘success’ so far out of reach so as to be counterproductive – actually deterring our administrators, teachers and children from making realistic advances in student learning.

Earlier this fall President Obama announced his plans to allow states to apply for waivers from NCLB, also known as the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Increasing student achievement is Illinois’ number one educational priority, and, as such, our state intends to pursue a waiver from NCLB, allowing us to create our own accountability system. In the coming months, the State Board of Education will work with Governor Quinn and his administration on Illinois’ proposal, with plans to submit early next year. We intend to enlist a diverse group of citizens to help us shape our request and develop the system that puts Illinois children first.

The best long-term economic development tool a state can have is a solid education system. Successful graduates attract business and jobs. The State Board of Education is committed to making Illinois’ Pre-K to 12 system the strongest in the nation. Developing our own stringent accountability system will allow our state to pursue objectives and accountability standards that will ensure our schools’ progress, while also recognizing and encouraging advances in student learning.

In Illinois we have already embarked on the following initiatives to substantially strengthen our education system:

- The implementation of the Common Core State Standards, which are new, more rigorous learning standards to challenge students and educators alike to increase our global competitiveness;
- The development of new assessments based on these higher learning standards, which will be more rigorous, including using multiple measures and providing better data to teachers to drive instruction;
- The promotion and utilization of technology to drive student achievement;

- The development of a kindergarten survey to ensure our youngest learners are on track in the earliest grades;
- The coordination of a statewide inter-agency partnership that will provide better coordinated early childhood services and performance ratings;
- New, higher standards for teacher and principal recruitment and preparation, aimed at improving classroom instruction and educational leadership;
- The development of a new principal and teacher performance evaluation system that takes into account student academic growth; and,
- A targeted, intensive effort to turnaround our state's lowest achieving schools, which involves the provision of additional resources and oversight, while expecting significant gains for students and better possibilities for their future.

It is within this context of positive change that we must design a new accountability program for our education system. Under NCLB, 65 percent of our schools and 80 percent of our districts are deemed failures, with little hope of climbing out from under the program's unrealistic performance targets. Is there room for improvement in our schools? Of course – it is what our Board and schools across the state work toward every day. At the same time, we do not believe that a constant message of failure breeds the creative thinking and enthusiasm that creates success; it's not how you help children learn, so it stands to reason that it is not the best tool for a school's success either. Illinois' accountability system needs to be balanced between encouragement and consequences, and opting out of NCLB will allow us to implement such a system.

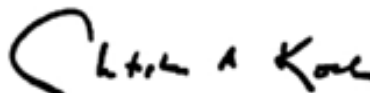
The accountability system we envision will still expect continuous improvement and success from our students, schools and districts, but the goals we set will be both high and attainable. We need to create smart, nuanced tools to accurately measure the progress our schools make and also identify areas in which achievement gaps exist so that they can be addressed. School districts and schools will have the ability to demonstrate improvement and success in differentiated, appropriate and measurable ways, so that progress is based upon growth and lasting achievements.

Our waiver request will be based upon the goals of the Governor and the State Board of Education to better prepare every Illinois student for college and career success. There is no question that our schools can and must improve. As part of opting out of NCLB, our state will build an accountability system to raise the bar for all students and focus on closing achievement gaps. To truly help our children grow and prepare for the future, Illinois needs a common sense accountability system, supported by our recent reforms, that not only tracks success and high academic performance, but also inspires it.

Sincerely,



Gery J. Chico
Chairman



Christopher A. Koch, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Education

Waiver may ease burden of NCLB Act/Morris Daily Herald

Jessica Cohea

It is “very likely” Illinois will apply for a waiver from requirements of the federal No Child Left Behind Act by Jan. 1, 2012.

If granted, that waiver will mean flexibility from NCLB, but Illinois State Superintendent Chris Koch is unsure for what type of flexibility the state will be eligible.

“I believe that Illinois is well-positioned to receive a waiver,” Koch wrote in his weekly message dated Sept. 26, 2011. “(The United States Department of Education) has said that waivers will be available in several areas, but most notably we would have the ability to seek flexibility from: the 2013-2014 requirement of 100 percent of students meeting and exceeding state standards; district and school improvement requirements; and additional uses of federal funds.”

NCLB was signed into law in January 2002, with the purpose of ensuring students in America are able to meet the high learning standards of the state in which he or she lives, according to the Illinois State Board of Education.

Major concerns with NCLB have continued to fester in the education world since the legislation’s expiration in 2007, and because Congress has not acted on it since then, President Barack Obama has now made waivers available to states that meet the requirements.

There would be advantages to gaining flexibility in any of the three areas Koch listed, but there has been a growing dilemma with the 2013-2014 deadline in particular, according to ISBE spokesman Matt Vanover.

He said many people are realizing the deadline may not be attainable.

“One problem with the original No Child Left Behind was the completely unrealistic expectations,” said Dr. Kent Bugg, superintendent of Coal City Community Unit School District 1.

He knows his district is not a failing one, but they are being listed as such because of those expectations.

As are many other Grundy County school districts.

“We’re tired of hearing the word ‘failing,’” said Dr. Pat Halloran, superintendent Morris Community High School District 101.

In Illinois, according to Vanover, 1,999 schools are listed as “failing” this year because they did not meet the Adequate Yearly Progress requirements set by the state. Only 1,808 schools did meet AYP this year.

A list of Grundy County schools that did not meet AYP this year will be available at the end of October on the Illinois Interactive Report Card website, iirc.niu.edu, according to Paul Nordstrom, regional superintendent for Kendall and Grundy counties.

“(In 2014), 100 percent of schools will probably be failing,” said Teri Shaw, superintendent of Morris Elementary School District 54, when discussing her district’s AYP results.

President Obama realizes that NCLB “has some serious flaws,” and that is why the waivers were created, the president said in his Sept. 23 speech about NCLB flexibility.

In order to qualify for the waiver, states need to adopt college- and career-ready standards and assessments; develop a new generation of accountability, recognition and support systems; and improve evaluation of principal and teacher effectiveness.

Illinois has already adopted college- and career-ready standards and assessments, and has made efforts to improve evaluation of principal and teacher effectiveness.

The Performance Evaluation Reform Act (PERA), which was signed into law by Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn in January 2010, “requires that teachers and principals be evaluated in a new way that incorporates student growth measures as a significant factor in performance ratings.”

Rather than being rated on a scale of “excellent, satisfactory or unsatisfactory,” Halloran explains teachers and principals in Illinois are now rated as “excellent,” “proficient,” “needs improvement” or “unsatisfactory.”

All schools in Illinois will use the new system by 2016.

If granted, the waiver will affect each school district differently.

“To me, the waiver will mean our district being able to focus our improvement efforts using the Rising Star framework that we’ve been working on the last year and a half,” Halloran said.

Rising Star gives participating schools the opportunity to use research-based evidence for improvement on leadership skills to instruction in the classroom. The program is a school improvement plan based on education research of what successful schools nationwide are doing or have done.

To Shaw, the waiver will alleviate the burden set on Dist. 54 for being a “failing” district for the second year now.

“There’s a negative connotation that goes with not making AYP,” she said. “In reality, our district does really well.”

Bugg explained he will appreciate the change from a nationally-led to a state-led education system.

“One thing I really like about the changes being made is that they put the power back in the state’s hands, rather than the federal government’s, which is where it was supposed to be in the first place,” he said.

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No Child’ waivers could mean fewer headaches for schools/Beacon News

Jenette Sturges

At the beginning of the 2010-11 school year, Jeff Schafermeyer had to do something every educator dreads.

The principal of Boulder Hill Elementary School in Montgomery sent home letters informing parents their neighborhood school was failing and that they had the choice to send their students to other schools.

“That was the worst,” said Schafermeyer. “Families across the street had to choose what was best for their child — sending them to their neighborhood school, or busing them across town — and it caused a lot of unnecessary anxiety for families.”

But Boulder Hill’s predicament — which, unlike most schools, ultimately has a happy ending — was hardly unique.

More than 1,300 elementary schools across Illinois were failing by 2010, under federal No Child Left Behind standards, and that number is expected to jump at the end of this school year.

Which is why Illinois — and most other states — likely will apply for a waiver of No Child Left Behind requirements offered by President Barack Obama last month.

If granted, states could scrap the law’s most onerous requirements — such as ensuring 100 percent of students reach proficiency in math and English on standardized tests, providing after-school tutoring, and offering free bus transportation to better schools nearby — if they adopt new standards and plans for achievement.

Boulder Hill’s story

“It’s a Band-Aid,” said Kathy Dineen, assistant principal at Boulder Hill Elementary, on the administration’s waiver proposal. “And I think it shows that there’s a flaw in the system right now.”

Dineen would know. In 2009, those flaws became apparent when the school received its ISAT scores and school report card. A subgroup of 45 students with learning disabilities at Boulder Hill failed to meet standards — in education lingo, it’s called making “adequate yearly progress,” or AYP — in reading. At the time, there were about 600 students total in the school.

“That’s a real challenge. They’re being measured the same way as other kids, even though we can demonstrate growth from year to year — under No Child rules, that’s failing,” Schafermeyer said. “It can bring an entire school down.”

The 2001 No Child Left Behind Act laid out lofty goals for performance on math and reading tests for school children all over the country. In the first year of the law, for a school to be considered “passing,” just 40 percent of students overall, and in various subgroups such as race, disability and language, had to make Average Yearly Progress. But each year, the marker moves, and by spring 2012, at least 92.5 percent of students will need to make AYP for a school to be considered passing. In 2014, that standard is 100 percent.

Which is part of the reason Education Secretary Arne Duncan has warned that, nationally, more than 80 percent of schools at all levels across the country could be labeled as failing by the end of this school year.

Locally, the statistics also look grim.

Between the East and West Aurora school districts, only one school — Fearn Elementary in North Aurora — was scoring “passing” grades, based on 2010 scores, the most recent publicly available.

Indian Prairie schools are faring better, but even that district has watch-listed schools, and the district as a whole has failed to make annual yearly progress. So, too, have the Geneva, Batavia, Kaneland, Yorkville, Plano and Sandwich school districts.

The challenge

Boulder Hill Elementary’s administrators and teachers saw their scores as a challenge and got to work. As a Title I school, Boulder Hill became eligible for extra funds. They targeted their students with reading issues, set up an after-school tutoring club, and brought in a staff development programs.

The result in 2010?

“We failed to make AYP a second time,” Schafermeyer said.

Boulder Hill’s strong emphasis on reading in the 2009-10 school year had paid off — reading scores among students with disabilities jumped dramatically, surpassing state benchmarks.

But math scores for those same students didn’t improve enough. At the same time, Oswego’s English Language Learners program was moved to the school, and those students — who had to take their ISAT tests in English — also failed. Hispanic and low-income subgroups also failed to meet their benchmarks.

The provision of No Child Left Behind that required schools to monitor subgroups was meant to ensure that those children most vulnerable excelled along with their peers. But the subgroups have had the unintended consequence of skewing data. A school or district must report subgroup data only if there are at least 45 students in the group.

Which is part of the reason one district, Somonauk, has managed to mostly stay off the watch lists.

“If you fail in a subgroup, the whole school fails,” Somonauk Superintendent Dawn Green said.

The small size of the mostly white district has put it at a statistical advantage — it’s only required to report on low-income students and students with disabilities.

Still, like every other district, Somonauk has struggled to meet the ever-increasing benchmarks.

“Are we doing anything differently? Yes, I think a lot of schools are trying whatever they can,” Green said.

Finding success

That's certainly been the case at Boulder Hill. After the school failed to make Average Yearly Progress a second year in a row, 48 students chose to attend other schools in the Oswego School District.

So school administrators doubled down their efforts in the 2010-11 school year, performing math assessments and remediation, hiring reading specialists, expanding the after-school tutoring program and even serving breakfast to 140 students.

When Schafermeyer talks about it, a smile spreads over his face. Students in nearly every category, in both math and reading, scored double-digit gains.

This spring, if they can repeat their success and get 92.5 percent of their students — subgroups and all — passing, Boulder Hill no longer will have to send out the letters to parents and offer school choice.

Which is good, because the number of “passing” elementary schools that parents can choose from in the Oswego School District has shrunk to just five in the last year.

Across the state

“It is very likely we’ll seek a waiver (on the No Child standards),” said Matt Vanover, a spokesman for the Illinois State Board of Education. “However, we still need to see what the details are. We would like to get a little more detail as to what types of flexibilities and waivers would be out there.”

Vanover said the State Board favors “a different accountability system.”

“Instead of looking at that unrealistic target, maybe we look at schools having growth on a year-by-year basis,” Vanover said.

Fox Valley educators are hopeful and confident that if the waivers are made available, Illinois would secure one.

“Illinois has been very aggressive in looking at principal and teacher evaluation, and I think that will help us qualify,” Indian Prairie School District Superintendent Kathryn Birkett said.

In June, Gov. Pat Quinn signed into law SB7, an education reform bill that tied teacher tenure and layoffs to student achievement, and which made it easier for school districts to dismiss tenured teachers deemed ineffective. Illinois has also adopted the Common Core Standards, a common curriculum across most of the country, to be rolled out in the next few years.

Those changes are all in line with Obama and Duncan’s plan — students still will have to take yearly tests in math and reading, but the administration says the emphasis will be more on measuring growth over time.

The biggest advantage of the waivers will be the ability for schools and districts to use those federal dollars in different ways — including redirecting money spent on transporting kids to other schools back into the schools that need help.

“Right now, we spend our federal dollars in a very prescriptive way, and I think what (the waivers) will allow us to do is for districts to spend that money in the way that will best benefit our students locally,” Birkett said. “No one knows how to do that better than the people teaching the students.”

Chicken or egg?

The No Child Left Behind effort “has benefited the kids from Boulder Hill School, absolutely,” Schafermeyer said.

But that’s not to say he’s not looking forward to the day when a better education plan comes along, one based more on student growth and less on a single test.

“No Child Left Behind, for a school that’s willing and eager to focus, it helped us. It made us a better school. But it’s very frustrating, and it’s really not going to be realistic,” he said.

Especially come 2014, when every student will have to pass their ISAT. Another frustration, he said, was learning all the ins and outs of the legislation, then explaining them to more than 400 families who couldn’t understand how their good neighborhood school suddenly was failing.

“We take those test scores with a grain of salt,” Schafermeyer said. “It’s just a snapshot of how they do on one test, on one day. Maybe a student didn’t have breakfast; maybe they didn’t get a good night’s sleep the night before.”

Whether the waivers are approved, the requirements dropped, and the letters to parents shredded, Boulder Hill’s administrators are still proud and happy with their results.

“We at Boulder Hill worked really hard,” Schafermeyer said. “It was the efforts of this staff and our community volunteering and the kids being focused that allowed us to achieve. Would we have done that otherwise? I think we would have ... But we were forced to because of No Child Left Behind.”

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State to Seek No Child Left Behind Waiver/Chicago News Cooperative

REBECCA VEVEA

With more than 80 percent of Illinois school districts considered failing under the federal accountability law, No Child Left Behind, the Illinois State Board of Education announced plans Thursday to seek a waiver from some of the law's provisions.

Last month, the Obama administration announced that it would allow states to seek exemptions from key portions of the law if they commit to certain reform efforts. State superintendents and educators have complained for years that the measure relies too heavily on testing and sets unrealistic expectations by mandating that all students meet the strict standards set by the law.

"We need a realistic, measurable accountability system based on growth and individual student progress rather than an absolute, unattainable goal handed down from Washington," State Board of Education Chairman Gery J. Chico said in a statement.

Under No Child Left Behind, states are required to test students in certain grades on basic math and reading skills, which are then used to determine whether schools are making adequate yearly progress. If a school does not meet that standard, it can face a variety of sanctions, including an overhaul of staff.

State board officials released state assessment data Thursday that showed 2,548 schools in Illinois—65 percent—were identified as needing improvement and 80 percent of districts had not made adequate yearly progress.

Assessment data also showed a widening gap between the test scores at the elementary level and the secondary level. The statewide composite score for the Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) given to elementary students increased from 80.9 percent in 2010 to 82 percent in 2011. However, the statewide composite score for the Prairie State Achievement Exam (PSAE) given to 11th graders decreased from 53 percent in 2010 to 50.5 percent in 2011.

In a telephone conference, State Superintendent Chris Koch said the state board of education will assemble a committee to develop a waiver application and present it to board officials in early November. The U.S. Department of Education will begin accepting applications in November, but Koch said Illinois intends to submit their application in February.

In order to be granted a waiver, states must set more rigorous curriculum standards, focus on turning around 15 percent of their most-troubled schools and establish teacher and principal evaluations that are tied in some way to student performance.

Koch said Illinois is well positioned to receive a waiver. The state recently adopted the Common Core standards, a set of curriculum requirements aimed at preparing students for college, and will be switching to a new state test that aligns with those standards rather than the Illinois Standards Achievement Test, which many critics say has been dumbed down over the years. The recent passage of education-reform legislation that redefines how teachers are evaluated and earn tenure is also likely to help Illinois' application for a waiver.

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Illinois set to seek waiver from No Child Left Behind/Sun-Times, Beacon News, Tribune, Daily Herald, Southtown Star, The Southern

The Associated Press

SPRINGFIELD — Illinois will request a waiver in February from certain requirements of No Child Left Behind, state education officials said Thursday as they announced the state is falling behind in meeting the increasingly strict performance targets set by the federal law.

“We need a realistic, measurable accountability system based on growth and individual student progress rather than an absolute, unattainable goal handed down from Washington,” Illinois State Board of Education chairman Gery Chico said.

President Barack Obama announced last month that states will be allowed to ask the federal Education Department to be exempted from some of the law’s requirements if they meet certain conditions. They include enacting standards to prepare students for college and careers and making teachers and principals more accountable.

Results of assessment data for 2011 in Illinois show that more than 2,500 schools, or 65 percent, didn’t meet the progress standards that No Child Left Behind requires. Data show the same for 695, or 80 percent, of Illinois school districts.

Just eight of 656 Illinois high schools met the standards based on 2011 test results, state education officials said.

“That’s just crazy,” Chico said. “We know that there are more than eight high schools doing a fine job educating their students.”

Illinois needs a flexible system of accountability that has attainable goals, Chico said.

“We’re not going to have goals that are out of reach,” he said.

In 2010, to make the Adequate Yearly Progress goal, more than 77.5 percent of a school’s students had to meet or exceed state standards on testing. This year, that bar was raised to 85 percent.

Elementary school students who took the Illinois Standards Achievement Test saw increased scores, from 80.9 in 2010 to 82.0 in 2011.

However, high school juniors who took the Prairie State Achievement Exam saw scores fall from 53 in 2010 to 50.5 in 2011. State education officials attributed the drop to new state rules that require all 11th-graders to take the test, meaning there were 12,500 more test takers in 2011.

The No Child Left Behind law passed in 2001 with widespread bipartisan support and much fanfare. It sought to hold schools more accountable for student performance and get better qualified teachers in classrooms. It also offers school choice and extra tutoring to students attending schools deemed failing.

The Obama administration said it was offering the waivers because Congress has been slow to address the issues by rewriting the law.

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State Wants to Get Out of Some No Child Left Behind Rules/LaGrange Patch

Illinois is not faring well—with 80 percent of school districts and 65 percent of schools—failing to meet federal standards.

A growing number of schools are failing under the federal accountability law, No Child Left Behind, according to the 2011 State Assessment data that the Illinois State Board of Education has released. In light of these results, state education officials are planning to seek a waiver from some of the law's provisions.

Results show 695 or 80 percent of Illinois districts and 2,548 or 65 percent of schools, up from 51 percent last year, failed to make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) under No Child Left Behind. Only eight high schools made AYP based on this year's test results.

The statewide results were announced Thursday, Oct. 20 as part of the state board's analysis of the new State Report Card and more than a month after the U.S. Department of Education announced it would consider granting No Child Left Behind waivers to states that agree to certain reform provisions such as adopting more rigorous college and career-ready standards and assessments that measure student growth over time.

Local school districts have their test results and may choose to release them before the state does on Oct. 31.

"We need a realistic, measurable accountability system based on growth and individual student progress rather than an absolute, unattainable goal handed down from Washington," said State Board of Education Chairman Gery J. Chico in a prepared statement. "Illinois will request a waiver that builds upon the board's goals to better prepare every student for success in college and careers, raising expectations for all students and closing achievement gaps."

State Superintendent Chris Koch told the Chicago News Cooperative that the state board will assemble a committee to develop a waiver application and present it to board officials in early November. The U.S. Department of Education will begin accepting applications in November, but Koch said Illinois intends to submit its application in February.

In order to be granted a waiver, states must set more rigorous curriculum standards, focus on turning around 15 percent of their most-troubled schools and establish teacher and principal evaluations that are tied in some way to student performance, the Chicago News Cooperative reported.

Koch told the Chicago News Cooperative that Illinois is well positioned to receive a waiver. The state recently adopted the Common Core standards, a set of curriculum requirements aimed at preparing students for college, and will be switching to a new state test that aligns with those standards rather than the Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT), which many critics say has been dumbed down over the years. The recent passage of education-reform legislation that redefines how teachers are evaluated and earn tenure is also likely to help Illinois' application for a waiver.

A State Board of Education news release said that the statewide composite score for students meeting and exceeding on the ISAT given to elementary students saw an increase, going to 82.0 percent in 2011 from 80.9 in 2010. The achievement gap also shows signs of closing with an 11 percent increase in

performance for black students at the elementary level since 2006 and a 2.6 percent increase for Hispanic students during that same time.

The composite score for the Prairie State Achievement Exam (PSAE), given to high school juniors, decreased to 50.5 in 2011 from 53 in 2010. One explanation for this year's decline, according to the state board, may be the increase of about 12,500 PSAE test takers in 2011, per new state rules emphasizing that all high school juniors must take the exam, which includes the ACT.

"It is great to see improvements being made at the elementary level in closing the achievement gap," said State Superintendent of Education Christopher A. Koch in a prepared statement. "This progress is essential as we implement the common core standards and will help to ensure students enter high school performing at grade level and leave ready for college and careers."

Students in third through eighth grades in March took the ISAT in reading and mathematics. Fourth and seventh graders also were tested in science. High school juniors last April took the PSAE, which tests students in math, reading, science and writing. Only reading and mathematics results are used in calculating AYP.

In 2011, schools were expected to show 85 percent of students meeting or exceeding proficiency standards, up from 77.5 percent in 2010. The target high school graduation rate increased to 82 percent in 2011 from 80 percent in 2010. Attendance rate targets for elementary and middle schools in 2011 remained the same as the previous year at 91 percent.

The State Board of Education has produced the School Report Card since 1986 for every public school and district in Illinois. State report cards have been produced since 2002 and are required under No Child Left Behind. Click [here](#), then scroll down for charts of statewide scores.

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Illinois State Board of Education

Weekly Message

Gery J. Chico, Chairman
 Dr. Christopher J. Ward, Vice Chair
 Dr. Vinni M. Hall, Board Secretary
 James W. Baumann
 Dr. Andrea S. Brown
 Dr. David L. Fields
 Steven R. Gifford
 Lanita J. Koster
 Melinda A. LaBarre

Christopher A. Koch, Ed.D.
 State Superintendent

Dec. 6, 2011

Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

Illinois is committed to seeking a waiver from No Child Left Behind and we are working to develop a proposal that will provide flexibility to districts while still maintaining a stringent accountability system. Last week, we gathered educators from around the state to discuss the waiver and to get their feedback on our initial ideas. This group included teachers, principals and superintendents chosen by statewide education groups. Their feedback was excellent, but we want to hear from as many voices as possible as we shape our waiver application.

Earlier this year, before President Obama announced that he would solicit waivers to NCLB from the states, we surveyed educators about general themes. We received feedback from more than 500 individuals and that dialogue is helping to shape our initial thoughts. We have developed a page on our website specifically for information about the NCLB waiver process: http://www.isbe.net/nclb_waivers. We'll utilize this page as a clearinghouse for information, and once we have a draft application we will post it for your review. You can also provide us with feedback and your ideas by sending an email to nclbwaiver@isbe.net, and we will have additional opportunities for input.

I know the changes that are coming with the Performance Evaluation Reform Act and SB 7 have many of you asking questions. We have worked with a number of stakeholder groups to develop a new, non-regulatory guidance document that will assist you in your implementation. You may access this helpful tool on our website at http://www.isbe.net/PERA/pdf/pera_guidance.pdf. As indicated in the Introduction to that document, if you do have questions about PERA, SB 7 and/or the non-regulatory guidance, you can send an email to edreform@isbe.net.

I also want to make you aware that we formally submitted Part I of our Race to the Top Phase III (Race 3) application last week. Illinois secured our place in Race 3 by our strong showing as a finalist in each of the first two Race to the Top competitions. We will receive \$42 million to implement parts of our Phase II application, including funds to support implementation of the Common Core standards and training for the new evaluation systems. We'll have more information later this month when we submit our final proposal.

Finally, I wanted to make you aware that Illinois has joined with 25 other states to develop new science standards that will clearly define what students need to learn from kindergarten through grade 12. The Next Generation Science Standards are the next step in the common standards process, following English Language Arts and Mathematics. As a partner in this process, Illinois will help guide the standards writing during the next year. Drafts of the NGSS will be available for public input at least twice during the development process and the standards should be complete by the end of 2012.

Have a great week!

Chris

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Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

- **Annual Statement of Affairs (ISBE Form 50-37) Submission:** Posted in newspaper by Dec. 1 and submitted to ISBE by Dec. 15
- **2011-2012 Teacher Service Record data deadline** – Dec. 15
- **Part 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision) and Part 151 (School Construction Program)** – Public comment period ends Dec. 19
- **Certificate of Tax Levy (ISBE Form 50-02)** – Must certified and submitted to the county clerk by Dec. 26
- **Deadline for Request for Proposals for Child Find Public Awareness Project** – Dec. 29
- **Nonpublic Registration, Enrollment, and Staff Report deadline** – Dec. 31
- **Postmark deadline for waiver applications to be considered by General Assembly in Spring '12** – Jan. 13
- **Deadline to submit written opt-out petition to regional superintendent of schools for Summer Food Service Program mandate (Public Act 096-0734)** – Jan. 15
- **Part 50 (Evaluation of Certified Employees under Article 24A of the School Code)** – Public comment period ends Jan. 17
- **Part 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision) and Part 235 (Early Childhood Block Grant)** – Public comment period ends Jan. 30
- **2011-12 Teacher Salary Study data form deadline** – Feb. 1
- **2011-12 Noncertified Staff Salary Study survey** – Feb. 1
- **2011-12 Eye Examination Data Collection deadline** – June 30

Educator Certification

Certification Fees Set to Increase at the Start of the New Year

Please be advised that pursuant to PA 97-0607, signed on Aug. 26, 2011, that educator certification fees will increase on Jan. 1, 2012. The new fees are as follows:

- \$75 application fee for each educator certificate
- \$50 for each subsequent endorsement application
- \$10 per year registration fee for the course of the validity cycle*

*The registration fee must be paid in its entirety. For example, the registration fee for a certificate with a five-year validity cycle would be \$50. Any application that ISBE receives on or after Jan. 1, 2012, will be held to the new fee structure. If you are unsure as to whether or not an application and fee will reach the Illinois State Board of Education by Dec. 29, 2011, please utilize the Educator Certification System (ECS).

Applicants may apply online for most certificates through midnight of Dec. 31, 2011. Note that all fees continue to be non-refundable and non-transferable. Please contact Educator Certification at (217) 557-6763 with any questions.

U.S. Presidential Scholars Program

ISBE Seeks Nominations From Principals for Award Program to Honor Top Seniors

The Illinois State Board of Education is asking high school principals for help nominating the state's top seniors for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program, which is administered by the U.S. Department of Education's Commission on Presidential Scholars. The program has honored more than 6,000 outstanding high school seniors since being established by President Lyndon Johnson in 1964.

Students are selected on the basis of outstanding scholarship and promise of future success. Except for the first dozen or so years of the program's existence, nominees have been invited to apply for Presidential Scholars recognition based solely upon SAT and ACT scores. In part to address this "identification gap," starting in 1979, students who demonstrated ability and accomplishment in the visual and performing arts or creative writing have also been included in the Presidential Scholar pool. This year, two additional students from Illinois will be nominated:

Illinois high school principals are encouraged to nominate one student from their school who, while demonstrating outstanding scholarship, might not

otherwise be nominated through the current SAT/ACT or arts recognition processes. All high school seniors graduating between January and June of 2012 who are U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents, who attend public, parochial or independent schools, as well as those who are homeschooled are eligible.

Please send a nominating letter to Ann Muraro of the Illinois State Board of Education's Public Information Division at amuraro@isbe.net. **The deadline is Dec. 19.** For questions, call (217) 782-4648. All nominations will be reviewed and two students will be selected for possible national recognition. As in the past, the 2012 U.S. Presidential Scholars will be selected by the Commission on Presidential Scholars and will receive the Presidential Scholars Medallion and an expense paid trip to Washington, D.C., in June.

To learn more about the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program and the Commission on Presidential Scholars, visit <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/psp/index.html>.

Title I SIG Program

Notice Inviting Public Comment on School Improvement Grant Waiver Request

As part of the Title I School Improvement Grant (SIG) program authorized by Section 1003(g) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, the U.S. Department of Education (DOE) has provided states with the opportunity to apply for a waiver of certain Title I requirements.

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) intends to apply to DOE for a waiver from Section I.A.2(d)(1)(i)(B) of the final requirements of the SIG, which requires a local educational agency (LEA) to develop and implement teacher and principal evaluation systems that meet certain standards during the first year a school is implementing the transformation model. Those systems must be rigorous, transparent and equitable and take into account data on student academic growth as a significant factor as well as other factors, such as multiple observation-based assessments of performance, ongoing collections of information on professional practice reflective of student achievement and increased high school graduation rates. The systems must comply with Article 24A of the School Code and ISBE's administrative rules promulgated under Article 24A [See proposed Rules for Part 50 (Evaluation of Certified

Employees under Article 24A of the School Code), at <http://www.isbe.net/rules/proposed/default.htm>.]

This waiver would permit ISBE, in accordance with criteria Illinois develops, to permit an LEA that is implementing the transformation model in one or more schools to take additional time to develop and implement high-quality teacher evaluation systems that meet these requirements.

This waiver would apply only to teacher evaluation systems for cohort 1 and cohort 2 SIG schools as follows:

- A school that began implementing the transformation model during the 2010-2011 school year (cohort 1) and that was not able to complete the development and implementation of its teacher evaluation systems during that year must develop them during the 2011-2012 school year and, at a minimum, pilot them for all teachers at the school no later than the 2012-2013 school year. The piloted systems should be capable of being used for decisions regarding, for example, retention, promotion, compensation, and rewards, no later than the 2013-2014 school year.
- A school that begins implementing the transformation model in the 2011-2012 school year (cohort 2) must develop its teacher evaluation systems during that year, pilot them for all teachers during the 2012-2013 school year, and use the system in the school, including for decisions regarding, for example, retention, promotion, compensation, and rewards, no later than the 2013-2014 school year.

For both cohorts, the pilot would include administration of both the teacher practice and student growth components of the evaluation system, although only the teacher practice component would be used for the final summative evaluation during the pilot year.

You are invited to provide comments to ISBE that will be forwarded to DOE along with Illinois' waiver application.

Please submit comments or questions by Dec. 7, 2011, to Robin Staudenmier at estauden@isbe.net.

Data Analysis and Progress Reporting

Department of Public Health Adopts Changes for Immunization Requirement

Recently, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) amended its rules to comply with recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) for providing increased protection for infants against pertussis disease. Specifically, the ACIP recommends that a dose of combined Tetanus/Diphtheria/acellular Pertussis vaccine (Tdap) be administered at 11 to 12 years of age. To that end, the Illinois Department of Public Health proposed adding the following language to 77 Illinois Administrative Code 665.240(a):

5) Beginning with school year 2011-12, any child entering sixth grade shall show proof (see Section 665.250(b) of receiving one dose of Tdap (defined as tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis) vaccine regardless of the interval since the last DTaP, DT or Td does.

6) Students entering grades seven through 12 who have not already received Tdap are required to receive 1 Tdap dose regardless of the interval since last DTaP, DT or Td dose.

The rules were adopted and became effective on Sept. 27, 2011. Because this was after the start of school year 2011-12, IDPH requested that the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) allow schools flexibility in implementing the changes this year. ISBE has determined that the rules should be enforced starting school year 2012-13, and the Illinois Department of Public Health agrees this is a reasonable approach.

Questions can be directed to the ISBE Data Analysis and Progress Reporting Division at (217) 782-3950 or the IDPH Immunization Program at (217) 785-1455.

To view the full text of current language in Section 665.240 of the IDPH rules, go to <http://www.ilga.gov/commission/jcar/admincode/077/077006650B02400R.html>.

Assessment

PARCC Model Content Frameworks and Webinars Now Available

PARCC Model Content Frameworks in Math and English/Language Arts were recently released. In addition, Achieve recently produced two Webinars about the Content Frameworks.

To view the PARCC Model Content Frameworks and Webinars, please visit <http://www.parcconline.org/parcc-content-frameworks>.

Senate Bill 7

Reminder Regarding Establishment of a Reduction in Force Joint Committee

Section 24-12(c) of Senate Bill 7 (Public Act 97-8, effective June 13, 2011) requires that each school district and special education joint agreement use a joint committee composed of equal representation selected by the school board and its teachers (or if applicable the exclusive bargaining representative of its teachers) to address certain matters related to reductions in force. The RIF Joint Committee must be established and the first meeting must occur on or before Dec. 1, 2011. The number of individuals on the Joint Committee is to be determined by the school district and union, if one exists, or teachers, provided that there must be an equal number selected by each party.

A copy of Senate Bill 7 can be seen at <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/97/SB/PDF/09700SB0007lv.pdf>. The Illinois State Board of Education will post an updated Frequently Asked Question on Senate Bill 7 and the Performance Evaluation Reform Act later this week at <http://www.isbe.net/peac/> along with additional resources.

Early Childhood

RFP Issued for Child Find Public Awareness Project

ISBE has issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) titled "Child Find Public Awareness Project." As detailed in the RFP (see link below), the Child Find Project provides resources and materials for local education agencies (LEAs) and other child referral sources to assist them in meeting their requirements for Child Find. Child Find is a component of the Individuals with Disabilities

Education Act (IDEA) that requires states to identify, locate and evaluate all children with disabilities, from birth through age 22, who are in need of early intervention or special education services.

The RFP and application forms are posted at <http://www.isbe.net/earlychi/html/spec-ed.htm>. Applications must be received by ISBE no later than Dec. 29, 2011. For questions about the RFP, contact Pamela Reising Rechner at (217) 524-4835 or preising@isbe.net.

Building Stronger Connections With Local Head Start Agencies

Every school district in Illinois is supported by a local Head Start program. To find the Head Start agencies in your area, go to the Illinois Head Start Association website at <http://ilheadstart.org>. Head Start agencies provide comprehensive (social services, health and parent engagement) and educational services to pregnant moms, babies, toddlers, preschoolers and their families, who live in poverty. Federal regulations require Head Start agencies to coordinate with school districts to promote the effective movement of children into the school system and increase continuity of pedagogy and support services. The school readiness agenda focuses on the importance of creating better continuity across Head Start and the early years of elementary school.

The emphasis on school readiness requires Head Start to establish school readiness goals with their local school district(s) to help prepare children to be successful when they enter school. Thus, Head Start will be working with their local school district(s) to jointly develop a school readiness plan that defines expectations for children entering school. Ongoing communication between local schools and Head Start that exchanges information about children and programs and aligns services for early learning, health and family engagement will create more continuity for children and families. Research and experience have taught us that when children's experiences build on what has come before and connect to what comes next, they are more likely to be successful long-term learners.

This national effort recognizes the importance of creating more comprehensive systems of education that are linked from one stage of learning to the next — reducing the chances that children will be lost along the way and increasing opportunities for positive academic, social, and economic outcomes. We hope that you will support this national effort by engaging with local Head Start

agencies to positively impact the school readiness and long-term success of children in your community.

Innovation and Improvement

Promote and Support the Illinois Youth Survey 2012

Please be sure that all schools in your district are aware of the time-limited opportunity to participate in the 2012 Illinois Youth Survey (IYS). All schools are encouraged to take advantage of this resource to support data-driven decision-making. Schools and their community partners have used their IYS data to inform plans and secure additional funding for Social and Emotional Learning, PBIS, bullying prevention and other efforts to support positive conditions for learning.

The Illinois Youth Survey (IYS) is a statewide self-reported adolescent survey administered every other year in Illinois schools and is designed to gather information about a variety of health and social indicators including alcohol and other drug use, nutrition and fitness, violence, bullying, gambling, depression, perceptions of school climate and more. Funded entirely by the Illinois Department of Human Services since 1990, the IYS is free in 2012 to all schools in the state when surveying sixth, eighth, 10th and/or 12th grade students. The IYS contract is now administered through the University of Illinois' Center for Prevention Research and Development (CPRD).

Schools can register to participate in the Illinois Youth Survey 2012 at <http://iys.cprd.illinois.edu/register> before this opportunity passes. Because survey administration is funded by the state only every two years, the next opportunity to use the IYS at no cost will be 2014. If you have any questions or would like assistance with registration, please contact the IYS coordinator, Jessica Thomas, at (888) 333-5612 or email jthomas0@uillinois.edu.

An individual school report is sent to each participating school within 4-6 weeks in an easy-to-read format. A district summary can be provided if more than one school participates. No individual school or district results are released publicly without written permission from the school/district administrator.

Benefits:

- Schools and communities can use IYS to assess needs, track progress toward youth physical,

social and mental health goals, and evaluate student support services.

- Training and technical assistance is available to help schools interpret and use their data.
- Statewide results, based on a random sample of Illinois youth, are available. Schools and communities can therefore review their own local results and answer the question: “Compared to Illinois youth overall, should this issue/behavior be a priority for our school or community to address?”
- Schools have the option of adding up to 30 questions to get data on local issues not included in the pre-printed survey form.
- No names or personal identifiers (e.g. IDs) are collected from students in order to protect confidentiality and promote truthful responses.
- Schools, districts and their community partners have used IYS data to support grant writing and justify budget allocations for student support services during these economically uncertain times.

Each school chooses a date to administer surveys any time between Jan. 15 and April 30; based on timing that is least disruptive to the school’s calendar. The IYS is available in a traditional paper/pencil format as well as online, in both English and Spanish, and can be completed in one 40-50 minute class period. While instruction time is of highest priority, devoting one class period every two years to this effort will benefit schools, students and families in multiple ways.

School Opportunities

Applications Available for TECH 2012 at the Illinois State Capitol Building

TECH 2012, an annual student showcase at the Illinois State Capitol building, will be held Wednesday, May 2, 2012. At TECH 2012 schools from throughout the state will share classroom technology projects with state legislators and the general public. The purpose of the event is to raise awareness of the role technology plays in preparing students to succeed in today’s world and to show the need for increased funding for classroom technology.

For more information about the event, go to http://www.iceberg.org/tech_2012. Schools selected to participate in TECH 2012 will send a team of four (two or three students and one or two teachers) to Springfield

to share a school project with state legislators from approximately 12:30 to 3 p.m.

School interested in participating should submit an application at http://www.iceberg.org/tech_2012 by Jan. 13. Applications will be reviewed in mid-January and notification of selection status will be shared at the end of January. Selected teams will represent a balanced distribution between legislative districts, grade levels and curricular areas. The goal of TECH 2012 is to have school representation from every legislative district throughout the state.

Student Opportunities

Annual National Radon Poster Contest Under Way

Students ages 9 to 14 are eligible to enter the annual National Radon Poster Contest. Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that can reach dangerous levels in buildings. The contest aims to raise awareness so that families can protect themselves from lung cancer caused by radon gas.

The American Lung Association in Illinois, the Ecology Action Center, the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Radon Program, Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago, Southern Illinois Radon Awareness Task Force and University of Illinois Extension are partnering with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to sponsor the Illinois portion of the contest.

The winning poster will be distributed during National Radon Action Month in January 2013. The first-place winner in the nation will receive \$1,000. There are additional cash prizes for national and Illinois winners.

Posters are due to Cindy Ladage at the Illinois Emergency Management Agency on or before March 1, 2012. For more information, visit <http://takeactiononradon.illinois.edu/resources/contest>, email cindy.ladage@illinois.gov or call (800) 325-1245. The web site includes rules, submission forms and fact sheets on radon to educate students.

Entries Sought for National STEM Video Game Challenge

The 2012 National STEM Video Game Challenge is under way. The challenge is in partnership with Digital Promise, a new initiative created by President Barack

Obama and Congress, supported through the U.S. Department of Education.

Entrants have until March 12, 2012, to submit their ideas and games. The contest is open to students and game designers in four levels: middle school, high school, college and graduate students, and educators.

Inspired by the Educate to Innovate Campaign, President Obama's initiative to promote a renewed focus on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education, the National STEM Video Game Challenge is a multi-year competition whose goal is to motivate interest in STEM learning among America's youth by tapping into students' passion for playing and making video games.

For more information, visit
<http://stemchallenge.org/about/Default.aspx>.

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>.



Illinois State Board of Education

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Last September President Obama announced his plans to allow states to apply for waivers from the federal No Child Left Behind Act, also known as the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Illinois Leadership supports the waiver opportunity and is committed to working with our stakeholders to develop and submit a strong waiver request in February 2012. It is critical that we engage stakeholders in the process and hear from a diverse group of citizens to inform our waiver request and develop the system that puts Illinois children first. Our waiver request will be based upon the Board's goals to better prepare every student for success in college and careers. It will raise expectations for all students and will be focused on closing achievement gaps. Illinois is a diverse state and we know prescriptive solutions simply don't work. Our waiver request will include flexibilities in spending, supports and reforms to best meet the local needs, while at the same time raising expectations for students and educators through implementation of higher learning standards and an evaluation system based on measured progress. On January 9, 2012 The Illinois State Board of Education will host a meeting to elicit feedback from stakeholders that represent diverse student groups including: English language learners, low-income students, and students with a disability. You have been identified as a key stakeholder and I hope you will accept this invitation to participate in a meeting designed to obtain your input.

Date: Monday, January 9, 2012

Time: 10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. (lunch provided)

Location: Northern Illinois University (NIU)
 1120 East Diehl Road
 Naperville, Illinois


Please complete your registration at <http://registration.airprojects.org/ISBESTakeholderMeeting> no later than Thursday, January 5, 2012.

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Illinois State Board of Education

ESEA FLEXIBILITY WAIVER REQUEST

Stakeholders' Meeting
January 9, 2012




ESEA Waiver Request 1

Illinois State Board of Education

ISBE Mission Statement

The Illinois State Board of Education will provide leadership, assistance, resources and advocacy so that every student is prepared to succeed in careers and postsecondary education, and share accountability for doing so with districts and schools.



ESEA Waiver Request 2

Illinois State Board of Education

Agenda

- 10:00 a.m. Welcome
- 10:30 a.m. Panel Overview of Principles
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. Principle Breakout Sessions
- 2:30 p.m. Adjourn




ESEA Waiver Request 3

Illinois State Board of Education

Meeting Purpose


- To elicit feedback from stakeholders about the Illinois Elementary and Secondary Education Act flexibility waiver request
- To identify the level of stakeholder support for components of the waiver request



ESEA Waiver Request

Illinois State Board of Education

CURRENT LANDSCAPE



ESEA Waiver Request 5

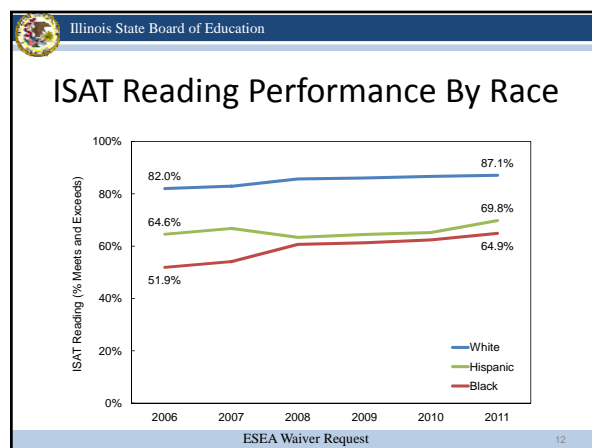
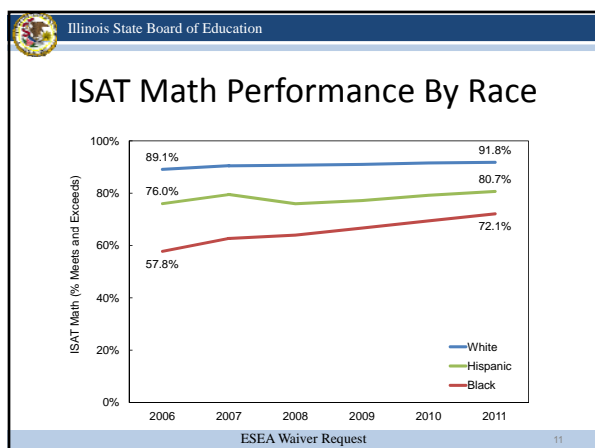
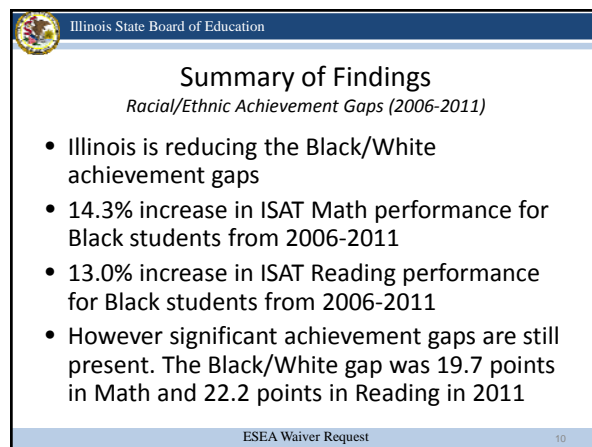
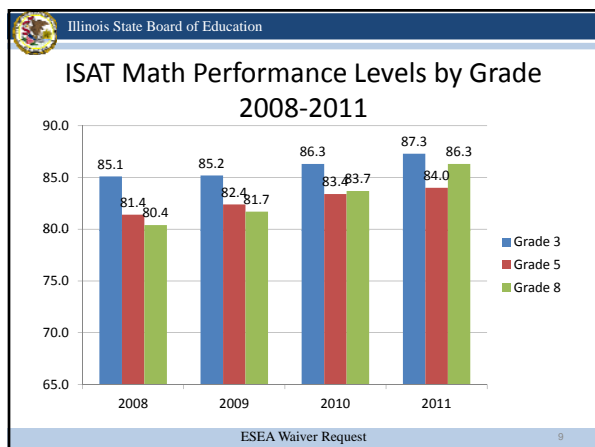
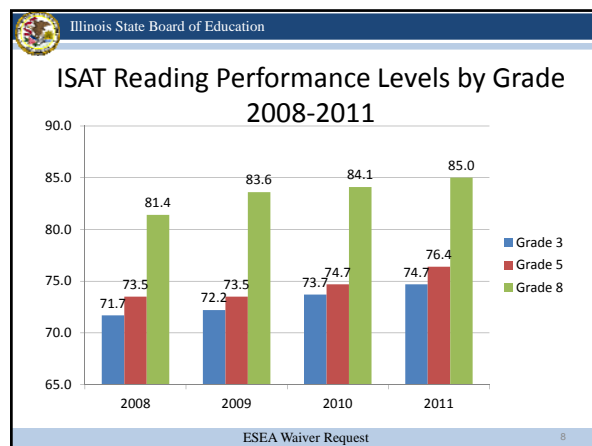
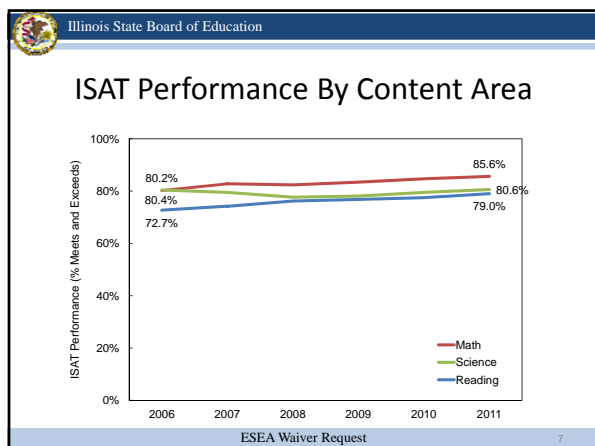
Illinois State Board of Education

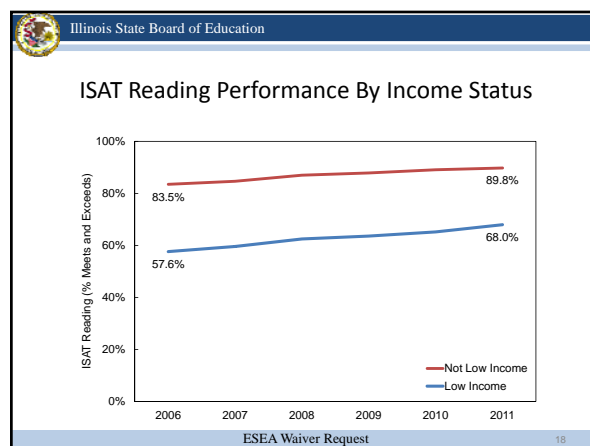
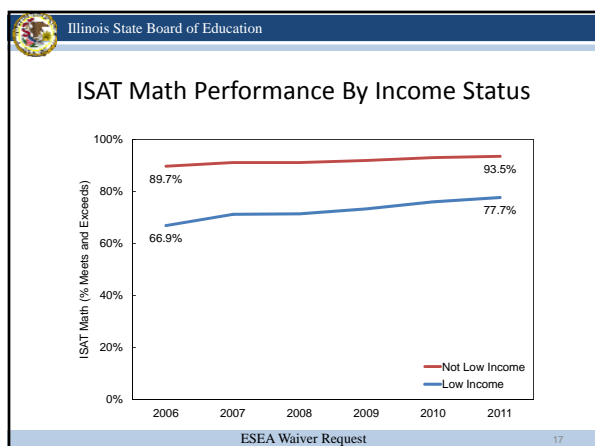
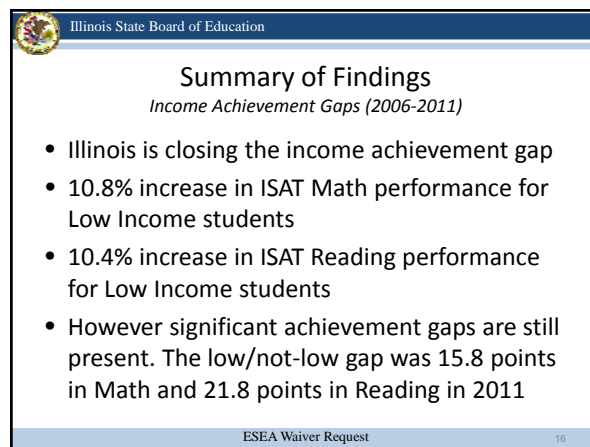
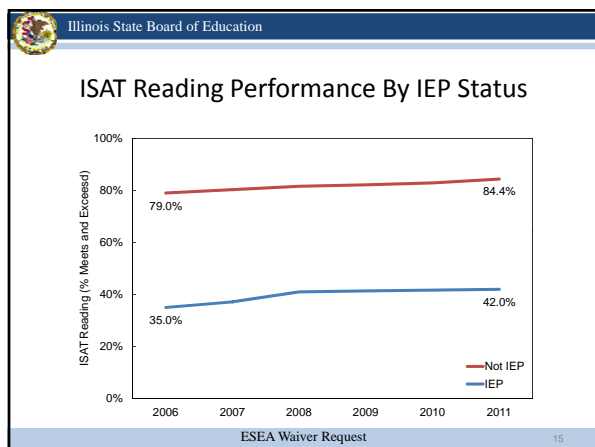
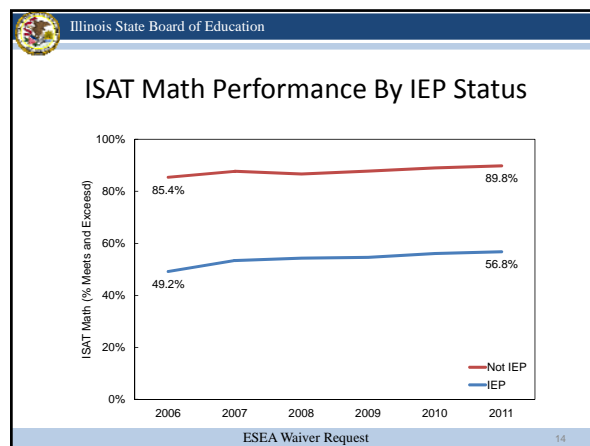
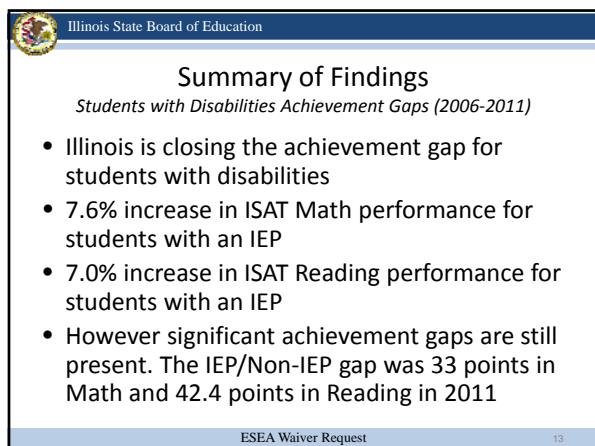
Summary of Findings

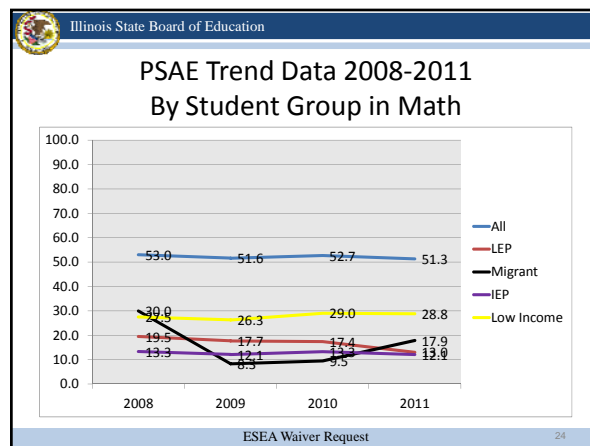
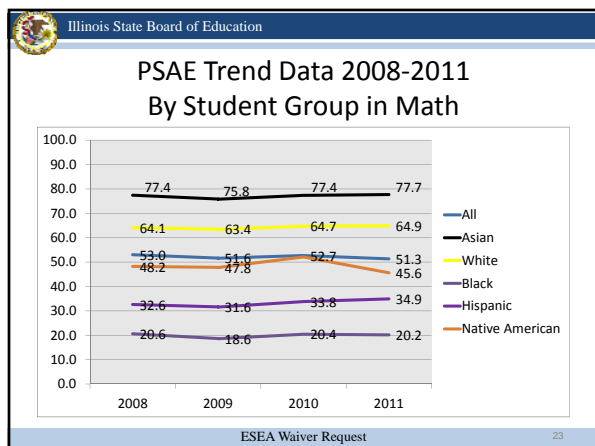
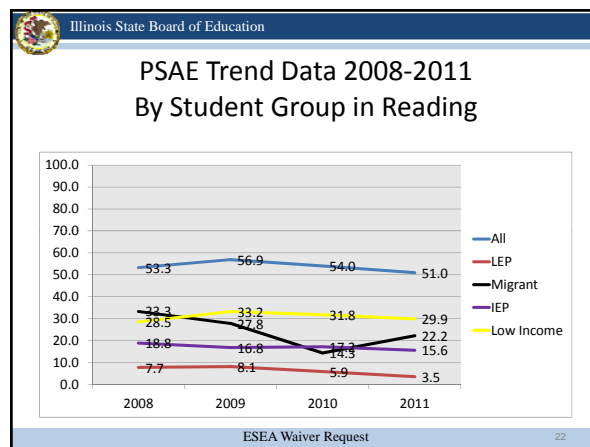
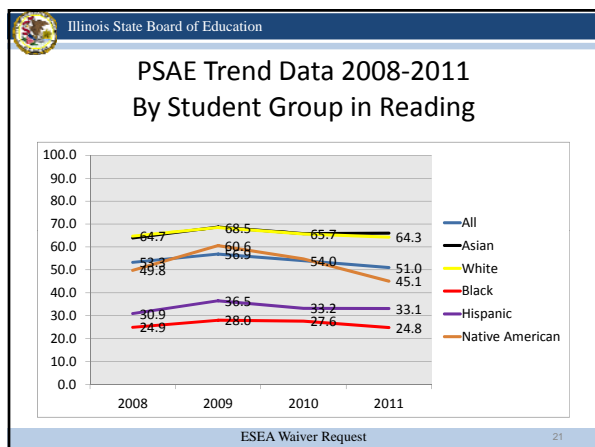
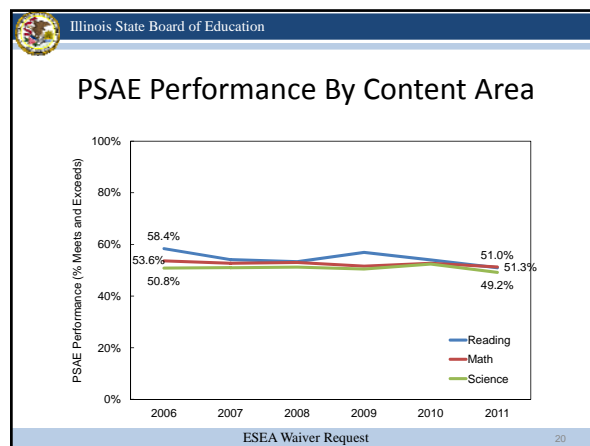
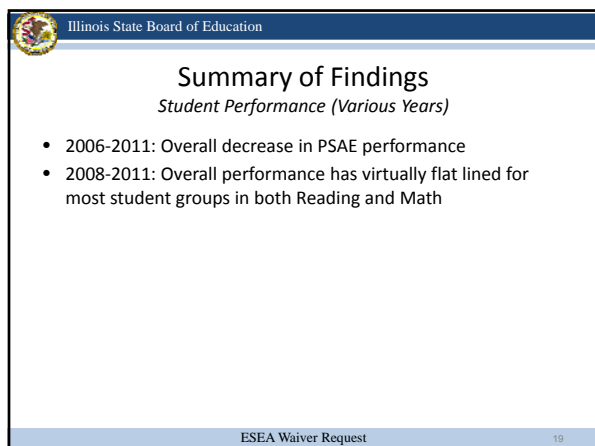
ISAT Performance by Content Area (Various Years)

- 2006-2011: Overall increase in ISAT performance

ESEA Waiver Request 6







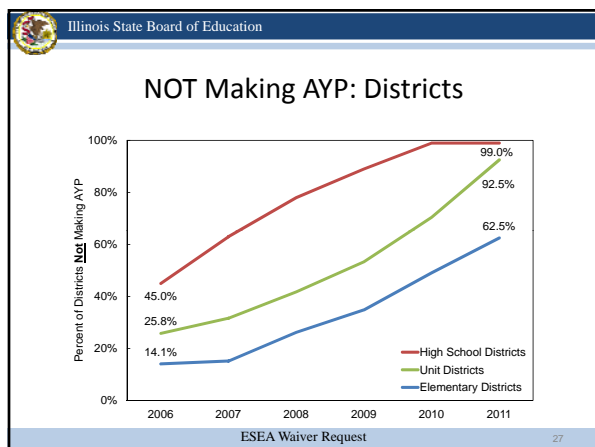
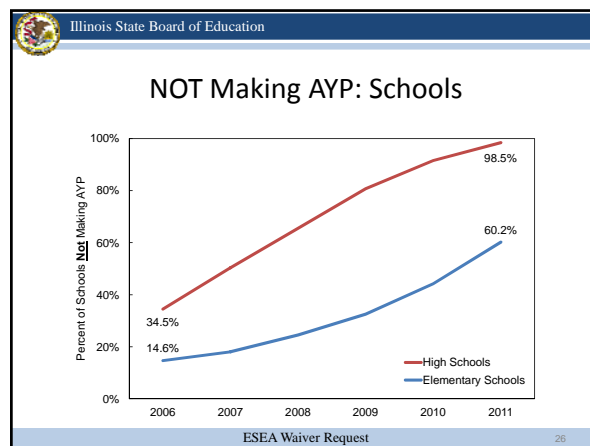
Illinois State Board of Education

Summary of Findings

Adequate Yearly Progress (2006-2011)

- Percent of schools and districts not making Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) continues to increase as NCLB targets increase
- Illinois needs a flexible accountability system based on growth and other indicators**

ESEA Waiver Request 25



Illinois State Board of Education

Why Apply for A Waiver?

- States and districts have initiated groundbreaking reforms and innovations to increase the quality of instruction and improve academic achievement for all students.
- NCLB requirements have unintentionally become barriers to State and local implementation of forward-looking reforms.
- 2014 Timeline:** The waiver will give States flexibility around how they set their annual targets for schools and student subgroups.

ESEA Waiver Request 28

Illinois State Board of Education

Why Apply for the Waiver?

- Federal Labels and Federally-Mandated Interventions:** Waive requirement that schools be labeled as failing for not making all of their AYP targets. Provide flexibility around federally-mandated "one-size-fits-all" interventions to give States and districts more flexibility to improve their schools.
- Limitations on Use of Funds:** More flexibility to use funds in ways that make sense by transferring funds between funding streams, while still protecting funds for the neediest students.

ESEA Waiver Request 29

Illinois State Board of Education

OVERVIEW OF THE FLEXIBILITY WAIVER

ESEA Waiver Request 30

Illinois State Board of Education

Flexibility to Improve Student Achievement and Increase the Quality of Instruction

1. 2013–2014 Timeline for Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)
 - Flexibility to develop new ambitious but achievable Annual Measurable Objectives in reading/language arts and mathematics
2. Implementation of School Improvement Requirements
 - Flexibility from requirement for LEAs to identify or take improvement actions for schools identified for improvement, corrective action, or restructuring
3. Implementation of LEA Improvement Requirements
 - Flexibility from requirement for SEAs to identify or take improvement actions for LEAs identified for improvement or corrective action

ESEA Waiver Request 31

Illinois State Board of Education

Flexibility to Improve Student Achievement and Increase the Quality of Instruction

4. Rural LEAs
 - Flexibility to use Rural and Low-Income School Program funds or Small, Rural School Achievement Program for any authorized purpose regardless of AYP status
5. Schoolwide Programs
 - Flexibility to operate a schoolwide program in a Title I school that does not meet the 40 percent poverty threshold if the SEA has identified the school as a priority school or a focus school, and the LEA is implementing interventions consistent with the turnaround principles or interventions that are based on the needs of the students in the school and designed to enhance the entire educational program in the school

ESEA Waiver Request 32

Illinois State Board of Education

Flexibility to Improve Student Achievement and Increase the Quality of Instruction

6. Support School Improvement
 - Flexibility to allocate ESEA section 1003(a) funds to an LEA in order to serve any focus or priority school
7. Reward Schools
 - Flexibility to use funds reserved under ESEA section 1117(c)(2)(A) to provide financial rewards to any reward school
8. Highly Qualified Teacher (HQT) Improvement Plans
 - Flexibility from the requirements regarding HQT improvement plans

ESEA Waiver Request 33

Illinois State Board of Education

Flexibility to Improve Student Achievement and Increase the Quality of Instruction

9. Transfer of Certain Funds
 - Flexibility to transfer up to 100 percent of the funds received under the authorized programs designated in ESEA section 6123 among those programs and into Title I, Part A
10. Use of School Improvement Grant (SIG) Funds to Support Priority Schools
 - Flexibility to award SIG funds available under ESEA section 1003(g) to an LEA to implement one of the four SIG models in any priority school

ESEA Waiver Request 34


Illinois State Board of Education

Optional flexibility


A state may wish to request an additional flexibility

Use of Twenty-First Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) Program Funds

- Flexibility of 21st CCLC program funds to support expanded learning time in addition to activities during non-school hours or periods when school is not in session



ESEA Waiver Request 35



THE PRINCIPLES

ESEA Waiver Request 36

Illinois State Board of Education

Principle 1: College-and Career-Ready Expectations for All Students

- Adopt college-and **career-ready (CCR)** standards in at least reading/language arts and mathematics
- Transition to and implement CCR standards
- Develop and administer Statewide, aligned, **high-quality assessments** that measure student growth
- Adopt ELP standards corresponding to the State's new CCR standards and develop aligned assessments

ESEA Waiver Request 37

Illinois State Board of Education

Principle 2: State-Developed Differentiated Recognition, Accountability, and Support

- Set ambitious but achievable AMOs
- **Reward schools:** Provide incentives and recognition for high-progress and highest-performing Title I schools
- **Priority schools:** Identify lowest-performing schools & implement interventions aligned with **turnaround principles**
- **Focus schools:** Close achievement gaps by identifying and implementing interventions in schools with the greatest achievement gaps or low graduation rates
- Provide incentives and supports for other Title I schools
- Build SEA, LEA, and school capacity to improve student learning in all schools

ESEA Waiver Request 38

Illinois State Board of Education

Principle 3: Supporting Effective Instruction and Leadership

- Develop and adopt SEA guidelines for local teacher and principal evaluation and support systems
- Ensure LEAs implement teacher and principal evaluation and support systems that are consistent with SEA guidelines

ESEA Waiver Request 39

Illinois State Board of Education

Principle 4: Reducing Duplication and Unnecessary Burden


- Remove duplicative and burdensome reporting requirements that have little or no impact on student outcomes
- Evaluate and revise SEA administrative requirements to reduce duplication and unnecessary burden on LEAs and schools

ESEA Waiver Request 40

Illinois State Board of Education

ESEA FLEXIBILITY WAIVER REQUEST

Panel Discussion



ESEA Waiver Request 41

Illinois State Board of Education

PRINCIPLE 1

College-and Career-Ready Expectations for All Students

ESEA Waiver Request 42

Illinois State Board of Education

Principle 1: College- and Career-Ready Expectations for All Students

Common Core

- Phase I: Adoption, Communication & Outreach
- Phase II: Transition to Implementation by 2013-2014
- Professional Development
- Accelerated Learning Opportunities
- Collaboration with Higher Education

PARCC Assessment

ESEA Waiver Request 43

Illinois State Board of Education

Principle 1: College- and Career-Ready Expectations for All Students

Special Education Services

- System of General Supervision
- State Performance Plan indicators and measurable targets
- IL Statewide Technical Assistance Center (ISTAC) projects
- Focused Monitoring and the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) Data Cohort
- LEA Determinations

ESEA Waiver Request 44

Illinois State Board of Education

Principle 1: College- and Career-Ready Expectations for All Students

English Language Learners

- Amendment to the School Code to allow the use of State Transitional Bilingual Education funds for professional development
- January 2012 – Professional Development Vendor to provide Statewide Support
- New edition of the WIDA English Language Proficiency Standards to ensure the connections between content and language standards

ESEA Waiver Request 45

Illinois State Board of Education

Principle 1: College- and Career-Ready Expectations for All Students

English Language Learners Continued

- English Language Development Standards (ELDS) materials and resources available online and professional development will be delivered through the Statewide ELL Professional Development contract and/or the WIDA consortia professional development days awarded under the master Illinois WIDA Assessment contract.

ESEA Waiver Request 46

Illinois State Board of Education

PRINCIPLE 2

State-Developed Differentiated Accountability Systems

ESEA Waiver Request 47

Illinois State Board of Education

Proposed Accountability System

- Strive for College & Career Readiness
- Use a Value Table Growth Model
- Carefully constructed Multiple Measures Index
- More appropriate Annual Measurable Objectives (Targets)
- Include Achievement Gap Measure

ESEA Waiver Request 48

Illinois State Board of Education

College & Career Readiness

- Re-instate ACT Writing
- Add 3rd WorkKeys and National Career Readiness Certificate
- Align cut scores between the ISAT and ACT

ESEA Waiver Request 49

Illinois State Board of Education

College & Career Readiness

College Ready Scores (According to ACT)

	Explore (Grade 9)	Plan (Grade 10)	ACT (Grade 11)
Reading	16	17	21
Mathematics	18	19	22

ESEA Waiver Request 50

Illinois State Board of Education

College & Career Readiness

Proposed Cut Scores For ISAT

- Exceeding (College Ready): > 75% probability of receiving a college ready score on the ACT
- Meeting (Proficient): 50-75% probability of receiving a college ready score on the ACT
- Below Proficient: 25-50% probability of receiving a college ready score on the ACT
- Academic Warning: 0-25% probability of receiving a college ready score on the ACT

ESEA Waiver Request 51

Illinois State Board of Education

Proposed Accountability System

- Strive for College & Career Readiness
- Use a Value Table Growth Model
- Carefully constructed Multiple Measures Index
- More appropriate Annual Measurable Objectives (Targets)
- Include Achievement Gap Measure

ESEA Waiver Request 52

Illinois State Board of Education

Illinois Considered Three Models

1. Student Growth Percentile Rankings
2. Value Added Models
3. Value Table Models (Recommended)

Growth model reports produced by
Illinois Growth Model Working Group,
Assessment Technical Advisory Committee,
and ISBE Assessment Staff

ESEA Waiver Request 53

Illinois State Board of Education

Student Growth Percentile Rankings

- Method: Rank students relative to other students
- Pro: Easy to understand and explain
- Con: There will always be students and schools in the bottom 50%

ESEA Waiver Request 54

Illinois State Board of Education

Value Added Models

- Method: Predict/project student growth while controlling for non-school factors
- Pro: Can isolate the impact of school factors on student achievement
- Con: Difficult to explain, doesn't provide teachers/students with a goal to work toward

ESEA Waiver Request 55

Illinois State Board of Education

Value Table Models

- Method: Assign points based on growth from previous year to current year
- Pro: Easy to explain, provides a goal
- Con: Assignment of point values requires careful consideration

Recommended for Illinois
Used by Delaware, Iowa, Michigan, & Minnesota

ESEA Waiver Request 56

Illinois State Board of Education

Goals for Value Table Model

- Reward schools that raise low-achieving students to high levels
- Reward schools that maintain highly proficient students at high levels
- Minimize consequences for schools with high proficiency that cannot grow further

ESEA Waiver Request 57

Illinois State Board of Education

Value Table Model

		Year 2 Performance					
		1	2	3	4	5	6
Year 1 Performance	1	50	100	140	170	190	200
	2	40	60	100	130	150	160
	3	30	50	70	100	120	130
	4	20	40	60	80	100	110
	5	10	30	50	70	90	100
	6	0	20	40	60	80	100

Proposed Value Table Model uses weighted point values

ESEA Waiver Request 58

Illinois State Board of Education

Points to Consider

- All three models are highly correlated with each other
- Reliability for all three models is drastically reduced for schools with less than 100 students
- Use caution when using these models at the classroom level

ESEA Waiver Request 59

Illinois State Board of Education

Proposed Accountability System

- Strive for College & Career Readiness
- Use a Value Table Growth Model
- Carefully constructed Multiple Measures Index
- More appropriate Annual Measurable Objectives (Targets)
- Include Achievement Gap Measure

ESEA Waiver Request 60

Illinois State Board of Education

Current AYP Calculation

- Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) is currently calculated as follows:
 - Attendance/Graduation Rate (91% for elementary/middle schools, 82% for high schools)
 - Participation Rate (95% of students assessed)
 - Assessment Performance Target (85% meeting or exceeding standards)

ESEA Waiver Request 61

Illinois State Board of Education

Goals for Multiple Measures Index

- Reward student achievement
- Close achievement gaps
- Improve instructional quality
- Provide a holistic view of school and district performance
- Aligned with new report card initiative

ESEA Waiver Request 62

Illinois State Board of Education

Proposed Multiple Measures Index

- Outcomes (50%)
 - Attendance/Graduation Rate
 - Participation Rate
 - Assessment Performance
- Progress (50%)
- Environment (Bonus)

Current AYP Calculation, Included in Proposed Accountability Model

NEW for Proposed Accountability Model

ESEA Waiver Request 63

Illinois State Board of Education

Multiple Measures Index: Outcomes

- Participation Rate (remains at 95%)
- Attendance/Graduation Rate
 - Using 4-year and 5-year cohort rates
- Assessment Performance (Readiness)
 - Spring 2012: ISAT and PSAE Scores
 - Spring 2013-14: ISAT and ACT/WorkKeys Scores
 - Spring 2015+: PARCC Scores

ESEA Waiver Request 64

Illinois State Board of Education

Multiple Measures Index: Progress

- Growth Measure
 - Using ISAT and Explore/Plan/ACT scores
- Growth for Students with Disabilities
 - Using IAA scores?
- Growth for English Language Learners
 - Using ACCESS scores?
- Achievement Gap Measure

ESEA Waiver Request 65

Illinois State Board of Education

Multiple Measures Index: Environment

- College and Career Climate
 - AP/IB courses, Dual Credit courses
- Learning Climate
 - Teacher/student/parent survey (TBD)
- Instructional Climate
 - Measure?

ESEA Waiver Request 66

Illinois State Board of Education

Multiple Measures: Elementary Schools & Districts

Leading Category	Sub-Category	Measure, Spring 2012	Measure, Spring 2013 and Spring 2014	AMO/Target	% of Schools Meeting
Outcome	Attendance	% of school days students are in attendance	% of school days students are in attendance	TBD	50%
	Participation	% of students participating in state assessment	% of students participating in state assessment	90%	
	Assessment Performance/Readiness	% of students reaching proficiency on ISAT	% of students reaching proficiency on ISAT	Varies	
Progress	Growth for Students	Growth using ISAT scores (grades 3-6)	Growth using ISAT scores (grades 3-6)	Varies	50%
	Students with Disabilities	Growth using IAA scores	Growth using IAA scores	Varies	
	English Language Learners	Growth using ACCESS scores	Growth using ACCESS Scores	Varies	
	Achievement Gap	% reduction in the achievement gap	% reduction in the achievement gap	TBD	
Environment	Learning Climate (Teacher Student Surveys)	% of students/teachers reporting X school climate	% of students/teachers reporting X school climate	TBD	Bonus Points
	Instructional Climate	% of students/teachers reporting X community climate	% of students/teachers reporting X community climate	TBD	

ESEA Waiver Request 67

Illinois State Board of Education

Proposed Accountability System

- Strive for College & Career Readiness
- Use a Value Table Growth Model
- Carefully constructed Multiple Measures Index
- More appropriate Annual Measurable Objectives (Targets)
- Include Achievement Gap Measure

ESEA Waiver Request 68

Illinois State Board of Education

Annual Measurable Objective (AMO) Targets

- Need to set assessment performance targets
- Options:
 - Within 6 years, reduce by half the % of students who are not proficient
 - Reach 100% proficiency by 2019-2020
 - Develop a different method for AMOs/targets

ESEA Waiver Request 69

Illinois State Board of Education

AMO Target Example: Reduce by Half Over 6 Years

	Grades 3-8 Reading in 2011	Six Year Goal (By 2017)	Target Increase Per Year
All Students	79.0	89.5	1.75
Male	75.5	87.8	2.04
Female	82.6	91.3	1.45
White	87.1	93.6	1.08
Black	64.9	82.5	2.90
Hispanic	69.8	84.9	2.52
Asian	91.2	95.6	0.73
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	85.9	93.0	1.18
Native American	72.9	86.5	2.26
English Language Learners	37.3	68.7	5.23
Students with Disabilities (IEP)	42.0	71.0	4.83
Migrant	46.7	73.4	4.44
Low Income	68.0	84.0	2.66

ESEA Waiver Request 70

Illinois State Board of Education

Proposed Accountability System

- Strive for College & Career Readiness
- Use a Value Table Growth Model
- Carefully constructed Multiple Measures Index
- More appropriate Annual Measurable Objectives (Targets)
- Include Achievement Gap Measure

ESEA Waiver Request 71

Illinois State Board of Education

Achievement Gap Example

- Difference between the highest achieving subgroup and the other subgroups
- Compare two different sets of subgroups
 - ELL, Students with an IEP, and Low Income
 - Race/Ethnicity Subgroups (e.g., Asian, White, Black, Hispanic, and Native American)
- Target: 10% reduction? Cut in half?

ESEA Waiver Request 72

Illinois State Board of Education

Achievement Gap Example

- Asian subgroup scored 91.2% proficient
- Hispanic subgroup scored 69.8% proficient
- That's an achievement gap of 21.4% between the subgroups
- A district would need to reduce the gap by 2.1% (to meet 10% target)

ESEA Waiver Request 73

Illinois State Board of Education

Proposed Accountability System

- Strive for College & Career Readiness
- Use a Value Table Growth Model
- Carefully constructed Multiple Measures Index
- More appropriate Annual Measurable Objectives (Targets)
- Include Achievement Gap Measure

ESEA Waiver Request 74

Illinois State Board of Education

PRINCIPLE 2

Interventions, Supports and Rewards

ESEA Waiver Request 75

Illinois State Board of Education

Statewide System of Support

Illinois State Board of Education

The Center for School Improvement

Regional Coordinators Content Area Experts Turnaround Specialist
Special Education Cooperatives RII Network ISTAC

Area I J-14 J-15 J-16	CPS	Area I-C	Area II	Area III	Area IV	Area V	Area VI	WA ISB
Districts and Schools	Districts and Schools	Districts and Schools	Districts and Schools	Districts and Schools	Districts and Schools	Districts and Schools	Districts and Schools	Districts and Schools

ESEA Waiver Request 76

Illinois State Board of Education

Time, Intensity, and Duration of Services

Level 4 - State Takeover

Level 3 - Intensive Support • Priority Schools

Level 2 - Targeted Assistance • Focus Schools

Level 1 - Continuous Improvement • Reward Schools

ESEA Waiver Request 77

Illinois State Board of Education

Principle 2: State-Developed Interventions, Supports, and Rewards

- Reward Schools
 - Spotlight
 - Academic Excellence
 - Academic Improvement

ESEA Waiver Request 78

Illinois State Board of Education

Principle 2: State-Developed Interventions, Supports, and Rewards

- Priority Schools
 - Tier I and Tier II
 - SIG Grantees
 - Rapid Response Teams
 - State Takeover

ESEA Waiver Request 79

Illinois State Board of Education

ISBE Timeline for Intervention in Priority Schools

	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	Total Schools Served by 2014-2015
SIG Funded Schools	Year 1 Implementation for 7 schools	Year 1 Implementation for 13 schools	Year 1 Implementation for 6 schools		26 schools
SSOS Schools		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ISBE announces priority schools and districts • ISBE assess district level capacity • ISBE support LEA stakeholder engagement and outreach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive Audit • Transformation Plan approved • ISBE assigns Rapid Response Team based on identified need 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 1 Implementation for 70 schools • ISBE Support through SSOS Rapid Response Team • ISBE Monitoring through Division of Innovation and Improvement 	72 school
State Takeover	North Chicago	East St. Louis			2 Districts

ESEA Waiver Request 80

Illinois State Board of Education

Principle 2: Focus Schools

- Focus Schools
 - The role of The Center for School Improvement
 - District Audit
 - Transformation Plan
 - District Assistance Teams
 - District Coach
 - Interventionist based on areas of need.

2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification • Outreach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audit • Transformation Plan • ISBE Assignment of DAT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation • Monitoring

ESEA Waiver Request 81

Illinois State Board of Education

PRINCIPLE 3

Supporting Effective Instruction and Leadership

ESEA Waiver Request 82

Illinois State Board of Education

PERA: The Basics

- 2010 PERA law mandated major changes
- New evaluations address both practice *and* student growth
- Two choices for districts: Use General Rules to create your own systems or use State Model (all or parts)
- Teachers: If no local agreement on student growth after 180 days, must default to growth part of State Model
- Chicago: Slightly different process and timelines.


ESEA Waiver Request 83

Illinois State Board of Education

PERA: Key Dates

- ☐ September 1, 2012
 - All principals evaluated with new system
 - 300 CPS schools use the new system for teachers
 - SIG schools use the new system for teachers
 - All teachers and principals rated as:
 - Excellent
 - Proficient
 - Needs Improvement
 - Unsatisfactory
- ☐ ISBE technical assistance and development of support systems

ESEA Waiver Request 84




Illinois State Board of Education

PERA: Key Dates

- September 1, 2013
 - All CPS teachers use the new system
- September 1, 2014
 - ISBE research-based study measuring the reliability and validity of systems is released
- September 1, 2015
 - Lowest 20% of districts use the new system
- September 1, 2016
 - All districts use the new system

ESEA Waiver Request 85




Illinois State Board of Education

PERA: Teachers

- Districts must adopt instructional framework with four levels (unsatisfactory, needs improvement, proficient, excellent)
- Formal and informal classroom observations
- Pre-observation meeting to review lesson plan
- Post-observation meeting with self-reflection and evaluator feedback, with relevant evidence

ESEA Waiver Request 86




Illinois State Board of Education

PERA: Teachers

- Non-probationary teachers: at least 2 observations (1 formal) every other year
 - However, if an unsatisfactory or needs improvement rating was received, they must be evaluated the following next year.
- Probationary teachers: at least 3 observations (2 formal)
- Professional development must align to National Staff Development Council standards

ESEA Waiver Request 87




Illinois State Board of Education

PERA: Teachers

- ▣ “Demonstrable change in a student’s learning between two or more points in time”
- ▣ Need data from at least 2 assessments:
 - At least one Type III assessment
 - And at least one Type I or II assessment (not ISAT or PSAE)
 - Or two Type III assessments
- ▣ Local joint committees will decide metrics and targets, including for different student groups (ELL, etc.)
- ▣ Must comprise at least 25% of final rating in 2012-13 and 2013-2014, 30% thereafter

ESEA Waiver Request 88




Illinois State Board of Education

PERA: Assessment Types

Type I	Type II	Type III
An assessment that measures a certain group of students in the same manner with the same potential assessment items, is scored by a non-district entity, and is widely administered beyond Illinois	An assessment developed or adopted and approved by the school district and used on a district-wide basis that is given by all teachers in a given grade or subject area	An assessment that is rigorous, aligned with the course’s curriculum, and that the evaluator and teacher determine measures student learning
Examples: Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) MAP tests, Scantron Performance Series	Examples: Collaboratively developed common assessments, curriculum tests, assessments designed by textbook publishers	Examples: teacher-created assessments, assessments of student performance

ESEA Waiver Request 89




Illinois State Board of Education

PERA: Teachers

- Generally the same as General Rules, except:
 - Student Growth: Counts for 50% of final rating

ESEA Waiver Request 90




Illinois State Board of Education

PERA: PRINCIPALS

- Annual evaluations required
- Final, written summative evaluation by March 1 (July 1 in Chicago)
- Rate in one of 4 levels, with clear indicators and written evidence that identifies specific strengths/weaknesses
- Districts can use General Rules to develop own systems or use State Model but no mandated default to State Model
- Same rules for assistant principals

ESEA Waiver Request 91




Illinois State Board of Education

PERA: PRINCIPALS

- Practice framework must align to new state Standards for Principal Evaluation
- At least 2 formal site observations
 - Observing school and/or principal practice, scheduled in advance, written feedback within 10 days
- Plus as many informal observations as needed
- Mandatory self-assessment

ESEA Waiver Request 92




Illinois State Board of Education

PERA: PRINCIPALS

- ▣ “Measurable change in a student’s or group of students’ knowledge or skills between two or more points in time”
- ▣ Growth: Counts for at least 25% of final evaluation in 2012-13 and 2013-14, 30% thereafter
- ▣ Use standardized tests (including ISAT and PSAT) and district-developed tests; in most cases can’t use Type III tests developed by teachers/evaluators
- ▣ District or evaluator will decide how to account for certain student characteristics (ELL, SPED, etc.)

ESEA Waiver Request 93




Illinois State Board of Education

Assessments for Principals

Assessments shall be defined according to three distinct types:

Type I	Type II	Type III
An assessment that measures a certain group of students in the same manner with the same potential assessment items, is scored by a non-district entity, and is widely administered beyond Illinois	An assessment developed or adopted and approved by the school district and used on a district-wide basis that is given by all teachers in a given grade or subject area	An assessment that is rigorous, aligned with the course’s curriculum, and that the evaluator and teacher determine measures student learning
<i>Examples: Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) MAP tests, Scantron Performance Series</i>	<i>Examples: Collaboratively developed common assessments, curriculum tests, assessments designed by textbook publishers</i>	<i>Examples: teacher-created assessments, assessments of student performance</i>

ESEA Waiver Request 94




Illinois State Board of Education

PERA: PRINCIPALS (State Model)

- ▣ No requirement to adopt as default
- ▣ Generally same as General Rules
- ▣ 4 rating levels:
 - Distinguished: Meet at least 4 standards, none rated as “basic”
 - Proficient: Meet at least 4 standards
 - Basic: Meet at least 3 standards
 - Unsatisfactory: If any standard rated as unsatisfactory
- ▣ Growth = 50% of overall evaluation
 - 30% on academic measures
 - 20% on other indicators such as attendance, grad rates, student surveys

ESEA Waiver Request 95



Illinois State Board of Education

Senate Bill 007

- Broadens districts employment authority
- Broadens the State Superintendent’s authority to issue certificate sanctions based on performance
- Dismiss teachers on the basis of performance
- Set additional specifications for processes to dismiss teachers for cause

ESEA Waiver Request 96

Illinois State Board of Education

Senate Bill 007: Attaining Tenure Status

- 4 consecutive school terms of service in which the teacher receives overall annual evaluation ratings of at least "Proficient" in the last school term and at least "Proficient" in either the second or third school term; or
- 3 consecutive school terms of service in which the teacher receives 3 overall annual evaluations of "Excellent"; or

ESEA Waiver Request 97

Illinois State Board of Education

Senate Bill 007: Attaining Tenure Status

- 2 consecutive school terms of service in which the teacher receives 2 overall annual evaluations of "Excellent" service, but only if the teacher
 - (i) previously attained contractual continued service in a different school district or program in this State,
 - (ii) voluntarily departed or was honorably dismissed from that school district or program in the school term immediately prior to the teacher's first school term of service applicable to the attainment of contractual continued service under this subdivision (3), and
 - (iii) received, in his or her 2 most recent overall annual or biannual evaluations from the prior school district or program, ratings of "Proficient", with both such ratings occurring after the school district's or program's PERA implementation date.

ESEA Waiver Request 98

Illinois State Board of Education

Senate Bill 007: Reductions in Force

- (1) Grouping one shall consist of each teacher not in contractual continued service who has not received a performance evaluation rating.
- (2) Grouping 2 shall consist of each teacher with a Needs Improvement or Unsatisfactory performance evaluation rating on either of the teacher's last 2 performance evaluation ratings.

ESEA Waiver Request 99

Illinois State Board of Education

Senate Bill 007: Reductions in Force

- (3) Grouping 3 shall consist of each teacher with a performance evaluation rating of at least Satisfactory or Proficient on both of the teacher's last 2 performance evaluation ratings, if 2 ratings are available, or on the teacher's last performance evaluation rating, if only one rating is available, unless the teacher qualifies for placement into grouping 4.
- (4) Grouping 4 shall consist of each teacher whose last 2 performance evaluation ratings are Excellent and each teacher with 2 Excellent performance evaluation ratings out of the teacher's last 3 performance evaluation ratings with a third rating of Satisfactory or Proficient.

ESEA Waiver Request 100

Illinois State Board of Education

Senate Bill 007: State Action

- Action against certification is possible if the teacher receives two or more unsatisfactory ratings within a 7 year period. Defined as "incompetency".
 - Additional professional development
 - Suspension of certification for up to five (5) years
 - Revocation of certification

ESEA Waiver Request 101

Illinois State Board of Education

Principle 3: Supporting Effective Instruction and Leadership

- ☐ Allow for greater district flexibility in employment matters (dismissals, reductions in force etc.);
- ☐ Allow for increased improvement of instruction by targeting professional development in areas most needed by teachers;
- ☐ Allow for greater state control over quality of instruction by allowing the State Superintendent to take sanctions against under-performing teachers;
- ☐ Allow for tremendous public input and stake holder guidance.

ESEA Waiver Request 102



Date: January 13, 2012

To: Select Education Leaders:

From: Illinois State Board of Education

Re: Invitation to Participate in the Illinois State Board of Education's Elementary and Secondary Education Act Flexibility Waiver Stakeholder Meeting

ISBE is committed to getting feedback from stakeholders on the ESEA Flexibility Waiver announced by President Obama last September. This waiver allows states to apply for waivers from certain provisions of the federal No Child Left Behind Act, also known as the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Illinois Leadership supports the waiver opportunity and is committed to working with our stakeholders to develop and submit a strong waiver request in February 2012. It is critical that we engage stakeholders in the process and hear from a diverse group of citizens to inform our waiver request and develop the system that puts Illinois children first. Our waiver request will be based upon the Board's goals to better prepare every student for success in college and careers. It will raise expectations for all students and will be focused on closing achievement gaps. Illinois is a diverse state and we know prescriptive solutions simply don't work. Our waiver request will include flexibilities in spending, supports and reforms to best meet the local needs, while at the same time raising expectations for students and educators through implementation of higher learning standards and an evaluation system based on measured progress. The Illinois State Board of Education will host a series of meetings across the state to elicit feedback from stakeholders. We hope you take advantage of these opportunities to participate and provide your input.

Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012
Time: 9:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.
Location: John A. Logan College and Conference Center
 Batteau Room (Room F103)
 700 Logan College Road
 Carterville, IL 62918
 Phone – 618-985-3741

Date: Thursday, February 2, 2012
Time: 9:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.
Location: Abraham Lincoln Hotel and Conference Center
 701 East Adams, Springfield, IL 62701
 Main Floor Ballroom
 Phone - 217-544-8800

Date: Friday, February 3, 2012
Time: 9:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.
Location: Rock Falls Hotel
2105 First Avenue South, Rock Falls, IL 61071
“E” Hennepin Room
Phone – 815-626-5500

Please complete your registration at <http://registration.airprojects.org/ISBEStakeholderMeeting> no later than Tuesday, January 24, 2012.

Best regards,

Susie Morrison
Deputy Superintendent

The Illinois PTA
in cooperation with the
Illinois State Board of Education
cordially invites you to attend

**No Child Left Behind/Elementary Secondary Education Act
STAKEHOLDERS MEETING
ON FLEXIBILITY WAIVER
7:00 to 8:30 P. M.**

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2012
JANE ADDAMS JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
700 S. Springinsguth Road
Schaumburg, IL

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2012
MORTON WEST HIGH SCHOOL
2400 S. Home Avenue
Berwyn, IL

Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. Presentation will begin promptly at 7:00 p.m.

In September, 2011, the Flexibility Waiver for the Elementary Secondary Education Act , commonly referred to as No Child Left Behind, was announced.

The Illinois State Board of Education is committed to developing a strong waiver request that addresses:

- putting children first
- preparing every student for success in college or a career, and
- raising expectations by closing the achievement gap while still meeting local needs.

Who should attend:

- parents
- students
- community leaders
- school personnel
-

Why attend:


- to learn what the Flexibility Waiver is and is not
- to share your concerns
- to ask questions
- to provide information and feedback to the State Board of Education

To reserve space, please visit the Illinois PTA website, www.illinoispta.org, and complete the registration form.

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ESEA FLEXIBILITY WAIVER REQUEST

Stakeholders' Meeting




Co-hosted with the Illinois PTA

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ISBE Mission Statement

The Illinois State Board of Education will provide leadership, assistance, resources and advocacy so that every student is prepared to succeed in careers and postsecondary education, and share accountability for doing so with districts and schools.




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Agenda

- Welcome & Overview
- Implementing the Common Core
- Changes to existing assessment, accountability and support system
- Principal and teacher evaluation
- Questions & Comments
- Adjourn




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Meeting Purpose

- To elicit feedback from stakeholders about the Illinois Elementary and Secondary Education Act flexibility waiver request
- To identify the level of stakeholder support for components of the waiver request



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What is No Child Left Behind (NCLB)?

- NCLB is the 2001 version of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), originally passed in 1964.
- NCLB has 5 goals and many Title Programs.
- Title I Part A is the largest and oldest of the United States Department of Education Programs
- NCLB has been scheduled for reauthorization since 2007

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Components of No Child Left Behind

- Standards based accountability system
- State assessments in grades 3-8 and at least once in high school (ISAT, PSAE, ACCESS).
- Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) explains if your child's school has met state reading and math goals.
- School in Need of Improvement - a designation that schools receive if they have not met AYP (Choice/SES/Corrective Action/Restructuring).

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Components of No Child Left Behind

- Public School Choice-If your child attends a Title I school that has not made AYP for two years or longer your child might be eligible to transfer to another public school with the transportation paid for by the district.
- Supplemental Educational Services (SES) –tutoring and extra help with schoolwork.
- Teachers must be “highly-qualified,” meaning that they must possess a bachelor’s degree and full state certification and demonstrate knowledge of the subject area taught.

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Existing Testing & Accountability

- EVERYONE** must make annual % increase
 - EACH subgroup
 - EACH grade
 - EACH subject (not science)
- Failure of **ANY** of above to meet % increase for **2** years = the **WHOLE** school “improvement” plan
- Disaggregated Subgroups:**
 - Race
 - Ethnicity
 - Gender
 - Disability
 - Migrant Students
 - LEP
 - Economically Disadvantaged

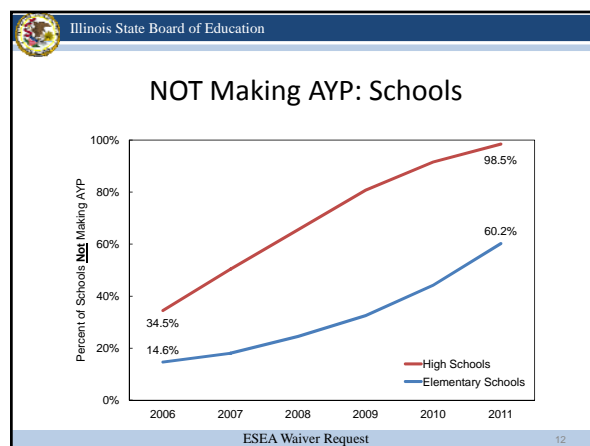
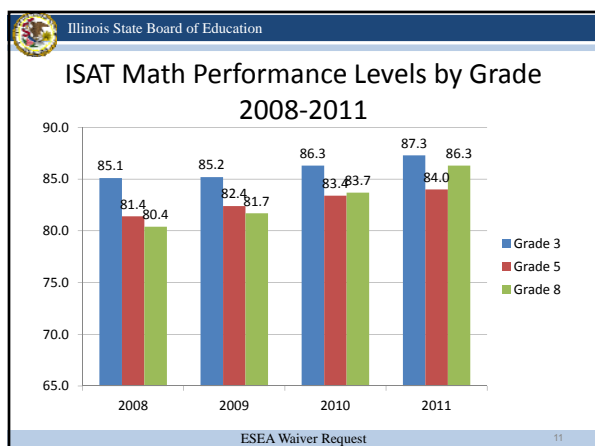
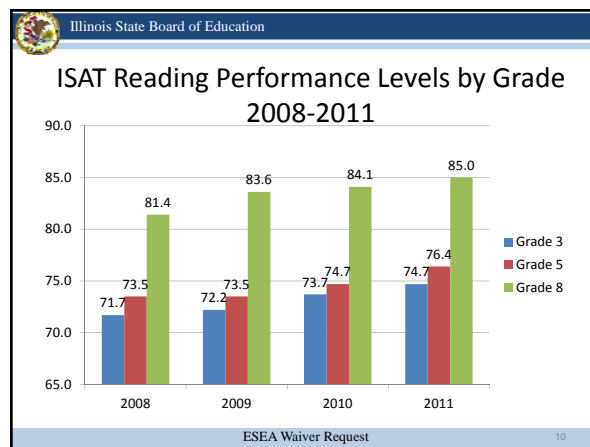
ESEA Waiver Request

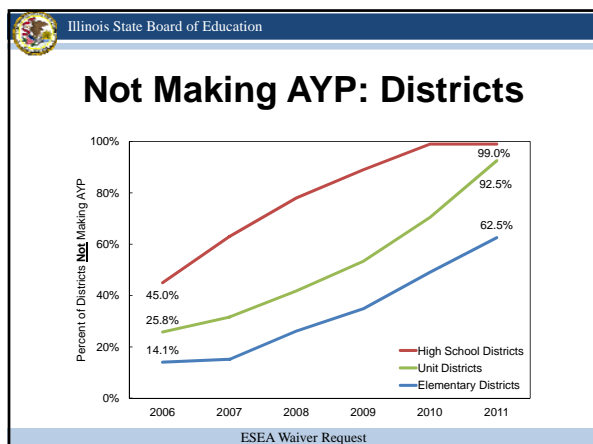
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CURRENT LANDSCAPE



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Why Apply for the Flexibility Waiver?

- States and districts have initiated groundbreaking reforms and innovations to increase the quality of instruction and improve academic achievement for all students.
- NCLB requirements have unintentionally become barriers to State and local implementation of forward-looking reforms.
- Protect student populations, especially those most at risk, including low-income, those with disabilities, and English Learners
- Set a High Bar: heading toward the 2020 goal that the U.S. once again lead the world in the proportion of college graduates

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OVERVIEW OF THE FLEXIBILITY WAIVER

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What Does Flexibility Mean for Students?

- Setting **college-and career-readiness standards** will challenge students to make progress toward a goal that will prepare them for success in the 21st century.
- New **assessments** will inspire better teaching and greater student engagement across a well-rounded curriculum.
- New **systems of differentiated recognition, accountability, and support** will ensure accountability for all students.

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What Does Flexibility Mean for Teachers?

- ESEA flexibility will let States make accountability decisions based on student growth and progress, as well as other measures of student learning and school performance.
- Flexibility will support states in fixing the broken teacher evaluation system, which will include multiple measures: peer reviews, observations, portfolios, student growth.

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What Does Flexibility Mean for Parents?

- Parents will get a more objective report of students progress toward a goal that is based on college-and career-ready standards.
- Flexibility allows states to create more informative accountability and support systems that require change in the lowest performing schools and allows for tailored solutions based on need.
- Accountability system will put less emphasis on a single test, and more emphasis on preparing students for college and careers

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Flexibility to Improve Student Achievement and Increase the Quality of Instruction

- 2013–2014 Timeline for Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)**
 - Flexibility to develop new ambitious but achievable Annual Measurable Objectives in reading/language arts and mathematics
- Implementation of School Improvement Requirements**
 - Flexibility from requirement for LEAs to identify or take improvement actions for schools identified for improvement, corrective action, or restructuring
- Implementation of LEA Improvement Requirements**
 - Flexibility from requirement for SEAs to identify or take improvement actions for LEAs identified for improvement or corrective action

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Flexibility to Improve Student Achievement and Increase the Quality of Instruction

- Rural LEAs**
 - Flexibility to use Rural and Low-Income School Program funds or Small, Rural School Achievement Program for any authorized purpose regardless of AYP status
- Schoolwide Programs**
 - Flexibility to operate a schoolwide program in a Title I school that does not meet the 40 percent poverty threshold if the SEA has identified the school as a priority school or a focus school, and the LEA is implementing interventions consistent with the turnaround principles or interventions that are based on the needs of the students in the school and designed to enhance the entire educational program in the school

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Flexibility to Improve Student Achievement and Increase the Quality of Instruction

- Support School Improvement**
 - Flexibility to allocate ESEA section 1003(a) funds to an LEA in order to serve any focus or priority school
- Reward Schools**
 - Flexibility to use funds reserved under ESEA section 1117(c)(2)(A) to provide financial rewards to any reward school
- Highly Qualified Teacher (HQT) Improvement Plans**
 - Flexibility from the requirements regarding HQT improvement plans

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Flexibility to Improve Student Achievement and Increase the Quality of Instruction

- Transfer of Certain Funds**
 - Flexibility to transfer up to 100 percent of the funds received under the authorized programs designated in ESEA section 6123 among those programs and into Title I, Part A
- Use of School Improvement Grant (SIG) Funds to Support Priority Schools**
 - Flexibility to award SIG funds available under ESEA section 1003(g) to an LEA to implement one of the four SIG models in any priority school

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Optional Flexibility


A state may wish to request an additional flexibility

Use of Twenty-First Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) Program Funds

- Flexibility of 21st CCLC program funds to support expanded learning time in addition to activities during non-school hours or periods when school is not in session



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THE PRINCIPLES

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Principle 1: College-and Career-Ready Expectations for All Students

- Adopt college-and **career-ready (CCR)** standards in at least reading/language arts and mathematics
- Transition to and implement CCR standards
- Develop and administer Statewide, aligned, **high-quality assessments** that measure student growth
- Adopt ELP standards corresponding to the State's new CCR standards and develop aligned assessments

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Principle 2: State-Developed Differentiated Recognition, Accountability, and Support

- Set ambitious but achievable AMOs
- **Reward schools:** Provide incentives and recognition for high-progress and highest-performing Title I schools
- **Priority schools:** Identify lowest-performing schools & implement interventions aligned with **turnaround principles**
- **Focus schools:** Close achievement gaps by identifying and implementing interventions in schools with the greatest achievement gaps or low graduation rates
- Provide incentives and supports for other Title I schools
- Build SEA, LEA, and school capacity to improve student learning in all schools

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Principle 3: Supporting Effective Instruction and Leadership

- Develop and adopt SEA guidelines for local teacher and principal evaluation and support systems
- Ensure LEAs implement teacher and principal evaluation and support systems that are consistent with SEA guidelines

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Principle 4: Reducing Duplication and Unnecessary Burden

- Remove duplicative and burdensome reporting requirements that have little or no impact on student outcomes
- Evaluate and revise SEA administrative requirements to reduce duplication and unnecessary burden on LEAs and schools

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PRINCIPLE 1

College-and Career-Ready Expectations for All Students

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Principle 1: College-and Career-Ready Expectations for All Students

All Students:

- Common Core
- PARCC Assessment

Special Education:

- Focused Monitoring and the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) Data Cohort
- LEA Determinations

English Language Learners:

- Amendment to the School Code to allow the use of State Transitional Bilingual Education funds for professional development

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PRINCIPLE 2

State-Developed Differentiated Accountability Systems

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Assessments

Previous System <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ISAT grades 3-8 PSAE grade 11 2 WorkKeys assessments as part of PSAE Science 4, 7, 11 not included for accountability Misalignment between ISAT and PSAE 	Proposed System <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ISAT grades 3-7 EXPLORE grades 8 and 9 PLAN grade 10 PSAE grade 11 3 WorkKeys assessments Science 4,7,11 included for accountability Raise the cut scores for ISAT grades 3-7
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Goals for Multiple Measures Index

- Reward student achievement
- Close achievement gaps
- Improve instructional quality
- Provide a holistic view of school and district performance
- Aligned with new report card initiative

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Principle 2: State-Developed Differentiated Recognition, Accountability, and Support

Multiple Measure Category	Multiple Measure Name	Multiple Measure Definition	Multiple Measure Target/Goal
Outcomes	College & Career Bound (High Schools & Districts)	% of students graduating within 4 years	Reduce by 1% the difference from 90% within 6 years
		% of students graduating within 5 years	Reduce by 1% the difference from 90% within 6 years
Achievement	College & Career Proficiency	% proficient on ISAT, IAA, EXPLORE, PLAN, and PSAE in math, reading, and science	Reduce by 1% the % not proficient within 6 years
	College & Career Mastery	% exceeding on ISAT, IAA, EXPLORE, PLAN, and PSAE in math, reading, and science	Reduce by 1% the % not exceeding (not proficient) within 6 years
	Career Preparedness	% receiving WorkKeys National Career Readiness Certificate	Reduce by 1% the % not receiving a certificate within 6 years
Progress	Growth in Content Proficiency	Growth on ISAT/EXPLORE (grades 4-8), IAA (grades 4-8), and PLAN/PSAE (grades 10-11) in math and reading	Reduce by 1% the % not attaining expected growth within 6 years
	Progress in English Proficiency	% making progress (5 increase or more score of 6.0) on ACCESS	Reduce by 1% the % not making progress within 6 years
Context	Climate Survey	School rating of an "excellent" climate for learning	Reduce by 1% the % of schools not excellent within 6 years
	College Preparedness	% of students scoring a 2 or higher on AP/IB courses	Increase by 0.5% each year or within 25% overall
		% of students taking dual credit courses	Increase by 1% each year or within 25% overall

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AMO Target Example: Reduce by Half Over 6 Years

	Grades 3-8 Reading in 2011	Six Year Goal (By 2017)	Target Increase Per Year
All Students	79.0	89.5	1.75
Male	75.5	87.8	2.04
Female	82.6	91.3	1.45
White	87.1	93.6	1.08
Black	64.9	82.5	2.90
Hispanic	69.8	84.9	2.52
Asian	91.2	95.6	0.73
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	85.9	93.0	1.18
Native American	72.9	86.5	2.26
English Language Learners	37.3	68.7	5.23
Students with Disabilities (IEP)	42.0	71.0	4.83
Migrant	46.7	73.4	4.44
Low Income	68.0	84.0	2.66

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Achievement Gap Methodology

Four groups

- Racial/ethnic minorities
- Economically disadvantaged
- Limited English proficient
- Special education

Or

Super Group

- (Race/ethnicity; economically disadvantaged; LEP, SWD)

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PRINCIPLE 2

Interventions, Supports and Rewards

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Principle 2: Interventions, Supports & Rewards

Previous System	Proposed System
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choice and Supplemental Educational Services (SES) mandatory Corrective Action Restructuring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choice and SES Optional Focus schools – District Assistance Team and up to 20% set-aside. Priority schools – Rapid Response Team and up to 20% set-aside. Reward schools – Promising Practice Grants.

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PRINCIPLE 3

Supporting Effective Instruction and Leadership

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PERA

- Performance Evaluation Reform Act (PERA) (January 2010)
- Requires student growth as a significant factor in evaluations
- Districts must adopt instructional framework with four levels (unsatisfactory, needs improvement, proficient, excellent)
- Begin implementation in 2012; full implementation by 2016

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Senate Bill 007

- Provides alternative routes toward tenure
- Broadens districts employment authority
- Broadens the State Superintendent's authority to issue certificate sanctions based on performance
- Dismiss teachers on the basis of performance
- Set additional specifications for processes to dismiss teachers for cause


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Peer Review and Approval Process

- SEA requests will be evaluated by expert peer reviewers.
- An SEA will have multiple opportunities to clarify its plans for reviewers and to answer any questions reviewers may have.
- If necessary, the Department of Education will provide feedback to an SEA about components of the SEA's request that need additional development (average = 5 revisions).
- Peer reviewer evaluations will inform the Secretary's decisions to grant flexibility to SEA's (notification of approval approximately 4 months).

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Implementation Timelines

- The Secretary intends to grant waivers included in this flexibility through the end of the 2013-2014 school year.
- An SEA may request an extension of the initial period of this flexibility to the start of the 2014-2015 school year

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THANK YOU

- www.isbe.net/nclb_waivers/default.htm
- Questions/comments:
 - Nclbwaivers@isbe.net

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