



Illinois State Board of Education

Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor

Weekly Message

Jesse H. Ruiz, Chairman
Dr. Christopher J. Ward, Vice Chair
Dr. Vinni M. Hall, Secretary
Dr. Andrea S. Brown
Dean E. Clark
Dr. David L. Fields
Edward J. Geppert, Jr.
Brenda J. Holmes
Joyce E. Karon

Christopher A. Koch, Ed.D.
State Superintendent (Interim)

January 4, 2007

Editor's Note:

This is an abbreviated version of the *Weekly Message* featuring time-critical information. We'll return to the regular format next week.—Editor

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|---|
| Upcoming Deadlines | 1 |
| Special Message from Governor's Office..... | 1 |
| Funding and Disbursement | 1 |
| Rules..... | 2 |
| Nutrition..... | 2 |
| Employment Opportunities..... | 3 |
| In the News..... | 3 |

Upcoming Deadlines

- Certificate of Tax Levy – December 26
- AYP Appeals: Elementary, Middle, Junior High – January 10
- Waiver applications to be considered by General Assembly in Spring 2007 – January 12, 2007
- Preschool Social and Emotional Consultation Services RFP – January 25, 2007
- Early Childhood Teacher Preparation Assistance Planning Grant – February 1, 2007
- Non-Certified Staff Salary Study - March 31, 2007

Special Message from Governor's Office

Flags at State of Illinois buildings continue to fly at half staff



As flags at State of Illinois buildings continue to fly at half staff (through January 24) to honor **President Gerald R. Ford**, Governor Blagojevich has ordered flags to fly at half staff this Friday and Saturday, January 5 and 6, 2007, to also honor two fallen soldiers from Illinois.

Services will be held this Friday, January 5, 2007 for **Army Sgt. Jason C. Denfrund**, 24, of Gurnee, Illinois, who died December 25, 2006 in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated near his unit while on patrol. Denfrund was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), Fort Drum, N.Y.

Services will be held Saturday, January 6, 2007, to honor **Army Capt. Travis L. Patriquin**, 32, a native of Lockport, Illinois, who died December 6, 2006 in Ar Ramadi, Iraq, of injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his HMMWV during combat operations. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, Giessen, Germany.

Flying flags at half staff is at the discretion of local school districts.

Funding and Disbursement

Estimated best three months average daily attendance IWAS application

This annual IWAS application entitled "Estimated Best Three Months Average Daily Attendance" is now available. We respectfully request that the estimate be provided to the Illinois State Board of Education on or before January 19, 2007. The figure you will report is the

estimated best three months average daily attendance for the 2006-07 school year.

The estimates you provide will be used as a resource by the General Assembly to determine the General State Aid (GSA) appropriation level for the 2006-07 claim year payable during Fiscal Year 2008. Accurate estimates are critical for district level budget purposes, as *projected* GSA entitlements will be based on these estimated figures. Questions regarding this system can be directed to **Jim Mathes** at 217-782-5256 or jmathes@isbe.net or **Toni Waggoner** at 217-782-0249 or twaggoner@isbe.net.

2004 CPPRT and DHS Poverty Counts for FY 2008 GSA Available

The 2004 Corporate Personal Property Replacement Tax and the DHS Poverty Count figures to be used in the calculation of the 2008 GSA Entitlements are now available on the General State Aid Inquiry website at <http://www.isbe.net/funding/html/gsa.htm> under the header "Reports".

Final FY 2007 Mandated Categorical Prorations

Final prorations have been calculated for all 2005-06 school year categorical claims that are reimbursed in FY 2007. A history of special education categorical appropriations, claim amounts and prorations is online at http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/sped_appro_pro.pdf. If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact the Division of Funding and Disbursement Services at 217-782-5256.

- Special Education Personnel 100 percent
- Special Education Private Facility 89.6 percent
- Special Education Extraordinary 92.2 percent
- Special Education Summer School 96.8 percent
- Special Education Orphanage 100 percent
- Special Education Transportation 98.3 percent
- Regular/Vocational Transportation 97.2 percent

Rules

Invitation to Comment on Rules

One set of proposed rules recently reviewed by the State Board of Education is currently available for public comment. This item is available online at <http://www.isbe.net/rules>; choose "Proposed Rules and Amendments". Please submit any comments or suggestions you may have to rules@isbe.net.

Part 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision)

Changes in preparation and approval of school and district improvement plans and school restructuring plans; updating of requirements for administrative positions; validity of provisional vocational certificate

Deadline for Public Comment: January 29, 2007

Notice of completed rulemaking

Amendments to Part 235 (Early Childhood Block Grant) are now in effect. These rules have been posted on the agency's web site at <http://www.isbe.net/rules>; choose "Rules Currently in Effect" and scroll to the relevant Part number. If you wish to print only the affected Sections, please be sure to include the table of contents, which changes each time a Part is revised.

Part 235 (Early Childhood Block Grant; see <http://www.isbe.net/rules/archive/pdfs/235ARK.pdf>) Addresses requirements for the Preschool for All Children Program and additional grants for programs serving children ages 3 to 5 years that are in need of social and emotional consultation services

Affected Section: 235.10, 235.60, 235.70, Subpart B and Subpart C

Effective Date: November 28, 2006

Nutrition

Verification Summary Report due January 18, 2007

The Verification Summary Report (summarizing the results of your verification efforts) must be submitted electronically to the Illinois State Board of Education by **January 18, 2007**. Instructions on accessing and completing the Verification Summary Report are available at <http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/> under *What's New*.

School Wellness Policy Task Force Statewide Nutrition Standards Report released

The Illinois School Wellness Policy Task Force continues its work as outlined in the Public Act 094-0199. The required report on statewide nutrition standards was submitted to the Governor and General Assembly as of January 1, 2007. For access to this report and a complete list of Task Force members, please visit http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/wellness_policy.htm.

Illinois School Nutrition Association's 57th Annual Conference Announced— School Nutrition Steps Up to the Plate

The 57th annual Illinois School Nutrition Association Conference will be held June 19 through 21, 2007, at Drury Lane in Oak Brook, Illinois. Several pre-conference sessions will be offered early Tuesday morning followed by the first general session. Tuesday evening will be filled with fun and food with a baseball theme. Wednesday will feature the food show and exhibits. Thursday you will have a number of breakout sessions to choose from that will cover the hot points of school nutrition services. This conference will provide plenty of opportunity to learn more about school nutrition and share ideas with other professionals doing the same thing you do. For more information, contact Conference Chair **Cathy Breeck** at 815-802-7772 or via email at cathy-breeck@ksd111.org or **Leona Madaj** at ILSNA-LEONA@Comcast.net.

Nutrition Education That Works: An Integrated Approach

An online course by the Illinois NET Program for PreK-5 Educators

For nearly eight months, the Illinois NET (Nutrition Education and Training) Program has proudly highlighted Illinois NET Online, a web-based training service that will expand access to nutrition education training for school staff members. Each course is free of charge and can be completed at the learner's convenience in two hours or less. The first course, *Nutrition Education That Works: An Integrated Approach* for PreK-5 educators, explores statistics that indicate kids are not meeting current health recommendations. This interactive program highlights how schools can be a part of the solution to improve children's health and provides educators with the information and skills needed to integrate nutrition education into core curricula. *Nutrition Education That Works: An Integrated Approach* also serves as an excellent way to meet staff nutrition education requirements for local wellness policies. Visit <http://www.kidseatwell.org/onlinetraining.html> for additional course information.

Employment Opportunities

ISBE External Vacancy List

An External Vacancy List for the Illinois State Board of Education is available at:

<http://www.isbe.net/hr/Default.htm>.

In the News

Weekly news clips

ISBE has posted highlights from last week's education news clips at:

