



Jan. 7, 2013

## Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

The new year is here and there was no fiscal meltdown, however, we still need to watch what happens in Washington closely. There has been significant concern of what a federal sequestration, or fiscal cliff, could mean to education funding. Lawmakers were able to put together a temporary deal to avoid sequestration, but it will only last until March. We will continue to monitor what happens on the federal level and will provide additional information as it becomes available.

The start of a new year brings opportunities for us to address new challenges. It also allows us to look back at what we've done and review our accomplishments. As I work with my counterparts across the nation, Illinois is quietly becoming one of the states to watch. Despite what some of our critics may say, we are doing some great things.

**Illinois near the top for state graduation rates:** In preliminary data released by the U.S. Department of Education in November, Illinois ranked 10th in the nation for its graduation rate, which was 84 percent. Among the 10 most populous states, Illinois was second, behind only Texas at 86 percent.

**Illinois earns top ACT score among states that test all students:** The graduating Class of 2012 received the highest composite ACT score (20.9) among the nine states that tested 100 percent of 2012 graduates. Additionally, the state has shown continued improvement in the percentage of graduates who meet ACT's College Readiness Benchmarks over the last five years.

**Record Number of Students Taking AP Exams and Posting Successful Scores:** According to the annual AP Report to the Nation, the percentage of Illinois graduates completing more than one AP exam has more than doubled since 2001. Participation is up among all categories – by gender, ethnicity and economic class.

**Maximizing Early Investments in Young Children:** Illinois won a federal Early Learning Challenge grant of nearly \$35 million to serve the most at-need children with highest quality early childhood programs; better align services to maximize state and federal resources; and improve and integrate early childhood data about children, teachers and programs.

**ISBE launches Center for School Improvement:** ISBE established the Center for School Improvement to help raise student performance in the nearly 4,000 public K-12 schools across the state, particularly the lowest performing schools. The Center will help coordinate regional improvement efforts under ISBE's existing network to ensure that schools receive expert and timely assistance with an emphasis on closing the achievement gap.

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**More than 700 schools make the Illinois Honor Roll:** ISBE recognized 703 high-performing schools on the 2011 Illinois Honor Roll, announced in 2012. This Illinois Honor Roll, which is based on state standardized tests and demographic information, included 55 schools that were recognized for the eighth or ninth consecutive year. The list included elementary, middle and high schools, including charter schools, and represented 312 school districts statewide.

**Illinois begins development of the Illinois Shared Learning Environment:** ISBE, with its partners, launched the Illinois Shared Learning Environment (ISLE). ISLE builds upon the work of the Shared Learning Collaborative (SLC), a multi-state initiative to provide teachers with access to the high-quality tools and content they need to create personalized learning experiences for their students, expanding it to include more services and resources for educators and students across the P-20 spectrum. School districts participating in Race to the Top will have the first opportunity to roll out ISLE following a pilot program in Bloomington School District 87 and McLean County Unit School District 5 that is currently under way.

**Illinois begins implementation of Race to the Top:** In 2012, Illinois successfully launched its \$42.8 million Race to the Top (RTTT) grant with 35 Illinois districts agreeing to participate and be the first to implement key initiatives aimed at improving school performance and student achievement. Projects include: PERA Pre-qualification, PEAC Support, Survey of Learning Conditions, STEM Learning Exchanges, Illinois Collaborative for Education Policy Research, College and Career Readiness, and the Pathways Resource Center.

**Illinois launches new Collaborative for Education Policy Research:** Funded by Race to the Top, ICEPR brings together the state's leading researchers to develop and maintain a purposeful research agenda, coordinate research, and collaborate across states in order to capitalize on the potential of the data collected in the Statewide Longitudinal Data System to provide the most benefit to education policy and practice in Illinois.

**Identifying and Closing the Achievement Gap Sooner:** ISBE launched the Kindergarten Individual Development Survey (KIDS), a new resource that provides educators and parents with information regarding how each kindergartner is developing, in order to inform instruction. In the 2012-13 school year, the KIDS instrument is being piloted in more than 60 school districts from across Illinois. The tool also enables school districts and the state get a picture of where all children are developmentally and begin closing the achievement gap sooner.

**New teacher and principal evaluations:** More than 10,706 teacher evaluators and 2,800 principal evaluators are registered across the state and are working to complete the necessary five modules of training. Nearly half of the teacher evaluators have completed the fifth and final training module for teacher evaluations, and 71 percent of those principal evaluators registered have completed the fifth training module for principal evaluations.

**Board members serve on national task force:** On Feb. 1, two State Board of Education members were chosen to serve at the national level for a study group on the expanding use of technology in K-12 education. Dr. Vinni M. Hall and Lanita J. Koster were selected by the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) to serve on the year-long study group "The Role of Technology in Schools and Communities."

**Illinois chosen to expand access to free school meals for children in need:** Illinois is one of the first six states selected by the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to participate in a pilot project using Medicaid data to directly certify children for free meals in families receiving Medicaid benefits at specific levels. This pilot simplifies the review and approval process for school districts.

**Illinois facilitates growing number of schools meeting the HealthierUS School Challenge:** In 2012, ISBE certified 208 schools meeting the HUSSC requirements. Sponsored by the USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), the initiative encourages all schools take a leadership role in helping students to make healthier eating and physical activity choices that will last a lifetime.

There's a lot of work to be done, but I think you deserve a pat on the back for what you're doing to make Illinois competitive by improving the quality of education on a daily basis.

Here's to a wonderful 2013.

Chris

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## Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

*Please note this is not a complete list of dates and deadlines. For questions, call the Illinois State Board of Education at (866) 262-6663 or (217) 782-4321 or visit the agency's official website at <http://www.isbe.net>.*

- **Postmark deadline for waiver applications to be considered by General Assembly in Spring '13** – Jan. 18
- **ISBE offices closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day** – Jan. 21
- **Postmark deadline for Illinois School HealthierUS School Challenge Request for Proposal** – Jan. 22
- **2012-13 Teacher Salary Study data form deadline** – Feb. 1
- **Noncertified Staff Salary Study survey deadline** – Feb. 1
- **Madrid ELL teacher recruitment informational meeting in Chicago** – Feb. 8 (Details available at [http://www.isbe.net/bilingual/htmls/spanish\\_exchange.htm](http://www.isbe.net/bilingual/htmls/spanish_exchange.htm))
- **Part 25 (Certification)** – Public comment period ends Feb. 11
- **Part 252 (Driver Education)** – Public comment period ends Feb. 11
- **Part 425 (Voluntary Registration and Recognition of Nonpublic Schools)** – Public comment period ends Feb. 19
- **ISBE offices closed for Lincoln's Birthday** – Feb. 12
- **ISBE offices closed for Presidents' Day** – Feb. 18
- **Illinois New Teacher Collaborative's annual Induction and Mentoring Conference** – Feb. 26-27 (<http://intc.education.illinois.edu/conference>)
- **0-3 Prevention Initiative – Outcomes Questionnaire IWAS data entry deadline** – July 1 (IWAS Reporting Guide available at [http://www.isbe.net/research/htmls/pfa\\_prev\\_init.htm](http://www.isbe.net/research/htmls/pfa_prev_init.htm))
- **0-3 Prevention Initiative – Parent Questionnaire IWAS data entry deadline** – July 1 (IWAS Reporting Guide available at [http://www.isbe.net/research/htmls/pfa\\_prev\\_init.htm](http://www.isbe.net/research/htmls/pfa_prev_init.htm))
- **Student Health Data** – Vision system report deadline – July 1
- **Regional Safe Schools End of Year Data reporting deadline** – July 31 (User guide for the IWAS reporting system, [http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/rssp\\_iwas\\_user\\_guide.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/rssp_iwas_user_guide.pdf))
- **Truants' Alternative and Optional Education Program (TAOEP) reporting deadline** – July 31 (User guide for the IWAS reporting system, <ftp://help.isbe.net/webapps/taoep/pdf/TAOEP.pdf>)

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## PERA

### Important Announcement Regarding Principal and Teacher Evaluation Slots

**Regional Superintendents, Superintendents and Directors:** There have been great strides made over the course of the last several months to have evaluation training completed in order for the evaluators of teachers and/or principals to be pre-qualified as is required in the PERA legislation. When the designation/registration process first began last spring, every district, special education cooperative, education for employment system and ROE were given at least one principal and one

teacher evaluation slot. After awhile, many of those entities requested additional slots as needed, so their total allotment was more suited to the specific needs of their situation. Since then, however, there are a few ROE's, EFE's and Special Education Cooperatives that have not utilized their allotment and a few districts that requested additional allotments that they have not accessed. These slots are NOT those that have been designated and someone has registered for the training and is in the process of training. These are purely undesignated slots that are still sitting in the superintendent or director's ECS account waiting to be designated.

ISBE has received requests from some districts, ROE's, EFE's and/or Special Education Cooperatives that wish to have additional slots. However, we cannot grant those requests until more slots are available through gathering back the undesignated slots sitting idle in some ECS accounts.

Superintendents and directors should carefully review the needs within their district or organization to determine those people who should be designated for training by Feb. 28, 2013. On March 1, 2013, all undesignated slots in superintendents' and directors' ECS accounts will be swept. Any slots available after March 1, 2013, will be allocated to those who have made requests by emailing [klutzow@isbe.net](mailto:klutzow@isbe.net) on a first come first serve basis. Thank you for your cooperation.

## Funding and Disbursements

### New Census Estimates Released for FY 2014 Title I Low Income

The U.S. Department of Education has released the Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) for income year 2011. These estimates will be used to calculate FY14 Title I Allocations. A file of 2011 Poverty Data, by Local Education Agency (LEA) is provided in an alphabetical listing of LEAs, Poverty Count, 5-17 Population, Poverty Percentage and Total Population online at [http://www.isbe.net/funding/excel/FY14Preliminary\\_eligibility.xls](http://www.isbe.net/funding/excel/FY14Preliminary_eligibility.xls).

With this data, LEAs can determine their potential eligibility for Basic, Concentration, Targeted and Education Finance Incentive Grants (EFIG).

Basic Grant eligibility: an LEA must have at least 10 poverty children and the number of poverty children must be greater than 2 percent of the LEA population of children ages 5-17.

Concentration Grant eligibility: an LEA must have at least 6,500 poverty children or the number of those children exceeds 15 percent of the total 5-17 population.

Targeted and EFIG grant qualifications: an LEA must have at least 10 poverty children and that number must be at least 5 percent of the 5-17 population.

The following link to the Census Bureau, [www.census.gov/did/www/saipe/index.html](http://www.census.gov/did/www/saipe/index.html), provides various aspects of the SAIPE count. We will be using the 2011 data to calculate SY 2013-14 Title I, Part A

allocations because they are the most recent available data.

Superintendents, business managers, and Title I directors should carefully examine the data for their LEA as this will be the first indication as to whether your LEA may be gaining or losing in eligibility for Title I funds in FY14. ISBE neither controls nor generates the data. The challenge period for the 2011 estimates is Dec. 12, 2012, through March 11, 2013. Refer to the Census Bureau link if interested.

Note that this preliminary data does not include other non-census information, such as foster, neglected or delinquent counts that may be used to calculate Title I allocations.

If you have questions on the information provided in this message, please contact Sally Cray ([scray@isbe.net](mailto:scray@isbe.net)) in the Division of Funding and Disbursements at (217) 782-5256.

### Final FY 2013 Mandated Categorical Prorations

Final prorations and payments have been calculated for all 2011-12 school year categorical claims that will be vouchered in FY 2013.

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 – 92 percent
- Special Education Funding for Children Requiring Special Education Services – 100 percent
- Special Education Summer School – 96 percent
- Special Education Orphanage – 100 percent
- Special Education Transportation – 99 percent
- Regular/Vocational Transportation – 76 percent
- Regular Education Orphanage – 100 percent

### Federal Interest Income – Quarterly Reminder

The Code of Federal Regulations, Title 34-Education, Part 80 Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Governments, Subpart C-Post Award Requirements, Section 80.21 Payment, requires grantees and subgrantees to promptly, but at least quarterly, remit interest earned on advances to the appropriate federal agency. The grantee or subgrantee may keep actual interest amounts up to \$100 per year gained on Federal



deposits per bank account, if applicable, for administrative purposes. Grant recipients have discretion to set up account(s) that are non-interest bearing to avoid returning interest.

To ensure compliance with federal administrative requirements, local education agency fiscal officials should develop internal controls and a sound methodology to calculate and return, at least quarterly, interest earned in excess of \$100 on federal program funds. Interest calculation methodologies must be based on actual, not estimated, interest earnings on federal funds. Further details as to how federal interest should be calculated and remitted can be found on Pages 10-12 of the State and Federal Grant Administration Policy and Fiscal Requirements and Procedures, which is online at [http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/fiscal\\_procedure\\_handbook.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/fiscal_procedure_handbook.pdf).

Interest should be returned using the following guidelines:

- Checks for interest earned should be made payable to the Illinois State Board of Education.
- Checks should not include the return of unexpended disbursements from the Illinois State Board of Education. Even though unexpended disbursements and interest payments are made payable to the Illinois State Board of Education, separate checks should be issued for both.
- Checks should be accompanied by a statement identifying the program and the program year from which the interest was earned.

All checks must be mailed to: Illinois State Board of Education, Funding and Disbursements Division (E-320), 100 N. First St., Springfield, IL 62777-0001.

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## System of Support and District Intervention

### ISBE Invites Comments on FY 2014 School Improvement Grant Application

The Illinois State Board of Education invites comments on its FY14 School Improvement Grant (SIG) 1003(g) application to the U.S. Department of Education. An SEA that will make new SIG 1003(g) awards through a competitive process is required to submit a “New Awards Application.” A new award is defined as an award of SIG 1003(g) funds to an LEA for a school that the LEA was not previously approved to serve with SIG funds in the school year for which the funds are being awarded-in this

case, the 2013-2014 school year. Illinois may make new awards with the remaining \$40 million of funds not already committed to grants made in earlier competitions.

The division of Statewide System of Support and District Intervention invites comments on the SIG 1003(g) application, which is on the Innovation and Improvement website: [http://www.isbe.net/sos/htmls/sip\\_1003.htm](http://www.isbe.net/sos/htmls/sip_1003.htm). All comments will be included with the Illinois submission to the Department of Education. Please send comments to Robin Staudenmeier at [estauden@isbe.net](mailto:estauden@isbe.net) by Jan. 14, 2013.

If you have any questions about this request, the Illinois application to the Department of Education, or any aspect of the FY14 SIG award cycle, please contact ISBE staff by phone at (217) 524-4832.

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## Data Analysis and Accountability

### 0-3 Prevention Initiative – Outcomes Questionnaire Available in IWAS

The “0-3 Prevention Initiative – Outcomes Questionnaire” IWAS system is open for school year 2012-13 data entry. Each district or local education agency (LEA) that received 0-3 Prevention Initiative funds in FY13 is required to submit these data, per Section 2-3.89 of the Illinois School Code (105 ILCS 5/2-3.89). Prevention Initiative program staff are to respond to the questionnaire based on the Individual Family Service Plan completed for a family served by the program in FY13. Questionnaire responses are in turn submitted to ISBE. The deadline for submitting the data is July 1, 2013 (11:59 p.m.).

The IWAS Reporting Guide for the “0-3 Prevention Initiative – Outcomes Questionnaire” system is available at [http://www.isbe.net/research/htmls/pfa\\_prev\\_init.htm](http://www.isbe.net/research/htmls/pfa_prev_init.htm).

Questions about using the “0-3 Prevention Initiative – Outcomes Questionnaire” IWAS system should be directed to the ISBE Help Desk at (217) 558-3600. Questions about the data to be submitted may be directed to the Early Childhood Division at (217) 524-4835.

### 0-3 Prevention Initiative – Parent Questionnaire Available in IWAS

The “0-3 Prevention Initiative – Parent Questionnaire” IWAS system is open for school year 2012-13 data entry. Each district or local education agency (LEA) that

received 0-3 Prevention Initiative funds in FY13 is required to submit these data, per Section 2-3.89 of the Illinois School Code (105 ILCS 5/2-3.89). A caregiver (a parent or a guardian) of each child served by the funded district or LEA must complete the questionnaire so the responses can in turn be submitted to ISBE. The deadline for submitting the data is July 1, 2013 (11:59 p.m.).

The IWAS Reporting Guide for the “0-3 Prevention Initiative – Parent Questionnaire” system is available at [http://www.isbe.net/research/htmls/pfa\\_prev\\_init.htm](http://www.isbe.net/research/htmls/pfa_prev_init.htm).

Questions about using the “0-3 Prevention Initiative – Parent Questionnaire” IWAS system should be directed to the ISBE Help Desk at (217) 558-3600. Questions about the data to be submitted may be directed to the Early Childhood Division at (217) 524-4835.

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## English Language Learning

### Madrid Teacher Recruitment Informational Meeting Scheduled for Feb. 8 in Chicago

An informational meeting about the Visiting Teachers from Spain Program and recruitment of ELL teachers in Madrid will take place on Feb. 8, 2013, at 10 a.m. at the Illinois State Board of Education’s Chicago office, 100 W. Randolph St., Suite 14-300.

ISBE offers Illinois school districts the opportunity to recruit highly qualified teachers from Spain to teach in Dual Language, Bilingual Education and Spanish as a World Language Programs. The interviewing process is tentatively scheduled to take place during the week of April 22-26 this year, and districts may interview candidates either in person in Madrid or via Skype. For more information about the program, please visit [http://www.isbe.net/bilingual/htmls/spanish\\_exchange.htm](http://www.isbe.net/bilingual/htmls/spanish_exchange.htm).

If you are considering the possibility of recruiting teachers from Spain, you are encouraged to participate in the meeting in person or through a conference call. Please RSVP by email to [jorge.berne@meccd.es](mailto:jorge.berne@meccd.es) and [paula.orrte@meccd.es](mailto:paula.orrte@meccd.es) or call (312) 814-5696 by Feb. 1.

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## Special Education Services

### Notification of Revisions to IDEA Proportionate Share TMC Timelines

Each year school districts are required to hold timely and meaningful consultation (TMC) meetings with

representatives of nonpublic schools, including home-schools, regarding the use of a proportionate share of the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) funds for services to eligible students with disabilities who attend nonpublic schools. This process has occurred in the fall of each school year. In order to ensure that the required proportionate share expenses are budgeted in the IDEA grants and to avoid a delay in service provision to eligible students, the TMC timelines have been revised effective with the 2013-2014 school year.

The Illinois State Board of Education will release an estimated nonpublic proportionate share calculation for each district in April of 2013. The estimate will be based on the Child Count data provided by each district. Local school districts must schedule and convene TMC meetings no later than May 31, 2013, and submit the TMC documentation to the Special Education Services Division no later than June 15, 2013. Districts are strongly encouraged to ensure that the data submitted is accurate to avoid a significant discrepancy between the estimated calculation and the final calculation, which will be available in August 2013.

Any district with a nonpublic proportionate share calculation must include those expenses in its original FY14 IDEA grant application. The grants cannot be approved until the proportionate share expenses have been included in the grants. Districts that have a nonpublic proportionate share calculation but do not have any students who require services will be able to note such in the grant application.

### IDEA Proportionate Share Timeline

- **April 2013:** Release of estimated IDEA nonpublic proportionate share calculations (based on child count data from the FACTS March transmission)
- **May 31, 2013:** Final date for convening timely and meaningful consultations
- **June 15, 2013:** Timely and meaningful documents are due to the Special Education Services division
- **July 1, 2013:** Earliest start date for FY14 IDEA grants. Districts with nonpublic proportionate share calculations must include those expenses for approval of grants
- **August 2013:** Final nonpublic proportionate share calculations released

This preliminary notice has been provided to assist districts in planning for the up-coming year, including scheduling of TMC meetings in the spring of 2013.

Additional information will be provided by the Special Education Services and the Funding and Disbursements divisions as changes are made to the ISBE forms and grants.

Please direct Timely and Meaningful Consultation questions to Andy Eulass, Julie Evans, Marcia Kelley, and Gary Miller at (217) 782-5589. Please direct grant questions to your IDEA Part B Grant coordinators: Tammy Greco, Betty Hendrickson, Felicia Malloy and Gary Miller at (217) 782-5589.

### **Guidance on Qualifications Required of Personnel Conducting Medical Reviews**

Section 226.840 of rules governing Special Education (23 Ill. Adm. Code 226.840; see <http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/guidance-226.840.pdf>), sets forth the qualifications of personnel who may conduct medical reviews, as follows: Until June 30, 2013, School Service Personnel Certificate endorsed for school nursing (23 Ill. Adm. Code 25.245), or a license to practice medicine in all of its branches, or under Section 60 or 65 of the Nurse Practice Act [225 ILCS 65]. Beginning July 1, 2013, a School Service Personnel Certificate endorsed for school nursing (23 Ill. Adm. Code 25.245); or a license to practice medicine in all of its branches; or a bachelor's degree or higher and a license issued under Article 60 or Article 65 of the Nurse Practice Act [225 ILCS 65/Art. 60 or Art. 65], provided that only a person holding a School Service Personnel Certificate endorsed for school nursing shall make recommendations regarding educational interventions, accommodations or modifications based on the findings of the student's medical review.

This guidance document answers some of the most frequently asked questions regarding this rule. The guidelines were developed in consultation with leaders in IAASE (Illinois Alliance of Administrators of Special Education), IASN (Illinois Association of School Nurses), IPA (Illinois Principals Association) and IASA (Illinois Association of School Administrators). Please direct additional questions regarding implementation of Rule 226 to Jessica Gerdes, Principal Consultant at ISBE for School Nurse and Health Issues; [jgerdes@isbe.net](mailto:jgerdes@isbe.net).

### **Illinois Computing Educators Seek Applications From Schools for Tech 2013**

Illinois Computing Educators (ICE) is accepting applications for Tech 2013. Tech 2013 is an annual showcase of student technology projects at the State

Capitol Building in Springfield. This year's event will take place on May 7, 2013. The deadline to submit a TECH 2013 application is Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2013. Schools can apply at [www.iceberg.org/TECH\\_2013](http://www.iceberg.org/TECH_2013). For more information, download the TECH 2013 brochure.

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## **Nutrition and Wellness Programs**

### **Funding Opportunity Available to Take the HealthierUS School Challenge**

**Reminder:** The due date for the 2012 Team Nutrition and Training funding opportunity for schools to take the HealthierUS School Challenge is Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2013.

Fifty mini-grants of \$940 will be awarded to eligible schools to help them prepare to meet the HealthierUS School Challenge criteria in fiscal year 2014. The Request for Proposal for competitive grant is posted at [www.isbe.net/nutrition](http://www.isbe.net/nutrition), under What's New or [http://www.isbe.net/funding\\_opps/htmls/rfp.htm](http://www.isbe.net/funding_opps/htmls/rfp.htm).

A webinar describing the new HUSSC criteria and providing information on the RFP is posted at <http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/sos.htm#huscrfp>. The grant period begins Feb. 1, 2013, and ends June 30, 2014.

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## **School Safety**

### **School and Campus Security Training Program Course Schedule Available Online**

The School and Campus Security Training Program schedule for the start of the new year is available online at [http://www.isbe.net/safety/pdf/training\\_schedule.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/safety/pdf/training_schedule.pdf). Courses already scheduled across the state from January through March 5 include "K-12 Student Behavioral Threat Assessment," "Understanding and Planning for School Bomb Incidents" and more.

Visit the Illinois State Board of Education's School Safety and Emergency Response web page at <http://www.isbe.net/safety/default.htm>. The information on this page is designed to assist administrators, teachers and other school service personnel in locating resources relevant to school safety and emergency response. All schools are encouraged to work proactively with local public health departments, law enforcement, fire departments and community groups to ensure that safety planning and response is inclusive of all relevant community partners.

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## Rules and Waivers

### Notice of Completed Rulemaking

Please be advised that three sets of amendments recently adopted by the Illinois State Board of Education are now in effect. Changes to Parts 75 and 140 rules have been posted on the agency's website at <http://www.isbe.net/rules/archive/default.htm>. Please choose "Rules Currently in Effect" and scroll to the applicable Part. Changes to Part 25 may be viewed at <http://www.isbe.net/rules/adopted/25.pdf>; final posting is pending the agency's receipt of the full citation for the amended rule.

**Part 25 (Certification):** Implements the State Board of Education's policy adopted in June to allow candidates for educator preparation programs and applicants for educator licenses to use a minimum composite score (as determined by the State Board) in lieu of taking Illinois' test of basic skills. It also allows for an educator preparation program to conditionally admit a candidate after he or she has failed to pass one or more but not all of the components of Illinois' test of basic skills, provided that targeted remediation activities are available.

*Affected Section: 25.720*

*Effective Date: December 20, 2012*

**Part 75 (Agricultural Education Program):** Starting in the FY 2013 grant cycle, revises the process for reporting by grantees regarding the use of funding received under the Incentive Grants for Agricultural Science Teacher Education program due to that grant's inclusion in ISBE's Electronic Grant Management System (eGMS).

*Affected Section: 75.260*

*Effective Date: December 17, 2012*

**Part 140 (Calculation of Excess Cost under Section 18-3 of the School Code):** Makes two nonsubstantive technical changes in the rules that were requested by the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules.

*Affected Sections: 140.30 and 140.40*

*Effective Date: December 17, 2012*

### Invitation to Comment on Rules

Three 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 Web site at <http://www.isbe.net/rules>; choose "Proposed Rules and Amendments." Please submit any comments or suggestions to [rules@isbe.net](mailto:rules@isbe.net).

**Part 25 (Certification):** Responds to legislation enacted in the last two years, primarily P.A. 97-607, effective August 26, 2011, which changes the current system of educator certification (Article 21 of the School Code) to a licensure system (Article 21B of the School Code).  
*Public comment period ends February 11, 2013.*

**Part 252 (Driver Education):** Responds to several new laws to include in the rules requirements specific as to when behind-the-wheel instruction can be offered, driver education contracting waivers, reimbursement for out-of-district students, and the new system of educator licensure.

*Public comment period ends February 11, 2013.*

**Part 425 (Voluntary Registration and Recognition of Nonpublic Schools):** Clarifies recognized nonpublic schools' obligation to comply with the School Safety Drill Act (105 ILCS 128), including any requirements found in the administrative rules that implement the act (29 Ill. Adm. Code 1500). Also sets forth requirements for retention of certain information about nonpublic schools' use of textbook block grant funds and provision of that information to the State Superintendent upon request.

*Public comment period ends February 19, 2013.*

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## Public Act

### PA 97-742: 5 Hours of Instruction on First and Last Day of School (Effective June 30, 2013)

Senate Bill 2850 was signed by Gov. Pat Quinn on July 5, 2012, to become Public Act 97-0742 and has an effective date of June 30, 2013. This public act repeals Section 18-8.05 (F)(2)(b) of the School Code, which allows the first and last day of student attendance to be less than 5 instructional hours. Except as otherwise provided in Section 18-8.05 of the School Code, beginning with the 2013-14 school year calendar, for Public School Calendar and General State Aid attendance calculation purposes, days of attendance by pupils, including the first and last day of pupil attendance, shall be counted only for sessions of not less than five clock hours of school work per day.

For more detailed information regarding the new public act, please see the following link at <http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/pa97-0742guidelines.pdf>. If you have questions regarding this information please contact Marj Beck at [mbeck@isbe.net](mailto:mbeck@isbe.net) or (217) 782-5256.



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## Serve Illinois

### Nominations Sought for Fourth Annual Governor's Volunteer Service Awards

Serve Illinois recently announced the launch of the fourth annual Governor's Volunteer Service Awards nomination process. These awards recognize individual volunteers and volunteer programs through a statewide award program to highlight the importance of volunteerism and community service in the state of Illinois.

Categories include individual awards for youth (ages 18 and under), with those in five regions of the state being honored. Other categories include awards for adults, retirees/seniors, businesses and more.

A panel of judges from across the state will select the award recipients. Nominations will be accepted until 5 p.m. Feb. 15, 2013. The winners will be notified no later than March 30. To learn more, read about past awardees and nominate volunteers, visit [www.Serve.Illinois.gov](http://www.Serve.Illinois.gov).

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## Digital Learning Day

### Students Involved With Technology Conference Scheduled for Feb. 23

Digital Learning Day is a national campaign that celebrates teachers and shines a spotlight on successful instructional practice and effective use of technology in classrooms across the country. The inaugural Digital Learning Day boasted tens of thousands of teachers representing nearly 2 million students. The second annual Digital Learning Day is gaining momentum with ongoing activities, ideas and collaboration opportunities leading up to Feb. 6, 2013. Join the wave of education champions who seek to engage students, celebrate and empower teachers, and create a healthy learning environment, personalized for every child. Participation is free and easy.

Illinois will be celebrating by announcing the SIT (Students Involved with Technology) Conference, which will held throughout the state on Feb. 23 (<http://www.sitconference.org>). The Students Involved with Technology Conference is an annual conference occurring at several sites throughout Illinois. It originated in Bloomington-Normal and has since expanded. It is a conference for 3rd-12th grade students. So what makes the SIT Conference stand out? It is also completely presented by 3rd-12th grade students. While adult volunteers from local schools and the community help the day run smoothly, all presentations are prepared and

presented by the students. Registration is open across five areas of the state.

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## In Brief

### Student Opportunities

- High schoolers have until Jan. 9 to enter Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago's **Second Inaugural Essay Contest**. Students are asked to write what they would say to America as the president prepares to address the nation in his inauguration. For details, visit <http://www.crfc.org/calendar/second-inaugural-essay-contest>.
- Nominations are being sought for the Union League Club of Chicago's **Democracy in Action Award** for juniors and seniors who have demonstrated exemplary civic leadership. For more information, email [publicaffairs@ulcc.org](mailto:publicaffairs@ulcc.org). Deadline is Jan. 11.
- High school and college students can enter the sixth annual **Create-A-Greeting-Card Scholarship Contest**. The deadline for entries is Jan. 16. For details, visit <http://www.GalleryCollection.com>.
- The **ACT Poster Contest** for juniors and seniors who plan to attend college is under way. The deadline for entries is Jan. 21. For more information, visit <http://actstudent.org/postercontest>.
- Students across the state can enter the Illinois Liquor Control Commission's **2013 Don't Be Sorry Youth Art Contest**, which aims to educate the public about the consequences of underage drinking. For more information, visit <http://www.DontBeSorry.org> or contact Ted Penesis at (312) 814-4802 or [ted.penesis@illinois.gov](mailto:ted.penesis@illinois.gov). The deadline is Feb. 15.
- Illinois Partners for Clean Air have launched the **Shoot for the Skies PSA Video Contest** for Chicago area high school students. Students are asked to create a public service announcement about Chicago area air quality and actions to improve it. For more information, go to [www.cleantheair.org](http://www.cleantheair.org). The deadline for entries is March 15.

### Educator Opportunities

- The Illinois section of the American Association of Physics Teachers is seeking nominations for the annual **Outstanding High School Physics Teachers Award**. The deadline for nominations from administrators and fellow teachers is Dec. 31. For more information, visit <http://isaapt.org>.
- Nominate an elementary teacher for the 2013 **Illinois History Teacher of the Year Award**. Get started at <http://www.gilderlehrman.org/programs->

[exhibitions/national-history-teacher-year-nomination-form](#). For questions, contact state coordinator Mike Hatfill at [dhatfill@isbe.net](mailto:dhatfill@isbe.net). The deadline is Feb. 1.

### Weekly News Clips

- The Illinois State Board of Education has posted highlights from recent **education news clips**:  
<http://www.isbe.net/news/2012/newsclips/121224.htm>,  
<http://www.isbe.net/news/2012/newsclips/121231.htm>,  
<http://www.isbe.net/news/2013/newsclips/130107.htm>.

### Employment Opportunities

- An **External Vacancy List for ISBE** is available at <http://www.isbe.net/hr/Default.htm>.