



Illinois State Board of Education

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Weekly Message

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January 9, 2006

Weekly Message from State Superintendent Randy Dunn

Good afternoon.

As you saw in our email blast late last Friday, President Bush has signed the Hurricane Education Recovery Act (HERA) into law. This Act will provide grants to districts that have enrolled evacuees from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. These grants will also benefit Illinois schools—all told, we have enrolled more than 1,000 students since these disasters hit early last fall.

We're working quickly to get information out to you as soon as it is available to us from the Feds. As you know, the grant applications for districts are now available at: <http://www.isbe.net/katrina/default.htm>. While the deadlines for submission can't be determined until the United States Department of Education (USED) publishes its *Federal Register* notice, we know that the timelines for the initial application process will be very tight. The USED must publish a *Federal Register* notice, which it intends to do by January 12; public school districts will then have only 14 days from the publication date to submit applications to ISBE. ISBE will then have only seven days to submit its application to USED to access the funds.

Sorry to replay some of the same information from the email blast, but I long-ago learned that with this type of time-sensitive information, it is usually better to err on the side of repeating it.

One update I do have from last Friday's information is that the ISBE contact person for the HERA grant applications will be **Rich Dehart**, the Homeless Coordinator in our Accountability Division, available at rdehart@isbe.net, or by phone at 217-782-3860.

We'll continue to get you updated information as it becomes available from USED. If you have questions in advance of that, please contact **Rich Dehart** or **Darren Reisberg**, ISBE's Deputy General Counsel at dreisber@isbe.net or 312-814-2223.

I'll be working in the Chicago office all of this week, catching up on some meetings there and attending a number of events in the area. As always, I look forward to seeing many of you over the course of the week. Hope it's a great one.

Randy Dunn

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Upcoming Deadlines

- Waiver deadline – **January 13, 2006**
- National School Lunch Program Verification Summary Report – **January 18, 2006**
- Rulemaking Part 401 (Nonpublic Special Education Facilities), Deadline for Public Comment - **January 23, 2006**
- Biotechnology Institute outstanding project summary – **January 25, 2006**
- Illinois Association of Teachers of English (IATE) Best Illinois Poetry and Prose Contest - **January 31, 2006**
- Illinois Zero Waste School Program Grant – **February 1, 2006**
- *Kinder Excellence in Teaching Award* nominations due – **February 1, 2006**
- Rulemaking Part 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision), Deadline for Public Comment - **February 20, 2006**
- Rulemaking Part 25 (Certification), Deadline for Public Comment - **February 20, 2006**
- Rulemaking Part 305 (School Food Service), Deadline for Public Comment - **February 20, 2006**



Informational Message from Governor's Office

Flags at State of Illinois buildings to be flown at half staff January 11

Flags at all State of Illinois buildings will be flown at half staff on Wednesday, January 11, to honor Army Sgt. 1st Class **Shawn C. Dostie**, 32, of Granite City. Sgt. Dostie died in Baghdad, Iraq, on December 30, 2005 when an improvised explosive device detonated near his HMMWV during patrol operations. Dostie was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

This information is provided to schools as information only. Flying flags at half staff is each school's option.

School Business and Support

School District Annual Financial Report verification process

Watch for an upcoming email broadcast!

District Superintendents will soon receive an email broadcast asking the district to verify the Annual Financial Operating Expense Per Pupil (OEPP), Per Capita Tuition Charge (PCTC), Indirect Cost Rate (ICR) for Program Year 2007 and the School District Financial Profile Report.

Included in the broadcast will be the cover letters, instructions and definitions to assist with the verification process. When the broadcast is sent these reports will then be available on the IWAS website.

The email broadcasts and a notice in the *Weekly Message* will be the only notices provided to the district. If an email broadcast is not received by January 20, 2005 please contact ISBE. If you give authority to another person verifying these reports, please forward the email broadcast on to them. It is very important that they have the instructions and deadlines to assist them in completing the verification in a timely manner. Once the deadline passes, changes cannot be made to the 2005 Annual Financial Report data.

Any questions regarding this notification or verification process should be directed to **Debbie Hemberger** in School Business and Support Services at 217-785-8779. For answers to questions regarding IWAS please contact the Call Center at 217-558-3600.

Student Assessment

IMAGE pre-ID Labels

The Illinois Measure of Annual Growth in English (IMAGE) is the accommodated academic State test for limited English proficient (LEP) students in grades 3 through 8 and grade 11. For more information on IMAGE, please go to <http://www.isbe.net/assessment/>.

ISBE's Student Assessment Division and Student Information System (SIS) and Questar (the IMAGE contractor) have been able to make arrangements so that Questar can draw from SIS the information needed to print IMAGE pre-ID labels. This will assist school districts that test LEP students with IMAGE in grades 3 through 8 or grade 11. Pre-ID labels for IMAGE will be generated from the information gathered on the assessment pre-ID data file which is to be uploaded by districts from their local packages via IWAS to SIS. No additional information will need to be uploaded.

All information needed for IMAGE pre-ID labels is included in the pre-ID files that districts are to upload by February 3 for grades 3 through 8 and by February 21 for grade 11.

Therefore, the following must be completed successfully by districts so pre-ID labels can be produced for students taking ISAT, IMAGE or PSAE from data in SIS:

- Obtain State Student ID numbers by submitting all of the required Phase I data elements.
- Compile the necessary assessment information in the pre-ID file as outlined on www.isbe.net/sis;
- Complete the uploads for all students in grades 3 through 8 by February 3 and grade 11 by February 21.

If the above is not completed successfully, districts will be required to upload student information for pre-ID labels at the Harcourt online Spectrum Web site for ISAT and PSAE testers and follow Questar's pre-ID process for IMAGE testers. Districts will be notified by Harcourt or Questar on the procedures to upload to their sites.

If you have questions, please contact the HelpDesk at 217-558-3600 or email **Becky McCabe**, rmccabe@isbe.net, **Connie Wise** cwise@isbe.net or **Howard Hammel** hhammel@isbe.net.

Listserv

The Division for Student Assessment now has an email listserv service available to those who need or want direct information regarding Illinois State testing. The listserv members will

receive periodic email updates regarding about State testing.

If you or any of your staff are interested in receiving direct information from ISBE's Student Assessment Division, then sign up by emailing a blank email to: assessment-join@list.isbe.net. Please send this blank email from the email account you want to receive these messages. You will receive an email confirming your enrollment.

Messages regarding testing information will begin going out this week. All messages will be posted on the Student Assessment website: <http://www.isbe.net/assessment/> and in the *Weekly Message*.

Nutrition

Model Local Wellness Policy to be mailed to schools in January

Congress passed the [Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004](#) on June 30, 2004.



Recognizing the role schools can play in health promotion, this law requires local education agencies participating in a program authorized by the National School Lunch Act or the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to develop a wellness policy with the objectives of improving the school nutrition environment, promoting student health and reducing childhood obesity (PL 108-265, Sec. 204) by the beginning of the 2006-2007 school year.

In addition, Public Act 094-0199 requires the Illinois State Board of Education to establish a State goal that all districts have a wellness policy.

In addition, Public Act 094-0199, <http://ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/94/PDF/094-0199.pdf>, requires the Illinois State Board of Education to establish a State goal that all districts have a wellness policy.

The State Board of Education will be mailing a model wellness policy that can be used as a template by local wellness policy writers to schools this month. Each school district will also be receiving a local wellness policy toolkit.

In addition, the Illinois Nutrition Education and Training is a source of free local wellness policy training and resources for your local wellness policy. Visit their website at <http://www.kidseatwell.org/> for related links, a bibliography, and an interactive online curriculum (to be available soon) developed in part through a USDA Team Nutrition Training grant.

Student Opportunities

Illinois High school seniors sought for national Youth Science Camp honors

Two of Illinois' most promising high school seniors from Illinois will receive a full scholarship to attend a three-week summer camp experience that honors and challenges seniors from the Class of 2006 from each State. Scientists from across the nation who work on some of the most provocative topics in science today present lectures and hands-on research projects and seminars and linger to interact informally with student delegates.

The delegates will participate in two overnight expeditions into the Monongahela National Forest and a visit Washington, D. C. The selected delegates must not only demonstrate academic achievement in science, but also show potential for thoughtful scientific leadership. The National Youth Science Camp is offered at no cost to its selected participants; the scholarship will cover all educational and recreational programming, meals, lodging, and round-trip air passage. Application forms are available on the Science Camp website at <http://www.nysc.org> and must be submitted directly to the Illinois State Board of Education, Gwen Pollock, NYSC-Illinois State Coordinator, 100 North First Street, Springfield, IL 62777, by February 17, 2006. For further information and assistance, contact Gwen Pollock at 217-557-7322 or gpollock@isbe.net.

Illinois EPA announces annual competition for fifth and sixth grade students

Fifth and sixth grade writers and artists are invited to participate in the Poster, Poetry and Prose Contest, annually sponsored by the Illinois

Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) to increase awareness of environmental issues.

The contest, which is a companion to the IEPA's environmental education packet, *Environmental Pathways – Youth Investigating Pollution Issues in Illinois*, gives students an opportunity to express and share what they have learned about the importance of protecting our air, land and water.

This year's theme focuses on the importance of clean water and the conservation of our drinking water, with *Water: Conserve it, We Deserve It!* as the event's theme. Special emphasis is given to air, land or water on a rotating basis.

Each school can enter up to 12 (six posters and six written) works. Entries must be postmarked and sent in to the Illinois EPA by February 17. An in-house panel from the IEPA judges all entries to select the finalists, whose entries are then judged by an outside panel of authorities to determine the top 12 winners.

All finalists, together with their families and teachers, are invited to an awards ceremony and reception that will be held on Saturday, April 8 at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield. Finalists will receive a certificate, a ribbon and an admission ticket to the museum. In addition, the top 12 finalists will be given special recognition and will each receive a \$50 U.S. savings bond and an environmental reference book for his or her school library.

Following the awards ceremony and reception, these entries will be on exhibit in the atrium of the Illinois EPA's Springfield headquarters from April 10 through May 10, and the top winners will be featured on the IEPA's homepage at <http://www.epa.state.il.us>.

Information about the annual event can be obtained by contacting Kristi Morris-Richards, environmental education coordinator for the Illinois EPA, at 1021 North Grand Avenue East, P.O. Box 19276, Springfield, IL 62794-9276 or (217) 558-7198. Kristi's email address is: Kristi.Morris-Richards@epa.State.il.us

Teacher Recognition

2006-07 Those Who Excel Nomination Packets Available

Nomination packets for the 32nd Annual Those Who Excel/Illinois Teacher of the Year are now available online. You may access the forms by visiting <http://www.isbe.net> under the Hot Topics column, with the heading Miscellaneous.



Nominations must be postmarked by May 1, 2006. The banquet will be held October 7, 2006, at the Holiday Inn Select in Decatur. If you have questions or need additional information please contact **Ann Muraro** at 217-782-4648.

Kinder Excellence in Teaching Award

Nancy and Rich Kinder of Houston, Texas has established the Kinder Excellence in Teaching Award to recognize and reward outstanding educators serving low-income children. The \$100,000 grant award honors Rich Kinder's mother, Edna C. Kinder, a former teacher in Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

Nominees must be full-time teachers in a K-12 classroom in a United States public or private school where at least 50 percent of students qualify for the free or reduced lunch program. Nominations must be submitted by February 1, 2006 at <http://www.kinderaward.org>. This spring a panel of education leaders will review the finalists and select the winner, who will be announced this summer.

The Kinders have partnered with *Knowledge is Power Program* (KIPP) to administer the award nomination and selection process. No educator in a KIPP school during the 2005-2006 school year is eligible for the award.

Classroom biotechnology success stories needed

Teachers of science (including career and technical education) specifically those who incorporate biotechnology concepts into their

curricula are needed are invited to publicize successes and receive a possible complimentary registration and travel expenses to attend the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO) Conference in Chicago in April.

The Biotechnology Institute is looking for outstanding grassroots biotechnology education initiatives or projects in the Illinois. The Institute would like to highlight Illinois teachers' success stories when it hosts its Annual Education Conference in Chicago, April 6-9. The Institute is particularly interested in projects that are a collaborative effort between the biotechnology industry and the education community and would be appealing to the news media.

The Biotechnology Institute's Education Conference coincides with the BIO Annual International Convention, being held April 9-12. The Institute's education conference offers teachers and students professional development opportunities such as workshops and competitions. The Biotechnology Institute is the national biotechnology education organization with a focus on active support for teachers and students to pursue studies, training, and careers in biotechnology in the pre-college through graduate years.

Highlight your outstanding biotech education project by sending a 50-word summary to Gwen Pollock gpollock@isbe.net by January 25. By submitting your 'story', you will be eligible for participation in the institute itself and some other very important opportunities. All stories will be considered--they're probably all outstanding. For more information about the Biotechnology Institute, visit <http://www.biotechinstitute.org>.

English Language Learning

Migrant Student Survey

The Illinois State Board of Education Migrant Education Program is conducting a survey to identify districts that may have mobile children of migratory workers residing in their attendance areas. In particular, we are interested in children whose parents migrate to obtain work in agricultural production, fishing or food processing industries.

The State receives Federal funding under Title I, Part C of NCLB to identify and serve eligible migrant children.

Districts that participate in the New Generation System for reporting do not need to respond. You may respond to the survey located at http://www.isbe.net/bilingual/pdfs/migrant_survey.pdf if you have identified such children in your district.

For more information, contact **Beth Robinson** at 312-814-3850.

Grants

Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Grant Program – Project Lead The Way Initiative

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) is issuing a request for applications (RFA) under the provisions of the High Technology School-to-Work Act (20 ILCS 701). The High Technology School-to-Work Act authorizes DCEO to make grants to local partnerships to administer programs to increase the number of students preparing for, and entering, high technology occupations in Illinois. This request for applications will support the implementation of the Project Lead the Way Program in new sites. Project Lead the Way is a comprehensive pre-engineering program for high school students.

DCEO may award grants up to \$40,000 to support the infrastructure costs (equipment) of implementing Project Lead the Way in a NEW school.

As a means of ensuring that businesses play a central role in this project, the Department will only accept applications from private sector employers, or employer-based intermediary organizations. Employer-based intermediary organizations include industry associations and chambers of commerce. The application must demonstrate that a strong and cooperative relationship exists between the grantee and the school(s) that represent the educational side of the partnership. The partnership must be employer-led and designed to respond to the high technology skill requirements of participating employers.

Applications for the implementation of NEW Project Lead the Way sites received by March 15, 2006 will be considered for funding in Fiscal Year 2006. All applications received after the deadlines will be considered based on the availability of the grant funds.

Printed copies of the application are available upon request. Questions and requests pertaining to this program should be directed to **John Barr**, Bureau of Technology and Industrial Competitiveness, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, 100 West Randolph Suite 3-400, Chicago, IL 60601, 312-814-2259 or jbarr@ildceo.net. Questions may also be directed to **Gwen Pollock**, ISBE-PLTW State director gpollock@isbe.net, 217-557-7323.

Federal Grants update

The Federal Fiscal Year 2006 budget <http://www.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/news.html#06action> but, in anticipation of an agreement, the agency has updated (as of November 28) its popular "Forecast for Funding Opportunities," which lists virtually all programs and competitions under which it has invited or expects to invite applications for new awards and provides actual or estimated dates for the transmittal of applications under these programs. For more information, please visit: <http://www.ed.gov/fund/grant/find/edlite-forecast.html>.

The Teaching American History Grant Program—which requires e-Application—supports projects to raise student achievement by improving teachers' appreciation and understanding of traditional American history. Grant awards assist school districts, in partnership with entities that have extensive content expertise (such as colleges and universities, libraries, and museums), to design, implement, and demonstrate "effective, research-based professional development programs." A notice of intent to apply is due January 6. The application is due February 3. For more information, please visit: <http://www.ed.gov/programs/teachinghistory/>.

ISBE employment opportunities

External Vacancy List

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

<http://www.isbe.net/hr/pdf/positions.pdf>

In the News

Weekly news clips

Highlights from last week's education news clips are posted at:

<http://www.isbe.net/news/2006/newsclips/060106.htm>



