



Jan. 9, 2012

Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

Last week I had the opportunity to attend the 37th annual Illinois High School Theater Festival on the campus of Illinois State University. This was an outstanding event, bringing together more than 4,000 students from across our state to celebrate the performing arts. The festival provides students and teachers with a unique opportunity to work together, learn from each other and see some truly wonderful performances.

We put so much focus on Math, Science and English Language Arts and unfortunately sometimes neglect areas that are not tested. I believe the arts are every bit as important to a student’s education as algebra, biology or composition. As educators we all know that valuable lessons are learned and creativity is fostered through a student’s participation in the visual and performing arts. In some cases, participation in the arts may be the necessary spark that keeps a student from dropping out.

If you have not had the opportunity to attend the Illinois High School Theater Festival, I encourage you to consider doing so next year.

The Illinois State Board of Education is also launching our Green Ribbon schools award program, joining 32 other states in the U.S. Department of Education’s pilot program. Later this spring, Illinois will nominate up to three public schools and one private school for consideration based on excellence in the three pillars of the program: reduced environmental impact, improved health and environmental literacy.

Applications for nominating Illinois schools can be found on the Illinois Green Ribbon Schools page at http://www.isbe.net/green_ribbon. Applications are due to ISBE by Feb. 12, 2012, and Illinois nominees will be announced in March. Following the U.S. Department of Education’s announcement of winners in April there will be an award ceremony in Washington, D.C., in late May. The national ceremony will be followed by local ceremonies at each of the winning schools in fall 2012. For more information about the federal Green Ribbon Schools program, visit <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/green-ribbon-schools/index.html>.

Have a great week!

Chris

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Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

- **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 Articles 24A and 34 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
- **Part 30 (Programs for the Preparation of Principals in Illinois)** – Public comment period ends Feb. 14
- **Illinois New Teacher Collaborative’s Induction and Mentoring Conference** – Feb. 22-23 in Springfield
- **2011-12 Eye Examination Data Collection deadline** – June 30

Innovation and Improvement

ISBE Introduces a Family Engagement Webinar Series

The Illinois State Board of Education's Division of Innovation and Improvement has planned a series of 60-minute Family Engagement Webinars as part of a statewide family engagement initiative. Each webinar in the 2012 series will feature practitioners from the 2011 Regional Summits. The practitioners will share their experiences in the successful implementation of evidence-based family engagement strategies in their schools or districts. These sessions are open to district staff, school staff, parent facilitators and parents. Information on the upcoming session is below and you may register by clicking on the registration included.

Improving High School Family Engagement through Parent Support Centers, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., Jan. 26, 2012: Anne Coffman, Director of Federal and State Programs from Community High School District 218, and the Title I team of district and building administrators will share how this district’s high schools have established on-site parent support centers to promote meaningful family engagement. They will explain how their full-time parent liaisons use these centers to welcome and reach out to diverse parent groups, integrate families into the school community, and build connections between parents and school staff. They will share successful strategies in shifting the focus from nominal parent involvement to meaningful family engagement in their high schools. Register at <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/173019656>.

Professional Development

Work Sessions on English Language Arts Common Core Standards Coming Up

English Language Arts Common Core Content Specialists from the Illinois State Board of Education along with Kay Dugan, Assistant Superintendent for

Learning in Bensenville, and Laura Beltchenko, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction in Wauconda, will present a work session of the English Language Arts Common Core Standards curriculum alignment process as well as suggest resources, tools and implementation options. Teams will then replicate this process within their school districts. Teams of two to five district curriculum coordinators, teacher leaders and teams, administrators, Regional Offices of Education and Statewide System of Support Coaches are invited to attend. Please register for only one set of dates:

- **Jan. 30-31:** Keller Convention Center; 1202 North Keller Drive, Effingham, IL 62401; (217) 347-5115; register at <http://www.kidsroe.org/registration/WorkshopDetail.php?id=5401>
- **Feb. 27-28:** Holiday Inn at the Airport; 3202 E. Empire St., Bloomington, IL 61704; (887) 863-4780; register at <http://www.kidsroe.org/registration/WorkshopDetail.php?id=5405>
- **April 26-27:** Northern Illinois; site to be determined; registration is closed but will be open shortly.

2012 Energy Code Training Opportunities

The Illinois Energy Office’s schedule for a 2012 IECC training series is available online at <http://www.ildceo.net/NR/rdonlyres/A294E7E5-187C-492C-9044-27CD91DA7C6A/0/Flyer4.pdf>. Attendees can learn about the newest energy conservation codes for new construction, additions and renovation projects in Illinois. Seminars will provide the basis for the correct use of the 2012 IECC and Standard 90.1-2010 in the design, plan review, field-inspection and analysis of construction in Illinois.

For more information, visit http://www.ildceo.net/dceo/Bureaus/Energy_Recycling/IECC.htm. To register, go to <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BITEILEnergyCodesTr>

[ainings](#). For questions, email energycodestraining@igence.org.

Office of the Attorney General

Information on the Dangers of Synthetic Drugs Issued

Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan has released a letter addressing the increasing numbers of injuries and deaths related to the use of synthetic drugs, particularly among young people. The letter is on the Illinois State Board of Education's School Health Issues webpage (http://www.isbe.net/school_health.htm#drugs) along with a fact sheet from the Office of the Attorney General.

The fact sheet, "Synthetic Drugs: What You Need to Know," states that synthetic drugs are chemically laced substances akin to marijuana, cocaine and methamphetamine that are sold over the counter at convenience stores, gas stations and tobacco shops throughout Illinois.

Educators are encouraged to help spread the warning about the dangers. Visit website above or visit <http://www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/communities/syntheticdrugs.html> to view the fact sheet. For questions, contact Cara Smith at csmith@atg.state.il.us or (312) 814-2970.

Funding and Disbursement Services

New Census Estimates Released for FY 2013 Title I Low Income

The U.S. Department of Education has released the Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) for income year 2010. These estimates will be used to calculate FY13 Title I Allocations. A file of 2010 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 at http://www.isbe.net/funding/excel/FY13Preliminary_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, <http://www.census.gov/did/www/saipe/index.html>, provides various aspects of the SAIPE count. We will be using the 2010 data to calculate SY 2012-13 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 FY13. ISBE neither controls nor generates the data.

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 or Kim Lewis in the Division of Funding and Disbursement Services at (217) 782-5256.

Final FY 2012 Mandated Categorical Prorations

Final prorations and payments have been calculated for all 2010-11 school year categorical claims that will be vouchered in FY 2012.

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 – 87.3 percent
- Special Education Funding for Children Requiring Special Education Services – 100 percent
- Special Education Summer School – 100 percent
- Special Education Orphanage – 100 percent
- Special Education Transportation – 100 percent
- Regular/Vocational Transportation – 74 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_handbk.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 Services Division (E-320), 100 N. First St., Springfield, IL 62777-0001.

Data Analysis and Progress Reporting

SY 2012 Fall Enrollment Data

Districts that have not done so already should check their data in the Student Information System (SIS) Fall Enrollment Counts report and make any necessary corrections in SIS. (To access the report, log into SIS and click on reports, then select State Reporting.) If your data were correct on Oct. 14, 2011, you may ignore this reminder. If corrections are necessary, please immediately contact the ISBE Help Desk at (217) 558-3600 and ask to speak with IBM SIS staff. They will provide direction on what you must do to ensure that your corrections are included in the final SY 2012 Fall Enrollment data. For this to occur, you must speak with them no later than Jan. 19.

Standards and Assessments

Manuals for the 2012 ISAT Administration Available Online

The manuals for the 2012 ISAT administration are posted on the Illinois State Board of Education website (<http://www.isbe.net/assessment/isat.htm>). Districts will receive paper copies of all the manuals in February. If district staff would like to review the manuals prior to the shipment of the paper copies, they are now available online.

- **ISAT District and School Coordination Manual (20.64MB):**
http://www.isbe.net/assessment/pdfs/2012/isat/ISAT_DSCM_12.pdf
- **ISAT Test Administration Manual for Grades 3-5:**
http://www.isbe.net/assessment/pdfs/2012/isat/ISAT_tam3-5_12.pdf
- **ISAT Test Administration Manual for Grades 6-8:**
http://www.isbe.net/assessment/pdfs/2012/isat/ISAT_tam6-8_12.pdf
- **Professional Testing Practices for Educators:**
http://www.isbe.net/assessment/pdfs/2012/isat/pr_of_test_prac_2012.pdf

PSAE Manuals, Pre-Test Instructions Now Available on the ISBE Website

The manuals and pre-test instructions for the 2012 PSAE administration are posted on the PSAE website (<http://www.isbe.net/assessment/psae.htm>). Schools will

receive paper copies of all the manuals and the English pre-test instructions prior to testing. If staff would like to review the manuals prior to the shipment of the paper copies, they are now available online.

PSAE Day 1 Pre-Test Session Instructions

- 2012 Taking the ACT:
<http://www.act.org/aap/pdf/StateTTA2012.pdf>
- 2012 Taking the ACT-Spanish Version:
http://www.act.org/aap/pdf/TakingACT_StateSpanish.pdf

PSAE Day 1 Manuals

- 2012 PSAE Day 1 Manual for Standard-Time Testing:
<http://www.act.org/aap/pdf/SupManStTest.pdf>
- 2012 PSAE Day 1 Manual for ACT-Approved Testing:
<http://www.act.org/aap/pdf/SpecialTesting.pdf>
- 2012 PSAE Day 1 Manual for State-Allowed Testing:
<http://www.act.org/aap/pdf/StateAccomm.pdf>
- 2012 PSAE Day 1 Answer Document Supplement:
http://www.isbe.net/assessment/pdfs/2012/psae/PSAE_AD_Supplement.pdf

PSAE Day 2 Manual

- 2012 PSAE Day 2 Manual:
http://www.isbe.net/assessment/pdfs/2012/psae/PSAE_d2_manual.pdf

PARCC Newsletter Includes Valuable Information on the Common Core

The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers' monthly newsletter – PARCC Place – offers updates on PARCC's major areas of work, resources and meetings.

The PARCC Place newsletter also features contributions from educators across PARCC states sharing their experiences implementing the Common Core State Standards “in their words.”

For more information and to join the monthly newsletter email list, visit <http://www.parcconline.org/parcc-place-newsletter>.

Career Development and Preparation

Save the Date: Illinois Pathways Initiative Update Set for Feb. 9 in Bloomington

On Feb. 9, 2012, in Bloomington, the State of Illinois will be convening public-private partners to receive an update on the Illinois Pathways Initiative. During the convening we will review the state's Round 3 Race to the Top award and will also announce the selection process for STEM Learning Exchanges. More information on the event location, time, agenda and RSVP process will be shared prior to the event. Thank you for your continued support of STEM education in Illinois and we hope you can join us next year. Please mark your calendar and watch for details coming soon.

The Illinois Pathways Interagency Committee:

- Jason A. Tyszko, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
- Susie Morrison, Illinois State Board of Education
- Dr. Elaine Johnson, Illinois Community College Board
- Dr. George Reid, Illinois Board of Higher Education
- Joanne Tolbert-Wells, Illinois Student Assistance Commission
- Amit Singla, Illinois Department of Employment Security

Special Education

Free Learning Ally Membership Opportunity

The Illinois State Board of Education has provided Learning Ally with funding to support Illinois public schools. The funding will cover the cost of membership, equipment and training provided by Learning Ally.

Schools can sign up for this opportunity by visiting <http://www.learningally.org/Illinois>. Also, parents may visit the website to sign their student up for a free at-home membership funded by ISBE. There are a limited amount of memberships available.

Learning Ally is a nonprofit organization dedicated to making reading accessible for all. For more information, contact Ellen Gallagher at egallagher@learningally.org.

Nutrition

Student Submissions Sought for Picture of Health Calendar

The School-Based Child Nutrition Programs staff is working on next year's Nutrition Programs calendar and needs help from Illinois students. The 2012-13 calendar theme is "Picture of Health." Students are asked to draw a picture of their favorite healthy habit. This could be depicted in the food choices they make or the physical activities they do. In addition, please write a few words (no more than 15) describing the benefits of the healthy habit.

The deadline for submissions is Jan. 31. Selected drawings will be displayed in next year's calendar (July 2012 – June 2013). For more information, visit http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/pdf/Calling_All_Artists_bro.pdf.

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

Part 30 (Programs for the Preparation of Principals in Illinois)

Amends Section 30.20 in accordance with P.A. 97-607, stating that institutions of higher education can no longer entitle principals with a general administrative endorsement after August 31, 2014; updates Section 30.45 to provide a link to the revised Standards for Professional Learning published by Learning Forward (previously, the National Staff Development Council).

Affected Sections: 30.20, 30.45

Deadline for Public Comment: February 14, 2012

Department of Natural Resources

Teachers Can Apply for Field Trip Funding and Earth Day in the Parks

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources recently made these announcements regarding its Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip Grants and Earth Day in the Parks:

Field Trip Funding: The Illinois Department of Natural Resources Division of Education, in cooperation with the Illinois Conservation Foundation, offers Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip Grants for teachers in Illinois. Grants are to be used to take students on a field trip to study the natural resources of the state. For details, visit <http://dnr.state.il.us/education/CLASSRM/grants.htm>. The maximum grant award per teacher is \$500. The application deadline is Jan. 31. Funding is provided by the Independence Tube Corporation of Chicago and the Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Foundation of Skokie.

Earth Day in the Parks: School teachers are encouraged to apply for the 2012 Earth Day in the Parks program from the Department of Natural Resources. Applications will be accepted through Feb. 28. Earth Day in the Parks is a natural resources stewardship event for students held at Illinois state parks. The application form is online at <http://dnr.state.il.us/education/CLASSRM/EDITPinstruct.htm>. Grants from the Illinois Conservation Foundation and Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund help to fund Earth Day in the Parks.

Educator Opportunities

Free Financial Literacy Conference Scheduled for Jan. 20 in Chicago

Registration is under way for the fourth annual K-12 Teacher Conference on Financial Literacy, which is organized by Econ Illinois, a non-profit organization that provides professional development and resources to K-12 teachers.

The free conference is set for Jan. 20 at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, 230 S. LaSalle St. To register and for more information, go to <http://www.econed-il.org/icee/123.shtml>. A \$50 participation stipend and over \$100 in curriculum materials are available for each eligible K-12 teacher in Illinois. Reservations will be accepted through Jan. 13 or until all spots are taken.

Teacher Exchange Program Offers Chance to Work in Spain

As part of a larger teacher exchange program, Illinois elementary and secondary teachers are invited to teach in Spain. Requirements for interested teachers include:

- Be a native English speaker.
- Be a certified elementary or secondary education teacher in Illinois.
- Possess a bachelor's degree.

- Have completed two years of teaching experience.
- Exhibit advanced Spanish language proficiency.

The deadline to apply is Jan. 31. Teachers meeting the requirements would be paid 2,000 to 2,500 euros per month before taxes. To submit an application, go to http://www.educacion.gob.es/eeuu/convocatorias-programas/convocatorias-eeuu/na_ppvv.html.

For more information, contact Jorge Berné, Education Advisor for the Spanish Ministry of Education, at (312) 814-5696 or jorge.berne@educacion.es.

National Endowment for the Humanities Seeks Applicants for Summer Workshop

The National Endowment for the Humanities is offering a workshop entitled “Spanish, Mexican, and American California: Reframing U.S. History at Peralta Hacienda.” Teachers of all grade levels and subject areas are eligible to apply. Attendees will explore the intertwined histories of these two neighboring countries, past and present.

The workshop will be held twice, once from June 18-22 and again June 25-29, in Oakland, Calif., at Peralta Hacienda Historical Park’s Center for History & Community. The park is named after the Peralta family, who came to California on the historic Anza expedition in 1776. For more information, visit <http://www.peraltahacienda.org/nehlandmarks>, call (510) 532-9142 or email ben@peraltahacienda.org.

Student Opportunities

Econ Illinois Offers Contests for High School Students

Econ Illinois, a non-profit organization that provides professional development and resources to K-12 teachers, is offering two competitions for high school students.

The Illinois Personal Finance Challenge targets consumer education and personal finance students that compete in teams. Twenty teams advance to the state finals in Chicago and a state championship team will compete at the national stage.

Registration for the preliminary online competition begins Jan. 1 and ends Feb. 15. Go to <http://econed-il.org/icee/ipfc.shtml> to register.

Econ Illinois’ other contest is the Illinois Economics Challenge, an online competition for high school students that tests knowledge of economics and economic reasoning abilities. Registration for the preliminary round will be accepted from Jan. 1 to Feb. 15. For more information, visit <http://www.econed-il.org/icee/econchal.shtml>.

School Opportunities

National Environmental Education Foundation Presents Award Program

The National Environmental Education Foundation and Samsung have partnered to celebrate innovative schools from across the country that have used energy efficiency to enhance education, reduce environmental impacts and generate cost savings.

The \$10,000 Sustainable Energy Award will be presented to each of three high schools that demonstrate how they have engaged students and teachers in school-wide energy savings through the creative and innovative use of technology. Their achievements will be showcased as models for other schools around the nation.

Applications are due by Feb. 10, 2012. For more information, visit <http://neefusa.org/energyaward.htm>.

Coalition of Schools Educating Boys of Color Offers Grant Opportunities

The Coalition of Schools Educating Boys of Color is seeking applications for the COSEBOC School Awards, intended to celebrate K-12 schools that are demonstrating success in educating boys and young men of color. COSEBOC Award-winning schools will receive a grant.

COSEBOC welcomes applications from a wide range of schools – K-12; public, private, charter; coed and single gender. Schools do not need to be a member of COSEBOC to apply or be selected.

Guidelines and application forms are available at <http://www.coseboc.org/school-award.htm>. To apply, interested schools must review the guidelines, complete the forms and application, and submit them to schoolawards@coseboc.org by Jan. 12, 2012.

In the News

Weekly News Clips

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

<http://www.isbe.net/news/2012/newsclips/120109.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>.