



# Illinois State Board of Education

Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor

## Weekly Message

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Christopher A. Koch, Ed.D.  
State Superintendent

*January 10, 2008*

### Message from State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable holiday season and is ready to start off the second half of the school year. These breaks are always beneficial for students and staff to recharge batteries and refocus on the tasks at hand.

On January 4, Governor Blagojevich used an amendatory veto on the Budget Implementation Bill (BIMP). This move paves the way for an increase of more than \$550 million for education, once the General Assembly accepts the changes. As you know the BIMP is a complex piece of legislation that sets funding formulas for a wide variety of areas of state government, including education.

Governor Blagojevich used the amendatory veto to make technical changes to the BIMP, most notably for us, special education reimbursement. There was a technical glitch in the crafting of the BIMP that needed to be corrected in order for schools to see an additional \$50 million in special education reimbursement. As it was written originally, ISBE would not have been able to pass on the \$1,000 increase for certified personnel and \$700 for non-certified personnel until next fiscal year. Once the General Assembly accepts the changes and the bill is enacted, we will be able to begin paying these additional funds this year to districts.

The BIMP also sets the Foundation Level for General State Aid. Once the BIMP is enacted, we will be able to begin paying GSA at the Fiscal Year 2008 level: \$5,734 or an increase of \$400 dollars per student. Representatives and senators are back in session next week, and it is my hope that they will take this up then so that we can begin paying at the increased level by the second January payment.

In addition, we have finalized the list of accommodations that may be used when administering the Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) to our English language learners (ELLs). We have compiled a wide array of accommodations because we know this is a diverse population with varying degrees of exposure to English. It should also be noted that this is the first time in Illinois that accommodations with native language have ever been used.

In compiling this list of accommodations, agency staff surveyed best practices in ELL assessments of other states. Staff also worked under many constraints, as do you. We must comply with state and federal laws, and we are further constrained by contractual, monetary and other issues.

Prior to the administration of this spring's ISAT, we will schedule training sessions around the state to educate the field about the allowable accommodations for ELLs. It is our goal that by providing this training and variety of accommodations, district personnel will be able to utilize those most appropriate for individual students.

A guidance document is also being prepared and will be available soon, as will a list of dates and locations of training sessions.

A list of the accommodations follow the column.

Thanks, and I wish you all a wonderful new year.  
Chris

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**Illinois Student Achievement Test Accommodations for  
Students who are Limited English Proficient (LEP)  
AND**

**Have Been Eligible\* for Language Support Services (Transitional Bilingual Education/Transitional Program of Instruction) for up to 5 years**

Timing/Scheduling

- Extended assessment time
- More frequent breaks

Setting

- Administration of assessment in a distraction-free space or alternate location (e.g., Bilingual/ESL setting, or location within the room) with appropriate supervision
- Administration of the assessment in a small group
- Administration of the assessment on an individual basis

Presentation

- Reader scripts and audio recordings (in English) for math and science
- Directions
  - Scripted directions written in native language read to student
  - Repetition of scripted directions (English or native language) based on student request
  - Restatement of directions in simplified/modified English (unscripted)
  - Emphasis on key words in directions
  - Verification of the student's understanding by having the student repeat the directions in English
- Word-to-word glossaries providing translation of English words into native language for math and science

Response

- For extended-response items, oral English responses scribed to standard answer document.

\*Further explanation will be available on the ISBE website through <http://www.isbe.net/assessment>.

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## Upcoming Deadlines

- **Waiver applications to be considered by the General Assembly in Spring 2008** – January 11, 2008
- **Deadline for commenting on Proposed Rules and Amendments: Part 51, Part 226 and Part 350** – January 14, 2008
- **Deadline for schools and districts to apply for TECH 2008** – January 14, 2008
- **Petition the Regional Superintendent for an exemption to opt out of Summer Food Service Program (PA 95-0155)** – January 15, 2008
- **Deadline for Child Nutrition Verification Summary Report** (for those participating in the National School Lunch Program and/or School Breakfast Program) – January 31, 2008
- **Submit Annual Commodity Order Form** (National School Lunch Program Sponsors) – February 1, 2008
- **Deadline to develop and implement plan to operate summer meals program, if required by PA 95-0155** – February 15, 2008
- **Student applications for National Science Youth Camp** – February 18, 2008
- **Non-Certified Staff Salary Study survey** – February 29, 2008
- **Technology Integration Plan** – March 1, 2008
- **Charter Planning Grant applications & Charter Implementation Grant applications** – April 30, 2008

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## Educator Preparation and Recertification

### Second Beginning Teacher Induction and Mentoring grant proposals due January 23

ISBE's Division of Educator Preparation and Recertification has been granted funds for new Beginning Teacher Induction Pilot Programs. The RFP has been posted at <http://www.isbe.net/grants/html/RFP.htm> and may be accessed there.

Eligible applicants include school districts, public university laboratory schools approved by the Illinois State Board of Education, charter schools, and area vocational centers. Partnerships made up of any combination of the entities described above or a partnership made up of one or more such entities and one or more institutions of higher education, professional associations, regional offices of education, or not-for-profit providers of educational services may also apply. Approximately \$6.5 million will be available for grants under this program. The size of grant awards will vary according to the number of teachers to be served and the type of program proposed.

The grant period will begin no sooner than **February 1, 2008**, and will extend from the execution date of the grant until **August 31, 2008**. Funding in the subsequent years will be contingent upon a sufficient appropriation for the program and satisfactory progress in the preceding grant period.

To assist those who are preparing proposals, the Illinois New Teacher Collaborative (INTC) website (<http://intc.ed.uiuc.edu>) includes links to the ISBE RFP and required forms. They are also continuously updating a page containing Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) about the process and content of the proposal. All of the answers have been vetted by ISBE staff before they are posted on the INTC site. Also, the INTC site contains a document offering draft guidelines for high quality mentoring and induction practices that may be helpful to applicants.

### Note to Superintendents about the Illinois New Principal Mentoring Program

State Superintendent Dr. Christopher Koch has determined that full funding exists for mentoring of new principals in Illinois K-12 public schools consistent with the statutory requirements of PA 94-1039 to provide required mentoring to all new principals at no cost to school districts. The Illinois State Board of Education has designated the Illinois Principals Association the Program Manager for the Illinois New Principal Mentoring Program (INPM).

Over 250 new principals in Illinois (outside of Chicago Public Schools) are currently receiving mentoring services. Due to the delay in getting a final ISBE budget and subsequent implementation activities of the Illinois New Principal Mentoring Program, there may be some new principals, including mid-year hires, yet to be enrolled in mentoring. Please help account for all new principals in the state and their status regarding mentoring by completing the following questions and returning to IPA at your earliest convenience. Please email to Rashonda at [rashonda@ilprincipals.org](mailto:rashonda@ilprincipals.org) or fax to 217-525-7264.

- School District Name:
- Superintendent:
- First-Year Principals in the School District including name, school, and whether they are currently being mentored:

Thank you for your assistance. Please call 217-525-1383 if you have any questions about supporting the new principal(s) in your district. Also, you may wish to review information on the INPM website at [www.ilprincipalmentoring.org](http://www.ilprincipalmentoring.org). Feel free to use any of these materials as you wish to benefit your district and the students you serve.

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## Board Services

### 2008 ISBE Board Meeting Dates

The 2008 Illinois State Board of Education's monthly meeting calendar for 2008 is available online at [http://www.isbe.net/board/pdf/2008\\_board\\_meetings.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/board/pdf/2008_board_meetings.pdf).

The 2008 meeting dates and locations are:

- Jan. 16 – 17 – Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences, Chicago
- Feb. 20 – 21 – Springfield

- March 19 – 20 – Springfield
- April 16 – 17 – Springfield
- May 21 – 22 – Springfield
- June 18 – 19 – Springfield
- July – No Meeting
- August 7 – Springfield (as needed)
- Aug. 20 – 22 – Board Retreat, Chicago
- Sept. 17 – 18 – Springfield
- Oct. 15 – 16 – Bloomington
- Nov. 19 – 20 – Springfield
- Dec. 17 – 18 – Springfield

The State Board of Education’s monthly plenary session will be held on the Thursday of each two-day meeting cycle. In addition, the plenary session is also broadcast live via the Internet through ISBE’s website at [www.isbe.net](http://www.isbe.net). All Springfield meetings are held in the State Board of Education’s fourth floor Board Room at 100 N. First St. All State Board meetings are open to the public and accessible to persons with disabilities.

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## Accountability

### Homeless Education

The U.S Department of Education required school district homeless liaison registration vehicle is now completed in the ISBE website under IWAS. School district homeless liaisons will need to work with their IWAS administrator to complete the registration. All school district homeless liaisons in Illinois must register in the IWAS system no later than **4 p.m., Monday, February 11**. The Area Lead LEA Liaisons have access to the [NCLB Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program](#) report under the IWAS System and will double check the progress of all school district liaisons completing this form. This will also be monitored at ISBE for completion by the deadline date.

More information is available on ISBE’s Homeless Education web page, <http://www.isbe.net/homeless>. For further information, please contact the Area Lead LEA Liaison serving your county. This person can be identified from the map and directory linked on this website: <http://homelessed.net/Directory/directoryindex.htm>. For questions, contact **Peggy Dunn**, Accountability Division, at 217-782-2948 or [madunn@isbe.net](mailto:madunn@isbe.net).

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## Nutrition

### Get Ready to Move & Crunch with Elementary Principals!

In an innovative new program to promote student health, elementary school principals will take the lead! Principals from elementary schools participating in the *Move and Crunch Challenge* will log the number of days they meet physical activity and fruit and vegetable consumption recommendations. They will also engage school staff, students and their parents as well in this friendly competition. Schools will be rated on their *Challenge* activities and the top schools in three different size categories will earn a grant of \$800 to spend on student nutrition education curriculum and materials. Schools must submit their entries by **April 15, 2008** to be eligible. Challenge resources, including the application, rules and resources may be downloaded at: [www.kidseatwell.org/MoveCrunch.html](http://www.kidseatwell.org/MoveCrunch.html)

The Illinois Nutrition Education and Training Program in partnership with the Illinois Department of Health & Human Services and the Illinois Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation & Dance developed the *Move & Crunch Challenge* program. The purpose of the program is to create local wellness role models for students through a fun statewide competition. The *Move & Crunch Challenge* is made possible by a 2006 USDA Team Nutrition Training Grant. Team Nutrition is a USDA initiative to promote lifelong healthy eating and an active lifestyle for kids.

### School Wellness Policy Task Force Report on the Evaluation of School Wellness Policies Released

The Illinois School Wellness Policy Task Force continues its work as outlined in Public Act 094-0199. The required report on the evaluation on six school districts’ effectiveness of the school wellness policies was submitted to the Governor and General Assembly as of January 1, 2008. For access to this report and all of the reports and a complete list of Task Force members, please visit [http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/wellness\\_policy.htm](http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/wellness_policy.htm).

### Check Your Diversions to Processors

Processors who had enough schools order products from them will be awarded contracts this month. What this means to schools—you need to check and see if the processor you diverted commodities to will be awarded a contract. If the processor to which you diverted commodities IS getting a contract, you do not have to do

anything. If the processor to which you diverted commodities is NOT getting a contract, you might want to switch the commodities to a processor who IS going to receive a contract. We will post a message on the Illinois Commodity System message board by **February 8, 2008**, listing which processors will be getting a contract and instructions on how to switch commodities. Schools will have until **February 15, 2008**, to switch their commodities. If a school does not switch their commodities, ISBE will “zero out” those pounds diverted to a processor NOT getting a contract.

### **REMINDER! Verification Summary – Report due January 31**

Local Education Agencies (LEAs) participating in the National School Lunch Program and/or the School Breakfast Program must select and verify a sample of household applications approved for benefits. The Verification Summary Report (summarizing the results of your verification efforts) must be submitted electronically to the Illinois State Board of Education by **January 31, 2008**.

Instructions on accessing the Verification Summary Report through IWAS are available at <http://www.isbe.net/nutrition> under *What's New*.

### **Summer Food Service Reminder**

Public Act 095-0155, Summer Food Service Program, requires any public school with at least 50 percent of the children qualifying for free and reduced-price lunch AND conducting a summer school program to operate a summer meal program in 2008. If summer school is not offered, there is no requirement to offer the food service. To access a copy of the new legislation, go here: <http://ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=095-0155&GA=095>.

School districts required to implement a summer meals program need to be aware of the following critical dates:

To implement a summer meals program for the summer of 2008:

- February 15 – Develop and implement a plan to operate a summer meals program.
- March – May – Attend a training workshop for Summer Food Service Program or Seamless Summer Option (pre-register at [www.isbe.net/nutrition](http://www.isbe.net/nutrition)).

- June 1 – Complete and submit a summer application to Nutrition Programs.

A district is allowed to opt out of the summer food program if the expense reimbursement would not fully cover the costs of implementing and operating the program. To opt out of implementing a summer meals program for the summer of 2008 due to program costs:

- January 15 – Petition the Regional Superintendent for an exemption.
- March 1 – Regional Superintendent to render a decision on exemption.
- April 1 – State Superintendent to render decision on any appeals.

If you have any questions, please contact the **Nutrition Programs Division** at 800-545-7892 or 217-782-2491.

### **Make and Keep These New Year's Resolutions**

The Division of Child Nutrition suggests school food service professionals consider making and keeping these following resolutions in 2008.

- Celebrate National Nutrition Month® in March 2008
- Join Action for Healthy Kids-Illinois at [www.actionforhealthykids.org](http://www.actionforhealthykids.org).
- Enroll in Team Nutrition at <http://teamn nutrition.usda.gov/team.html>.
- Become a School Nutrition Association member at [www.schoolnutrition.org](http://www.schoolnutrition.org).
- Prepare to take the HealthierUS Challenge at <http://teamn nutrition.usda.gov/HealthierUS/index.html>.
- Exercise your brain and increase your brainpower by participating in a course, conference, or workshop.
- Apply for a grant, scholarship, and/or award.
- Participate in the implementation of your school's wellness policy.
- Honor your child nutrition staff during National Child Nutrition Employee Week, May 5–9, 2008.

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## **Illinois Department of Public Health**

### **Meningitis Prevention Update**

Public Act 94-0769 requires the Illinois Department of Public Health to develop materials regarding meningitis



and its prevention for distribution in elementary and secondary schools.

Please visit

<http://www.idph.state.il.us/public/hb/hbmening.htm> for an overview of this disease and helpful tips for protection against a case spreading in your school or district. The website also lists the different strains of the virus and how to recognize the symptoms.

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## Education Week's Quality Counts

### Quality Counts 2008: Tapping into Teaching: Unlocking the Key to Student Success

Education's Week's annual Quality Counts report is now available online at

<http://www.edweek.org/ew/toc/2008/01/10/index.html>.

The report was released Wednesday, January 9, and assigns grades to all states in six different categories: a student's chances for success; K-12 achievement; standards, assessments and accountability; transition and alignment; teaching profession, including pay; and school finance.

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## Professional Development

### 2008 Illinois Teacher of the Year Available

Looking for a dynamic, enthusiastic speaker? **Ruth Meissen**, the 2007-08 Illinois Teacher of the Year is now available for workshops, conferences, in-services, meetings, etc. Ruth is an art teacher from Harlem Middle School who is in her eleventh year in the profession. She has a gift for making learning come alive for her students and she is a master at helping her students see far beyond their classroom walls, as is evident in the community service work she's done with projects involving Habitat for Humanity and a school in New Orleans. Ruth is dedicated to helping students understand how important it is to "give back" and the impact those lessons will have on students throughout their lives.

To learn more about Ruth's philosophies and the amazing things she has accomplished, please call **Jean Langkamp** at 815-654-4510, ext. 250 to schedule Ruth as your next speaker.

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## Teacher Resources

## IL Zero Waste Schools Grant Program

The Illinois Zero Waste Schools Grant Program is now accepting grant applications to assist Illinois schools in achieving zero waste status, thus increasing the amount of solid waste diverted from Illinois landfills. This grant opportunity is annually presented by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Bureau of Energy and Recycling.

Schools Grant funds may be used to purchase project-related capital equipment such as collection containers, reusable cafeteria utensils, and erasable classroom slates. Applications are being solicited for projects to begin in the fall of 2008. More information, including application materials are available online at

[http://www.illinoisbiz.biz/dceo/Bureaus/Energy\\_Recycling/Education/ISTEP\\_Zero\\_Waste\\_Schools.htm](http://www.illinoisbiz.biz/dceo/Bureaus/Energy_Recycling/Education/ISTEP_Zero_Waste_Schools.htm).

All applications must be received by DCEO on or before 5 p.m., **Friday, February 15, 2008**. For general information and questions about the IL Zero Waste Schools Grant Program, please contact **Brett Ivers**, DCEO, at 217-524-5859 or by e-mail at [Brett.Ivers@illinois.gov](mailto:Brett.Ivers@illinois.gov).

## Teacher Grant Deadline Extended

The deadline for the 2007-2008 Innovative Economic Educator Mini-Grant applications from the Illinois Council on Economic Education has been extended to **January 23, 2008**.

Any K-12 teacher is eligible and may apply for a 3M Innovative Economic Educator Mini-Grant (up to \$500). These Innovative Economic Educator Mini-Grants are designed to support the development of innovative economic education learning activities that will be submitted to the 3M Innovative Economic Educator Award Program. The 2007-2008 Innovative Economic Educator Mini-Grants applications are due no later than January 23, 2008.

For more information and details about 3M mini-grants, please go to [http://www.econed-il.org/icee/3m\\_innov.shtml#ieemini](http://www.econed-il.org/icee/3m_innov.shtml#ieemini). For an informational flyer about this program, please go to [http://www.econed-il.org/icee/docs/2008/ieea\\_mini\\_flyer.pdf](http://www.econed-il.org/icee/docs/2008/ieea_mini_flyer.pdf). For additional support, please contact the Center or Office of Economic Education nearest you or the Illinois Council at [icee@niu.edu](mailto:icee@niu.edu).

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## Student Opportunities

### Essays about Lincoln contest

The Illinois State Archives, the Illinois State Library, and ISBE have partnered with the Illinois Center for the Book to present a statewide reading and writing contest celebrating Abraham Lincoln's 200th birthday. This contest is open to students in grades 5-12 and focuses on Lincoln's Gettysburg Address.

Today, the nation is again divided and at war. Contestants are asked to put themselves in Lincoln's place and, using 300 words or less, tell what their ideals are for a nation of freedom, democracy and equal opportunity.

Winners will read their essays at an awards ceremony, tour the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum and receive a plaque and cash award: \$200 first-place; \$150 second-place; \$100 third-place.

If you have a student interested in participating in this contest please visit [http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/pdf\\_publications/lincolnsessay.pdf](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/pdf_publications/lincolnsessay.pdf) for more details. The deadline for entries is **May 31, 2008**.

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## 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>.

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## In the News

### Weekly news clips

ISBE has posted highlights from last week's education news clips at: <http://www.isbe.net/news/2008/newsclips/080104.htm>

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