



Illinois State Board of Education

Weekly Message

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State Superintendent

Jan. 15, 2013

Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

In February and March we will administer the first statewide learning conditions and school climate survey. Senate Bill 7, passed as part of our states' reform agenda in 2011, requires us to provide the survey this year to help local educators better identify their schools strengths and areas in need of improvement.

The learning conditions survey, or the Illinois 5Essentials Survey, is an online instrument that we are providing with the University of Chicago to nearly 4,000 schools throughout the state. It will be offered online to K-12 teachers and students in grades 6-12 from Feb. 1 through the end of March.

The roughly 15-minute survey will generate data to help schools target resources and make decisions that accelerate learning and student growth. It provides a comprehensive assessment of school organizational culture with customized reports that can be used to drive school improvement on the five indicators or "essentials" as follows:

- Effective Leaders
- Collaborative Teachers
- Involved Families
- Supportive Environment
- Ambitious Instruction

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Based on 20 years of research conducted by the University of Chicago Consortium on Chicago School Research in more than 400 schools, the 5Essentials have been shown to be strongly predictive of school improvement. Schools strong in at least three of the Essentials are 10 times more likely to improve student learning than schools weak in three or more of the Essentials. Those differences remain true even when controlling for student and school characteristics, including poverty, race and neighborhood characteristics.

During this first year of administration districts have the option of asking parents to participate. School-level results will be sent to schools this summer and will be part of the 2013 Report Cards to be released next fall. If you have technical issues during administration you may get support by calling (866) 440-1874 or via email 5essentials@uchicago.edu.

The second draft of the Next Generation Science Standards was released last week for public review. Illinois is working with 25 other states to develop the science standards that identify practices and content students should master in order to be ready for college and to succeed in careers. Additional information about the standards and how to review and comment on them follows in the newsletter.

Have a great week.

Chris

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)
- **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)
- **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)
- **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)
- **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>)

School Health Issues

Important Announcement Regarding Seasonal Influenza

The Illinois State Board of Education has had inquiries about the protocol for school closures in relation to influenza. ISBE has reviewed information from the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) and at this time, we do not recommend closing any school if such closure is being considered as a means to reduce the spread of influenza. The agency encourages any districts with a significant number of students or staff experiencing influenza like symptoms to work with their local health department to determine appropriate local actions.

The following methods, recommended by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) should be followed to reduce the spread:

- Students who are showing signs of influenza (cough, fever, chills, fatigue) should remain

home and away from other students. They should stay home except if needed to go to the physician office. They should also remain away from family members who are very young (younger than 6 months), very old, or have other diseases such as asthma or lung disease that may make the symptoms of influenza worse.

- Students who show signs of influenza while at school should be isolated in a "sick room" or other office with appropriate supervision until a parent or guardian can remove them from school.
- Students and adults who are sick should stay home for at least 24 hours after fever is gone except to seek medical care or for other necessities. Fever should be gone without the use of a fever-reducing medicine.
- All students should be taught to cover the nose and mouth with a tissue when they cough or sneeze. This will block the spread of droplets from the mouth or nose that could contain germs.

- All students and staff should wash hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Anyone over the age of 6 months who has not yet received a vaccine against influenza should do so. At this point flu vaccine may be harder to find now than it was earlier in the season. You may need to contact more than one provider (pharmacy, health department or doctor) to find available vaccine. The flu vaccine locator may be helpful to you in your search.
- If you do get the flu, there are antiviral drugs that can treat your illness. They are a second line of defense. This type of medication is not available over-the-counter so you will need a prescription.

Additional resources on influenza are available at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/school/index.htm>.

College and Career Readiness

Second Public Draft of Next Generation Science Standards Available for Review

The second draft of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), a new set of voluntary, rigorous, internationally benchmarked standards, was recently released for public review. The draft NGSS, associated documents and the comment survey can be located at www.nextgenscience.org. Comments will be accepted through Jan. 29.

Illinois in conjunction with 25 other states have worked together to develop the standards, which identify science and engineering practices and content that all K12 students should master in order to be fully prepared for college and meaningful careers. The NGSS were built upon on a vision for science education established by the Framework for K-12 Science Education, published by the National Academies' National Research Council in 2011.

NGSS is not only a new set of standards, but an important document that will change the way we teach science. Application of research-based practices described in NRC Reports such as Taking Science to School, How Students Learn Mathematics and America's Lab Report guided the work by the Committee on a Conceptual Framework for New K-12 Science Education Standards as they developed a report entitled "A Framework for K-12 Science Education: Practices, Crosscutting Concepts and Core Ideas." This Framework containing a vision for K-12 science teaching and learning and description of the three dimensions was the guiding document for the NGSS

Writing Team as they developed the actual standards that make up NGSS. NGSS has undergone intense review and revision since this process started. During this public comment, we are looking for quality review and insightful comments to guide a last revision of NGSS. The final version of the standards will be released in March 2013. Additional information about reviewing the standards and resources can be found at the following site: <http://www.isbe.net/ngss/default.htm>.

The second draft responded to tens of thousands of comments submitted to the 26 lead state partners and NGSS writing team following the first public review last May. This draft also includes guidelines for how NGSS aligns to college and career readiness goals. Once again, feedback is strongly encouraged.

In May 2011, Illinois signed a voluntary agreement to participate as a lead state to participate in the development of NGSS alongside educators and scientists from other participating states. The lead state partners are Arizona, Arkansas, California, Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, Washington and West Virginia.

The effort has been entirely state-driven, with no federal funds or incentives to create or adopt the standards. The process was funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York, a leading philanthropy dedicated in part to improving science education in the U.S. Lead states worked with National Research Council, the National Science Foundation, the National Science Teachers Association, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the National Governors Association, the Council of Chief State School Officers, the James B Hunt Jr. Institute for Educational Leadership and Policy, and the Council of State Science Supervisors to develop the standards and ensure they reflected the needs of educators, higher education institutions and employers.

Illinois 5Essentials Survey

Sign Up for Upcoming Regional In-Person Trainings and Webinars

The survey and training professionals from UChicago Impact are hosting in-person trainings at locations across the state. The Illinois 5Essentials Survey Regional Trainings will provide an in-depth description of the

5Essentials Survey process and proven practices to maximize school and parent participation. The knowledge and expertise that you will gain from the UChicago Impact survey professionals will tremendously contribute to your leadership team's ability to implement a successful survey administration plan. The dates and locations of the remaining training sessions are Wednesday, Jan. 16, in Peoria; and Thursday, Jan. 17, in Naperville. For more information and to register, go to <https://illinois.5-essentials.org/2012/>.

All districts will be implementing the Illinois 5Essentials Survey in February and March of 2013. The second of three webinars on the survey is scheduled. The Illinois 5Essentials Webinar II will provide an in-depth description of the survey administration process and best practices to encourage maximum school participation. Watch for available webinar times in January, February and March at <https://illinois.5-essentials.org/2012/>, where schools can register. We encourage you and your staff to participate in Webinar II to increase your school's readiness for the upcoming Illinois 5Essentials Survey.

Illinois Emergency Management Agency

Schools Can Raise Awareness of Earthquake Hazard With the Great Central U.S. ShakeOut

The Illinois Emergency Management Agency is encouraging all Illinoisans, including elementary and secondary schools, to participate in the Great Central U.S. ShakeOut at 10:15 a.m. on Feb. 7. This "Drop, Cover and Hold On" drill will be conducted simultaneously with other states in the Central U.S. to draw attention to the earthquake hazard that exists in Illinois and other states in the region.

Last year, more than 2.4 million people across the region participated in the Great Central U.S. ShakeOut. More than 496,000 of those participants were Illinoisans, including nearly 400,000 schoolchildren throughout Illinois.

To participate in the 2013 ShakeOut log on to the ShakeOut website (www.shakeout.org/centralus/) where you can register for the drill and obtain details and reference materials.

If your school cannot participate on Feb. 7, you may select another day to conduct a "Drop, Cover and Hold On" drill. If you select another day, your organization should still register on the ShakeOut website. For more

information, contact Kate Mackz at IEMA at (217) 785-9925 or kate.mackz@illinois.gov.

Nutrition and Wellness Programs

Annual Child Nutrition Industry Conference Scheduled for Feb. 8

The Illinois School Nutrition Association (ILSNA) Industry Advisory Board will host the 2013 Child Nutrition Industry Conference on Feb. 8, 2013, at the Timber Creek Inn & Suites in Sandwich, which is about 60 miles west of Chicago.

Sessions at the one-day conference include an Illinois State Board of Education update from Nutrition and Wellness Programs Division staff and the opportunity for question-and-answer time.

For more information and to register, visit <http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=te5dkreab&oeidk=a07e6p6eqjpa3c92799>. Registration is \$30 for ILSNA members and \$45 for non-members. For questions, contact the Illinois School Nutrition Association at (217) 529-6578 or info@ilsna.net.

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, under What's New or 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.

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 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.

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/saife/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) 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_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 Division (E-320), 100 N. First St., Springfield, IL 62777-0001.

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. All comments will be included with the Illinois submission to the Department of Education. Please send comments to Robin Staudenmeier at 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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@mecd.es and paula.orrte@mecd.es or call (312) 814-5696 by Feb. 1.

Early Childhood/Special Education Services

Updated Early Intervention to Early Childhood Q and A Document Available on ISBE Website

The Illinois State Board of Education’s Early Childhood and Special Education Services divisions have revised the Early Intervention to Early Childhood Question and Answer document. The revised document has been placed on the Early Childhood Education webpage at http://www.isbe.net/earlychi/pdf/Transition_QA1.pdf.

We hope this document is a useful resource for district staff and parents of young children with disabilities in completing transition process from IDEA Part B early intervention to Part C early childhood special education.

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. 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.

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. For more information, download the TECH 2013 brochure.

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.

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.

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.

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.

In Brief

Student Opportunities

- 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. 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. The deadline for entries is March 15.
- The **National World War II Museum** is seeking entries for its annual essay contests for middle school and high school students. This year's theme asks,

"How can people who disagree still work together for victory?" The deadline for submissions is 5 p.m. March 29. For more information, visit <http://www.nationalww2museum.org/essaycontests>.

Educator Opportunities

- 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. The deadline is Feb. 1.

Weekly News Clips

- The Illinois State Board of Education has posted highlights from recent **education news clips** at <http://www.isbe.net/news/2013/newsclips/130114.htm>.

Employment Opportunities

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