



Illinois State Board of Education

Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor

Weekly Message

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State Superintendent (Interim)

January 16, 2007

Message from Interim State Superintendent Christopher Koch

Good afternoon.

This week brings the January State Board meetings where much energy and attention will be given to finalizing the State Board’s fiscal year (FY) 2008 budget recommendations. The Board members hosted public hearings throughout the state throughout October, November and December, hearing testimony from nearly 200 individuals. At the December 2006 meeting, Agency staff provided the Finance and Audit Committee initial budgetary information for fiscal year 2008 developed by Agency staff, including the specific requests made during the budget hearings. The State Board will discuss the FY 2008 budget in its Finance and Audit Committee meeting on Wednesday and will move forward a recommended budget in its Plenary Session on Thursday.

As Agency staff and I have worked with the State Board members in the budget development process, we have discussed with them the importance of assuring adequate resources at the Agency that allow us to provide the technical assistance and support that districts and schools throughout the state need. A number of you reinforced this message in your testimony at budget hearings. Please be assured that this issue is important to the members of the State Board and to me and the entire Agency.

Last week the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR) acted to prohibit the filing of the Part 226 Administrative Rules for Special Education approved by the State Board members in December. JCAR leadership has stated a specific interest in hearing directly from parents and has indicated a plan to host public hearings in both the House and the Senate on the proposed Administrative Rules. As we work with the members of the General Assembly on this process, I will ensure that they have specific information about the steps ISBE will need to take in order to meet the federally imposed June 2007 deadline. We will work with them in the hopes that any legislative hearings will be scheduled so that they accommodate the time needed for those steps. I continue to believe that the rules, as adopted by our board, would result in positive changes for students, teachers and administrators statewide.

I hope that you were able to avoid serious damage and power outages after the latest ice storms made their way through the state. Stay warm and have a great week.

Chris Koch

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Upcoming Deadlines

- **Verification Summary Report** – January 18, 1007 – <http://www.isbe.net/nutrition>
- **Preschool Social and Emotional Consultation Services RFP** – January 25, 2007
- **ICLCS Grant Applications** – January 31, 2007

- **Coming Up Taller Grant Applications** – January 31, 2007
- **Early Childhood Teacher Preparation Assistance Planning Grant** – February 1, 2007
- **Annual Commodity Order Form** – February 2, 2007 – Child Nutrition
- **Breakfast Survey** – February 9, 2007 – <http://www.isbe.net/nutrition>
- **Amber Alert Poster Contest** – March 13, 2007
- **21st Community Learning Center RFP** – March 16, 2007
- **Non-Certified Staff Salary Study** - March 31, 2007

Special Message from Governor’s Office



Lowered flags honor Illinois’ fallen

As flags at all State of Illinois buildings remain at half staff to honor United States President Gerald R. Ford, Governor Blagojevich has also ordered that the lower flags honor **Army Pfc. William R. Newgard**, 20, of Arlington Heights and **Air Force Senior Airman Daniel B. Miller, Jr.**, 24, of Galesburg.

Pfc. Newgard died December 29, 2006 in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle during combat operations. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, Schweinfurt, Germany.

Air Force Senior Airman Daniel B. Miller Jr., 24, Galesburg, was killed January 7 by a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device while performing his duties in the Baghdad area supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was assigned to the 775th Civil Engineer Squadron, Hill Air Force Base, Utah.

Lowering of flags is at the discretion of local school administration. Information regarding gubernatorial orders to lower flags is at shared at the request of Regional Offices of Education and local school districts.

Federal Grants and Programs

21st Century Community Learning Centers Technical Assistance Conferences

The technical assistance conference for the 21st CCLC FY08 RFP to be held in Springfield has been listed in print with two different dates. The correct date for the TA conference in Springfield is Friday, February 2, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield. The conference will be from 9 a.m. until noon.

Two other conferences will be held. The first is in Chicago at the University of Illinois Chicago Campus, Student Center East, 750 S. Halsted on January 22, and the second at the Holiday Inn Select, 18501 S. Harlem Ave., Tinley Park, Illinois on January 23. All conference times are from 9 a.m. until noon.

If you have questions regarding the RFP or these conferences, please call Gail Meisner at 217-524-4832.

Data Analysis

Non-Certified Staff Salary Study Worksheet

March 1, 2007 through March 31, 2007, the Non-Certified Staff Salary Study survey will be available in IWAS for data entry. To prepare for this submission, we have posted a “Worksheet” on our website at http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/2007_ncss_worksheet.pdf. This worksheet is a **PRINT ONLY** document – it cannot be copied or saved to a computer.

Since the window of submission is only one month, we encourage you to print a copy of the worksheet now and begin collecting the data to ensure all data is submitted by the deadline. Districts with student enrollment (as of last school day of September 2006) of less than 1000 may ignore this message.

If you have questions please call the Helpdesk at 217-558-3600. Thank you very much for your cooperation.

Rules and Waivers

Invitation to Comment on Rules

An amendment recently proposed by the State Board of Education is currently available for public comment. This item has 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 you may have to rules@isbe.net.

Part 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision)

This amendment will amplify Section 1.240 to be more explicit regarding the prohibition against enrollment practices that would be discriminatory toward undocumented students. In particular, it will provide that the documentation districts accept as proof of residency may not be restricted in such a way as to allow only for documents that undocumented students would not have.

Below please find a non-exhaustive list of documents that undocumented immigrants may obtain to establish residency. Of course, a home visit can always be made by a district representative should the parent/guardian provide questionable documents to verify residency.

1. Lease or rental agreement
2. Checking or savings account statement
3. Utility bills (gas, electric, water, home telephone, cable television, etc.)
4. Residential property tax statement
5. Mortgage account or proof of home ownership
6. Major credit card bill
7. Canceled checks with imprinted name and address
8. Vehicle title or registration card
9. Installment loan contract from bank or other financial institution
10. Residential service contract (services performed at the residence, e.g., appliance repair, exterminator, window installation, etc.)
11. Pay check or pay stub
12. Life, home, auto, or health insurance policy
13. Third person affidavit of residency (landlord, homeowner)

Deadline for Public Comment: February 19, 2007

Daily physical education requirement

As required under Section 27-6 of the School Code, all students enrolled in Illinois public schools must participate in physical education courses every day, and a school district's failure to offer daily physical education each day will affect the district's recognition status.

The instances in which a school district may offer daily physical education on less than a daily basis are as follows.

The district has a waiver currently in effect approved by the General Assembly and is offering physical education for the amount of time as set forth in the approved waiver. Waivers are granted for up to five years only. In

order to continue implementation of a waiver that has expired, a school district must renew that waiver by following the same process it used in seeking the original waiver. See <http://www.isbe.net/isbewaivers/default.htm> for further information about the waiver process.

The district's board of education has adopted a policy to allow certain students to be excused on an individual basis from physical education under the circumstances specified in Section 27-6(b) of the School Code.

The district provides courses on a block scheduling basis. Prior to January 1, 2006, districts wishing to implement a block schedule had to seek permission to offer physical education on a less than daily basis through the waiver process. As a result of the passage of P.A. 94-198, approval of a modification under the waiver process is no longer necessary (see <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=094-0198&GA=094>).

Each school district not meeting one of the conditions described above must provide physical education each day to all of its students. If it does not, then the district is subject to the sanctions set forth in Section 1.20 of rules governing Public School Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision (23 Ill. Adm. Code 1.20, which can be reviewed at <http://www.isbe.net/rules/archive/pdfs/oneark.pdf>). Sanctions may include receiving a recognition status of "on probation" or "recognized pending further review." Failure to correct the deficiency (i.e., offer physical education daily, receive approval for a waiver, or implement a policy conforming to Section 27-6(b) of the School Code) may lead to a determination that the district is "nonrecognized," which could result in the loss of general state aid.

Teacher Certification**TSR/NCLB Data Correction Procedure**

We have been made aware that many special education coops, as well as other entities, may not have noted the changes required in the revised Teacher Service Record reporting instructions that now link TSR to the agency's tracking of teachers who have not met the highly qualified teacher requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act. These instructions indicated that all teachers of record of core academic content must have all the core subject assignments listed in addition to their special education assignment.

Further, districts have now been given the opportunity to download a compilation of their teachers' qualifications for their assignments, including a list of those who may not be highly qualified in their assignments. Teachers who have not entered data relating to their specific TSR reported assignment on ECS may not be considered highly qualified; teachers who have entered no data on ECS may not be considered highly qualified. Please be aware that completion of either union worksheet will not result in any change on ECS since those worksheets are not connected to ECS. If your teachers have not done so they should immediately add the information obtained from the worksheets to ECS; the results will not appear until the next day on the TSR teacher report.

In reviewing TSR data, it may be helpful to print it first and then print the teacher qualification data showing both those who are highly qualified and those who are not from the TSR teacher report. This process may help find data entry problems.

If your district did not include the additional reporting changes in completing your TSR, please promptly contact the Data Analysis Division at asedivy@isbe.net to have your TSR re-opened for the necessary changes. The agency will report to the federal government soon on a variety of data including the percentage of classes taught by not highly qualified teachers, the percentage of special education classes not taught by highly qualified teachers, the subjects that appear to be in greatest need for highly qualified teachers, and the percentage of poor and minority students taught by not highly qualified teachers. For these reasons the data must be current and reflect all actual assignments.

You can see the new TSR instructions at http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/trs_reporting.pdf.

The directions for printing out a list of your not highly qualified teachers can be found at: http://www.isbe.net/certification/pdf/dist_supt_ltr_NCLB.pdf.

Instructions for entering teacher quality data are on ECS at: http://www.isbe.net/ECS/ecs_instructions.pdf.

Curriculum and Instruction

National Science Chemistry Lab Safety Guide available online

The long-awaited School Chemistry Lab Safety Guide (NIOSH Publication No. 2007-107: School Chemistry Laboratory Safety Guide, November 2006) is now

available. This a sixty page safety guide for high school science and chemistry laboratories provides practical safety information in a checklist format to reduce chemical injuries in a laboratory environment.

The guide presents information about ordering, using, storing, and maintaining chemicals in the high school laboratory. The guide also provides information about chemical waste, safety and emergency equipment, assessing chemical hazards, common safety symbols and signs, and fundamental resources relating to chemical safety, such as Material Safety Data Sheets and Chemical Hygiene Plans, to help create a safe environment for learning. In addition, checklists are provided for both teachers and students that highlight important information for working in the laboratory and identify hazards and safe work procedures.

This guide is not intended to address all safety issues, but rather to provide basic information about important components of safety in the chemistry laboratory and to serve as a resource to locate further information.

Read or download the guide at <http://www.cpsc.gov/CPSC/PUBS/NIOSH2007107.pdf> or at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2007-107/pdfs/2007-107.pdf>. The guide updates information found in the Illinois Guidelines for Science Safety found at: http://www.isbe.net/ils/science/pdf/science_safety.pdf

Illinois Department of Public Health Resource for Healthier Schools

The Illinois Department of Public Health has developed the “Healthy Schools for Healthy Learning” website, an environmental health tool for Illinois schools at <http://app.idph.state.il.us/envhealth/healthyschools/>. The site was designed to help parents, teachers and students learn about indoor environmental quality, safe chemical storage, and other environmental health topics that affect schools. The website also is intended to be a convenient location where persons can:

- print copies of checklists they can use to evaluate their school's environment,
- browse school-related educational materials,
- test their knowledge with a school health quiz,
- see if their school has an indoor environmental quality report, and
- find contact information for regional offices that serve their community.

If you have specific questions about the website, please contact **Aaron Martin**, at 217-782-5830.

Department of Energy Academies Creating Teacher Scientists (ACTS) Program

Two special opportunities for science teachers from grades 6-12 at Argonne National Laboratory

- Expand their content knowledge and develop inquiry-based teaching modules
- Network with colleagues and bolster their own professional & leadership skills
- Experience multi-year and year-long activities
- Receive mini-grants for materials and conferences
- Receive an \$800 weekly summer stipend; housing available to out-of-area teachers
- Earn optional 6.0 semester hours of university credit each summer (course fee required)
- Get plugged-in to Laboratory and DOE resources

Teachers as Investigators (TAI) Program: Summer Institute, June 25 through July 20, 2007 is an option for science teachers grades 6-10 who prefer to work in a team as they create and conduct their own research project - http://www.dep.anl.gov/p_k-12/acts/tai.htm

Teachers as Researcher Associates (TARA) Program: Summer Institute, June 18 through August 10, 2007 is an option for science teachers at grades 9-12 who seek an ongoing research project with a scientist or engineer. Generally this option is more technical with less teacher-mediated collaboration - http://www.dep.anl.gov/p_k-12/acts/tara.htm

Application Procedure: Application Deadline is January 31. A three year program commitment is required—March 2007 through May 2010. Applications must be completed online at: <http://www.scied.science.doe.gov/scied/LSTPD/about.htm> Argonne cannot review or place any participant who has not fully completed the Office of Science application online. For additional information and/or questions contact: **Lou Harnisch** at 630-252-6925, lharnisch@dep.anl.gov or **Deon Ettinger** 630-252-4272, dettinger@dep.anl.gov. For a full listing of program expectations go to [http://www.scied.science.doe.gov/sc\(ied\)/LSTPD/about.htm](http://www.scied.science.doe.gov/sc(ied)/LSTPD/about.htm).

Illinois Standards Initiative

Since Dr. Dunn's announcement* on October 23, 2006, the Illinois Standards Initiative project has moved ahead at a steady pace. The Curriculum and Instruction

Division has convened both an *Internal Steering Committee* and an *External Advisory Committee* to guide the work of the newly developed *Content Area Teams (CATs)*. The teams will begin their work in late February at an Initiative Kickoff meeting and complete Phase I of the project by late September of 2007.

* Please refer to the archived Weekly Messages to access Dr. Dunn's October 23, 2006 message at: http://www.isbe.net/board/archivemessages/message_102306.pdf.

Early Childhood

Early Childhood Block Grant RFP for 0 to 3 released

The Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG) for Birth to Age 3 Years: Prevention Initiative – Fiscal Year 2008 Request for Proposals (RFP) for new funds has been released. This RFP is for Prevention Initiative programs offering coordinated services to at risk children and their families. Public school districts, university laboratory schools approved by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), charter schools, area vocational centers, and other entities are eligible to submit a proposal. Applicants other than public school districts must provide evidence of existing competencies to provide early childhood education programs. The RFP is available online at http://www.isbe.net/earlychi/html/block_grant.htm. The RFP can also be obtained by contacting the Early Childhood Division at 217-524-4835.



ECBG Bidders' conferences will be held for this RFP. Attendance at a bidders' conference is recommended but not required. Security procedures require a photo identification for entry at each location.

Chicago

State of Illinois Building (Bilandic Building)
160 North LaSalle, 5th Floor, Room C-500
Tuesday, February 6, 2007 - 1 to 3 p.m.

Springfield

Howlett Building Auditorium
501 South Second Street (2nd and Edwards)
Wednesday, February 7, 2007 - 1 to 3 p.m.

Should the conditions of this RFP change as a result of the bidders' conference, the Illinois State Board of Education will notify all recipients of the RFP of the changes.

Accountability

School Incident Reporting System

Illinois Compiled Statutes mandate that certain types of incidents (drugs, weapons, and attacks on school personnel) occurring in or on school property be reported to local law enforcement authorities and the Illinois State Police (ISP) within one to three days of the occurrence of the incident. To satisfy the reporting requirement, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), in conjunction with the ISP, has created the School Incident Reporting System (SIRS). The SIRS is a web-based application on IWAS and is used by schools to report incidents electronically. Reporting on SIRS does not satisfy the requirement to report incidents to local law enforcement authorities.

The mandate and statutes relevant to this reporting are:

105 ILCS 5/10-27.1B.

Reporting drug-related incidents in schools.

“...Upon receipt of any written, electronic, or verbal report from any school personnel regarding a verified incident involving drugs in a school or on school owned or leased property...the superintendent or his or her designee, or appropriate administrative officer for a private school, shall report all such drug-related incidents occurring in a school or school property to the local law enforcement authorities immediately and to the Department of State Police in a form, manner, and frequency prescribed by the Department of State Police.”

105 ILCS 5/27.1A.

Firearms in schools.

“...Upon receipt of any written, electronic, or verbal report from any school personnel regarding a verified incident involving a firearm in a school or on school owned or leased property...the superintendent or his or her designee shall report all such firearm-related incidents occurring in a school or on school property to the local law enforcement authorities immediately and to the Department of State Police in a form, manner, and frequency as prescribed by the Department of State Police.”

105 ILCS 5/34-8.05.

Reporting firearms in schools.

“...Upon receipt of any written, electronic, or verbal report from any school personnel regarding a verified incident involving a firearm in a school or on school owned or leased property...the superintendent or his or

her designee shall report all such firearm-related incidents occurring in a school or on school property to the local law enforcement authorities no later than 24 hours after the occurrence of the incident and to the Department of State Police in a form, manner, and frequency as prescribed by the Department of State Police.”

105 ILCS 5/10-21.7.

Attacks on school personnel.

“...Upon receipt of a written complaint from any school personnel, the superintendent, or other appropriate administrative officer for a private school, shall report all incidents of battery committed against teachers, teacher personnel, administrative personnel or educational support personnel to the local law enforcement authorities immediately after the occurrence of the attack and to the Department of State Police’s Illinois Uniform Crime Reporting Program no later than 3 days after the occurrence of the attack.”

http://www.isbe.net/accountability/html/sch_incident.htm

Only 213 schools have registered to report, leaving the remaining school districts without a SIRS reporter signed up with IWAS. The signup, to be authorized to use this system, is accomplished within the IWAS system in the System Categories for Monthly Reporting – School Incident Reporting. There is still time to report all incidents for this year once the reporter is authorized.

To help schools meet this mandate a user guide is available at:

<http://www.isbe.net/accountability/pdf/UsersGuideV1.pdf>.

The User Guide takes the end user step-by-step through the reporting process. For assistance, contact **Peggy Dunn** at 217-782-2948 or madunn@isbe.net.

Professional Development

Illinois Association of School Personnel Administrators Conference

The Illinois Association of School Personnel Administrators (IASPA) will host its First Annual Conference February 8 and 9, 2007, at the Renaissance Hotel and Conference Center in Schaumburg, Illinois.

The keynote address by Dr. Wilma Hamilton-Delp will be “Our Schools and the Impact of 9/11”. Other sessions will focus on customer service, human resource office audit, minority recruiting, administrator re-certification and model recruitment plans. For more information, visit: http://www.iaspa.org/events/IASPA_annual_conference.html.

Health and Safety Workshop for Art Educators

Whiteside County Regional Office of Education in cooperation with Illinois Environmental Protection Agency of Springfield, IL is presenting a training regarding hazardous materials found in an art classroom. Workshop is to be held at Deer Valley Country Club, Deer Grove, IL from 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. (registration is at 8 a.m.) on February 9, 2007. Proper handling, storage and disposal of these chemicals will be addressed. Participation in this workshop will qualify the participating school in a FREE chemical waste pick-up. Flyer with details and registration form is online at <http://www.whitesideroe.org>.

U.S. Department of Education announces cities for Fourth Annual Best Practices Summer Workshops

The U.S. Department of Education has named 22 cities as sites for its annual summer regional workshops for teachers to learn best practices from fellow educators successful in raising student achievement, U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings announced today.

This year's co-hosts include two federal government agencies—the National Park Service (NPS); the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA); a number of TechNet partners, including Microsoft, EMC, AMD, Symantec, the University of Nevada, and Motorola; as well as Target, General Motors Corp., Siemens Foundation and MATHCOUNTS.

The workshops are part of the Department's Teacher-to-Teacher Initiative, which supports teachers in a variety of ways, including keeping them informed about the latest strategies and research for closing the achievement gap and helping all students meet high standards.

Each workshop will include numerous breakout sessions featuring effective teachers and practitioners sharing strategies that have been successful in their classrooms, schools and districts.

Workshop dates, locations, subjects covered, co-host when applicable and agendas are online at: <http://www.t2tweb.us/Workshops/Schedule.asp>. Registration for the free workshops will begin April 8.

Job Shadow Day

On February 2, working professionals across the country will kick-off Job Shadow Day, part of a national, year-long effort to enrich the lives of students by acquainting them with the world of work through on-the-job experiences and a special school curriculum that ties academics to the workplace. Sponsored by the financial services firm ING and coordinated by America's Promise, Junior Achievement, and the U.S. Departments of Education and Labor, over one million students and 100,000 businesses are expected to participate. Notable past workplace mentors include former President George Bush, Colin Powell, governors, mayors, other elected officials, and television personalities Katie Couric, Matt Lauer, Al Roker and Ann Curry. For more information, please visit: <http://www.jobshadow.org/>.

Educator Opportunities

American Stars of Teaching award nominations open

The United States Department of Education (USDOE) is accepting nominations for its 2007 American Stars of Teaching awards, which recognize teachers who are improving student achievement using innovative strategies and making a difference in the lives of their students. Anyone can nominate an American Star. After the Department receives a nomination, a verification form is sent to the teacher's principal. One teacher will be recognized from each state and the District of Columbia. The deadline for nominations is April 1. For more information, please visit: <http://www.t2tweb.us/AmStar/About.asp>.

Student Opportunities

Illinois Amber Alert Poster Contest

The Illinois Amber Alert Task Force is sponsoring a poster contest for grades K-12. We ask you to join them in their efforts to educate Illinois children about safety issues by giving students an opportunity to participate in this poster contest highlighting the efforts to reunite children and their families. The theme for the poster contest is "Bringing Our Missing Children Home." The poster contest began on January 13 (Amber Alert Awareness Day). A packet of information is online at <http://www.amberillinois.org>. The deadline for contest submissions is March 13, 2007.



One winner from each grade will be announced in May 2007, and displayed in a 2008 Illinois Amber Alert calendar. The 5th grade winner will advance on to the U.S. Department of Justice's national poster contest with a chance to travel to Washington, D.C. and receive an award at the National Missing Children's Day Ceremony.

Scholarships to study in Taiwan

The Republic of China Ministry of Education is offering the *Taiwan Scholarship* to high school graduates interested in pursuing a bachelor's degree in Taiwan.

This program is an opportunity for high school graduates to gain international experience and receive a university education. More information about the Taiwan Scholarships is available at: <http://www.edutw.org/english/>.

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 2007 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 demonstrate academic achievement in science and 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 at <http://www.nyssc.org/> and must be submitted directly to **Gwen Pollock**, NYSC-Illinois state coordinator, ISBE, 100 North First Street, Springfield, IL 62777, by February 16, 2007. For further information and assistance, contact **Gwen Pollock** at 217-557-7323, gpollock@isbe.net.

29th Annual Illinois High School State Dance Festival

The 29th annual Illinois High School State Dance Festival will be held at Carl Sandburg High School in Orland Park, on May 5, 2007. The venue will offer four master classes in every discipline of dance, a professional

showcase, and the *Student Choreography Showcase* for a cost of only \$20.00 per person.

For additional festival information, please e-mail Margie Chambers at the following address: margie_chambers@ipsd.org. Auditions for the high school *Showcase* will be conducted at St. Viator's High School, Arlington Heights in on February 17, 2007. More information regarding the *Showcase* auditions can be obtained by emailing either Michelle Carrison at michelle.carris@d214.org or Angela Strater at angelastrater@comcast.net.

Nutrition

Local Wellness Policy Workshops Announce New Grant Opportunity for Illinois Schools

Six Workshops Scheduled

Illinois Schools Can! Putting School Wellness Policies into Action is a full-day workshop offering five CPDU credits to K-12 school staff. Sponsored by the Illinois Soybean Association and presented by the Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents of Schools and the Illinois Nutrition Education and Training Program, the workshops are funded, in part, through USDA grants and focus on putting school wellness team members and school staff in touch with strategies and resources to move policy into action. A new mini-grant opportunity for Illinois elementary schools who want to take the USDA HealthierUS School Challenge will also be announced at the workshops. Attendance will also provide elementary schools who want to apply for the *Illinois Schools Can!* grants of up to \$2,500 with extra credit points! Registration forms are available at <http://www.kidseatwell.org>.

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>.

In the News

Weekly news clips

ISBE has posted highlights from last week's education news clips at: <http://www.isbe.net/news/2007/newsclips/070112.htm>