



Jan. 17, 2012

Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

Last week, Education Week released “Quality Counts 2012-The Global Challenge.” This is Ed Week’s annual edition grading states on their education systems. This year, they put special emphasis on how states are preparing students to compete in a global economy.

Here in Illinois, we saw our standing improve 11 spots, from 40th to 29th. While I am not satisfied, and don’t believe that we are in the bottom 50 percent, I am nonetheless pleased to see that the improvements we’re making here in Illinois are being recognized. We received our highest score (A-) in Standards, Assessments and Accountability, no doubt recognition on our work to adopt and implement the new Illinois Learning Standards based on the internationally benchmarked Common Core and our work with the Partnership for the Assessment of College and Careers. Our lowest score was in the Teaching Profession (D+), but I do expect to see that score increase in coming years as the work we’ve been doing to improve preparation and evaluations is implemented.

Later this month we will begin offering a series of two-day, hands on workshops to help administrators and teachers align their curriculum to the Common Core. Small district teams are encouraged to attend the workshops in order to best determine how the new standards connect to lessons and what might be needed to implement changes in local curriculum. The first two workshops in Effingham and Bloomington are full, and we are organizing a third one in northern Illinois April 26-27. Due to the popularity of these workshops, we are working to add more dates. Please watch our Common Core clearinghouse at http://www.isbe.net/common_core/default.htm for more information on these workshops and others to come.

We will have additional workshops this summer to showcase lesson plans, teaching methods and instructional strategies to meet the Common Core standards. Last summer, nearly 1,900 participants from more than 400 districts and special education cooperatives participated in our Common Core Summer Institutes. Plans are under way to provide these institutes again this summer. In addition, about 200 administrators and instructors participated in one of our eight train-the-trainer math sessions.

Regional offices and intermediate service centers are also organizing local workshops and seminars, and I encourage you to keep in contact with them as we work to implement the new Illinois Learning Standards.

Finally, last week was a reminder to all of us about the need to be prepared for wintry weather. Please stay warm and safe. Have a great week!

Chris

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Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

- **Part 50 (Evaluation of Certified Employees under Articles 24A and 34 of the School Code)** – Public comment period ends Jan. 17
- **Illinois Alliance of Administrators of Special Education’s Winter Conference** – Jan. 26-27 in Springfield
- **Part 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision) and Part 235 (Early Childhood Block Grant)** – Public comment period ends Jan. 30
- **2011-12 Teacher Salary Study data form deadline** – Feb. 1
- **2011-12 Noncertified Staff Salary Study survey** – Feb. 1
- **Part 30 (Programs for the Preparation of Principals in Illinois)** – Public comment period ends Feb. 14
- **Illinois New Teacher Collaborative’s Induction and Mentoring Conference** – Feb. 22-23 in Springfield
- **2011-12 Eye Examination Data Collection deadline** – June 30

School Business Services

School District Annual Financial Report Review Process

All district superintendents should have received an email broadcast through IWAS asking the district to review their preliminary Financial Profile Report on Jan. 17, 2012. If district administration wants to submit comments regarding their district’s finances that will be published along with their Financial Profile Report, the comments must be submitted no later than Friday, Feb. 10, 2012.

The broadcast includes links to the memorandum, instructions and definitions to assist with the review process. These documents are also available in IWAS and on the School District Financial Profile Score Information webpage

(<http://www.isbe.net/sfms/afr/verification.htm>).

The email broadcast and this notice will be the only ones sent to districts. If you do not receive the broadcast, please contact ISBE at (217) 785-8779. If you have given another person authority to review these reports, please forward the email broadcast to them. Since the financial profile designation will be approved and publicly released by ISBE, it is crucial that districts review their financial profile data and score. Any district that wishes to include comments that support the Financial Profile report may do so directly in IWAS beneath the report. Although comments are optional, they are encouraged; this is an opportunity for districts to explain significant financial circumstances.

The financial profile will be adjusted to incorporate mandated categorical aid payments due to school districts that were not paid by June 30, 2011.

Any questions regarding the verification process should be directed to a School Business Services consultant at (217) 785-8779. Any questions regarding IWAS should be directed to the Call Center at (217) 558-3600.

Standards and Assessments

PSAE Testing: Clarification Concerning Testing of Part-time Students

For accountability purposes, students who are enrolled only part time in a public school (e.g., private school or homeschooled students) and are receiving instruction from the public school in both reading/English and mathematics must participate in the entire PSAE.

Grade 11 students who are enrolled part time in a public school and who are not receiving instruction from the public school in both reading/English and mathematics should not take PSAE. Districts should code these students’ records with a not tested reason of “Part-Time Enrollment” during the PSAE Assessment Correction window after testing. All not tested reasons are defined and posted at http://www.isbe.net/sis/pdf/not_testing.pdf.

If you have any questions, please email psae@isbe.net.

Innovation and Improvement

ISBE Introduces a Family Engagement Webinar Series

The Illinois State Board of Education’s Division of Innovation and Improvement has planned a series of 60-minute Family Engagement Webinars as part of a statewide family engagement initiative. Each webinar in the 2012 series will feature practitioners from the 2011 Regional Summits. The practitioners will share their experiences in the successful implementation of evidence-based family engagement strategies in their

schools or districts. These sessions are open to district staff, school staff, parent facilitators and parents. Information on the upcoming session is below and you may register by clicking on the registration included.

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

Professional Development

2012 Energy Code Training Opportunities

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

For more information, visit http://www.ildceo.net/dceo/Bureaus/Energy_Recycling/IECC.htm. To register, go to <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BITEILEnergyCodesTrainings>. For questions, email energycodestraining@igenc.org.

Office of the Attorney General

Information on the Dangers of Synthetic Drugs Issued

Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan has released a letter addressing the increasing numbers of injuries and deaths related to the use of synthetic drugs, particularly among young people. The letter is on the Illinois State

Board of Education's School Health Issues webpage (http://www.isbe.net/school_health.htm#drugs) along with a fact sheet from the Office of the Attorney General.

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

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

Funding and Disbursement Services

New Census Estimates Released for FY 2013 Title I Low Income

The U.S. Department of Education has released the Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) for income year 2010. These estimates will be used to calculate FY13 Title I Allocations. A file of 2010 Poverty Data, by Local Education Agency (LEA) is provided in an alphabetical listing of LEAs, Poverty Count, 5-17 Population, Poverty Percentage and Total Population at http://www.isbe.net/funding/excel/FY13Preliminary_eligibility.xls.

With this data, LEAs can determine their potential eligibility for Basic, Concentration, Targeted and Education Finance Incentive Grants (EFIG).

Basic Grant eligibility: an LEA must have at least 10 poverty children and the number of poverty children must be greater than 2 percent of the LEA population of children ages 5-17.

Concentration Grant eligibility: an LEA must have at least 6,500 poverty children or the number of those children exceeds 15 percent of the total 5-17 population.

Targeted and EFIG grant qualifications: an LEA must have at least 10 poverty children and that number must be at least 5 percent of the 5-17 population.

The following link to the Census Bureau, <http://www.census.gov/did/www/saipe/index.html>,

provides various aspects of the SAIPE count. We will be using the 2010 data to calculate SY 2012-13 Title I, Part A allocations because they are the most recent available data.

Superintendents, business managers, and Title I directors should carefully examine the data for their LEA as this will be the first indication as to whether your LEA may be gaining or losing in eligibility for Title I funds in FY13. ISBE neither controls nor generates the data.

Note that this preliminary data does not include other non-census information, such as foster, neglected, or delinquent counts that may be used to calculate Title I allocations.

If you have questions on the information provided in this message, please contact Sally Cray or Kim Lewis in the Division of Funding and Disbursement Services at (217) 782-5256.

Data Analysis and Progress Reporting

SY 2012 Fall Enrollment Data

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

Those Who Excel Program

Teacher of the Year Available for Speaking Engagements

Josh Stumpenhorst, the 2012 Illinois Teacher of the Year, is now available for speaking engagements. Josh teaches language arts and social science to sixth-graders at Lincoln Junior High School in Naperville. He is very technology savvy and has a



huge following on his blog and his twitter account, where he shares his thoughts and ideas about teaching.

Josh says he knew from an early age that he wanted to teach. He is a passionate teacher who is committed to creating learning experiences for his students that help shape them into the people they want to be when they grow up. Josh has presented at numerous professional development experiences and strives to not only teach but to continuously learn from others.

If you would like to schedule Josh for your next workshop or conference, you can reach him via email at jstumpenhorst@naperville.203.org or call him at (630) 848-5344.

The Illinois State Board of Education annually recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to elementary and secondary education with the Those Who Excel Awards Program. The top award is for the Illinois Teacher of the Year. Visit http://www.isbe.net/those_who_excel.htm for more information.

Special Education

IAASE Winter Conference Scheduled for Jan. 26-27

The Illinois Alliance of Administrators of Special Education (IAASE) Winter Conference is set for Jan. 26-27 in Springfield.

Keynote presenters include Dr. Marilyn Friend, an author and consultant from the University of North Carolina, who will be present “The Promise and Challenges of Co-Teaching as a Vehicle for Improving Student Outcomes”; Bennett Rodick, attorney with Hodges, Loizzi, Eisenhammer, Rodick & Kohn will deliver “The Special Education Legal Year in Review: The Good, The Bad, and the Ugly”; Dr. Melody Musgrove, the National Director of the Office of Special Education Programs, Washington, D.C., will present “Results Matters”; and Dr. Luann Purcell, Executive Director of the Council of Administrators of Special Education will speak about “The Future of Special Education: A National Perspective.”

The conference will feature numerous breakout sessions focusing on administration, curriculum, autism, early childhood, innovative practices, leadership, legal issues, transition, RtI, and technology. The registration brochure,

program guide and registration information can be viewed at <http://www.iaase.org>.

Administrators may also be interested in attending the preconference Administrator Academy workshop on Wednesday, Jan. 25, at the same location. Christina Sepiol will present “An Overview of Laws Impacting Students With Autism Spectrum Disorders.” This workshop will provide educators with a legal overview of special education regulations as they relate to students who have Autism Spectrum Disorders. Go to <http://www.iaase.org> to register.

Save the Date: Children’s Mental Health Conference Scheduled for April 27

A children’s mental health conference is scheduled for Friday, April 27, 2012, at Moraine Valley Community College in Palos Hills, which is in northern Illinois. The conference is titled “Piecing It All Together: How Children’s Mental Health/Mental Illness Affect Home, School & Community.”

For more information, visit the NAMI Illinois website at <http://il.nami.org/piat.htm>. The National Alliance on Mental Illness is a not-for-profit membership organization that aims to improve the lives of individuals and families challenged by mental illness.

Educator and School Development

Seventh Annual Induction and Mentoring Conference Scheduled for Feb. 22-23

The Illinois New Teacher Collaborative (INTC) will hold its seventh annual Induction and Mentoring Conference on Feb. 22-23, 2012, in Springfield.

The conference, which is titled “Staying Committed to New Teacher Induction,” will examine how district and school personnel can make a difference in a new teacher’s career, even in tough times. Quality induction programs accelerate new teacher development and assist new teachers in their knowledge, skill, effectiveness and professional development, which, in turn, impact student achievement and success. This conference will provide practical and standards-based ideas about induction resources, evaluation, program goals and design. Conference sessions will help both established and new induction and mentoring programs improve, learn from other programs and develop a network of contacts to pave the way for new teachers’ success.

Conference registration is \$50, and substitute reimbursement and CPDUs are available. For more information or to register for the conference, visit <http://intc.education.illinois.edu/conference>.

Illinois Virtual School

ISBE’s State Virtual School Offers Flexible Enrollment Terms

Illinois Virtual School (IVS), ISBE’s state virtual school, offers 14 enrollment terms throughout the year. Each term provides 17 weeks of instructional support from our IL certified teacher.

Flexible enrollment allows students needing to make up credit, wanting to get ahead or wishing to take a course not offered at their school more scheduling options within academic calendar. The next enrollment terms begin Feb. 1, March 15 and April 4.



For more information, contact IVS at (309) 676-1000 or email Barb Closen at bclosen@ilvirtual.org.

Rules and Waivers

Invitation to Comment on Rules

Several proposed rulemakings recently reviewed by the Illinois State Board of Education are available for public comment. The proposals have been posted on the agency’s Web site at <http://www.isbe.net/rules>; choose “Proposed Rules and Amendments.” Please submit any comments or suggestions to rules@isbe.net.

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

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

Affected Sections: 30.20, 30.45

Deadline for Public Comment: February 14, 2012

Department of Natural Resources

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

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

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

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

Classroom Opportunities

The Stock Market Game Program for Grades 4-12 Teachers and Their Students

Registration for the spring 2012 sessions of The Stock Market Game is open. Students in grades 4-12 can participate with their classroom teachers in the national program, which is provided by Econ Illinois in our state. Students participate in teams and manage a simulated investment portfolio. A variety of sessions are available for participation throughout the school year.

The free online education program provides teachers access to grade- and subject-specific lesson plans, tutorials and more for classroom instruction that stress the importance of long-term savings and investment and financial literacy. Lessons are available in both English and Spanish.

For more information, visit <http://www.econed-il.org/icee/smg.shtml> or <http://illinois.smgww.org>. Econ Illinois is a non-profit organization that provides professional development and resources to K-12 teachers.

Grades 1-8 Can Participate in Economics Poster Contest

Grade 1-8 teachers and their students can participate in Econ Illinois' Economics Poster Contest. In this program, students create an illustration for one of six different economic concepts. There are awards for both regional and state level competition, including a planned calendar produced from the top 12 illustrations in the state.

For more information go to <http://www.econed-il.org/icee/econposter.shtml>. Econ Illinois is a non-profit organization that provides professional development and resources to K-12 teachers.

Educator Opportunities

Teacher Exchange Program Offers Chance to Work in Spain

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

- Be a native English speaker.
- Be a certified elementary or secondary education teacher in Illinois.
- Possess a bachelor's degree.
- Have completed two years of teaching experience.
- Exhibit advanced Spanish language proficiency.

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

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

National Endowment for the Humanities Seeks Applicants for Summer Workshop

The National Endowment for the Humanities is offering a workshop entitled "Spanish, Mexican, and American California: Reframing U.S. History at Peralta Hacienda." Teachers of all grade levels and subject areas are eligible

to apply. Attendees will explore the intertwined histories of these two neighboring countries, past and present.

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

Nominations Sought for 2012 Agriscience and Life Sciences Awards

The Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation is seeking nominations for its 2012 Agriscience Awards and Life Sciences Awards. **Two high school students, a high school educator and a scientist will be honored** for each competition, which includes monetary awards.

The Agriscience Awards are presented by the foundation in partnership with the American Farm Bureau. Nominations are accepted online only at <http://www.agriscienceawards.com>. The deadline is March 13. Visit the website for more details. The Life Sciences Awards are presented in partnership with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Nominations, along with complete rules, are available at <http://www.ccolumbusfoundationawards.org>. The deadline is March 27.

For questions, contact Judi Shellenberger at (315) 258-0090 or judithmscolumbus@cs.com. The foundation is an independent federal government agency established by Congress in 1992 to “encourage and support research, study and labor designed to produce new discoveries in all fields of endeavor for the benefit of mankind.”

School Opportunities

Invitation to participate in the EPA's Flag Program

Did you know air pollution is a trigger for asthma? What is your plan of action when the air quality is unhealthy? The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has a program to help. Schools are invited to participate in the School Flag Program, which can help a school and the surrounding community know the air quality conditions each day.

Schools in the Flag Program raise a brightly colored flag each day that corresponds to the air quality forecast. Based on the color of the flag, teachers and coaches can modify outdoor activities when the air quality is unhealthy. More information about the program is available at <http://www.airnow.gov/schoolflag>.

National Environmental Education Foundation Presents Award Program

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

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

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

Lincoln Museum in Springfield Offers Free School Field Trips in February

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum in Springfield is offering free school field trip opportunities during the month of February. Educators must prearrange the tours. To book a field trip, visit the Springfield Convention and Visitors Bureau at <http://www.visit-springfieldillinois.com/tours/youth>. For more information, call (217) 789-2360. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum is online at <http://www.presidentlincoln.org>.

In the News

Weekly News Clips

ISBE has posted highlights from last week's education news clips at <http://www.isbe.net/news/2012/newsclips/120117.htm>.

Employment Opportunities

ISBE External Vacancy List

An External Vacancy List for the Illinois State Board of Education is available at <http://www.isbe.net/hr/Default.htm>.