



Illinois State Board of Education

Weekly Message

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Jan. 18, 2011

Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

The Illinois State Board of Education has approved the Fiscal Year 2012 budget recommendation, which will be sent to the Governor and General Assembly. It calls for an approximately 3.5 percent increase in state funding from FY 2009 levels. This is the first step in the budget making process that will not likely be complete until sometime near Memorial Day.

The Board’s budget recommendation balances fiscal reality with the need to restore state funding cut during the past two years and even calls for a modest increase in that state commitment. State funding for education has been reduced during the past two years by nearly \$450 million. The Board’s budget calls for not only restoring but increasing it by an additional \$261 million.

The Education Funding Advisory Board’s recommendation calls for an increase in the General State Aid Foundation level to \$8,360 per pupil. The Foundation Level is currently \$6,119 per pupil and to meet the EFAB recommendation would require an additional \$4 billion in state funding. A request of this magnitude is not realistic. However, the Board’s request dedicates about 75 percent of new funding to General State Aid and would increase the Foundation Level to \$6,416 per pupil. In addition, the Board’s recommendation would restore transportation funding cut last year.

Last week, the General Assembly passed a tax increase that Governor Quinn quickly signed into law. It includes increases to the personal income and corporate tax rates. A portion of an additional increase on the tax on tobacco was earmarked for education but it did not pass.

While it is likely that some additional funding will be available to support education from the income and corporate taxes, it’s my understanding the majority of these new funds will be used to pay down the state’s accumulated debt. In fact, the legislation that was passed restricts increasing state spending to less than 2 percent from the previous year.

Given that restriction, the Board’s FY 2012 budget will be a tough sell to lawmakers, but one the Board feels strongly about. It would increase state funding by more than 10 percent from last year, or more than \$700 million from FY 2011 spending levels. Administrators and local boards need to keep in mind this is only a starting point and that lawmakers are the ones who ultimately craft the state budget. You need to continue to be fiscally conservative and communicate your district needs to your local lawmakers.

Have a great week.

Chris

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Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

- Econ Illinois K-12 Teacher Conference on Financial Literacy – Jan. 21

- **Receipt deadline for ordering PSAE Day 1 ACT-Approved accommodations test materials** – Jan. 27
- **Deadline for ordering PSAE Day 2 standard time and accommodations test materials** – Jan. 28
- **Illinois New Teacher Collaborative Induction and Mentoring Conference registration deadline** – Jan. 31
- **2010-11 Teacher Salary Study Form deadline** – Feb. 1
- **2010-11 Noncertified Staff Salary Study deadline** – Feb. 1
- **Econ Illinois’ Illinois Personal Finance challenge registration deadline** – Feb. 1
- **Econ Illinois’ Economics Challenge registration deadline** –Feb. 1
- **Mathematics and the Common Core: Helping Illinois Educators Prepare for New Standards conference in Chicago** – Feb. 16
- **Part 151 (School Construction Program)** – Public comment period ends Feb. 18.
- **Registration deadline for Econ Illinois’ The Stock Market Game** – Feb. 18
- **PSAE Pre-ID labels sent to ACT for printing** – Feb. 25
- **Illinois New Teacher Collaborative’s Induction and Mentoring Conference in Springfield** – March 1-2
- **Receipt deadline for ordering PSAE Day 1 State-Allowed accommodations test materials** – March 11
- **Part 226 (Special Education)** – Public comment period ends March 16
- **Illinois Young Authors’ Conference** – May 21
- **2010-11 Eye Examination Data Collection deadline** – June 30

Funding and Disbursement Services

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 interest amounts up to \$100 per year for administrative purposes.

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 7-9 of the State and Federal Grant Administration Policy and Fiscal Requirements and Procedures which can be accessed at http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/fiscal_procedure_handbk.pdf.

Interest should be returned using the following guidelines:

- Checks for interest earned should be made payable to the Illinois State Board of Education.

- Checks should not include the return of unexpended disbursements from the Illinois State Board of Education. Even though unexpended disbursements and interest payments are made payable to the Illinois State Board of Education, separate checks should be issued for both.
- Checks should be accompanied by a statement identifying the program and the program year from which the interest was earned.

All checks must be mailed to: Illinois State Board of Education, Funding and Disbursements Services Division (E-320), 100 N. First St., Springfield, IL 62777-0001.

Department of Public Health

Heartsaver AED Fund Grant Applications Now Available

The General Assembly has appropriated \$100,000 for the Heartsaver AED Fund Grant. The grant program will provide matching funds for AEDs to any school, public park district, municipal recreation department, conservation district, forest preserve district, college or university in Illinois. The application and guidance are available at <http://www.idph.state.il.us/fundop.htm#aed>.

Awards will be made to qualified applicants who demonstrate they have the funds to pay 50 percent of the costs of the AEDs for which the matching grant moneys are sought as that cost is determined by the State Master Contract. Deadline for submission of applications to the Division of EMS and Highway Safety is by close of

business Feb. 14, 2011. All applications must be made on department-approved forms. Only mailed applications will be accepted. Grants will be limited to one unit per recipient. All AEDs purchased between July 1, 2010, and June 30, 2011, will qualify for the grant.

Completed applications should be submitted to: Paula Atteberry, RN, BSN, Division of Emergency Medical Services and Highway Safety, Illinois Department of Public Health, 422 S. Fifth St., Third Floor, Springfield, IL 62701. Applications can also be requested at the same address.

Prevention and Control Stressed With Rise in Cases of Bed Bugs

In response to the increasing number of bed bug incidents occurring across the country in recent months, here is valuable information from the Illinois Department of Public Health:

<http://www.idph.state.il.us/envhealth/pcbedbugs.htm>.

The website provides a number of documents, including those on identification and inspection of bed bugs; guidelines for schools and daycare centers; and others for prevention and control.

While bed bugs do not transmit human disease, they are of public health importance because of risk of allergic reactions, secondary infections, stress, loss of sleep, life disruption, financial burden and lost productivity for those affected. The cost of treating an infestation can be substantial, IDPH officials say.

For more information, contact the Illinois Department of Public Health, Division of Environmental Health at 217-782-5830, TTY (hearing-impaired use only) 800-547-0466.

Special Education Services

Request for Proposals for Illinois RtI Network

In October 2010, ISBE received a five-year grant award under the federal State Personnel Development Grant program to implement the Illinois Response to Intervention Network, or I-RtI Network. In order to establish and carry out this project, ISBE has issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) titled “State Personnel Development Grant: Illinois RtI Network.” As detailed in the RFP (see link below), the I-RtI Network will provide regionally-based professional development, technical

assistance and coaching to educators and parents throughout the state. These services will focus on improving student performance in grades K-12 through the implementation of a multi-tiered system of instruction, intervention and assessment, with an emphasis on administrative leadership; scientific, research-based reading and math curricula and instruction at grades K-12; data-based decision making; universal screening and progress monitoring; and parent involvement.

The RFP, application forms and other pertinent materials are posted at http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/html/grant_info.htm. Applications must be received by ISBE no later than Feb. 25, 2011. Questions about the RFP may be submitted to the Online Bidders’ Forum at rtirfp@isbe.net (preferred) or by contacting Kathryn Cox at 217-782-5589.

Educator and School Development

Sixth Annual INTC Induction and Mentoring Conference Coming Up

Registration closes Jan. 31 for the sixth annual Illinois New Teacher Collaborative Induction and Mentoring Conference.

The statewide conference for educators, which is set for March 1-2 in Springfield, is titled “Continuing the Continuum.” The conference will examine the use of the Illinois Induction Program Continuum in new teacher induction and mentoring programs. The Continuum was unveiled at last year’s conference.

More information and registration are available at <http://intc.education.illinois.edu/conference>. Questions? Contact Nancy Johnson at njohnsn@illinois.edu or 217-244-3166.

Survey Required for Federal State Fiscal Stabilization Funds

The Illinois State Board of Education is seeking your cooperation in completing a survey regarding both 2009-2010 teacher and principal evaluations being conducted in your district. This survey is required by the federal government in connection with the State’s previous receipt of Federal State Fiscal Stabilization Funds (SFSF).

The goal of the survey is to enable State officials, parents, local educators and other stakeholders to measure Illinois' progress towards improving teacher effectiveness and achieving equity in the distribution of teachers and principals. Data that will be posted will be aggregated, and will be made available, no later than Feb. 28, 2011, on the following portion of our website: <http://www.isbe.net/peac/html/surveyresults.htm>.

It is imperative that all districts respond to this survey. This is baseline data that will be posted on the ISBE website and will be shared with the Performance Evaluation Advisory Council, which under PA 96-0861, is charged with making recommendations to the State Superintendent for model teacher and principal evaluation frameworks.

The survey can be found at the following link: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/JN2VQMR>. Surveys are due back to ISBE by Jan. 31, 2011. They must be submitted electronically.

If you have any questions please contact Patrick Murphy, Division Administrator, Educator and School Development at pmurphy@isbe.net or 217-782-2948.

Rules and Waivers

Notice of Completed Rulemaking

Please be advised that a set of amendments recently adopted by the Illinois State Board of Education is now in effect. These rules have been posted on the agency's website at <http://www.isbe.net/rules>. Please choose "Rules Currently in Effect" and scroll to Part 1.

Part 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision)

Amends provisions addressing annual measurable achievement objections for English language learners, the Student Information System and participation of nonpublic schools, teacher evaluations, and qualifications for bilingual education teachers (for both transitional bilingual education programs and transitional programs of instruction)

Affected Section: 1.75, 1.88, 1.100, 1.320, 1.780, 1.781, and 1.782

Effective Date: Jan. 3, 2011

Invitation to Comment on Rules

A proposed rulemaking recently reviewed by the Illinois State Board of Education is available for public comment. The proposal has been posted on the agency's

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

Part 226 (Special Education)

Sets the qualifications for qualified workers and noncertified employees for which reimbursement may be requested under Section 14-13.01 of the School Code, as per P.A. 96-257, effective August 11, 2009.

Deadline for Public Comment: March 16

Innovation and Improvement

Apply for the Advisory Council on the Education of Gifted and Talented Children

The Advisory Council on the Education of Gifted and Talented Children is seeking members to fill four positions. The role of the council is to provide ISBE advice regarding all rules and policies to be adopted by the State Board relating to the education of gifted and talented children and meets three times a year.

To apply to be a member, send a letter of application along with your resume/curriculum vitae to the Illinois State Board of Education 100 N. First St. N-242, Springfield, IL 62777.

An applicant can be from organizations of educators and parents of gifted and talented and other groups with an interest in education of gifted and talented children. The members appointed shall be residents of Illinois and will be selected on the basis of their knowledge of or experience in programs and problems of the education of gifted and talented children.

Applications are due Feb. 4, 2011. For more information, contact Marci Johnson at marjohns@isbe.net.

ISBE Introduces Parent Involvement Webinar Series

The Illinois State Board of Education's Division of Innovation and Improvement has planned a series of four 90 minute Parent Involvement Webinars as part of a statewide parent involvement initiative. The webinars will examine areas of best practices pertaining to parent involvement and provide tools and resources for implementing evidence-based strategies. These sessions are open to district staff, school staff, parent facilitators and parents. Information on two of the upcoming sessions is given below. You may register by clicking on

the registration links.

- **School-Home Communication**, 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Jan. 27: The reliability of a three-legged stool depends on each of its parts and if you were to remove the seat, the function of the remaining pieces becomes subject to speculation. The seat is the piece that joins the three legs and gives it value in its purpose. School-Home Communication is like the seat of the stool – it is the piece that brings the student, the family and the school together in a purposeful relationship. This webinar will offer evidence-based tools, strategies and resources that help schools to develop better communication with families and help build relationships that support success. Register at <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/552317264>.
- **Parent Involvement as a Collaborative Process**, 3:30 to 5 p.m., Feb. 24: No single person can hum a symphony – it takes a full orchestra to deliver all of the elements that make it a symphony. Student success is much like a symphony in that it depends on several persons coming together in a collaborative spirit to play their part. This webinar will examine three dimensions of parent involvement that together build a supportive educational network through intentional collaborative processes. It will offer evidence-based tools, strategies and resources to help schools develop collaborative relationships with families, other schools, and assist in building positive relationships between families that support student success. Register at <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/276971937>.

Assessment

Webinar on ISAT Test Administration Procedures and Issues Offered

Sign up now for a webinar titled “ISAT 2011 – Test Administration Procedures and Issues.” This Webinar will cover some of the basic information, procedures and issues regarding the ISAT test administration. A question-and-answer session will follow the webinar presentation.

The webinar is designed for district coordinators, school coordinators and test administrators. New coordinators

are especially encouraged to participate. The session will review general ISAT information, accommodations, linguistically modified tests, test security, test preparation, test administration and test irregularities.

If you are unable to attend the webinar, the presentation and PowerPoint will be posted after the second session on the ISAT Web page,

<http://www.isbe.net/assessment/isat.htm>.

Register now. Space is limited. There are two dates to choose from. Please select one date that is most convenient as the material covered will be the same for each session.

- 9-10:30 a.m., Wednesday, Jan. 26, 2011, <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/686412737>
- 1:30-3 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 27, 2011, <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/981136449>

After registering you will receive a confirmation e-mail containing information about joining the webinar.

System Requirements for PC-based attendees are Windows 7, Vista, XP or 2003 Server. For Macintosh-based attendees, Mac OS X 10.4.11 (Tiger) or newer is required.

U.S. Department of Education

Series of National Conversations on English Learner Education Scheduled

The Office of English Language Acquisition (<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oela/index.html>) announced a series of National Conversations on English Learner Education.

Across several weeks, these stakeholder conversations will be held in six locations: (three primary locations, including Dallas, Feb. 10-11; Los Angeles, March 7-8; and New York City, April 11-12; with secondary satellite locations for each event in Chicago, Feb. 10-11; Seattle, March 7-8; and Charlotte, N.C., April 11-12). Visit <http://www.ncele.gwu.edu/meetings/2011elconversation/> for more information.

The main goal is to bring together key stakeholders (practitioners, parents and researchers) to engage in a dialogue on how to achieve a quality English Learner education for the 21st century.

Download the save-the-date flyer at http://www.ncela.gwu.edu/files/uploads/24/ELC_save_the_date.pdf.

For inquiries, contact askncela@gwu.edu or call 800-321-6223.

Curriculum and Instruction

History Teacher of the Year Award Nominations Sought

The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History is seeking nominations for the annual \$10,000 National History Teacher of the Year Award, given to the best American history teacher in the United States. The National History Teacher of the Year is chosen from outstanding history teachers in each state, district and U.S. territory. The award is sponsored by the Gilder Lehrman Institute, Preserve America and the History Channel.

Nominations for the National History Teacher of the Year can be made by a student, parent, colleague, supervisor (including department head, principal, superintendent or curriculum director) or other education professional familiar with the teacher's work. State winners receive \$1,000 and an archive of books and other resources for their school. Each winner is honored in a ceremony in his or her home state.

In 2011, the Gilder Lehrman Institute will honor an elementary teacher of grades K-6. Middle and high school teachers are honored every other year.

To nominate a teacher and learn more about the award, visit <http://www.gilderlehrman.org/nhtoy> or contact the Gilder Lehrman National History Teacher of the Year coordinator at nhtoy@gilderlehrman.org or 646-366-9666. You can also contact your state coordinator, Mike Hatfill of the Illinois State Board of Education, at 217-557-7323 or dhatfill@isbe.net.

The nomination deadline is Feb. 1, 2011.

Two Illinois High School Students to be Selected for National Youth Science Camp

Governor Pat Quinn is calling on graduating high school seniors to apply for an opportunity to attend the National Youth Science Camp (NYSC) in West Virginia this summer.

Students from across Illinois are encouraged to apply for a full scholarship to the month-long NYSC program. Two students will be selected as official Illinois delegates, allowing them to take advantage of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, regardless of financial status.

For more information, visit the NYSC page at <http://www.isbe.net/curriculum/html/nysc.htm>.

Grades 4-12 Can Compete in The Stock Market Game

Registration for the spring 2011 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.

Career and Technical Education

Connections Conference Set for March 16-17 in St. Charles

The 2011 Connections Conference is set for March 16-17. The two-day conference will be held at Pheasant Run Resort, 4051 E. Main St., St. Charles, Ill., 60174.

The Connections Project at Illinois State University assists in initiating pilot programs in High Schools That Work, a national initiative designed to prepare students for careers and further education by improving curriculum and instruction in high schools and middle grades.

The conference will focus on new practices in all discipline areas and features teachers, counselors and other educators from across the country sharing innovative programs and strategies. Goals are to provide experiences to grow professionally, to showcase

exemplary programs and to encourage school improvement strategies.

For more information, visit <http://www.connectionsproject.ilstu.edu/index.php>. The registration form is available at http://www.connectionsproject.ilstu.edu/2011_registration.pdf. Early registration rates end Feb. 4.

Professional Development

Abraham Lincoln Fellowship Program Brings Teachers to Springfield

Applications are available for the Horace Mann and Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Fellowship Program. The deadline has been extended until Feb. 12.

The annual program will accept 50 teachers for a six-day visit to Springfield to broaden their knowledge of the 16th president through lectures, workshops and group discussions. The fellowship features visits to Lincoln sites, including his tomb, the Lincoln-Herndon Law Office, the Old State Capital and New Salem State Historic Site.

The program covers the cost of round-trip transportation, lodging and meals while in Springfield for a week. Twenty-five teachers will attend a session June 19-24, and the other half selected for the fellowship will visit July 10-15.

Visit <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NIYGTQIbbs> to hear teachers talk about their experience in the fellowship program. Apply online at <https://www.horacemann.com/teacher-lounge/fellowship-program/how-to-apply.aspx>.

Student Opportunities

National World War II Museum Essay Contest Open to Grades 5-12

The National World War II Museum in New Orleans is asking middle school and high school students from across the country to answer the question “Why should we remember Pearl Harbor?” The question is the theme of this year’s essay contests.

Middle school students (grades 5-8) will compete for a \$250 prize awarded to the top essay for each grade. Three honorable mentions will also be given. The winning essays will be posted on The National World War II

Museum’s website. High school students will compete for first (\$1,000), second (\$750) and third (\$500) overall. Another 50 essayists from across the country will receive honorable mention.

Go to <http://nationalww2museum.org/essaycontests> for thematic guidelines, formatting requirements and submission instructions. The deadline for submissions via the website is 5 p.m. March 31, although only the first 500 properly formatted entries will be accepted. The website will indicate when 500 essays have been submitted.

For questions, contact Kenneth Hoffman at educator@nationalww2museum.org.

Web Design Contest Offered for High School Students

Illinois high school students are invited to compete in a Web design contest sponsored by Microsoft. Using the company’s Expression Studio software, students can participate in teams of two to four people in the “blink” competition.

Registration for the contest is under way until Feb. 28, with final Web site submissions due by March 1. Inquire about receiving free Expression Studio software for your school by e-mailing innovativeteachers@microsoft.com. See <http://www.blinkcontest.com> for more information and to register.

The theme for this year’s competition is “Imagine a Future Made Better by Technology.” Prizes include Xbox consoles, games and the new Kinect device. Free tutorials and learning materials on Web design are available at <http://expression.microsoft.com/education>.

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/2011/newsclips/110118.htm>.