



Jan. 19, 2010

Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

I hope you enjoyed the Martin Luther King holiday. Today we submitted our Race to the Top application to the U.S. Department of Education. I want to thank all of you for your assistance over the past few months in developing our proposal. Your feedback was invaluable.

When we started this process last summer I said that I didn't want to put together a Race to the Top application simply to get additional federal funds. I wanted to put together an application that was a blueprint for where the State Board of Education and our education community felt we needed to move over the next decade and, if we received Rt3 funding, it would accelerate us on our course. Looking back at where we were this summer when we started the process and where we are today, I am proud of our application and the future direction that you have charted for our students.

Last week the Board voted on their budget recommendation for FY 2011. It is a level budget from the previous year. While we refer to it as a level budget, it calls for an additional \$1 billion in state funding. The state utilized federal stimulus funds during FY 2009 and 2010 to make General State Aid payments and those federal funds are gone in FY 2011.

In order for education to receive level funding during FY 2011, members of the General Assembly will either need to raise at least that much in new revenues or will have to reduce that much from other areas of government. I am hopeful that we will be level funded, but I think everyone must acknowledge the possibility of a substantial decrease in funding for this year. In order to reduce such a large amount of funds, GSA and Mandated Categoricals would be impacted.

I would urge you to communicate with your legislators about the needs of your district — how much your district is currently owed and what your needs will be for next year. We certainly communicate this information to legislators; however, nothing means as much to a legislator as hearing directly from a constituent.

These are tough times financially, but I honestly believe the best years for education are in our future. I was amazed by the response we had from districts when we asked them to partner with us on Race to the Top. 366 districts representing nearly 75 percent of our student enrollment submitted a signed Memorandum of Understanding. Whether we win a Race to the Top award or not, that type of support is encouraging.

Have a great week.

Chris

Table of Contents	
ARRA	2
School Business Services	3
English Language Learning	3
Innovation and Improvement	3
Nutrition	3
Rules and Waivers	4
Curriculum and Instruction	4
Professional Development	4
Student Opportunities	5
Employment Opportunities	6
In the News	6

Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

- Illinois Network of Charter Schools' Webinar – Jan. 21
- School Year 2011 Annual Commodity Order Deadline – Feb. 1

- **Illinois Association for Gifted Children Convention** – Feb. 7-9
- **Statewide No Child Left Behind Conference** – Feb. 9-11
- **Part 228 (Transitional Bilingual Education) and Part 235 (Early Childhood Block Grant)** – Public comment period ends Feb. 15
- **Part 35 (Mentoring Program for New Principals) and Part 145 (Temporary Relocation Expenses)** – Public comment period ends Feb. 22.
- **Non-Certified Staff Salary Study survey deadline** – March 1
- **Preserve America History Teacher of the Year Award nomination deadline** – March 15
- **Part 180 (Health/Life Safety Code for Public Schools)** – Public comment period ends March 15
- **Illinois Young Authors’ Conference in Bloomington-Normal** – May 15
- **2009-10 Eye Examination Data Collection deadline** – June 30

ARRA

Required ‘Study of School Level Expenditures’ Application on IWAS

A school level expenditure report for the 2008-09 school year is being required per the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) for local education agencies (LEAs) that are entitled to funds under Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) provided under ARRA (i.e., LEAs that are entitled to ARRA Title I funds calculated under the Targeted Grant and Education Finance Incentive Grant formulas). Such LEAs are required to report school-by-school expenditures from state and local funds for the 2008-09 school year for all of their schools (not just Title I schools). The U.S. Department of Education states that they will use these data to examine the extent to which school-level education resources are distributed equitably within and across LEAs.

To facilitate this required reporting, we have created a new IWAS application, “Study of School Level Expenditures.” To access the application, log on to IWAS, and under System Listing, it is located under “Reporting.”

This specific report is focused on only state and local fund expenditures for Regular K-12 instruction, within four categories:

- Personnel salaries at the school level for all school-level instructional and support staff.
- Personnel salaries at the school level for instructional staff only.
- Personnel salaries at the school level for teachers only.
- Non-personnel expenditures at the school level (if available).

An Excel worksheet is available for download and completion, which can be accessed at <http://webapps.isbe.net/expstudy/download/schoolworksheets.xls>. The specific function and object codes, per Part 100 Requirements for Accounting, Budgeting, Financial Reporting and Auditing, are provided to assist in the calculation of reporting data per school. It is highly recommended that a separate spreadsheet be completed and maintained for future reference and review for each of your schools. These spreadsheets are not to be submitted to ISBE, but used as a tool for assist in arriving at the totals necessary for this report. The four totals calculated for each school, as well as the number of hours necessary to arrive at the data for each school, are the components that must be entered in the “Study of School Level Expenditures” report.

A “calculate and save” feature is available on the “Details” page of the report, to allow multiple sessions of entry of the data. Once all data has been entered, the document author must submit to the district administrator in IWAS. It is the district administrator that submits to ISBE. You will receive IWAS messages when each step is complete.

School level expenditures to be excluded from this report include those:

- From federal program funds.
- From special education funds.
- Not associated with regular K-12 programs, such as preschool and adult education.
- That serve students from more than one school attendance area, such as summer school.
- Expenditures for employee benefits.

The report of this data is due Friday, Feb. 26.

If you have any questions, please contact Sally Cray of the Division of Funding and Disbursements, at 217-782-5256 or scray@isbe.net.

School Business Services

School District Reorganization Feasibility Study Funding Available

Interested school districts may still take advantage of School District Reorganization Feasibility Study funding in FY 2010. Feasibility studies are a tool to be used by school districts wanting to investigate the advantages and/or disadvantages of reorganization options.

Interested school districts should submit a proposed agreement with an independent contractor(s) to their Regional Office of Education (ROE). The ROE will submit the agreement to the Illinois State Board of Education for approval.

Each study will be funded on a base tier according to the number of school districts involved in the study. Studies will be funded an additional tier based on the combined enrollment of the districts involved in the study. Studies are funded between \$4,500 and \$8,000 based on the procedure listed above. Funds are available on a “first-come, first-served” basis. In order to receive reorganization feasibility study funds in FY 2010, agreements must be approved by both ROE and ISBE, and studies must be completed and approved for payment no later than June 30.

Procedures, funding allotment and sample forms are at <http://www.isbe.net/sfms/html/feasibility.htm>.

If you have any questions, please contact Michelle Henger, School Business Services, at 217-785-8779 or mhenger@isbe.net.

English Language Learning

Migrant Supplemental Education Services Funding Applications Available

The division of English Language Learning is accepting applications for migrant supplemental education services funding for the summer of 2010 in districts with qualifying migrant children under Title I, Part C of the No Child Left Behind Act. The application is available at <http://www.isbe.net/bilingual/htmls/migrant.htm>. The application deadline is March 15.

Eligibility: Students who are under the age of 22 and have not graduated from high school may be eligible if they have moved (within the past three years due to economic necessity) across state or school district lines with a parent or guardian or on their own to obtain temporary or seasonal work in agricultural production,

fishing or food processing industries. A certified recruiter must document that children qualify as migrant students.

The Illinois State Board of Education can assist districts in identifying eligible migrant children. Information about how to request assistance is available at http://www.isbe.net/bilingual/pdfs/migrant_survey.pdf.

For more information, contact Beth Robinson at 312-814-3850.

Innovation and Improvement

Conference on No Child Left Behind to be Held in Chicago Next Month

This year’s Statewide No Child Left Behind Conference, “From Hope to Progress: Shaping Change in Illinois Schools,” will take place Feb. 9-11 in Chicago. This conference brings together several thousand K-12 educators who learn about approaches to improving teaching and learning in our classrooms.

The conference will focus on four specific areas: rigorous and high-quality standards and assessments; data systems that support instruction; development of great teachers and leaders; and intervention in the lowest-performing school and districts.

Other sessions will address No Child Left Behind policy, legal matters, and programs, school safety and violence prevention issues, professional development, assessment and data-driven decision making, and other topics. This year, the conference will also provide three special expert panels on current issues. The sessions are: School Restructuring, Response to Intervention, and Eradicating Violence and Empowering At Risk Youth and the Learning Community. Panels, sessions and workshops, several led by Illinois State Board of Education consultants, will provide participants with updated information about the educational priorities of the nation and the state.

For more information and registration materials, visit http://www.thecenterweb.org/irc/pages/f_events-nclb.html.

Nutrition

School Breakfast Program Mandate – UPDATE

Public Act 96-0158 requires each school district to implement and operate a School Breakfast Program in

the next school year in accordance with federal guidelines in each school building within its district in which at least 40 percent or more of the students are currently eligible for free or reduced-price lunches. If a school is seeking an exemption from this mandate, they must petition their Regional Office of Education (ROE) by Feb. 15 of each year. By March 15, the ROE must have convened a public hearing in accordance with the Open Meetings Act and informed the school district and Illinois State Board of Education (e-mail: cnp@isbe.net) of his/her decision in writing.

For additional information on this mandate, including how to determine which schools are mandated and how to request an exemption from this mandate, go to http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/hb_756.htm.

Rules and Waivers

Invitation to Comment on Rules

A rulemaking recently reviewed by the Illinois State Board of Education is available for public comment. The proposal 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 to rules@isbe.net.

Part 180 (Health/Life Safety Code for Public Schools)

Clarifies procedures for districts seeking to use fire prevention and safety funds for emergency situations, as set forth in P.A. 96-252, effective Aug. 11, 2009.

Deadline for Public Comment: March 15

Notice of Completed Rulemaking

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

Part 425 (Voluntary Registration and Recognition of Nonpublic Schools)

These new rules set forth the process and timeline for registration and recognition of nonpublic schools wishing to apply for school safety and educational improvement block grant funds.

Affected Sections: 425.10, 425.20, 425.30, 425.40, 425.50, 425.60, 425.70, and 425.80

Effective Date: Dec. 7, 2009

Curriculum and Instruction

Nominations Sought for History Teacher of the Year Award

The Preserve America History Teacher of the Year Award presents \$10,000 to the best history teacher in America. The national winner is chosen from outstanding history teachers in each state, district and U.S. territory. State winners receive \$1,000 and an archive of books and other resources for their schools. The award is co-sponsored by the Gilder Lehrman Institute, Preserve America and the History Channel.

Nominations for the Preserve America History Teacher of the Year can be made by a department or division head, school director, social studies director, principal, superintendent, colleague, student or parent. In 2010, the Gilder Lehrman Institute will honor a middle or high school teacher of grades seven through 12. K-6 teachers are honored every other year. To nominate a teacher and learn more about the award, visit <http://www.gilderlehrman.org/htoy.html>.

You may also contact the Gilder Lehrman History Teacher of the Year coordinator at htoy@gilderlehrman.org or via phone at 646-366-9666 x28.

The Illinois State Board coordinator is Mike Hatfill. He can be reached at dhatfill@isbe.net or 217-557-7323.

The nomination deadline is March 15.

Professional Development

American Association of School Administrators Conference Next Month

Registration is under way for the American Association of School Administrators' National Conference on Education, which is set for Feb. 11-13 in Phoenix.

Featured speakers include U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan and Malcolm Gladwell, the author of three No. 1 New York Times bestsellers: "The Tipping Point: How Little Things Make a Big Difference," "Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking" and "Outliers: The Story of Success."

Other speakers include Mika Brzezinski, an MSNBC anchor who also reports on "NBC Nightly News," and Geoffrey Canada. Canada is the president and chief

executive officer for Harlem Children's Zone, a program touted by President Barack Obama.

For more information about the conference and to register, visit <http://www.aasa.org/nce/>.

NAAAS Plans Conference in Orlando

The National Association of African-American Studies & Associates will hold its 2010 Teacher Summer Conference June 27-30 in Orlando.

The conference, which will be held at the Swan and Dolphin Hotels at Walt Disney World, is titled "How to Teach Students Who Don't Look Like You: Culturally Relevant Teaching Strategies." Educators can earn two continuing education units.

To register and for more information, visit <http://www.naaas.org> or contact Leona Johnson at johnsonleonam@aol.com or 703-869-8097. Early-registration prices are available until Feb. 28.

Conference on Financial Literacy Slated

Registration is under way for the second annual K-12 Teacher Conference on Financial Literacy, which is organized by Econ Illinois, a non-profit organization that provides professional development and resources to K-12 teachers.

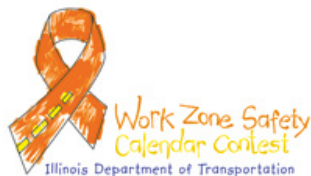
The free conference is set for Jan. 22 at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, 230 S. LaSalle St.

Registrations are accepted via e-mail only. Go to http://econed-il.org/icee/prog_pd_w_cofl.shtml. Participation is limited to 100 attendees. For more information, visit <http://econed-il.org> or call 815-753-0356.

Student Opportunities

Deadline Coming Up for Illinois Work Zone Safety Calendar Contest

The Illinois Department of Transportation, the Illinois State Board of Education, the American Traffic Safety Services Foundation and the Illinois Chapter of the American Traffic Safety Services Association are sponsoring the fifth annual Illinois Work Zone Safety Calendar Contest for elementary students.



This year's theme is "See Orange. Slow Down. Save Lives." The contest categories are K-first grade, second-fourth grade and fifth-sixth grade. Each school must select the top four posters from each category (12 posters total) and submit them to IDOT by Jan. 29.

The artwork will be voted on by three semi-finalist judges. The top 30 entries, 10 from each category, will move on to a judging panel that will determine the 12 finalists. The 12 finalists' drawings will be displayed in the 2011 Illinois Work Zone Safety Calendar.

For more information, visit the contest Web site at <http://www.dot.il.gov/trafficsafety/WZS/WZScontest.html> or contact IDOT's contest coordinator, Jessica Baker, at 217-785-3062.

Green Education Foundation Prepares for National Green Week

The Green Education Foundation is gearing up for National Green Week, which is set for Feb. 1-5. The free program includes environmental educational content and curriculum.

The event aims to get students to take part in energy and waste reduction programs and gardening initiatives along with lessons and activities. The foundation has set goals to plant 10,000 gardens, eliminate 500,000 pounds of trash and reduce utility costs by 5 percent this spring.

For questions or more information on National Green Week, visit <http://www.greeneducationfoundation.org>.

Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission Offers Paper Models

New models from the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission offer students a chance to build a piece of history.

Lincoln's home and tomb in Springfield join a long list of historic building models that can be printed on card stock. The models are available for free at <http://www.lookingforlincoln.com> and <http://www.Illinois-History.gov>. The models range in difficulty and scale and require scissors and glue to assemble after printing.

Build Your Own Lincoln Sites is a project of the commission and the Old Capitol Foundation, with assistance from the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency. The models were designed by artist Michael Goebel-Bain.

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/2010/newsclips/100115.htm>.