



Jan. 21, 2014

Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

This week the Board will be meeting in Springfield for a two-day meeting beginning Wednesday. We have several topics on the agenda, including an update on new federal rules dealing with snacks in school. We'll also finalize our Fiscal Year 2015 budget recommendation. Public participation will be heard on the first day, as well as preliminary discussion on the budget. Final action on the budget will occur on Thursday.

I intend to recommend a budget to the Board that includes funding General State Aid at the statutorily set foundation level of \$6,119. It will take a significant amount of funding to get us back to that level and some lawmakers and pundits may laugh at the request given the financial realities we face, but I believe that we must push to restore the funding we have seen cut from education since 2009. Prior to last year's increase of nearly \$140 million, we saw a reduction of almost a billion dollars in state funding to education. We must restore that loss and invest in our students' and our state's future.

In addition, I am recommending an increase in our assessment line that would allow for us to administer the new Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness of College and Careers (PARCC) assessments in grades 3-11 and the ACT at grade 11. We have heard from many of you the desire to keep the ACT in the near term because of what it means for your students as they prepare to move toward the next stage in their academic careers.

The Board will not be taking action on rules governing special education class size and composition (Part 226). I still believe our current rules are overreaching and do not always allow for optimal placements, however, at this time we will focus on providing districts with the flexibility available through existing processes and procedures to ensure all students have access to challenging curriculum so they're prepared for college and careers.

I want to bring to your attention the rising costs associated with Special Education Room and Board. We have had notices in the Weekly Message previously on this topic, but I continue to get questions as people become more aware of the proration. Immediately following the column we have additional information that discusses this and a link to a chart showing the growth that has occurred with these residential placements in recent years.

Finally, we have established the survey window for the 5Essentials administration this year. All districts are encouraged to participate but only Race to the Top districts and those that did not participate last year are required. The survey window is open from March 17 through April 25 and results will be a part of the

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Report Card released in the fall. More information about the 5Essentials survey is also available later in the newsletter.

Have a great week!

Chris

Upcoming ISBE Dates and Deadlines

Please note this is not a complete list of events, meetings and deadlines. For questions, call the Illinois State Board of Education at (866) 262-6663 or (217) 782-4321 or visit the agency's official website at <http://www.isbe.net>.

- **Part 227 (Gifted Education), Part 232 (Summer Bridges Program), Part 240 (Alternative Learning Opportunities Program) and Part 265 (Grants for Arts Education and Foreign Language Education)** – Public comment period ends Jan. 21
- **ISBE offices closed for Lincoln's Birthday** – Feb. 12
- **ISBE offices closed for Presidents' Day** – Feb. 17
- **Part 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision), Part 25 (Educator Licensure) and Part 30 (Programs for the Preparation of Principals in Illinois)** – Public comment period ends Feb. 18
- **Deadline to complete 2013-14 District Technology Plan on IIRC** – Feb. 28 (http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/elearning/html/tech_plan.htm)
- **National School Breakfast Week** – March 3-7
- **Illinois 5Essentials Survey** – To be conducted March 17 through April 25
- **School Nutrition Employee Week** – May 5-9
- **Applications for the Exception to the 1.0 Percent Cap due** – May 16
- **ISBE offices closed for Memorial Day** – May 26
- **Student Health Data – Vision system report deadline** – June 30
- **ISBE offices closed for Independence Day** – July 4
- **Postmark deadline for waiver applications to be considered by General Assembly in Fall 2014** – Friday, August 15, 2014 (See <http://www.isbe.net/isbewaivers/default.htm> for public notice requirements for all waiver requests.)

Funding and Disbursements Division

Final 2012-13 IDEA Room and Board Claim Payment

The 2012-13 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Room and Board program is now complete. As anticipated and stated in a Nov. 20, 2013, email, final 2012-13 school year claims exceeded the amount of IDEA Room and Board funds available. Proration was calculated at 91.6 percent of the final claims. Claims reimbursed from federal IDEA Part B grant funds have been escalating at a rate beyond the set aside amounts the agency retains from our annual IDEA Part B award. The following link provides a graph demonstrating the increase of claims over the available IDEA Part B funds utilized for the Room and Board program in the past few years: <http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/sped-rb-history-graph.pdf>.

The final 2012-13 school year voucher was processed by ISBE on Dec. 23 and released by the Office of the Comptroller on Dec. 26.

2013-14 School Year: Due to the projected increase of claims and available IDEA funds for the 2013-14 school year, the estimated proration will be approximately 60 percent; therefore, to avoid potential overpayment, submitted monthly claims will be paid at 50 percent during the year. Once all claims are finalized in December 2014, final claims and proration will be calculated and paid at that time. The first voucher for monthly claims submitted for the 2013-14 school year was processed by ISBE on Dec. 23 and released by the Office of the Comptroller on Dec. 26.

If you have questions regarding this information, please contact Marj Beck (mbeck@isbe.net) in the Funding and Disbursement Division at (217) 782-5256.

Illinois 5Essentials Survey

Second Annual Survey Set for March 17 Through April 25

From March 17 through April 25, ISBE will conduct its second annual survey of learning conditions, the Illinois 5Essentials Survey. The 5Essentials Survey, a diagnostic tool developed by researchers at the University of Chicago, provides schools with fine-grained data on five leading indicators for school improvement: Effective Leaders, Collaborative Teachers, Involved Families, Supportive Environment, and Ambitious Instruction.

Twenty years of University of Chicago research has shown that schools that were strong on at least three of the 5Essentials were 10 times more likely to make substantial gains in reading and math. Eighty-seven percent of all Illinois schools met the 50 percent participation threshold to receive an Illinois 5Essentials Report in 2012-2013. More than 70 percent of all teachers and students in grades six through 12 across the state took part in the inaugural Illinois 5Essentials Survey last year.

All district schools, including alternative schools that fall under the district's domain, are required, by legislation, to participate in the survey at least every other year. In 2014, only districts participating in Race to the Top and those that did not participate in the survey last year will be required to participate by ISBE. Chicago District 299 will also require its schools to participate. All districts will have the option to participate and are strongly encouraged to do so.

Survey results will be released in June to principals and superintendents. A summary of the 5Essential results will be reported publicly on the State School Report Card website at <http://illinoisreportcard.com>. Detailed survey reports will also be publicly released. Survey results for 2014 and beyond will be normed using the 2013 statewide results so that all schools can demonstrate progress over time on the survey measures.

Several projects are under way to further improve the implementation of the Illinois 5Essentials Survey. These include a pilot in five districts to enhance survey security through use of teacher and student rosters, a review of items for statewide applicability, a research study to examine the use of the survey data across the state, and a research study to examine the relationship between survey results and student test score gains using data from across the state.

ISBE is also soliciting principal and superintendent feedback on the 5Essentials and other statewide initiatives through a survey that will be sent to you via e-mail later this week.

Be on the lookout for further information on this year's 5Essentials survey from ISBE and the University of Chicago. If you have any immediate questions, please visit <http://illinois.5-essentials.org> or contact us via email at 5essentials@uchicago.edu or by phone at (866) 440-1874.

Assessment

2014 Illinois Alternative Assessment Training Modules

The 2014 Illinois Alternate Assessment (IAA) training modules and PowerPoints are now available on the IAA webpage: www.isbe.net/assessment/iaa.htm. These modules are designed to provide detailed training information on coordinator and teacher responsibilities of the IAA. These modules are pre-recorded webinars to allow viewing at your convenience.

For IAA Coordinators:

- Participation Guidelines
- SchoolSuccess for Coordinators
- Packaging and Distribution

For IAA Teachers:

- Participation Guidelines
- SchoolSuccess for Teachers
- Test Administration

Questions regarding participation and test administration should be directed to Jessica Dare at jdare@isbe.net or by calling the Assessment Division at (866) 317-6034.

Questions regarding Assessment Network, SchoolSuccess, and packaging and distribution of test materials should be directed to iaa_pearson@support.pearson.com or by calling the Illinois Customer Support Center at (888) 705/9413.

Nutrition and Wellness Programs

U.S. Department of Agriculture Adopts Final Rule on NSLP Changes

On Jan. 2, 2014, the U.S. Department of Agriculture published a Final Rule in the Federal Register that makes permanent the flexibility that State agencies should consider any SFA compliant with the daily and weekly

ranges for grain and meat/meat alternates if documentation is compliant with the daily and weekly minimums.

In addition, this final rule allows frozen fruit with added sugar to be offered within the meal pattern. Under both flexibilities, the meal pattern still requires the menu to be in compliance with the nutrient standards, including the minimum and maximum calories, saturated fat and trans fat for SY2013-2014. Beginning with SY2014-2015, the sodium standard is required. This Final Rule is effective March 4, 2014.

Guidance materials will be updated in the near future to reflect this permanent change. To review the complete final rule, visit the USDA's website at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2013-341030P.pdf>.

Please direct any questions to the School-Based Child Nutrition Programs staff at (800) 545-7892 or via email at cnp@isbe.net.

Center for Innovation and Improvement

Family Engagement Resources and Evidence-Based Practices in the Field

ISBE has designed a Family Engagement Framework Guide, which is a tool for districts and schools to use in developing and expanding school-family partnerships to support improved student learning and healthy development outcomes.

This resource brings together research, promising practices and a consolidation of key program requirements to provide districts, schools and families with tools to assist with the planning, implementation, and evaluation of family engagement practices. More specifically, the guide helps districts, schools and communities with: developing common language for family engagement; improving coordination within systems, communities, districts, and schools; and strengthening capacity to leverage resources and partnerships.

On Thursday, Jan. 30, 2014, from 10 to 11 a.m. CST, ISBE will host a webinar that will provide a general overview of the Family Engagement Framework Guide. The guide was developed by an ISBE cross-divisional team and in partnership with the American Institutes for Research as well as the Academic Development Institute (ADI). Representatives from ADI and ISBE will be co-facilitating the webinar. Space is limited. Register at <http://www.illinoisparents.org>.

Special Education Services

Sign Up for 'Assistive Technology for General and Special Needs Classrooms'

"Assistive Technology for General and Special Needs Classrooms" is scheduled for 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 19, in Rockford. This mini-conference will share tools to benefit a wide range of students with special needs.

Many of the sessions are hands-on; bring an iPad and/or laptop to fully experience these interactive sessions. Schools are encouraged to send teams to take full advantage of the variety of sessions.

For complete details, registration information, and full session descriptions, go to <http://bit.ly/15xdxoK>.

English Language Learning Division

Applications Available for Summer Migrant Education Services Funding

ISBE's English Language Learning Division is accepting applications for FY14 federal Migrant Education Program funding for summer school programs 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/pdfs/20-37A-migrant-summer-app.pdf>. The deadline for submission is Monday, March 17, 2014.

Students who are 21 years old or younger 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. ISBE can assist districts in identifying eligible migrant children. To request assistance or for more information, contact Beth Robinson at berobins@isbe.net or (312) 814-3850.

Illinois Student Assistance Commission

Session Proposals Sought for 2014 College Changes Everything Conference

The 2014 College Changes Everything Conference will be held July 17 at the Tinley Park (Ill.) Convention

Center. The proposal form is available online at <http://www.collegechangeseverything.org/>.

Interest sessions are scheduled for one hour. A projector will be provided for presentations; presenters will need to bring their own laptop computer. Presentations will need to be submitted one week prior to the conference. Presentations using video/audio will need to provide their own equipment.

Deadline: Completed session proposal forms need to be submitted to the Conference Planning Committee by March 3 by emailing the form to isac.collegechangeseverything@isac.illinois.gov.

Non-Commercial Policy: Please note that sessions are to be non-commercial forums. Individuals should refrain from using brand names or endorsing specific products. Sessions are not to be used as a place for direct promotion of a product or service.

Presenter Compensation: The College Changes Everything Conference does not provide any compensation for individuals accepted to serve as conference presenters. This includes compensation for travel-related expenses and hotel accommodations.

Questions about the conference or session should be sent to isac.collegechangeseverything@isac.illinois.gov.

U.S. Department of Education

New School Discipline Guidance Package Released to Assist Schools

The U.S. Department of Education, in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Justice, released a school discipline guidance package on Wednesday, Jan. 8, that will assist states, districts and schools in developing practices and strategies to enhance school climate and ensure those policies and practices comply with federal law. Even though incidents of school violence have decreased overall, too many schools are still struggling to create positive, safe environments. Schools can improve safety by making sure that climates are welcoming and that responses to misbehavior are fair, non-discriminatory and effective. Each year, significant numbers of students miss class due to suspensions and expulsions — even for minor infractions of school rules — and students of color and with disabilities are disproportionately impacted. The guidance package provides resources for creating safe and positive school climates, which are essential for boosting student academic success and closing achievement gaps.

The resource package consists of four components:

- The Dear Colleague guidance letter on civil rights and discipline, prepared in conjunction with the Department of Justice, describes how schools can meet their legal obligations under federal law to administer student discipline without discriminating against students on the basis of race, color or national origin;
- The Guiding Principles document draws from emerging research and best practices to describe three key principles and related action steps that can help guide state and local efforts to improve school climate and school discipline;
- The Directory of Federal School Climate and Discipline Resources indexes the extensive federal technical assistance and other resources related to school discipline and climate available to schools and districts; and
- The Compendium of School Discipline Laws and Regulations, an online catalogue of the laws and regulations related to school discipline in each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, compares laws across states and jurisdictions.

The guidance package is a resource resulting from a collaborative project — the Supportive School Discipline Initiative (SSDI) — between the Department of Education and the Department of Justice. The SSDI, launched in 2011, addresses the school-to-prison pipeline and the disciplinary policies and practices that can push students out of school and into the justice system. The initiative aims to support instead school discipline practices that foster safe, inclusive and positive learning environments while keeping students in school. The Department of Justice enforces Title IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race or national origin in public schools, and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin by schools, law enforcement agencies, and other recipients of federal financial assistance.

To view the resource documents, visit www.ed.gov/school-discipline.

NCLB

ISBE Seeks Federal Waiver Regarding Supplemental Educational Services

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) is seeking the following waiver from the U.S. Department of

Education. ISBE hopes that by soliciting this waiver from the U.S. Department of Education, students of Illinois will be better served.

Under the law, ISBE may approve as an SES provider only an entity that has demonstrated record of effectiveness in increasing student academic achievement. ISBE seeks a waiver of this provision for the 2013-14 school year on behalf of Chicago Public Schools, the only district in status currently operating as an SES provider. ISBE further seeks a waiver of this provision for the 2014-15 school year on behalf of Chicago Public Schools and any similarly situated district in status that is approved to serve as an SES provider.

To view the complete waiver visit <http://www.isbe.net/nclb/pdfs/waiver-request-ses-011014.pdf>. To submit a comment on this request, please send an email to nclbwaiver@isbe.net by Friday, Jan. 24, 2014.

School Business Services

School District Annual Financial Report Review Process Under Way

All district superintendents should have received an email broadcast asking the district to review their preliminary Financial Profile Report. If district administration wants to submit comments regarding their district's finances that will be published along with their Financial Profile Report (500 characters max), the comments must be submitted no later than Feb. 2, 2014.

The broadcast included 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.

The email broadcast and this notice will be the only ones sent to districts. If you have not received 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, 2013.

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.

ISBE Teacher of the Year Program

New Illinois Teacher of the Year Available for Speaking Engagements

Do you need an enthusiastic, energetic, exciting speaker for an upcoming conference, in-service, meeting or workshop? If so, look no further than ISBE's 2014 Illinois Teacher of the Year!

Pam Reilly, a second-grade teacher at Woodbury Elementary School in Sandwich CUSD 430, is described by colleagues as an excellent collaborator and a natural leader. Students are immediately drawn to her sincere and caring attitude. A passionate advocate for children and education, Pam seeks advice and guidance from teachers in higher grades so that she can find ways to best help her students succeed and prepare them for future learning success.

If you would like to learn more about Pam's strategies and her commitment to helping all children succeed, please visit Sandwich Community Unit School District 430 at <http://www.sandwich430.org/reilly.html> to fill out a speaker request form.

Integrated Math Model

Upcoming Forums Feature Free Research-Based Resources for Schools

ISBE will be hosting a series of forums this winter focusing on how schools and districts transition to the use of the integrated math model. Please join us for one of our forums on either Jan. 28 in Mount Vernon, Jan. 29 in Springfield, or Feb. 27 in Lisle. Reserve your slot now at <http://webapps.isbe.net/ISBEConference/>.

During the day's sessions, participants will get an opportunity to develop an understanding of the advantages of using the integrated math model, the free research-based resources available, the alignment of the model with the Common Core state standards and

PARCC, the impact on learning and engagement for students, and the impact on teacher practices.

Participants will gain a first-hand perspective of how to navigate the ISBE website and the LiveBinder tool. ISBE has been working diligently to provide school districts and schools resources to assist with their math curriculum, including the recent release of the ISBE integrated math model framework, http://www.isbe.net/common_core/htmls/math-models.htm. All materials are aligned with the Common Core state standards as well as the PARCC assessment. The opportunity to collaboratively interact with local peers about math curriculum challenges and opportunities will also be provided to participants during the forums. In addition, a panel of local Illinois teachers and administrators in various stages of planning and implementing the integrated math model will host a question and answer session to share lessons learned. For more information about the integrated math model, please call (217) 524-4832 or email rfilson@isbe.net.

Upcoming Events

‘Culturally and Linguistically Responsive MTSS for English Learners’ Webinar Set

Register now for a live webinar titled “Culturally and Linguistically Responsive Multi-Tiered Systems of Supports (MTSS) for English Learners (ELs),” which will be presented 10 a.m. to noon on Thursday, Feb. 6.

Through this webinar, participants will increase their understanding of critical components and concepts of MTSS for all students, with an emphasis on factors specific to ELs that need to be considered when designing and implementing MTSS. Tools and resources specific to ELs will also be shared. Register at <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/909361960>.

Questions about the webinar can be directed to Kathryn Cox at kcox@isbe.net.

Registration Under Way for Annual Statewide ESEA/NCLB Conference

Register now for the annual Statewide ESEA/NCLB Conference, “Preserving Our Learning Space: Creative Teaching Within the Common Core,” which is set for Feb. 18-20 at the Sheraton Chicago Hotel and Towers.

This year's program puts emphasis on comprehensive school improvement, including evidence of school turnarounds and transformations, implementation of

Common Core standards in Math and English Language Arts, Early Childhood Education, Homeless Education, the integration of assessment into teaching strategies, and much more.

Outstanding keynote speakers, including Ruby Payne, Linda Gojak, Tyler DeWitt, Samuel Betances and others will focus on topics such as understanding poverty and diversity in relation to classroom strategy, national trends in math instruction, best practices in teaching STEM subjects, and the strengthening of creativity and professionalism among teachers. More than 200 highly informative breakout sessions will also be offered.

Information about registration can be found at http://www.thecenterweb.org/irc/pages/f_events-nclb.html.

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

Fifth- and Sixth-Graders Invited to Enter Annual Poster, Poetry and Prose Contest

Fifth- and sixth-grade writers and artists from around Illinois are invited to compete in this year's Poster, Poetry and Prose Contest sponsored by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and with the partnership of the Illinois State Board of Education. This year's contest is focused on environmental justice and how to balance people with industry and learning about environmental issues in their own communities.

Each school can enter up to eight (four posters and four written) works. Entries must be postmarked and sent in to the Illinois EPA by Feb. 3. An in house panel from the Illinois EPA judges all entries to select the finalists, whose entries are then judged by an outside panel of authorities to determine the top 12 winners. Following the awards ceremony and reception, these entries will be on exhibit in the atrium of the Illinois EPA's headquarters building in Springfield from March 31 through April 30, and the top winners will be featured on the Illinois EPA's homepage at www.epa.state.il.us.

All finalists, together with their families and teachers, are invited to an awards ceremony and reception that will be held on March 29 at the Old State Capitol Historic Site in Springfield. During the 1840s and 1850s, the Old State Capitol was the scene of debate over issues that led the nation to war in 1861. During the Civil War, as the seat of government, it was the center of the state's wartime mobilization. The capitol also provided space for local

events aiding the needs of local residents as well as soldier relief efforts.

Information about the annual event can be obtained by contacting Kristi Morris, Environmental Education Coordinator for the Illinois EPA, at (217) 558-7198 or kristi.morris@illinois.gov. To enter the contest, visit <http://www.epa.state.il.us/kids/teachers/contest/index.htm> for the participation packet for rules and materials to turn in with the students' works by Feb. 3.

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Applications Available for Educators Interested in Earth Day in the Parks Events

Applications for Earth Day in the Parks events from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources will be accepted through Feb. 28. To download the application form and to see the list of participating state parks, visit <http://dnr.state.il.us/education/CLASSRM/EDITPinstruct.htm>.

Involve your students in these natural resources stewardship activities and help them make a difference in their environment. A grant from the Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund helps support these events.

In Brief

Professional Development

- The Pathways Resource Center of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign will present a workshop for middle level and high school leaders called **“Building Student Success Through Individualized Learning Plans”** Jan. 30 in Bloomington and Jan. 31 in Naperville. The cost is \$60, which will be waived for educators from Race to the Top districts. Register at http://pathways.illinois.edu/?page_id=1206.
- The Epilepsy Foundation of Greater Chicago and the Epilepsy Resource Center of Central Illinois will host a free **Training for School Nurses on Seizures and Epilepsy Management** with a bonus piece on Concussion Management from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 8. For more information, visit <http://www.epilepsychicago.org/2014/01/02/managing-students-with-seizures-training-for-school-nurses-5/>.
- **Illinois Reads** is statewide reading initiative that will be launched on March 12 by the Illinois Reading Council. Jesse White, the Illinois State Librarian, has agreed to be the honorary chair. The Illinois Reads concept is to encourage Illinoisans to read books by Illinois authors. For more information or to become

an Illinois Reads Ambassador, visit www.illinoisreads.org or call (888) 454-1341.

- The Illinois Reading Council is planning the 46th annual **Illinois Reading Council Conference** March 13-15 in Springfield. The conference will feature many well-known authors, nationally recognized reading professionals and Illinois educators that will be presenting over 400 breakout sessions. For more information, visit www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org or call (888) 454-1341.

In the News

- Rebecca Wattleworth, a math and science teacher at Warrensburg-Latham High School in Warrensburg, has been selected as a **Hope Street Group 2014 National Teacher Fellow**. She is one of only 13 educators nationwide to be invited to participate in this fellowship program and is this year's representative from Illinois. To read more go to <http://www.hopestreetgroup.org/news/releases/hope-street-group-announces-2014-class-national-teacher-fellows>.

District Opportunities

- The Education Division of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Chicago administers the **Visiting Chinese Language Teachers From Taiwan Program**, which assists districts in recruiting Chinese language teachers. Contact John Lin at (312) 616-0805 or johnlin@edutw.org for more information or visit the Education Division online at <http://www.taiwanembassy.org/US/CHI/ct.asp?xItem=12968&CtNode=2525&mp=27&xp1>.

Educator Opportunities

- PBS is looking for 100 of America's most innovative educators. Applications for **2014 PBS LearningMedia Digital Innovator** will be accepted Dec. 11 through Feb. 14. This year-long program is designed to foster and reward a community of 100 digitally-savvy K-12 educators. Get started at <http://www.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/digitalinnovators/>.

Student Opportunities

- The state of Florida is planning an academic tournament for students across the U.S. The **National Tournament of Academic Excellence** is set for June 14-16 in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. Teams of six students in grades 9-12 with a coach will compete against other

states, the District of Columbia, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands. For more information, visit <http://www.academic-challenge.org/ntae/index.html>.

- The Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln administers the **World War II Descendants Statewide Scholarship** for high school seniors. The deadline is March 1. For more information visit <https://www.scholarselect.com/scholarships/13978-2014-world-war-ii-illinois-descendants-scholarship>.
- The **Rural Rental Housing Association of Illinois – Barbara Carpenter Memorial Scholarship** goes to high school students who reside in apartments developed and financed under the USDA Section 515 Program, and owned and/or managed by members of the Rural Rental Housing Association of Illinois. Visit <https://www.scholarselect.com/scholarships/13821-2014-rural-rental-housing-association-of-il---barbara-carpenter-memorial-scholarship>.

Employment Opportunities

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