



Illinois State Board of Education

Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor

Weekly Message

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State Superintendent (Interim)

January 22, 2007

Message from Interim State Superintendent Christopher Koch

Good afternoon,

Last week, the State Board of Education held its monthly meeting in Chicago and approved a Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 budget to be recommended to the Governor and General Assembly. The Board’s recommendation reflects an increase of \$801 million over FY 2007 funding levels, with priorities in General State Aid and Mandated Categorical Grants, and emphasis on Special Education Personnel Reimbursement Grants. The recommendation includes a \$299 million increase to General State Aid, a \$338.8 million increase to Mandated Categorical Grants, and \$209.2 million for Special Education Personnel Reimbursement.

Other increases include \$69.3 million for Early Childhood (Preschool for All), \$20 million for Tech for Success, \$9.6 million for educator recruiting, mentoring and professional development programs, \$8.4 for Bilingual Education, \$6 for Truant Alternative and Optional Education, \$3.9 million for standards, assessments and accountability and \$3 million for work to help prepare for implementation of a Growth Model Assessment in Illinois.

As I alluded to in last week’s message, the State Board’s recommendation also includes a 12 percent increase in the number of agency staff from the 499 limit under which we currently work. As many of you are keenly aware, ISBE’s staffing is down to just 468 employees. Since 2003, the ISBE general operating budget has decreased by nearly \$10 million or 30 percent. Coinciding with these diminished Agency resources, there has been a markedly increased emphasis on accountability in elementary and secondary at both the State and Federal levels. The Agency has been called on to monitor, distribute and provide technical assistance for funding increases of \$1.3 billion, a 26 percent increase. I thank the State Board for their leadership in recommending increased Agency staffing to fulfill our existing statutory obligations. Our staff has worked diligently to identify the most effective way to enhance the Agency services, and has identified existing Federal funding to cover 30 percent of the cost of increased Agency staffing.

We have delivered the State Board’s recommendations for the FY 2008 budget to the Capitol. Complete details of the State Board’s FY 2008 Budget Recommendation are available online at: <http://www.isbe.net/budget/default.htm>. The next steps of the budget process will include Governor Blagojevich’s Budget Address on or before March 7.

We thank each of you who participated in the State Board Budget hearings over the last several months and pledge to you that we will work diligently throughout the Budget Process this Spring to continue to increase the level of funding support for Illinois schools.

Have a great week.

Chris Koch

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Upcoming Deadlines

- **Preschool Social and Emotional Consultation Services RFP** – January 25, 2007
- **ICLCS Grant Applications** – January 31, 2007
- **Highly Qualified Report** – January 31, 2007
- **Coming Up Taller Grant Applications** – January 31, 2007
- **Early Childhood Teacher Preparation Assistance Planning Grant** – February 1, 2007
- **Annual Commodity Order Form** – February 2, 2007 – Child Nutrition
- **Breakfast Survey** – February 9, 2007 – <http://www.isbe.net/nutrition>
- **Illinois Fatherhood Initiative Essay Contest** – March 9, 2007
- **Amber Alert Poster Contest** – March 13, 2007
- **Illinois Textbook Loan Program School Order, Grades 9 through 12** - March 15, 2007
- **21st Community Learning Center RFP** – March 16, 2007
- **Non-Certified Staff Salary Study** - March 31, 2007
- **American Stars of Teaching** – April 1, 2007

Special Message from Governor's Office

Lowered flags honor Illinois' fallen

As flags at all State of Illinois buildings remain at half staff to honor United States President Gerald R. Ford, Governor Blagojevich has also ordered that the lowered flags honor **Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Jennifer A. Valdivia**, 27, of Cambridge, who died on January 16, 2007 in Bahrain. Valdivia was assigned to the naval security force for Naval Support Activity, Bahrain. Her death was in Bahrain, which is located within the designated hostile fire zone.

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



Data Analysis

2006-2007 Dental Data Collection

At the request of the Illinois Department of Public Health, the following additional data elements will be collected starting in the 2006-2007 school year.



The number of students enrolled in the preceding school year who submitted an approved dental appointment scheduled within 60 days after the May 15 deadline and submitted a completed Proof of School Dental Examination Form.

To obtain more information on the submission of dental data for the 2006-07 school year, please visit the following websites:

School Dental Examinations- Information Sheet

http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/dental_information.pdf

IDPH Proof of School Dental Examination Form

<http://www.idph.state.il.us/Heathwellness/oralhlth/DentalExamProof.pdf>

IDPH Dental Examination Waiver Form

<http://www.idph.state.il.us/forms/ohpm/Dental1%20Exam%20Waiver.pdf>

Dental Information-Data Entry Worksheet

http://www.isbe.net/research/xls/dental_worksheet.xls

Please share this information with the school nurse or health technician and those submitting the dental data to the Illinois State Board of Education. Questions may be addressed to **Mr. Shafiqul Azam** at 217-782-3950 or mazam@isbe.net.

Teacher Certification

January 31 deadline to demonstrate highly qualified status for Federal report

Districts with numbers of not highly qualified teachers listed on the NCLB Highly Qualified Report downloaded from the Teacher Service Record (TSR) need to take quick action to correct errors in reporting on the TSR. Teachers who have not added missing highly qualified (HQ) data to the Educator Certification System (ECS)

need to do so quickly. ISBE must report at the end of January those districts with large numbers of not highly qualified teachers, the subjects where we most frequently find teachers who are not highly qualified, the impact of not highly qualified teachers on poor and minority students and the reasons why teachers are not highly qualified.

Consequently January 31 is the final date before we report to the federal government when you can modify your district's highly qualified teacher information on the TSR and ECS and have that information reflected in the report. After that date ECS will still be available for teachers to add data, but changes will not be reflected on the federal report.

Districts that are reporting a high number of not highly qualified teachers as a result of errors on the TSR need to take quick action to correct these errors and teachers who have not completed the HQ process on the ECS system will be counted in the report as being not highly qualified. Teachers who are missing HQ data on ECS need to add the missing data quickly. Teachers who are not HQ will have this year and next, to become highly qualified and the district must have a district plan to move its teachers to the HQ status filed with its regional superintendent; each not highly qualified teacher must have a plan to become highly qualified filed with the district. Districts are expected to provide resources to the teachers to assist them in their efforts. The federal requirements include a district plan in place to ensure poor and/or minority students are not taught at a higher rate by inexperienced or not highly qualified teachers than are other students.

Teachers must implement their plans this year, make progress in completing them and must have completed their plans by becoming highly qualified by the start of the 08-09 school year. If you have any questions about this information, please contact your regional superintendent.

New TSR instructions are online at:
http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/trs_reporting.pdf

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

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

Corrections to the Teacher Service Record may be made by contacting asedivy@isbe.net.

Educator Opportunities

American Stars of Teaching award nominations open

Nominate an American Star today! The American Stars of Teaching honors outstanding classroom teachers who have demonstrated a commitment to improving student achievement, using innovative instructional strategies, and making a difference in the lives of their students.



Nominations will be accepted until April 1, 2007 at
<http://www.t2tweb.us/AmStar/Nominate.asp>.

One teacher will be selected from each state and the District of Columbia and will be announced in the fall of 2007. For more information contact
TeacherQuality@westat.com.

Administrator Academy Courses to be offered at the Illinois Technology Conference for Educators (IL-TCE)

IL-TCE is offering 8 administrator academy sessions which explore a variety of topics: including: Educational Technology - Black Hole or Bright Light, Communication and Organization in a Digital World, Harnessing the Power of Data: Effecting Improvement in Schools, and more! These sessions will be held February 27 or 28 at Pheasant Run in St. Charles, IL. Additional information and registration information is available at <http://www.il-tce.org/home/home.asp>

Illinois Technology Conference for Educators (IL-TCE) General Conference

Join over 2000 educators statewide March 1 and 2 at Pheasant Run in St. Charles, IL as we "Think Outside the Box and Wires." Learn with your peers through nationally recognized keynote speakers, vendor exhibits, poster and spotlight sessions, round table discussions, and break out sessions. Additional information is available at <http://www.il-tce.org/home/home.asp>.

Student Opportunities

Illinois Fatherhood Initiative Essay Contest – What My Father Means to Me

The Chicago White Sox and the Illinois Fatherhood Initiative (IFI) are gearing up for the 2007 IFI / Chicago White Sox Fatherhood Essay Contest. The 11th Annual Essay Contest runs through March 9, 2007. In addition to many other prizes, students are again competing for one of 12 Bright Start college scholarships from the State of Illinois Treasurer's Office. For more information, visit: <http://www.4fathers.org/#2007EssayContest>.

Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum launches young Abe look-a-like contest

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum (ALPLM) is hosting a young Abe look-a-like contest for boys and girls ages infant to 18 years. The contest will be held February 10, at 11 a.m. in Union Theater, inside the Museum. Judging will be based on a young Abraham Lincoln; what he may have looked like between the ages of infant through 18 years – long before top hats and the presidency.

Contestants will be admitted to the museum free the day of the contest. Guests accompanying contestants may purchase tickets upon arrival. Registration is not required, however, contestants are asked to present themselves at Union Theater at 10:45 a.m. the morning of the contest. Winners will be selected by a panel of judges, including Illinois State Historian Thomas F. Schwartz. The judging categories are:

- Infants to 2 years
- Toddlers 3-5 years
- Children 6-12 years
- Juniors 13-18 years

All prizes are donated by the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum Store. The grand prize, a \$75 Museum Store gift certificate, will be awarded to the best overall contestant. For more information about the contest, call 217-558-9016.

Illinois Amber Alert Poster Contest

The Illinois Amber Alert Task Force is sponsoring a poster contest for grades K-12. The theme for the poster contest is "Bringing Our Missing Children Home." A packet of information is online at



<http://www.amberillinois.org>. The deadline for contest submissions is March 13, 2007.

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

Scholarships to study in Taiwan

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

This program is an opportunity for high school graduates to gain international experience and receive a university education. More information about the Taiwan Scholarships is available at:

<http://www.edutw.org/english/>.

Illinois High School Seniors sought For National Youth Science Camp Honors

Two of Illinois' most promising high school seniors from Illinois will receive a full scholarship to attend a three-week summer camp experience that honors and challenges seniors from the Class of 2007 from each state. Scientists from across the nation who work on some of the most provocative topics in science today present lectures and hands-on research projects and seminars and linger to interact informally with student delegates. The delegates will participate in two overnight expeditions into the Monongahela National Forest and a visit Washington, D.C. The selected delegates must demonstrate academic achievement in science and show potential for thoughtful scientific leadership. The National Youth Science Camp is offered at no cost to its selected participants; the scholarship will cover all educational and recreational programming, meals, lodging, and round-trip air passage. Application forms are available at <http://www.nysc.org/> and must be submitted directly to **Gwen Pollock**, NYSC-Illinois state coordinator, ISBE, 100 North First Street, Springfield, IL 62777, by February 16, 2007. For further information and assistance, contact **Gwen Pollock** at 217-557-7323, gpollock@isbe.net.

Nutrition

Summer Food Service Program

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) is designed to provide nutritious meals during summer months to children from areas where at least 50 percent are eligible for free or reduced-priced meals during the school year through the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs. Does your area meet this criterion? If so, consider becoming a sponsor to help bridge the gap for children in your community. All sponsors will be required to submit the program application and monthly Claims for Reimbursement via the Internet. If the responsibilities of sponsorship in the SFSP are not possible, you can still participate in the program by operating as a site under a different sponsor, being a vendor, or volunteering your time. Visit our website at <http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/summer.htm> to learn more about this vital program and how you can help.

Training Workshops

Training workshops for the Summer Food Service Program will be held at the locations listed below for organizations interested in sponsoring the SFSP during the summer of 2007. To register for the workshops, visit our website at <http://www.isbe.net/nutrition>.

SFSP Training Workshop Schedule

- Thursday, March 1 Carterville
- Tuesday, March 6 Decatur
- Thursday, March 8 Fairview Heights
- Wednesday, March 14 Alsip
- Tuesday, March 27 Galesburg
- Tuesday, April 3 Rockford
- Tuesday, May 22 Springfield

The training sessions are designed to provide a complete overview of the SFSP including the Illinois State Board of Education's (ISBE's) Internet-based program application and claim system. All sponsors are required to attend training.

For additional information, contact **Amy Bianco** at 800/545-7892 or email cnp@isbe.net.

Curriculum and Instruction

Advanced Placement Course Audit update

The following information is being circulated by the College Board and AP Central to publicize the upcoming

need for all AP teachers and schools to submit materials to substantiate their claim that a course should be recognized as worthy of the Advanced Placement designation. Failure to meet the requirements of this audit will nullify that claim. Direct all questions regarding this procedure to the College Board and the email address designated at the end of this article or through the website at AP Central.

As scheduled, the AP Course Audit process will officially open later this month. AP teachers, principals, coordinators and district representatives will receive instructions on how to access the AP Course Audit website and submit materials during the fourth week in January. Instructions will also appear on AP Central.

The AP Course Audit provides clear guidelines on the course content and resources typical of college-level classes, and helps colleges and universities better interpret courses marked "AP" on student transcripts. Schools have until June 1, 2007 to submit materials as part of the AP Course Audit. Prior to the opening of the AP Course Audit website, the College Board encourages AP teachers to review the course audit information and resources available on AP Central at <http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/courseaudit>, which include:

Annotated Syllabi and Samples of Evidence

<http://click.collegeboard.com:80/68256514.54057.0.21553>

Multiple samples of evidence in each AP subject illustrate the variety of ways curricular requirements can be met in a syllabus. Annotated syllabi have been written by AP teachers who teach in the public or private sector and by college professors who teach the parallel college-level course. Collectively, these syllabi illustrate a variety of ways a course can meet the AP Course Audit curricular requirements.

AP Course Audit Website Demo

<http://click.collegeboard.com:80/68256514.54057.0.23131>

This online demo will help familiarize teachers and administrators with the website through which teachers will submit their syllabi.

Course Audit Manual

<http://click.collegeboard.com:80/68256514.54057.0.23132>

This manual provides teachers and school administrators with an overview of the AP Course Audit and includes the curricular and resource requirements for each AP course. Schools can also order free copies from <http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/freepubs>.

As always, schools develop their own curriculum for courses labeled "AP." The AP Course Audit simply specifies core elements colleges and universities expect to see within the curriculum you develop for college-level AP courses. You will see when reviewing the AP Course Audit requirements that they do not in any way constitute a mandated curriculum, and provide schools with tremendous flexibility in development of curricula for courses labeled "AP." Courses that meet or exceed these expectations will be authorized to use the "AP" designation.

The AP Course Audit deliberately does not base its outcomes on student exam grades, because doing so would put pressure on teachers to avoid taking risks on students less certain to succeed in an AP course. Because the AP Course Audit requirements were established by professors from several hundred of the nation's top colleges and universities, it is our hope that even experienced AP teachers with high-performing students will benefit from the opportunity the AP Course Audit provides to reflect on their own curriculum and how they are meeting or, in many cases, exceeding the most recent set of expectations voiced by college and university faculty.

For more information on the AP Course Audit, please visit <http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/courseaudit> or email apaudit@collegeboard.org.

New assessment tool for Cultural Appropriateness and Inclusiveness of Instruction

The Rocky Mountain Center for Health Promotion and Education (RMC) is pleased to announce the availability of The Aligning Learning with Learners Guide (ALL Guide). This is a web-based diagnostic tool to assess the cultural appropriateness and inclusiveness of instruction, assessment strategies and classroom climate.

This website is a resource for educators, and health educators in particular, interested in establishing culturally-responsive classrooms and in using instruction and assessment strategies that provide all students with the opportunity to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to choose health-promoting behaviors. The ALL Guide includes a self-assessment, information, resources, and tools to help educators enhance their health education instruction, assessment, and classroom environments to meet the diverse needs of all of their students.

As a result of using the *ALL Guide*, educators will be able to:

- assess the degree to which their practices address the needs of all of their students
- describe the Differentiated Instruction framework and philosophy
- apply at least three new strategies to better meet the diverse needs of their students; and
- reflect on how their newly acquired strategies will benefit their students.

The *ALL Guide* contains:

- information and resources on how to develop a culturally-responsive classroom and a safe and productive classroom environment;
- information and resources on the differentiated instruction model;
- a self-assessment tool for health educators to assess the degree to which their current practices meet the needs of diverse learners;
- a compendium of tools and strategies that health educators can use to meet the needs of diverse learners; and
- an extensive resource list on books, articles, and websites devoted to meeting the needs of diverse students.

This tool can be accessed by going to RMC's website at <http://www.rmc.org/allguide/>

Information Resources

ISBE 2006 Annual Report

The Illinois State Board of Education 2006 Annual Report is now available online at:

http://www.isbe.net/pdf/ISBE_2006_Annual_Report.pdf

Employment Opportunities

ISBE External Vacancy List

An External Vacancy List for the Illinois State Board of Education is available at:

<http://www.isbe.net/hr/Default.htm>.

In the News

Weekly news clips

ISBE has posted highlights from last week's education news clips at:

<http://www.isbe.net/news/2007/newsclips/070119.htm>

