



# Illinois State Board of Education

## Weekly Message

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 Dr. Andrea S. Brown  
 Dr. David L. Fields  
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Christopher A. Koch, Ed.D.  
 State Superintendent

**Jan. 22, 2013**

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### Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

The members of the State Board will meet this week in Springfield on Wednesday and Thursday. Board members will discuss a variety of issues but the two main topics will be the FY 2014 budget recommendation and the proposed increase in the Illinois Standards Achievement Test performance levels.

The Board will take public testimony and will discuss the budget Wednesday afternoon. I am recommending an approximately \$400 million increase, which is more than a 6 percent increase over the FY 2013 General Funds Appropriation Amounts. My recommendation includes an increase of \$290 million for General State Aid, which, if approved, would still mean a 91 percent proration. Additionally, I am recommending full funding of all mandated categoricals, except for special ed-private facility, regular transportation and free lunch and breakfast, which I am recommending to remain at last year’s levels. I am also recommending an increase in early childhood and bilingual education.

This is an ambitious request considering the spending pressures state government is facing and the fact that the state must pay an additional \$1 billion this year to fund its pension obligation. However, I believe the recommendation is realistic while also recognizing our state’s ongoing fiscal crisis. Some projections are already showing an additional cut to education funding in FY 14 of more than \$300 million. We must put forth a request that advocates for additional funds that is based in reality and defensible with the other spending pressures facing the state.

Additionally, I feel this recommendation is necessary, given the nearly \$900 million in reductions we’ve seen in the past four years, and in light of the Education Funding Advisory Board’s (EFAB) recent recommendation for a \$4.7 billion increase in GSA to a Foundation Level of \$8.672.

The Board will also consider increasing the performance levels on the ISAT. This will better align our expectations for our grade 3-8 students with the more rigorous standards of the new Common Core State Standards. The ISAT simply is not a good predictor of college and career readiness and there is a significant disconnect with our Prairie State Achievement Exam.

These higher expectations will result in a significant reduction in the number of students who meet and exceed standards. Parents, board members, teachers and community members will likely be concerned to learn that students who previously were meeting standards are now characterized as needing improvement. It is important that we are able to explain that this is a result of changing standards and not a reflection of decreased performance by our students and teachers.

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The following link provides a number of resources that will help guide these discussions and provide other useful information about the need to raise expectations to better serve our students: <http://www.isbe.net/assessment/htmls/isat-cut-scores13.htm>.

Thanks for all you do on behalf of the students of Illinois.

Chris

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## Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

*Please note this is not a complete list of dates 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>.*

- **Postmark deadline for Illinois School HealthierUS School Challenge Request for Proposal** – Jan. 22
- **2012-13 Teacher Salary Study data form deadline** – Feb. 1
- **Noncertified Staff Salary Study survey deadline** – Feb. 1
- **Madrid ELL teacher recruitment informational meeting in Chicago** – Feb. 8 (Details available at [http://www.isbe.net/bilingual/htmls/spanish\\_exchange.htm](http://www.isbe.net/bilingual/htmls/spanish_exchange.htm))
- **Part 25 (Certification)** – Public comment period ends Feb. 11
- **Part 252 (Driver Education)** – Public comment period ends Feb. 11
- **Part 425 (Voluntary Registration and Recognition of Nonpublic Schools)** – Public comment period ends Feb. 19
- **ISBE offices closed for Lincoln's Birthday** – Feb. 12
- **ISBE offices closed for Presidents' Day** – Feb. 18
- **Illinois New Teacher Collaborative's annual Induction and Mentoring Conference** – Feb. 26-27 (<http://intc.education.illinois.edu/conference>)
- **0-3 Prevention Initiative – Outcomes Questionnaire IWAS data entry deadline** – July 1 (IWAS Reporting Guide available at [http://www.isbe.net/research/htmls/pfa\\_prev\\_init.htm](http://www.isbe.net/research/htmls/pfa_prev_init.htm))
- **0-3 Prevention Initiative – Parent Questionnaire IWAS data entry deadline** – July 1 (IWAS Reporting Guide available at [http://www.isbe.net/research/htmls/pfa\\_prev\\_init.htm](http://www.isbe.net/research/htmls/pfa_prev_init.htm))
- **Student Health Data** – Vision system report deadline – July 1
- **Regional Safe Schools End of Year Data reporting deadline** – July 31 (User guide for the IWAS reporting system, [http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/rssp\\_iwas\\_user\\_guide.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/rssp_iwas_user_guide.pdf))
- **Truants' Alternative and Optional Education Program (TAOEP) reporting deadline** – July 31 (User guide for the IWAS reporting system, <ftp://help.isbe.net/webapps/taoep/pdf/TAOEP.pdf>)
- **Postmark deadline for waiver applications to be considered by General Assembly in Fall 2013** – Aug. 16 (see <http://www.isbe.net/isbewaivers/default.htm> for new public notice requirements for all waiver requests)

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## Funding and Disbursements

### Fiscal Year 2013 General State Aid Proration and Payments Reminder

Please be reminded that the Fiscal Year 2013 General State Aid (GSA) entitlement based upon local tax revenue and average daily attendance information calculated to \$4,804,928,870, leaving a shortage of \$518,176,370. This shortage requires a proration of 89.17 percent, which has been applied toward the gross entitlement for each school district and regional office.

The 89.17 percent proration is being applied proportionally over all 22 bi-monthly payments scheduled from August 2012 through June 2013.

Final computations and individual claim information for school districts and regional offices can be accessed in General State Aid Inquiry at <http://webprod1.isbe.net/gainquiry/default.aspx>.

If you have any questions about General State Aid or the computations, please contact Jim Mathes at [jmathes@isbe.net](mailto:jmathes@isbe.net) or (217) 782-5256.

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## PERA

### Important Announcement Regarding Training for School Board Members

As you are likely aware, Illinois' education reform legislation requires school board members to complete Performance Evaluation Reform Act (PERA) training before participating in certain teacher dismissals. In recent weeks, we have received a multitude of questions with respect to this training, including when such training must be completed and which board members must complete the training. It is important to note that a school board member must be "PERA-trained" only to participate in the Optional Alternative Evaluative Dismissal (OAED) process, as defined in 105 ILCS 5/24-16.5. Unless a district is using the OAED process, school board members need not be PERA-trained to make employment decisions, including dismissals based upon evaluations, cause or reductions in force. Further, the OAED process may not be used until a district's formal PERA Implementation Date.

Please be aware that a district's PERA Implementation Date, as defined in 105 ILCS 5/24-11 (a), is "the implementation date of an evaluation system for teachers as specified by Section 24A-2.5 of this Code [i.e. an evaluation system that includes student growth as a significant factor in the performance evaluation rating] for all schools within a school district or all programs of a special education joint agreement." A PERA Implementation chart can be accessed online at [www.isbe.net/PEAC/pdf/pera-implementation-chart1212.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/PEAC/pdf/pera-implementation-chart1212.pdf).

School board members should consult with their districts and/or counsel to determine: (a) whether the district plans on using the OAED process; and (b) their applicable PERA Implementation Date.

Currently, ISBE does not have a framework or mechanism to approve applications from entities seeking to provide PERA training for school board members. However, we will be working in the near future with internal and external partners to develop procedures to accept, evaluate and approve applications from entities seeking approval to offer this training. In the interim, please feel free to contact Vicki Phillips ([vphillip@isbe.net](mailto:vphillip@isbe.net)) should you have additional questions or concerns. We also encourage you to view PERA-related information and notices on our PERA website at [www.isbe.net/pera](http://www.isbe.net/pera).

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## School Business Services

### School District Annual Financial Profile Report Review Process

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, the comments must be submitted no later than Friday, Feb. 1, 2013.

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, 2012.

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.

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## PARCC

### Draft Accommodations Policies Released for Public Comment

The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) released two draft accommodations policies for public comment, the reading access accommodation and the calculator use accommodation. In addition to allowing a full array of testing accommodations on summative tests, PARCC is proposing two accommodations that will expand access

to its tests to an even wider range of students with disabilities.

First, the reading access accommodation will allow the passages, test items and answer choices on the English language arts/literacy assessment to be read to students who have a disability that prevents them from accessing printed text or has not yet learned Braille. Also, the calculator policy will allow students who do not have the ability to calculate single digit numbers the use of a calculator for all items on the math assessment except those that measure fluency, as fluency is a skill required by the standards in some early grades. Both accommodations will have specific eligibility criteria and will be limited to students who meet these criteria.

Once feedback is provided on these policies, they will be included in a larger policy that details all accommodations provided to students with disabilities and English language learners. The public review period allows for feedback from a wide group of stakeholders, including K-12 educators, curriculum and assessment experts, and national groups or organizations. From Jan. 16 until Feb. 4, 2013, the draft accommodations policies will be posted on the PARCC website. Interested parties can provide feedback through a survey posted on the PARCC website, answering questions specific to each policy.

All feedback will be reviewed by Achieve and the working group for Accessibility, Accommodation and Fairness and revisions will be made accordingly. Also, a determination to allow these accommodations and include them in the overall policy or not allow these accommodations will be made based on feedback collected.

This is the first set of accommodation policies PARCC will release for public comment. An additional policy for the writing access policy will be released for public comment in early February, and the entire PARCC accommodation policy manual will be made available for public comment in April. For more information or to view the policies, visit <http://www.parcconline.org>.

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## Those Who Excel

### 2013 Illinois Teacher of the Year Available for Speaking Engagements

If you are looking for a dynamic, energetic, enthusiastic teacher to speak at your next meeting or conference, Brian Curtin is a perfect fit. Named the 2013 Illinois

Teacher of the Year in October, Brian is now ready to begin making presentations.

Brian teaches 9th-12th grades at Schaumburg High School in Township High School District 211. He is currently in his 10th year of teaching and is known for his enthusiasm for learning. His teaching style is described as innovative and engaging. He also coaches football and lacrosse.

Brian's impact is not limited to the classroom or athletic field; he is also the Teaching Chair of Saxon Pride. Schaumburg High School's Saxon Pride is a group of faculty members who meet regularly to address school culture and behavior issues. Using the Positive Behavior Intervention System (PBIS), Brian has developed a series of popular commercials starring students. The commercials are designed to reinforce the program's goals of exemplifying positive behaviors rather than merely reacting to negative behavior.

To contact Brian, call the school at (847) 755-4600 or visit <http://www.d211.net/SpeakerRequest/speakerrequest.html>. To read more about the Illinois State Board of Education's Those Who Excel/Teacher of the Year Award program, visit [http://www.isbe.net/those\\_who\\_excel.htm](http://www.isbe.net/those_who_excel.htm).

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## School Health Issues

### Important Announcement Regarding Seasonal Influenza

The Illinois State Board of Education has had inquiries about the protocol for school closures in relation to influenza. ISBE has reviewed information from the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) and at this time, we do not recommend closing any school if such closure is being considered as a means to reduce the spread of influenza. The agency encourages any districts with a significant number of students or staff experiencing influenza like symptoms to work with their local health department to determine appropriate local actions.

The following methods, recommended by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) should be followed to reduce the spread:

- Students who are showing signs of influenza (cough, fever, chills, fatigue) should remain home and away from other students. They should stay home except if needed to go to the physician office. They should also remain away from family members who are very young

(younger than 6 months), very old, or have other diseases such as asthma or lung disease that may make the symptoms of influenza worse.

- Students who show signs of influenza while at school should be isolated in a “sick room” or other office with appropriate supervision until a parent or guardian can remove them from school.
- Students and adults who are sick should stay home for at least 24 hours after fever is gone except to seek medical care or for other necessities. Fever should be gone without the use of a fever-reducing medicine.
- All students should be taught to cover the nose and mouth with a tissue when they cough or sneeze. This will block the spread of droplets from the mouth or nose that could contain germs.
- All students and staff should wash hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Anyone over the age of 6 months who has not yet received a vaccine against influenza should do so. At this point flu vaccine may be harder to find now than it was earlier in the season. You may need to contact more than one provider (pharmacy, health department or doctor) to find available vaccine. The flu vaccine locator may be helpful to you in your search.
- If you do get the flu, there are antiviral drugs that can treat your illness. They are a second line of defense. This type of medication is not available over-the-counter so you will need a prescription.

Additional resources on influenza are available at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/school/index.htm>.

## College and Career Readiness

### Applications Available for the 2013 National Youth Science Camp

Applications to attend the 2013 National Youth Science Camp (NYSC) are now available online at <http://www.isbe.net/career/html/msp.htm>. Two graduating high school students will be selected to represent Illinois at the all-expenses paid honors program, which will be held from June 26 through July 20, 2013. For more information about the NYSC, please visit <http://www.nysf.com/w/>. For questions about the application process, please contact Mr. Gil Downey at (217) 782-4620 or by email at [gdowney@isbe.net](mailto:gdowney@isbe.net).

To apply, please download the application packet from <http://www.isbe.net/career/html/msp.htm> and follow the enclosed instructions. Mail the completed application to: Illinois State Board of Education, 100 N. First St., C-215 Springfield, IL 62777, Attn: Gil Downey, National Youth Science Camp. Applications must be received by Feb. 15, 2013.

### Second Public Draft of Next Generation Science Standards Available for Review

The second draft of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), a new set of voluntary, rigorous, internationally benchmarked standards, was recently released for public review. The draft NGSS, associated documents and the comment survey can be located at [www.nextgenscience.org](http://www.nextgenscience.org). Comments will be accepted through Jan. 29.

Illinois in conjunction with 25 other states have worked together to develop the standards, which identify science and engineering practices and content that all K12 students should master in order to be fully prepared for college and meaningful careers. The NGSS were built upon on a vision for science education established by the Framework for K-12 Science Education, published by the National Academies’ National Research Council in 2011.

NGSS is not only a new set of standards, but an important document that will change the way we teach science. Application of research-based practices described in NRC Reports such as Taking Science to School, How Students Learn Mathematics and America’s Lab Report guided the work by the Committee on a Conceptual Framework for New K-12 Science Education Standards as they developed a report entitled “A Framework for K-12 Science Education: Practices, Crosscutting Concepts and Core Ideas.” This Framework containing a vision for K-12 science teaching and learning and description of the three dimensions was the guiding document for the NGSS Writing Team as they developed the actual standards that make up NGSS. NGSS has undergone intense review and revision since this process started. During this public comment, we are looking for quality review and insightful comments to guide a last revision of NGSS. The final version of the standards will be released in March 2013. Additional information about reviewing the standards and resources can be found at the following site: <http://www.isbe.net/ngss/default.htm>.

The second draft responded to tens of thousands of comments submitted to the 26 lead state partners and NGSS writing team following the first public review last May. This draft also includes guidelines for how NGSS

aligns to college and career readiness goals. Once again, feedback is strongly encouraged.

In May 2011, Illinois signed a voluntary agreement to participate as a lead state to participate in the development of NGSS alongside educators and scientists from other participating states. The lead state partners are Arizona, Arkansas, California, Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, Washington and West Virginia.

The effort has been entirely state-driven, with no federal funds or incentives to create or adopt the standards. The process was funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York, a leading philanthropy dedicated in part to improving science education in the U.S.

Lead states worked with National Research Council, the National Science Foundation, the National Science Teachers Association, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the National Governors Association, the Council of Chief State School Officers, the James B Hunt Jr. Institute for Educational Leadership and Policy, and the Council of State Science Supervisors to develop the standards and ensure they reflected the needs of educators, higher education institutions and employers.

### **Deadline Nears for Illinois and National History Teacher of the Year Awards**

The Illinois State Board of Education is seeking nominations for the 2013 Illinois History Teacher of the Year Award. In 2013, the Gilder Lehrman Institute will honor an elementary teacher of grades K-6. To be considered for the 2013 award, K-6 teachers must be nominated by Feb. 1. ISBE is a partner in the award program, which is co-sponsored by the HISTORY channel and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation through its Preserve America program.

The History Teacher of the Year Award alternates each year to honor K-6 teachers one year and those teaching grades 7-12 the next. Nominations can be made by students, parents, colleagues, supervisors or other education professionals. The national winner is chosen from a pool of winners from each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, U.S. Territories, and Department of Defense Schools. Each state honoree receives \$1,000 and an archive of books and resources from Gilder Lehrman and the HISTORY channel for his or her school's library.

To nominate a teacher and learn more about the award, visit <http://www.gilderlehrman.org/programs-exhibitions/national-history-teacher-year-nomination-form> or contact the Gilder Lehrman National History Teacher of the Year coordinator at (646) 366-9666 or [nhtoy@gilderlehrman.org](mailto:nhtoy@gilderlehrman.org). You may also contact the state coordinator, Mike Hatfill of the Illinois State Board of Education, at (217) 524-4832 or [dhatfill@isbe.net](mailto:dhatfill@isbe.net).

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## **Illinois Emergency Management Agency**

### **Schools Can Raise Awareness of Earthquake Hazard With the Great Central U.S. ShakeOut**

The Illinois Emergency Management Agency is encouraging all Illinoisans, including elementary and secondary schools, to participate in the Great Central U.S. ShakeOut at 10:15 a.m. on Feb. 7. This “Drop, Cover and Hold On” drill will be conducted simultaneously with other states in the Central U.S. to draw attention to the earthquake hazard that exists in Illinois and other states in the region.

Last year, more than 2.4 million people across the region participated in the Great Central U.S. ShakeOut. More than 496,000 of those participants were Illinoisans, including nearly 400,000 schoolchildren throughout Illinois.

To participate in the 2013 ShakeOut log on to the ShakeOut website ([www.shakeout.org/centralus/](http://www.shakeout.org/centralus/)) where you can register for the drill and obtain details and reference materials.

If your school cannot participate on Feb. 7, you may select another day to conduct a “Drop, Cover and Hold On” drill. If you select another day, your organization should still register on the ShakeOut website. For more information, contact Kate Mackz at IEMA at (217) 785-9925 or [kate.mackz@illinois.gov](mailto:kate.mackz@illinois.gov).

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## **Nutrition and Wellness Programs**

### **HealthierUS School Challenge Certified Schools Invited to Apply for Grants**

**Attention all HealthierUS School Challenge Certified Schools in Illinois:** The Healthy Weight Commitment Foundation and Discovery Education will be providing

rewards and incentives for schools that are trying to reach higher levels of certification.

Schools with the Gold award level can vie for a \$10,000 grand prize to enhance wellness programs. Schools with the Silver level certification can apply for a \$2,000 grant for physical education or the foodservice program. Bronze award level schools have the opportunity to win a \$1,000 grant for professional development from the National Food Service Management Institute.

Enter at <http://www.togethercounts.com> by March 15. Rules are available at <http://tinyurl.com/incentives-rules>.

### **Runners Invited to Participate in Marathon to Raise Funds to Combat Childhood Obesity**

Action for Healthy Kids' Team Healthy Kids is once again partnering with world-famous "Ultramarathon Man" Dean Karnazes to run in the 2013 Bank of America Chicago Marathon on Oct. 13. Participants can help raise funds to combat childhood obesity and also receive a running shirt, training tips and more.

A pre-registration deadline to join the team is set for Feb. 19. To join the fundraising marathon team, email Seth Kopf at [teamhealthykids@actionforhealthykids.org](mailto:teamhealthykids@actionforhealthykids.org). Additional details are available online at <https://www.firstgiving.com/ActionforHealthyKids/2013-bank-of-america-chicago-marathon>.

### **Annual Child Nutrition Industry Conference Scheduled for Feb. 8**

The Illinois School Nutrition Association (ILSNA) Industry Advisory Board will host the 2013 Child Nutrition Industry Conference on Feb. 8, 2013, at the Timber Creek Inn & Suites in Sandwich, which is about 60 miles west of Chicago.

Sessions at the one-day conference include an Illinois State Board of Education update from Nutrition and Wellness Programs Division staff and the opportunity for question-and-answer time.

For more information and to register, visit <http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=te5dkreab&oeidk=a07e6p6eqjpa3c92799>. Registration is \$30 for ILSNA members and \$45 for non-members.

For questions, contact the Illinois School Nutrition Association at (217) 529-6578 or [info@ilsna.net](mailto:info@ilsna.net).

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## **English Language Learning**

### **Madrid Teacher Recruitment Informational Meeting Scheduled for Feb. 8 in Chicago**

An informational meeting about the Visiting Teachers from Spain Program and recruitment of ELL teachers in Madrid will take place on Feb. 8, 2013, at 10 a.m. at the Illinois State Board of Education's Chicago office, 100 W. Randolph St., Suite 14-300.

ISBE offers Illinois school districts the opportunity to recruit highly qualified teachers from Spain to teach in Dual Language, Bilingual Education and Spanish as a World Language Programs. The interviewing process is tentatively scheduled to take place during the week of April 22-26 this year, and districts may interview candidates either in person in Madrid or via Skype. For more information about the program, please visit [http://www.isbe.net/bilingual/htmls/spanish\\_exchange.htm](http://www.isbe.net/bilingual/htmls/spanish_exchange.htm).

If you are considering the possibility of recruiting teachers from Spain, you are encouraged to participate in the meeting in person or through a conference call. Please RSVP by email to [jorge.berne@mecd.es](mailto:jorge.berne@mecd.es) and [paula.orrte@mecd.es](mailto:paula.orrte@mecd.es) or call (312) 814-5696 by Feb. 1.

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## **Early Childhood/Special Education Services**

### **Updated Early Intervention to Early Childhood Q and A Document Available on ISBE Website**

The Illinois State Board of Education's Early Childhood and Special Education Services divisions have revised the Early Intervention to Early Childhood Question and Answer document. The revised document has been placed on the Early Childhood Education webpage at [http://www.isbe.net/earlychi/pdf/Transition\\_QA1.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/earlychi/pdf/Transition_QA1.pdf).

We hope this document is a useful resource for district staff and parents of young children with disabilities in completing transition process from IDEA Part B early intervention to Part C early childhood special education.

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## **In Brief**

### **Student Opportunities**

- Students across the state can enter the Illinois Liquor Control Commission's **2013 Don't Be Sorry Youth Art Contest**, which aims to educate the public about

the consequences of underage drinking. For more information, visit <http://www.DontBeSorry.org> or contact Ted Penesis at (312) 814-4802 or [ted.penesis@illinois.gov](mailto:ted.penesis@illinois.gov). The deadline is Feb. 15.

- Illinois Partners for Clean Air have launched the **Shoot for the Skies PSA Video Contest** for Chicago area high school students. Students are asked to create a public service announcement about Chicago area air quality and actions to improve it. For more information, go to [www.cleantheair.org](http://www.cleantheair.org). The deadline for entries is March 15.
- The **National World War II Museum** is seeking entries for its annual essay contests for middle school and high school students. This year’s theme asks, “How can people who disagree still work together for victory?” The deadline for submissions is 5 p.m. March 29. For more information, visit <http://www.nationalww2museum.org/essaycontests>.

### **Educator Opportunities**

- The **Illinois Association for Gifted Children’s** 18th annual Gifted Convention will be Feb. 10-12 in Naperville. For more information, including rates, registration, schedule of sessions, hotel reservations, exhibitors, visit <http://www.iagcgifted.org/events-a-news/eighteenth-iagc-convention.html>.

### **Weekly News Clips**

- The Illinois State Board of Education has posted highlights from recent **education news clips** at <http://www.isbe.net/news/2013/newsclips/130122.htm>.

### **Employment Opportunities**

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