



**January 27, 2009**

## Message from State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

The Illinois State Board of Education today recommended a streamlined budget to the General Assembly and Governor that contains modest growth and focuses on the priorities of the agency. This has been a long, thoughtful process with a great deal of public input that began in September. In the end, the Board tried to balance the needs of Illinois students with the financial realities facing our state.

During the budget process, the Board focused on three key principles:

- 1) Support for the largest number of children in need with the greatest flexibility for districts;
- 2) Alignment with the strategic plan goals adopted by the Board in August 2008:
  - Every student will demonstrate academic achievement and be prepared for success after high school.
  - Every student will be supported by highly prepared and effective teachers and school leaders.
  - Every school will offer a safe and healthy learning environment for all students; and,
- 3) Introduction of only minimal new programs and mandates in order to conserve scarce resources and maintain focus.

With those principles in mind, and given the reality of the economic crisis facing our state, the Board recommended a 2% increase to our education budget, with the increase going primarily to General State Aid (GSA) and fully funding Mandated Categoricals. This translates into a roughly \$173 million increase and will allow us to increase the General State Aid Foundation Level to \$6,089 or \$130 per student.

As part of the budget making process, the State Board directed staff to recalculate the Education Funding Advisory Board's (EFAB) GSA Foundation Level for FY 2010. Using the methodology employed by EFAB, the GSA Foundation Level recommendation would be \$7,388, an increase of \$1,429 per student over the FY 2009 GSA Foundation Level. Raising the GSA Foundation Level to this amount would require an increase to the state's education budget of \$2.15 billion. An increase of this magnitude is not possible in our current fiscal climate.

In order to achieve this increase in GSA and fully funding Mandated Categoricals, the Board had to make some tough choices. The Board re-prioritized some of the grants and programs that it funds, collapsing more than \$111 million in specialty programs and instead directing those funds into General State Aid, giving districts more flexibility to meet the needs of our students.

### Table of Contents

Upcoming Dates & Deadlines .....	2
E-Bulletins .....	3
No Child Left Behind .....	3
Curriculum & Instruction .....	3
Standing Up for Illinois .....	4
Funding & Disbursements .....	4
Student Assessment .....	5
Educator Preparation & Recertification .....	5
English Language Learning .....	5
Nutrition .....	6
Grants & Programs .....	6
Awards & Grants .....	6
Professional Development .....	7
Student Opportunities .....	8
Employment Opportunities .....	8
In the News .....	8

Additional recommendations for FY 2010 include:

- \$12.5 million increase in early childhood programs
- \$7.9 million increase for bilingual education; the Board also recommends a legislative change in the funding formula of bilingual education to allow for more equity in the distribution of these funds to all districts to better reflect the state's changing demographics.
- \$5.2 million increase in agency operations; this item has been reduced from \$31 million in 2006 to \$24 million in FY 2009; while agency headcount has decreased from nearly 800 just prior to No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 to less than 500 currently. This increase is needed to allow the agency to modernize agency technology, meet labor contracts and comply with state and federal regulations
- \$4 million increase in new programs to improve student performance and better prepare students for success after they graduate. These funds would allow for development to begin on a longitudinal data system that would allow for better analysis of student performance from pre-school through post-graduate studies. In addition, funds would be used for Illinois' participation in the American Diploma Project to review and revise our K-12 learning standards to better prepare students for college and careers.
- \$1.5 million increase to assist six low-performing high school districts

The budget will be a very tough battle this year, as many interests will be fighting to avoid reductions. We will need you to work with us to convince our state legislature that this modest increase in education funding is not a luxury, but a necessity to ensure a stable economic future for Illinois. I will be keeping you in the loop as we go through the budget process.

Thanks and have a great week and stay warm!

Chris

---

## Upcoming Dates & Deadlines

- **The 2010 school year annual commodity order period** – January 2 – February 1
- **Deadline to Enter PSAE Orders on *PSAE TestSites Online Website*** – January 30
- **Receipt Deadline for Schools to Submit PSAE Day 1 ACT-Approved Accommodations Requests to ACT** – February 2
- **School Breakfast Survey** – February 6
- **Deadline for Home School Districts to Submit Pre-ID Label Information for PSAE on SIS Website** – February 19
- **Looking for Your Lincoln Hero submissions** – March 1
- **Migrant supplemental education services funding applications for summer 2009** – March 2
- **Receipt Deadline for Schools to Submit PSAE Day 1 State-Allowed Accommodations Applications to ACT** – March 6
- **Textbook Loan Program requests entered online** – January 6 – March 16
- **History Teacher of the Year Award first round nominations** – March 16
- **Illinois Young Author's Program entries** – March 27

---

## E-Bulletins

### Equitable Participation of Private School Students

The No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), under Title I, Part A, Section 1120, requires public school officials to provide eligible children attending private elementary and secondary schools with Title I services or other benefits that are equitable to those provided by the school district to eligible public school children.

### Providing Services to Eligible Private School Children

Under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as amended by NCLB, local educational agencies (LEAs) are required to provide services for eligible private school students, as well as, eligible public school students. In particular, Section 1120 of Title I, Part A, requires a participating LEA to provide eligible children attending private elementary and secondary schools, their teachers, and their families with Title I services or other benefits that are equitable to those provided to eligible public school children, their teachers, and their families.

### Set-Aside Amounts Designed for Specific Purposes

This E-Bulletin describes grant “set-aside” provisions—amounts statutorily designated for specific purposes—under Title I, Part A of NCLB. The second part discusses allocating funds when there are Title I schools within the district identified for school improvement, corrective action, or restructuring. Lastly, details are included on the required district set-asides when the district itself is identified for improvement.

To access these E-Bulletins in their entirety and previous editions, go to ISBE’s website at <http://www.isbe.net/e-bulletins/default.htm>.

If you have a suggestion for an E-Bulletin topic, e-mail it to [NCLB@isbe.net](mailto:NCLB@isbe.net).

---

## No Child Left Behind

### 2009 No Child Left Behind Conference Held Next Week

The 2009 No Child Left Behind Conference is scheduled for **February 4 – 6** at the Sheraton Chicago Hotel & Towers in Chicago. The conference title is “Student Achievement: Putting It All Together in a Time of Rapid Change.”

There is still time to register for the conference by going to [www.thecenterweb.org](http://www.thecenterweb.org).

---

## Curriculum & Instruction

### Do You Know Any Truly Exceptional Elementary School History Teachers?

The 2009 History Teacher of the Year Award is seeking nominations to honor outstanding elementary school history teachers across the country.

Winners will be selected from each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Department of Defense Schools and the U.S. Territories. Each state winner will receive \$1,000, and a collection of history books and educational materials will be donated to the teacher’s school library. State winners will become finalists for the National History Teacher of the Year Award.

To nominate a teacher for the Illinois award, e-mail **Mike Hatfill** at [dhatfill@isbe.net](mailto:dhatfill@isbe.net) with the teacher’s name, school and a paragraph describing why the teacher is exceptional.

For more information, including nomination and application guidelines, visit [www.gilderlehrman.org/teachers/student8.html](http://www.gilderlehrman.org/teachers/student8.html)

The deadline to apply is **Monday, March 16**.

The award is sponsored by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History to recognize the importance of American history education.

### Illinois Young Authors Program

Guidelines for the 2009 Young Author’s Conference are now posted on the Curriculum & Instruction webpage.

The conference will be held at Illinois State University on **May 16**. Guidelines and conference registration are available at [www.isbe.net/curriculum](http://www.isbe.net/curriculum). Mail entries to Illinois State University Conference Services, Young

Author's Conference, Campus Box 8610, Normal, IL, 61790-8610.

Entry deadline is **Friday, March 27**. E-mail questions to the Young Author's Conference Coordinator, **Christina Podraza** at [cpodraza@lisle202.org](mailto:cpodraza@lisle202.org).

## PEP Grants

The **2009 Carol M. White Physical Education Program (PEP)** competition is now open. The application deadline is **Friday, March 6**.

Applications may be submitted in paper format or online through [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov). Click [here](#) to review the RFP. The full RFP and application information will be [posted](#) on the Department of Education's website.

## Standing Up for Illinois - Office of Lt. Governor Pat Quinn

### Sustainable Schools Compact

The Illinois Sustainable Schools Compact program launched on **January 31, 2008**, features best practices that K-12 schools can voluntarily pursue to achieve greater environmental sustainability. Lt. Governor Quinn wants to challenge all Illinois schools to consider and pursue these practices, helping our communities and our state lead the way to a greener, cleaner future. Click [here](#) to view the Illinois Sustainable Schools Compact.

General Information on the program can be found here: <http://www.standingupforillinois.org/green/schools.php>

A list of schools that have adopted the compact can be found here: <http://www.standingupforillinois.org/green/compact.php>

The compact can be found here: [http://www.standingupforillinois.org/pdf/green/sustainable\\_school\\_compact\\_012908.pdf](http://www.standingupforillinois.org/pdf/green/sustainable_school_compact_012908.pdf)

## Funding & Disbursements

### Public School Calendar issues regarding District-wide Emergency, Act of God, Interrupted and Delayed Start days

This has been an extremely rough school year with weather-related conditions causing school district interruptions, delayed starts and closures. This information serves as a refresher for completing an Amended Public School Calendar via the IWAS system.

Section 18-12 of the Illinois School Code **requires** that an Amended Public School Calendar be completed and submitted for approval within 30 days of the occurrence of an Interrupted or Delayed Start Day. Section 10-19 of the School code states that the calendar for the school term and any changes must be submitted to and approved by the regional superintendent of schools before the calendar or changes may take effect. Therefore, the State Board recommends that an Amended Public School Calendar be completed and submitted within 30 days after an Emergency or Act of God Day is taken. The completion of an Amended Public School Calendar ensures that the most up-to-date approved Public School Calendar is on file via the ISBE School Calendar Inquiry website that can be accessed at <http://webprod1.isbe.net/SchCalInquiry/SchCalInquiry.aspx>

An **Emergency Day** is used at the discretion of the district for whatever is locally deemed an emergency. An Emergency Day must be made up prior to the end of the school year. The calendar code for this day is ED and does not require any student attendance times or a brief explanation, but does require that a Proposed Emergency Day built into the Proposed Public School Calendar be converted to a pupil attendance day.

An **Act of God Day** is only accessible after all of the Proposed Emergency Days built into the Proposed Public School Calendar have been converted to pupil attendance days. The calendar code for this day is AOG and does require a brief explanation when completing the Amended Public School Calendar. An approved Act of God Day is not required to be made up but it does count as a calendar day towards the statutorily required minimum of 180 days.

An **Interrupted Day** is a day that the district has provided at least one hour of instruction but must close due to adverse weather conditions or a condition beyond the control of the school district that poses a hazardous threat to the health and safety of pupils prior to providing the minimum minutes of **instruction** (i.e.

300 minutes) required for a full day of attendance. The calendar code for this day is XID and requires completion of the student attendance time and a brief explanation when completing the Amended Public School Calendar. These approved days may be counted as a full day of student attendance for students enrolled full time who were in attendance and received the complete instructional time provided for such day. Students enrolled part-time or not present for the complete instructional time provided must have their attendance reported appropriately for the instructional time received.

A **Delayed Start Day** is a day that the district must delay the start of the school day due to adverse weather conditions and this delay prevents the district from providing the minimum minutes of **instruction** (i.e. 300 minutes) required for a full day of attendance. The calendar code for this day is XDS and requires completion of the student attendance time and a brief explanation when completing the Amended Public School Calendar. These approved days count as a full day of student attendance for students enrolled full time who were in attendance and received the complete instructional time provided for such day. Students enrolled part-time or not present for the complete instructional time provided must have their attendance reported appropriately for the instructional time received.

The Public School Calendar guidelines may be found at [http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/ps\\_guidelines.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/ps_guidelines.pdf)

Student attendance questions as they relate to General State Aid can be found at [http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/gsa\\_faq.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/gsa_faq.pdf)

Questions regarding completion of the Amended Public School Calendar can be directed to your Regional Office of Education or contact **Marj Beck** at [mbeck@isbe.net](mailto:mbeck@isbe.net).

Questions related to General State Aid and student attendance can be directed to **Jim Mathes** [jmathes@isbe.net](mailto:jmathes@isbe.net).  
**Marj and Jim** can be reached at 217-782-5256.

---

## Student Assessment

### Upcoming PS AE Deadlines

- Deadline to Enter PS AE Orders on *PS AE TestSites Online* website – **January 30**
- Receipt Deadline for Schools to Submit PS AE Day 1 ACT-Approved Accommodations Requests to ACT – **February 2**
- Deadline for Home School Districts to Submit Pre-ID Label Information for PS AE on SIS website – **February 19**
- Receipt Deadline for Schools to Submit PS AE Day 1 State-Allowed Accommodations Applications to ACT – **March 6**

---

## Educator Preparation & Recertification

### Recruiting a Chinese Teacher from Taiwan

The State Board is working with the Cultural Division of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, the representative arm of the Ministry of Education (MOE) in Taiwan, on an agreement to support a teacher exchange program.

Through the Visiting Chinese Teachers from Taiwan Program, the Ministry invites administrators who plan to recruit a Chinese teacher to visit university language centers and K-12 schools. This is an excellent way to interview and hire a highly qualified teacher from Taiwan and learn more about the outstanding Chinese language teacher training programs.

The MOE covers the expenses for roundtrip airfare and accommodation for one week. The trip is tentatively scheduled for **April 3 -12**.

For complete information on the process school districts must follow to recruit and hire a Chinese teacher from Taiwan, contact **Director Huei-wen Hsu** at the Cultural Division, Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Chicago at 312-616-0805. Those districts interested in participating, should contact Dr. Hsu no later than **Tuesday, February 10**.

---

## English Language Learning

### Funding Available for Districts Serving Migratory Children

The State Board is accepting applications for funding migrant supplemental education services for summer

2009 in districts with qualifying migrant students under Title I, Part C of the No Child Left Behind Act.

The application is available at [http://www.isbe.net/bilingual/pdfs/20-37\\_migrant\\_app.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/bilingual/pdfs/20-37_migrant_app.pdf). The application deadline is **Monday, March 2**.

**Eligibility:** Students who are 0-21 years old and have not graduated from high school may be eligible if they have moved within the past three years 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 State Board can assist districts in identifying eligible migrant children. A survey is available at [http://www.isbe.net/bilingual/pdfs/migrant\\_survey.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/bilingual/pdfs/migrant_survey.pdf)

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

---

## Nutrition

### School Wellness Policies: Striving For Excellence - March 2009 Conferences

Illinois Nutrition Education and Training Program staff are hosting three *School Wellness Policies: Striving for Excellence* conferences this March.

Participants will learn about evaluation strategies and resources, grant opportunities to support student wellness activities, and inspiration from Illinois schools recognized for their wellness initiatives.

Download the registration form at [www.kidseatwell.org/local-wellness-policy.htm](http://www.kidseatwell.org/local-wellness-policy.htm) and click on New! School Wellness Policies: Striving for Excellence-March 2009 Conferences.

### Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities Call for Proposals

Those interested in applying for the Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation must submit a brief proposal by **Tuesday, February 3**.

The goal is to provide 60 grants of up to \$360,000 over a 4-year period to local community partnerships nationally to increase opportunities for physical activity and improve access to affordable healthy foods for children.

For the online application, go to: [www.rwjf.org/applications/solicited/cfp.jsp?ID=20603](http://www.rwjf.org/applications/solicited/cfp.jsp?ID=20603)

The full proposal is due **May 14**.

---

## Grants & Programs

### Illinois Students Selected as U.S. Senate Youth Program Delegates

The 2009 Illinois delegates to the U.S. Senate Youth Program (USSYP) are **Megan Nino**, North Grand High School, Chicago, and **Isaac Chambers**, University of Illinois High School, Urbana.

As Illinois delegates, these students will attend Washington Week 2009 in March. Washington Week is an intensive week of educational activities designed to deepen the understanding of the federal government.

In addition, students who serve as USSYP delegates to Washington Week receive a \$5,000 undergraduate college scholarship from the Hearst Foundation.

For more information about this merit-based program sponsored by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation, visit <http://www.ussenateyouth.org/>, or contact **Carol McCue** at 217-524-4832.

---

## Awards & Grants

### IFI White Sox Illinois Fatherhood Essay Contest

The Illinois Fatherhood Initiative (IFI) and the Chicago White Sox are sponsoring the “What My Father Means to Me” essay contest.

Entries must be postmarked by **Monday, March 2**. For additional information, go to <http://4fathers.org/>.

IFI is the country's first statewide, non-profit fatherhood organization whose mission is connecting children and fathers by promoting responsible fathering and helping equip men to become better fathers or father-figures.

## Healthy Schools, Healthy People – It's a SNAP Award

The School Network for Absenteeism Prevention (SNAP) is a hands-on initiative designed to help keep middle school students in school by improving overall health through clean hands.

One school is chosen as the national award recipient. The school receives an all-expense paid trip for three to Washington D.C. to be honored at a special reception. Two runner-up recipients receive a cash award of \$250 each. All participating classrooms receive a certificate of recognition.

For information on how to apply and where to send materials to go <http://www.itsasnap.org/index.asp> or e-mail Nancy Bock at [nbock@cleaning101.com](mailto:nbock@cleaning101.com) or Martha Chapin [mchapin@cleaning101.com](mailto:mchapin@cleaning101.com)

The deadline for entry for national recognition is **March 1**.

## Green Youth Awards

Illinois students who are working on environmental protection and conservation projects are encouraged to apply for the annual Governor's Green Youth Awards. The awards, which are coordinated by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, recognize the outstanding and inventive efforts of Illinois youth.

Students in grades K-12 at public, private, or home schools, along with clubs and organizations, are eligible to apply.

For an application and additional information, go to <http://www.epa.state.il.us/green-youth/> or call 217-557-7826. Applications are due by **Friday, March 20**.

## 2009 Richard C. Bartlett Environmental Education Award

This award is given annually by the National Environmental Education Foundation to an outstanding teacher in grades 5 – 12 who has successfully integrated environmental education into the daily lesson plan. A \$5,000 cash award is given to assist an educator with work in environmental education.

If you know such an educator, submit your nomination at <http://www.neefusa.org/bartlettaward.htm>. The deadline for submission is **Friday, February 13**.

---

## Professional Development

### National Endowment Fellowship

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) has awarded Illinois College in Jacksonville a grant to host a five-week seminar, "The Frontier Experience in the American Midwest: Greater Illinois to 1860," for teachers **June 28 to August 1, 2009**.

The NEH seminar is designated as a "We the People" project and encourages and strengthens the teaching, study and understanding of American history and culture.

The seminar is designed for full-time K-12 teachers in public, private and religiously affiliated schools, including home-schooling parents. Other K-12 personnel may also be eligible. Fifteen applicants will be selected through a competitive process.

The seminar will include readings, discussions, videos, guest lectures, presentations by participants and several off-campus trips. Illinois College Professor James Davis will direct the seminar. Participants will be housed on campus, receive a stipend of \$3,800 and may receive CPDU credit.

For more information, contact the NEH at [NEHSeminar@ic.edu](mailto:NEHSeminar@ic.edu). Applications must be postmarked by **Monday, March 2**.

### Teaching Ambassador Fellowship

Applications are available for the Teaching Ambassador Fellowship at the U.S. Department of Education for the 2009-2010 school year.

Those eligible to apply include practicing, state certified pre-kindergarten to 12th grade public school teachers and instructional specialists/coaches with at least three years of teaching experience. The deadline is **Monday, March 16**.

For the 2008-2009 pilot year, 20 part-time Classroom Fellows and five full-time Washington Fellows are serving as Teaching Ambassador Fellows. They are

learning about and contributing to the national dialogue on education policy.

For more information about the 2009-2010 Fellowship application and additional opportunities, visit <http://www.ed.gov/programs/teacherfellowship>.

## Ignite Learning - Technology and Standards-Based Instruction

The Technology and Standards-Based Instruction workshop will be held on **March 18-19** in Galena.

The workshop will allow participants to:

- examine the national technology standards
- explore resources and professional development strategies, and
- prioritize efforts and align those with the bigger vision of your school or district.

The presenter is **Chris O'Neal** of the International Society for Technology in Education. For more information, visit Chris' website at: [http://edleadersonline.com/WordPress/?page\\_id=7](http://edleadersonline.com/WordPress/?page_id=7).

For session information or to register, go to <https://www.kidsroe.org/registration/WorkshopDetail.php?id=4727>

The deadline for room reservations at Eagle Ridge is **Monday, February 16**. Call 1-800-892-2269 and ask for the rooms for the Learning Technology group.

## AeA 21st Century Learning Environment Symposium

The AeA 21st Century Learning Environment Symposium is scheduled in Springfield on **Tuesday, February 24**. The Symposium is organized around the challenge that despite our best effort, we still struggle with how to fully use technology in the K-12 curriculum to improve performance for all students and reduce dropout rates.

Panel discussions with public officials and leading IT education specialists will focus on leading trends, using technology in the classroom, and how to best integrate the National Education Technology Standards (NETS) into schools.

This event is a key component in the Illinois Innovation Talent Sustainability Strategy and addresses how to promote innovation-centered learning environments.

Online registration and an agenda are available at <http://www.aeanet.org/ILlearning>  
[http://www.aeanet.org/weblink/?b=090115\\_102751edl&u=352318&h=24C60959B77A711874D7103536ABF8CA&l=http://www.aeanet.org/ILlearning](http://www.aeanet.org/weblink/?b=090115_102751edl&u=352318&h=24C60959B77A711874D7103536ABF8CA&l=http://www.aeanet.org/ILlearning).

Government and education participants may attend at no cost, but they need to register by phone, e-mail or fax.

---

## Student Opportunities

### FCC's Student Volunteer Program

On **Tuesday, February 17**, the United States broadcasting industry will transition from analog to digital signals. The FCC's school volunteer program offers students an important opportunity to use their know-how to help older people in the community.

The FCC's website has numerous materials posted to assist teachers as we approach the transition date at [www.dtv.gov](http://www.dtv.gov).

A student-based program offers young people and their advisors offers ways to assist people in the community with the transition. Information can be found at <http://www.dtv.gov/students/index.html>.

---

## 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/2009/newsclips/090123.htm>

---