



# Illinois State Board of Education

## Weekly Message

Gery J. Chico, Chairman  
 Dr. Vinni M. Hall, Board Secretary  
 James W. Baumann  
 Curtis W. Bradshaw  
 Dr. Andrea S. Brown  
 Dr. David L. Fields  
 Steven R. Gilford  
 Melinda A. LaBarre

Christopher A. Koch, Ed.D.  
 State Superintendent

**Jan. 28, 2013**

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### Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

Last week the Illinois State Board of Education approved a budget recommendation for FY 2014 that increases funding by \$875 million. The 13 percent increase is mainly due to the Board’s insistence that the state provide enough money to fully fund the statutorily set \$6,119 General State Aid Foundation Level intended to establish minimum spending on each pupil in Illinois’ schools.

The Foundation Level has been set at \$6,119 since 2010, but the state has not funded GSA at that level since 2011. In 2012, and again this year, GSA payments had to be prorated because insufficient funding was provided to meet the state’s obligations. The Board is requesting \$745 million for GSA alone in order to remedy this situation and provide districts the minimum funding as set in statute.

In addition to GSA the Board is seeking the following increases:

- \$40 million increase for early childhood education.
- \$11 million increase in the bilingual education line.
- \$10.5 million increase for state assessments to help cover the cost of assessments aligned to the more rigorous Common Core Standards, which also includes \$2.4 million for a Growth Model.

<b>Table of Contents</b>	
<b>Funding and Disbursements .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>NASBE .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>English Language Learning .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>School Health Issues.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>School Business Services .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>PARCC .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Rules and Waivers .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Those Who Excel .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>College and Career Readiness .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Nutrition and Wellness Programs .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>In Brief .....</b>	<b>6</b>

The Board is proposing \$20 million for a matching grant program to help districts strengthen their existing plans and security measures in the aftermath of the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy in Connecticut. The matching grant program would provide approximately \$5,000 per school.

We are also proposing \$250 million in capital funding to upgrade technology for instruction and assessments. The program will offer districts an opportunity to apply for matching funds to upgrade infrastructure readiness to use technology in the classroom and for the coming Partnership for Assessment of College and Careers (PARCC) online assessments.

This is an aggressive recommendation that generated a lot of discussion between Board members. However, the Board recognizes what the state is asking districts to do in these very difficult financial times and felt we had to be aggressive and push legislators to support the \$6,119 foundation level they put into law. Additionally, I have challenged my staff to look at ways that we may be able to provide districts with some relief, where we have the legal latitude and it makes educational sense. I will have more to say on that in the coming weeks.

Finally, we continue to work with the U.S. Department of Education (ED) on our request for a waiver from some aspects of the No Child Left Behind Act. The only major issue that remains is the timeline for implementation of the new evaluation systems incorporating student growth. In order for you to have the maximum flexibility over the use of your federal title funds we must comply with the ED’s timeline of all districts implementing the new evaluation systems no later than the 2015-16 school year. We are initiating a new survey of districts to determine their intent for

implementation of the new evaluation systems. Between now and Friday, Feb. 8, please take a few minutes and go to <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/F2VDXCM> to complete the survey.

Thanks,  
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>.*

- **2012-13 Teacher Salary Study data form deadline** – Feb. 1
- **Noncertified Staff Salary Study survey deadline** – Feb. 1
- **Division of English Language Learning's Two-Day Regional Institute at Southwestern Illinois College in Red Bud** – Feb 6-7 (Details and registration: [http://www.thecenterweb.org/irc/pages/f\\_events-isbe.html](http://www.thecenterweb.org/irc/pages/f_events-isbe.html))
- **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>)
- **Part 35 (Mentoring Program for New Principals)** – Public comment period ends March 25
- **Part 375 (Student Records)** – Public comment period ends March 25
- **Part 405 (Payments to Certain Facilities under Section 14-7.05 of the School Code)** – Public comment period ends March 25
- **Part 475 (Contested Cases and Other Formal Hearings)** – Public comment period ends March 25
- **Part 565 (Class Size Reduction Grants)** – Public comment period ends March 25
- **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/gsainquiry/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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## NASBE

### State Board Secretary Dr. Vinni M. Hall to Serve on National Committee and Study Group

Dr. Vinni M. Hall, a member of the State Board of Education, was chosen to serve at the national level for a study group and a committee.

Hall, who serves as secretary on the State Board, was selected by the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) to chair the year-long study group “The Learner and Learning” and to serve on the association’s Public Education Committee.

NASBE is a nonprofit association based in Arlington, Va., that represents state and territorial boards of education. For more information, visit <http://www.nasbe.org>.

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## English Language Learning

### Series of Regional Institutes Planned Across the State for ELL Practitioners

A series of two-day Regional Institutes for ELL Practitioners featuring presenters from the Illinois Resource Center (IRC) and WIDA is being presented by ISBE Division of English Language Learning. The institutes are research-based and designed to support programs that enhance ELL academic performance and English language acquisition.

The institutes will take place throughout Illinois, including Red Bud, Bloomington and Lake and Cook counties. There is no charge to attend. Participants can register to attend either one or both days; and CPDUs will be provided through the IRC.

To register for the Feb. 6 and 7 institutes, “Key Practices for All Teachers of English Language Learners (ELLs)” and/or “Using the English Language Development (ELD) Standards for Lesson Planning,” go to [http://www.thecenterweb.org/irc/pages/f\\_events-isbe.html](http://www.thecenterweb.org/irc/pages/f_events-isbe.html).

For dates and upcoming information about future institutes, go to <http://www.isbe.net/bilingual/default.htm>.

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## School Health Issues

### Department of Public Health Issues Alert on Spread of Skin Infection

Students engaging in sports often have contact with other students, whether on the basketball court or the wrestling mat or volleyball court. Due to prolonged, skin-to-skin contact in wrestling, student wrestlers are at higher risk for diseases spread by contact.

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) has alerted ISBE that a skin infection, herpes gladiatorum, has been tentatively identified in members of several high school wrestling teams throughout the state. The infection is caused by a Herpes simplex virus and is spread by direct, skin-to-skin contact. Although the symptoms on the skin appear almost eight days after contact, some students may have a sore throat, swollen glands, fever or a tingling sensation to the skin before the rash appears. The rash appears as a cluster of blisters.

IDPH recommends that wrestlers with skin sores or lesions be referred to a physician, and medical care should be immediately sought if the lesions occur around the eyes. A link to a guidance document from IDPH is posted at [http://www.isbe.net/pdf/school\\_health/idph-herpes012213.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/pdf/school_health/idph-herpes012213.pdf).

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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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## Rules and Waivers

### Invitation to Comment on Rules

Five proposed rulemakings recently reviewed by the Illinois State Board of Education are available for public comment. The proposals have been posted on the agency's Web site at <http://www.isbe.net/rules>; choose "Proposed Rules and Amendments." Please submit any comments or suggestions to [rules@isbe.net](mailto:rules@isbe.net).

#### **Part 35 (Mentoring Program for New Principals):**

Makes technical changes to conform the rules to the new licensure system to take effect July 1, 2013.

*Public comment period ends March 25, 2013.*

**Part 375 (Student Records):** Establishes a process to allow parents an opportunity to determine which of their students' scores from college entrance examinations will appear on the academic transcript; and provides additional clarity about health-related information, consideration of video recordings as a student record, and maintenance of records in a secure manner.

*Public comment period ends March 25, 2013.*

#### **Part 405 (Payments to Certain Facilities under Section 14-7.05 of the School Code):**

Makes technical changes to conform the rules to the new licensure system to take effect July 1, 2013, and aligns to changes being



proposed in 23 Ill. Adm. 25 (Certification) that will eliminate, as of September 1, 2015, the short-term emergency approval in special education.

*Public comment period ends March 25, 2013.*

**Part 475 (Contested Cases and Other Formal Hearings):** Makes technical changes to conform the rules to the new licensure system to take effect July 1, 2013.

*Public comment period ends March 25, 2013.*

**Part 565 (Class Size Reduction Grants):** Makes technical changes to conform the rules to the new licensure system to take effect July 1, 2013.

*Public comment period ends March 25, 2013.*

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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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## 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.

### 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).

## 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>.

## 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>.
- The Illinois Chapter of the National School Public Relations Association seeks nominations for its **Distinguished Service Awards**, which recognizes school district stakeholders who go above and beyond regular duties to fulfill their roles as public relations ambassadors for education. For details, go to <http://www.inspra.org/files/INSPRA%20DSA%20brochure.pdf>. Nominations are due by Feb. 14.
- The **Illinois Personal Finance Challenge** targets consumer education and personal finance students. Teams advance to the state finals and a championship team will compete at the national stage. Registration for the preliminary online competition ends Feb. 15. Go to the Econ Illinois website at <http://econed-il.org/icee/ipfc.shtml> to register.
- Registration is under way for the **Illinois Economics Challenge**, an online competition for high school students that tests knowledge of economics and economic reasoning abilities. Registration for the preliminary round will be accepted through Feb. 15. For more information, visit Econ Illinois at <http://www.econed-il.org/icee/econchal.shtml>.
- Illinois Computing Educators (ICE)** will hold its annual conference Feb. 28 at Pheasant Run Resort and Conference Center in St. Charles. Read more about the presenters and sessions, which are targeted to the needs of districts and school leaders, at <http://www.iceberg.org/leadership>.

- The 45th annual **Illinois Reading Council Conference**, Literacy for Life, is scheduled for March 14-16 in Springfield. For more information, visit [www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org](http://www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org). Early registration ends Feb. 1. Read about the IRC's new statewide reading initiative Illinois Reads at [www.illinoisreads.org](http://www.illinoisreads.org).
- Registration for the spring sessions of **The Stock Market Game Program** for grade 4-12 teachers and their students is open through March 1. For more information, including a schedule for teacher training onsite workshops and online webinars, visit Econ Illinois at [www.econed-il.org/icee/smg.shtml](http://www.econed-il.org/icee/smg.shtml).

### Special Events

- **U.S. Poet Laureate Natasha Trethewey** will deliver a public reading Feb. 7 at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield. The reading is free but reservations are required. Tickets are also available for a private dinner. Read more at <https://alplmfoundation.tix.com/Event.asp?Event=539990>.

### 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/130128.htm>.

### Employment Opportunities

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