



# Illinois State Board of Education

Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor

## Weekly Message

Jesse H. Ruiz, Chairman  
Dr. Christopher J. Ward, Vice Chair  
Dr. Vinni M. Hall, Secretary  
Dr. Andrea S. Brown  
Dean E. Clark  
Dr. David L. Fields  
Edward J. Geppert, Jr.  
Brenda J. Holmes  
Joyce E. Karon

Christopher A. Koch, Ed.D.  
State Superintendent (Interim)

January 29, 2007

### Message from Interim State Superintendent Christopher Koch

Good afternoon on this cold day in January.

The President outlined his goals for the reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act in his State of the Union speech and last week Secretary Spellings re-emphasized those priorities while visiting a Chicago Charter School and meeting with the Business Roundtable to garner support for the Act. We welcome the President’s proposal for additional flexibility for State implementation of NCLB Goals. NCLB reauthorization should embrace accountability plans that meet the spirit and broad goals of NCLB while allowing flexibility for differences among school districts, prior achievement levels, and the unique learning needs of individual students. An appropriate focus on assistance to high schools will also be welcome.

Along these lines, Growth Model implementation seems to remain a viable option for further investigation as individual student progress comes into play. It is also easy to support the President’s recommendation that under reauthorization, NCLB should address ways to both assist and fund struggling schools striving to improve. The goals and intentions of NCLB are admirable. However, in its current form, NCLB is far from perfect. With some much-needed changes, it can do a better job serving schools and students.

During a telephone briefing with Assistant Secretary Ray Simon following the State of the Union, he was asked to respond to a comment stating that, if options for school choice are expanded, the same accountability standard should be applied to private schools as is currently in place for public schools. Assistant Secretary Simon indicated that they would be held accountable. Clearly this issue, along with a proposed expansion of the cap on charters and possible circumvention of teacher contracts to transfer teachers, will remain controversial.

It is likely that decades from now scholars will still be writing about the massive educational reform legislation of NCLB. As states and districts struggle to meet its requirements we can be assured that the educational landscape will continue to change in favor of measurable outcomes and consequences for both states and districts.

Chris Koch

#### Table of Contents

Upcoming Deadlines .....	1
Legal .....	2
Funding and Disbursements .....	2
Federal Grants and Programs .....	2
Special Education.....	3
School Finance .....	3
English Language Learning .....	3
Nutrition .....	4
Student Opportunities.....	4
Those Who Excel.....	4
Professional Development .....	5
Teaching Resources .....	5
Information Resources .....	5
Employment Opportunities .....	5
In the News .....	5

### Upcoming Deadlines

- **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>
- Verification of Per Capita Tuition Charge (PCTC), Operating Expense Per Pupil (OEPP), Indirect Cost Rate (ICR) and Profile Reports - February 15, 2007
- CTE Educator Scholarships, EIU – February 23
- 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
- 21<sup>st</sup> Community Learning Center RFP – March 16, 2007
- Non-Certified Staff Salary Study - March 31, 2007
- American Stars of Teaching – April 1, 2007

---

## Legal

### Criminal Background Check Symposium

The Illinois State Police, in conjunction with the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police, will host two Criminal History Record Check Symposia again this year.

Information is available at:

[http://www.isbe.net/pdf/CB\\_symposium\\_2007.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/pdf/CB_symposium_2007.pdf).

---

## Funding and Disbursements

### New census estimates affecting FY 08 Title I released for 2004 income years

The U.S. Census Bureau has released the Small Area Income and Poverty ESTIMATES (SAIPE) for income year 2004. The estimates will likely be used to calculate FY08 Title I Allocations.



The file of 2004 Poverty Data by Local Education Agency (LEA) is an alphabetical listing of LEAs, Poverty Count, 5-17 Population, Poverty Percent and Total Population and is available online at:

[http://www.isbe.net/funding/excel/census\\_poverty.xls](http://www.isbe.net/funding/excel/census_poverty.xls)

From these data, LEAs can determine their potential eligibility for Basic, Concentration, Targeted and Education Finance Incentive Grants (EFIG). To be eligible for a Basic Grant, an LEA must have at least 10 poverty children and the number of Poverty children must be greater than two percent of the LEA population of children ages 5-17. To be eligible for a Concentration Grant an LEA must have at least 6,500 Poverty children or the number of formula children must exceed 15 percent of the LEA's 5-17 population. To qualify for Targeted and EFIG grants, an LEA must have at least 10 Poverty children and that number must be at least five percent of the 5-17 population.

Superintendents and Business Managers should carefully examine the data for their district as this will be the first

indication as to whether you may be gaining or losing eligibility for Title funds in 2007-08.

The following link to the Census Bureau, <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/saipe/index.html>, provides a site explaining various aspects of the SAIPE count including information on challenge procedures. The challenge period for the 2004 estimates ends on March 20, 2007.

The Illinois State Board of Education neither controls nor generates the data.

**Note:** These numbers do not include other non-census data such as foster, neglected or delinquent counts which may be used to calculate Title I allocations.

If you have questions on information in this message, you may contact **Sally Cray** or **Kim Lewis** in the Division of Funding and Disbursement Services at 217-782-5256.

### Coming soon...revised FY 2007 Final Title I allocations, adjustments

Last fall (2006), the United States Department of Education (USDE) notified the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) of a nation-wide error made on the 2003 Census figures that would impact the 2007 Title I Final Allocation poverty counts and district allocations. Illinois has opted to apply these minimal adjustments to the 2008 Title I allocations. The revised FY 2007 Final Title I Allocations and Adjustments will be posted soon on the ISBE web site, <http://www.isbe.net>.

---

## Federal Grants and Programs

### Multidistrict Application for NCLB



On February 1, 2007, the Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 Multidistrict Application form for No Child Left Behind (NCLB) will be mailed out to all school districts.

The Illinois State Board of Education is preparing the FY 08 NCLB Consolidated Application for release through ISBE's eGrant Management System (eGMS). ISBE will set up multidistrict allocation amounts prior to opening the eGMS for submission of the NCLB consolidated application.

If you choose to participate in a multidistrict application for Titles I-A, II-A, II-D, IV-A, or V-A, you must return the Multidistrict Application form no later than March 19, 2007. ISBE will not be able to accommodate requests for multidistrict applications received after eGMS is opened for application preparation and submittal. If you do not participate in a multi-district program or cooperative arrangement with another district or ROE for NCLB, please disregard this notice.

If you have questions about this process for multidistrict applications, please contact the Federal Grants and Programs Division at 217-524-4832.

---

## Special Education

### Training schedule set for new data reporting codes for Early Childhood Special Education

The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) has changed data reporting for preschool educational environments. Previous categories of early childhood part-time/part-time, and early childhood special education have changed. The training will provide information describing the new codes and how they must be used in reporting educational environments. The new codes will be in effect for the March 30, 2007 data transmission.

In order to assist school districts/special education cooperatives in using the new EE codes, trainings will be offered across the State through ISBE's STARnet project. School district/cooperative administrators and/or staff who have responsibility for early childhood special education coding and **who attend** IEP meetings should attend one of these trainings. Please refer to the attached list of trainings and register your attendance for one of the trainings through the appropriate STARnet regional office. The schedule is available online at: [http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/ECSE\\_EE%20Codes\\_Workshop\\_01-07.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/ECSE_EE%20Codes_Workshop_01-07.pdf).

If you have questions or need further information please contact **Julie Evans** or **Sally Tudor** at 217-782-5589,

**Kathy Joyce** at 217-782-5256, or **Pamela Reising Rechner** at 217-524-4835.

---

## School Finance

### School District Annual Financial Report (ISBE Form 50-35) Verification Process – upcoming email broadcast



District Superintendents will soon receive an email broadcast asking the district to verify the Operating Expense Per Pupil (OEPP), Per Capita Tuition Charge (PCTC), Indirect Cost Rate (ICR) and the Financial Profile Report. Included in the broadcast will be the cover letters, instructions, and definitions to assist with the verification process. When the broadcast is sent these reports will then be available on the IWAS website.

The email broadcast and this notice in the Superintendent's bulletin will be the only notices provided to the district. If an email broadcast is not received by February 2, 2007 please contact ISBE. If you give authority to another person verifying these reports, please forward the email broadcast on to them. It is important that they have the instructions and deadlines to assist them in completing the verification in a timely manner. Once the deadline passes, changes cannot be made to the 2006 Annual Financial Report data.

Since the financial profile designation will be approved and publicly released by ISBE, it is of the utmost importance that you review your financial profile data and score. Any district comments that you want to be included with your final financial profile report may be entered in the comment box. Although your comments are optional, this is an opportunity for districts to explain financial circumstances. For further information see: <http://www.isbe.net/sfms/afr/OEPPPCTCICRCoverLetter.pdf>

Please direct any questions regarding this notification or verification process to School Business and Support Services at 217-785-8779. Please contact the Call Center at 217-558-3600 with any questions regarding IWAS.

---

## English Language Learning

### Migrant Education Summer Program

The Illinois State Board of Education Migrant Education Program is accepting applications for funding of 2007 summer migrant programs under Title I, Part C of NCLB. Students eligible for the program are mobile children of migratory workers residing in the area whose parents

moved to find work in agricultural production, fishing or food processing industries. Districts with eligible migrant populations may request funding for summer programs.

To request assistance in identifying eligible migrant children, districts may complete the survey found 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

### Check Your Diversions to Processors

Processors who had enough schools order products from them will be awarded contracts this month. What this means to schools—you need to check and see if the processor you diverted commodities to will be awarded a contract. If the processor to which you diverted commodities IS getting a contract, you do not have to do anything. If the processor to which you diverted commodities is NOT getting a contract, you might want to switch the commodities to a processor who IS going to receive a contract. We will post a message on the Illinois Commodity System message board by February 9, 2007, listing which processors will be getting a contract and instructions on how to switch commodities. Schools will have until February 19, 2007, to switch their commodities. If a school does not switch their commodities, ISBE will “zero out” those pounds diverted to a processor NOT getting a contract.

### Action for Healthy Kids Campaign for School Wellness New Field Reports

Action for Healthy Kids (AFHK) announces its series of new Field Reports as part of the Campaign for School Wellness. The Campaign for School Wellness is a multifaceted communications and outreach effort providing resources to schools on wellness.

The field reports listed below are available to download at <http://www.actionforhealthykids.org/>:

Giving Kids the Voice of Authority: Engaging Students in the Fight Against Childhood Obesity

- Tapping Into the Power: Engaging Parents in the Fight Against Childhood Obesity
- From the Top Down: Engaging School Leaders in Creating a Healthier, More Physically Active School Environment

- Read A Mission Becomes a Mandate: Campaign for School Wellness to learn more about the Campaign for School Wellness.

---

## Student Opportunities

### CTE educator scholarships available

Eastern Illinois University has two scholarships for incoming freshmen who plan to attend and major in Career and Technical Education. At Eastern, the Career and Technical Education program includes business education, family and consumer sciences education, and technology (trade and industry) education.

Please forward this information to your regional director colleagues as well as those who teach business, FCS, and/or tech ed and any guidance counselors. More information about the two scholarships can be found at <http://www.eiu.edu/~tech> under Prospective Students. The deadline is February 23.

Also, please note that one of the scholarships can go to a CTE major or a student majoring in Industrial Technology.

The Twelfth Illinois Association for Gifted Children Convention is being held on February 4 through 6, 2007 and will offer a variety of sessions on Monday and Tuesday. There are half-day or quarter-day sessions organized around the following strands: Program Development and Social/Emotional Needs. In addition, check Sunday’s schedule for special parent and educator workshops in the afternoon, as well as a Sunday evening session with Susan Jackson, on *Down the Rabbit Hole*. Registration is limited to the first 1200 attendees per day.

See the Registration Form for early, regular and after January 15 fees. If you plan to register at the door, or after January 15, please call IAGC to ensure that there is space available. For more information, please contact the Illinois Association for Gifted Children at 847-963-1892 or on the web at <http://www.iagcgifted.org/>. Flyers and registration materials may be downloaded at <http://www.iagcgifted.org/conventions/2007/10.4Con%20broc..pdf>

---

## Those Who Excel

### Illinois 2006-2007 Teacher of the Year available for speaking

**Joe Fatheree**, the 2006-2007 Illinois Teacher of the Year, is currently scheduling speaking engagements. Joe

is Technology Director at Effingham High School and has done some incredible things both in and outside of the traditional classroom. If you are seeking a motivational, inspirational speaker for your next workshop, conference, assembly, or meeting, you want Joe as a presenter! Please call **Susie Cisna** at 217-540-1100 for scheduling information.

### 2007-2008 Those Who Excel nominations now available

Nomination forms for the 2007-08 Those Who Excel program are now available online at [http://www.isbe.net/those\\_who\\_excel.htm](http://www.isbe.net/those_who_excel.htm). The deadline for submission is May 7. If you prefer a hard copy of the form please contact **Ann Muraro** or **Urlonda Briggs** at 217-782-4648.

---

## Professional Development

### Residential summer institute for teachers at Cal State Polytech

Ahimsa Center, in the College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences at California State Polytechnic University in Pomona, will hold a Residential Summer Institute for K-12 teachers, *Gandhi, Nonviolence and the 21st Century Curriculum* July 15 through 28, 2007. This Institute will focus on Mohandas K. Gandhi and the relevance of his life and legacy in the 21st century school curricula.

The Institute is open to all K-12 educators throughout the United States. Applicants selected to participate will receive fellowship covering the cost of tuition, eight units of graduate course credits, books and materials, room and board for two weeks, and special weekend programs.

Early application is highly recommended. For details, including fellowship benefits and application procedure, visit:

[http://www.csupomona.edu/~ahimsacenter/summer\\_institute/summer\\_institute\\_07.html](http://www.csupomona.edu/~ahimsacenter/summer_institute/summer_institute_07.html).

---

## Teaching Resources

### Illinois Department of Natural Resources launches Wild Illinois History web site

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources has launched “Wild Illinois History,” an interactive website at <http://www.wildillinois.org>. The site helps



students in grades three through five focus on early exploration, geography and wildlife conservation.

Teachers and students will find new features that make it a great supplement to Illinois history exploration. The improved site contains new lesson plans, streaming video, free photos, classroom materials and grant information. “Wild Illinois History” correlates with Illinois Learning Standards.

If you have used the site in the past, you'll find new features and lesson plans that make it a great supplement to Illinois history exploration. It contains streaming video, free photos, classroom materials and grant information.

Students can learn how wildlife helped Native Americans and early settlers survive; they can see how wildlife is a part of our lives today. A fictional French trapper from the 18th Century Illinois Territory leads students on the trip. Brief story-telling slideshows are mixed with fun, interactive activities. Lesson plans and activities are correlated to Illinois Learning Standards. Visit <http://www.wildillinois.org/>.

---

## Information Resources

### ISBE 2006 Annual Report

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

[http://www.isbe.net/pdf/ISBE\\_2006\\_Annual\\_Report.pdf](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/070126.htm>

