



Illinois State Board of Education

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Weekly Message

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January 30, 2006

Weekly Message from State Superintendent Randy Dunn

Good afternoon.

Okay - just a warning - this afternoon I'm going to talk about Tom Friedman's *The World is Flat*.

Now, I'm sure at this point you're thinking, "Oh, great, not you, too?" It does seem that everywhere you turn you see another review, online discussion or talk show debate about this book. But, if you'll bear with me, I think Friedman makes some points that deserve thought and attention.

While Friedman's book isn't just about education, he calls for education reform to meet the growing foreign challenge in math and science. He doesn't get into a lot of specifics and I won't either, but, some things come to mind that I'd like to talk about.

Technology experts widely agree that it takes fifteen years to create a scientist or advanced engineer—starting from when a youngster first gets "hooked on science and math in elementary school". Friedman asserts that the American education system doesn't stimulate young people to want to go into science, math and engineering. He calls for an "all-hands-on-deck, no-holds-barred, no-budget-too-large crash program for science and engineering education immediately." Friedman says, "The fact that we are not doing so is our 'quiet crisis'. Scientists and engineers don't grow on trees. They have to be educated through a long process."

Friedman tells his own children, "The world is being flattened. I didn't start it and you can't stop it...but we can manage it, for better or for worse. You can flourish in this flat world, but it does take the right imagination and the right motivation."

Are we doing everything we can to motivate our students to become a generation of "strategic optimists, the generation with more dreams than memories"?

The world is indeed flattening. So, what do we do about it? As education leaders, we have to prepare our students to compete in a global marketplace. We have to get kids "hooked on science and math" at an early age while we encourage them to be creative, imaginative and flexible. Yes, flexible. While our parents stayed in one job at the same company for 40+ years, today's workforce will change careers an average of three times before they retire.

We're preparing our students for jobs that have yet to be invented in places we'd be hard pressed to find on a map. That's a tall order, but, we can do it by thinking globally and acting locally.

Have a great week.

Randy Dunn

Table of Contents

Upcoming Deadlines	2
Government Relations.....	2
Funding and Disbursement	2
Data Analysis	2
Student Assessment	3
Grants.....	3
School Business and Support....	4
Professional Development.....	4
Curriculum and Instruction.....	4
Rules	5
Nutrition	5
Special Education	6
US EPA Announcement	8
IBHE News	8
Employment Opportunities.....	8
In the News	8

Upcoming Deadlines

- Annual Financial Report Verification – **January 31, 2006**
- Illinois Association of Teachers of English (IATE) Illinois Poetry and Prose Contest - **January 31, 2006**
- IDEA Requirement - District documentation of consultation with private schools and parent representatives of those schools within their jurisdictions – **January 31, 2006**
- Illinois Zero Waste School Program Grant – **February 1, 2006**
- Kinder Excellence in Teaching Award nominations due – **February 1, 2006**
- General Mills Champions for Healthy Kids grant applications – **February 1, 2006**
- Biotechnology Institute Teachers-Leaders Program – **February 3, 2006**
- Illinois Alternate Assessment materials ordering deadline – **February 10, 2006**
- National Youth Science Camp Applications – **February 17, 2006**
- Rulemaking Part 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision), Deadline for Public Comment - **February 20, 2006**
- Rulemaking Part 25 (Certification), Deadline for Public Comment - **February 20, 2006**
- Rulemaking Part 305 (School Food Service), Deadline for Public Comment - **February 20, 2006**
- National Center for Urban School Transformation Awards – **February 27, 2006**
- Grow Your Own Teacher Grants – **March 1, 2006**
- Fordham University National School Changes Awards applications – **March 3, 2006**
- 21st Century Community Learning Center Proposals – **March 15, 2006**
- American Stars of Teaching Award nominations – **April 15, 2006**

Government Relations

Legislative Update

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) Governmental Relations Division tracks bills assigned to committees each week. For details, go to http://www.isbe.net/gov_relations/default.htm. The Governmental Relations webpage is updated weekly with a list of all legislation the agency is tracking, bills scheduled for committee and a list of all ISBE initiated legislation. For more information, please call 217-782-6510.

Funding and Disbursement

Equipment Guidelines

As a result of a site visit to Illinois by the U. S. Department of Education on the appropriate use of Title I funds and implementation of the requirements, school districts are reminded that there are **very strict guidelines** for the purchase of equipment using Federal funds. The *State and Federal Grant Administration Policy and Fiscal Requirements and Procedures* sections on equipment definition, purchase, inventory, equipment management and equipment disposition are on pages 29 and 30 of http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/fiscal_procedure_handbk.pdf.

Proper equipment inventory will be reviewed in *all* monitoring visits. The guidance applies to school services in public and non-public settings when services are provided through Federal funds.

Specific guidelines for equipment used by non-public schools are included in the Inventory section of the guidelines.

For questions regarding the Equipment Guidelines, contact Kim Lewis or Jacquie Hayes, Funding and Disbursement Services Division, at 217/782-5256. For questions regarding monitoring visits, contact **Paul Williams**, External Assurance Division, at 217-782-7970.

Data Analysis

Exiting students from the Student Information System (SIS)

There have been several situations in which students have transferred out of a school but their SIS enrollment records were not exited (closed). This information must be kept current in the Student Information System.

Before another school can notify ISBE SIS of a student's new home school enrollment details, the student's previous school must exit his or her enrollment records in SIS. Please refer to page 76-77 of the *SIS User Manual* for directions on how to exit enrollments. The Exit Enrollment screen allows an authorized user to exit a student enrollment record when that student is no longer attending the school (i.e., transfers out). Compliance with these procedures will help all SIS users.

Student Assessment

ISAT Sample Books

2006 ISAT Sample Items for grades three through eight are available online at <http://www.isbe.net/assessment/default.htm>. Color versions will be posted in two weeks. Hard copies will be in schools by February 22. Interactive online tests are no longer available – they will be back again next year. ISBE apologizes for the inconvenience.



Testing Guidance For ISAT/IMAGE

Professional Testing Practices for Educators are also posted at <http://www.isbe.net/assessment/default.htm>

Grants

21st Century Community Learning Center (CCLC) FY07 RFP Technical Assistance Conferences set

21st Century Community Learning Center (CCLC) Technical Assistance Conferences will be held at the following locations to provide information and answer questions regarding the 21st CCLC FY07 RFP. The agenda will include review of the RFP, grant writing tips and elements of successful after-school programs. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m., workshops at 9.

February 6, 2006

Holiday Inn, Matteson - 500 Holiday Plaza Drive
Matteson, IL 60433

February 7, 2006

Hyatt Regency, Chicago - 151 E. Wacker Drive
Chicago, IL 60601

February 8, 2006

IEA PD Center, Springfield
3440 Liberty Drive (off Veterans Parkway)
Springfield, IL 62704

Please call the Federal Grants and Programs Division, 217-524-4832 if you have any questions.

Grow Your Own Teachers: a Strategy for Teacher Preparation and Retention

In 2004, Governor Blagojevich and the Illinois General Assembly passed the Grow Your Own Teachers Act to encourage and support programs for paraprofessionals, parents and other active community members to receive fully accredited teacher preparation.

Programs will be carried out by consortia of at least one four-year higher education institution with an accredited teacher preparation program, one or more community organizations, and at least one school district or group of schools. Consortia may include community colleges and school employee unions.

Program participants move together through the program, with guaranteed support and a schedule that allows them to work full time.

Eligible applicants for the planning grants are “potential consortia” that include a four-year, accredited institution of higher education with an approved teacher education program, and at least one community organization. The maximum amount available for planning grants is \$400,000; no more than \$40,000 will be awarded per grant. The grant period will begin no sooner than March 1, 2006, and will extend from the execution date of the grant until June 30, 2006. Visit <http://www.isbe.net/teachers.htm> for more information.

Eligible applicants for the implementation grants are consortia whose membership includes at least one four-year, accredited institution of higher education with an approved teacher education program, at least one school district or group of schools, and at least one community organization. Approximately \$200,000 is available for transitional projects; grant awards are expected to average approximately \$50,000 per recipient. The grant period will begin no sooner than March 10, 2006, and will extend from the execution date of the grant through June 30, 2006.

Requests for Proposals for planning grants and implementation grants for the Grow Your Own Education Initiative are online at: <http://www.isbe.net/grants/html/RFP.htm>

School Business and Support

Annual Financial Reports available for online verification

The District 2005 Annual Financial Reports are currently available for verification through IWAS. Districts must review these reports for accuracy by January 31, 2006. For more information visit: <http://www.isbe.net/sfms/afr/verification.htm>

Professional Development

Special invitation for teachers of Biotechnology Concepts

The Biotechnology Institute invites teachers to apply for its Annual National Biotechnology Teacher-Leader Program, April 6 through 9, 2006 at Roosevelt University in Chicago. Funds are being arranged for the selected Illinois teachers (up to 20) to reimburse out-of-pocket costs described below (travel, hotel accommodations, per diem, substitute reimbursement, and registration up to a maximum of \$700).



Submit duplicate applications, to both the National Biotechnology Teacher Leader Program and to **Gwen Pollock**, Illinois State Board of Education, C-215, 100 North First Street, Springfield, IL, 62777. Please send an email note immediately to gpollock@isbe.net to express intent to apply. The selected Illinois teachers will become a part of a statewide committee to develop a biotechnology initiative for the state. Your immediate consideration is absolutely necessary.

Planned events include Best Practices Day, hands-on sessions linked to education and skills standards, workforce training, teaching strategies, content updates, and field trips to local biotech sites of interest. All expenses with the exception of travel to the event and an application fee (\$130 due upon acceptance) are included. Participants recognized as National Biotechnology Teacher-Leaders are asked to conduct an outreach professional development session at the local, state, or national level based on the Teacher-Leader Program. In return each Teacher-Leader will receive a \$100 stipend. Participants also will have the option of attending the Biotechnology Industry Organization's (BIO) International

Convention on Sunday, April 9 to 12 for FREE. Participants are responsible for all expenses during the BIO convention to include housing, transportation, and meals.

Middle or high school and two- or four-year college faculty actively engaged in teaching in the life sciences and biotechnology are eligible to apply. Application deadline is February 3, 2006. Visit: http://biotechinstitute.org/programs/t_leader_program.html for more information or to download the **2006 Program Application**.

For more information contact **Kathy Frame**, Vice President for Educational Programs at the Biotechnology Institute, 703-248-8681, extension 777, email kframe@biotechinstitute.org.

Curriculum and Instruction

Reading First Block Grants

Districts eligible for the Reading Improvement Block Grant in FY06 will receive additional funds beyond their original allocation this spring with their April disbursement. These funds have become available from districts that have been deemed ineligible for FY06 and from unspent monies of the 2 percent set-aside provision of the grant. Districts must create an amendment for the FY06 grant application through the e-Grants Management System to account for the additional monies. An email will be sent through IWAS indicating when the new allocation amounts have been loaded into the system and when the amendments will be due to be completed. This should occur near the beginning of March. Please be sure to submit the amendment on or before the due date. If no amendment is filed, no payment will be made in April and funds will lapse.

Advanced Placement Classes – College Success for All Students Grant

Within the next week, the Division of Curriculum and Instruction will release a Request for Proposals (RFP) entitled Advanced Placement Classes – College Success for All Students Program. The purpose of this grant is to promote and support Advanced Placement (AP) and pre-Advanced Placement programs at schools with a high concentration of low income students. During the last several years, AP has been expanding to include a far greater number of students than ever before. While there has been Federal support for these programs, this is the first time State funds

have been used. These funds can be utilized to begin or expand AP or pre-AP programs as well as provide professional development for teachers and other school personal. Professional development is a required part of the proposal process; at least 50 percent of all funds awarded will need to be invested in training with the College Board in such areas as vertical team training and content specific training.

The requirements for this RFP will be posted on http://www.isbe.net/curriculum/html/advanced_placement.htm along with the schools and districts which are eligible. A 40 percent free and reduced lunch count is a requirement for this grant. Additionally, there will be a question and answer forum for those wishing to apply. There will be two bidders' conferences. It is recommended that applicants attend one of these conferences. The first conference will be held in Conference Rooms A and B on the second floor of ISBE's Springfield Office at 100 North First Street on February 8, 2006 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Please check in at the south end guard station at least ten minutes prior to the start of the conference. The second conference will be held at the Elizabeth Center at 320 North Elizabeth in Chicago on February 10, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.. The Elizabeth Center is near downtown Chicago and close to all the major highways and rail lines. A threaded discussion board will be posted on the website for questions and answers.

A list of eligible schools is posted on http://www.isbe.net/curriculum/html/advanced_placement.htm. This list includes both high schools that will offer AP and middle schools that will offer pre-AP. Those districts believing they meet eligibility, but not on the list, must provide a school report card with low income information to be eligible.

For more details on the RFP, the bidders conferences, or other aspects of current AP programming, consult http://www.isbe.net/curriculum/html/advanced_placement.htm or call **Lou Berkman** 312-814-3853 at the ISBE Chicago office.

Rules

Public hearing set for proposed School Food Service rules

The State Board of Education will hold a hearing to gather public input on the proposed amendments to rules governing School Food Service (23 Ill. Adm. Code 305) on Wednesday, February 8, 2006, from 1 to 3 p.m. at its Springfield office, 100 North First Street, Fourth Floor, State Board Room. The proposed amendments are online at <http://www.isbe.net/rules/proposed/pdfs/305wf.pdf>.



Enter the building at the southwest corner. All visitors will be required to sign in and present a photo ID. The hearing will be accessible to persons with disabilities (an accessible entrance can be found at the northwest corner of the building). Persons planning to attend who need special accommodations should contact **Jennifer Thornton**, Human Resources Division at the State Board of Education, Phone: 217-782-6434; TTY/TDD: 217-782-1900; Fax: 217-524-0396 no later than one day prior to the meeting.

The State Board will take testimony from interested parties about the proposed amendments. Persons making public comment are asked to sign in prior to the start of the hearing. They should confine their remarks to the specific rules under consideration. While not required, each commenter is strongly encouraged to provide to State Board staff a written copy of his or her comments prior to beginning his or her testimony.

Nutrition

Start Breakfast with a \$3,500 Grant!

The State-funded School Breakfast Start-Up Incentive Grant is designed to assist schools in overcoming some of the barriers associated with starting a new program and provides up to **\$3,500 per school** for eligible costs. Any school that did not participate in the School Breakfast Program (SBP) during the 2004-05 school year and agrees to operate a SBP for a period of not less than three years from the date that meal service is initiated is eligible to apply. The application packet is available at http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/breakfast_state.htm

For additional information, contact **Sandy Dunkel** at 1-800-545-7892.

The Outlook newsletter online

Make a point to bookmark *The Outlook* newsletter webpage at <http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/newsletters.htm> and visit it the first week of the months August through May. Nutrition Programs publishes this electronic newsletter, *The Outlook*, which includes school meals regulatory updates, upcoming training opportunities, wellness policy information, school lunch news and much more! Archived copies are also available.

Special Education

Social Emotional Learning Standards Information

Since the Standards for Social Emotional Learning (SEL) were issued in December 2004, schools across Illinois have been addressing SEL goals and standards in diverse ways through classroom curriculum, school-wide activities, student support services, and school-family partnerships. The ten SEL standards, with benchmarks for different age levels, present you with a challenge—and an opportunity.

Illinois' SEL goals and standards address content and outcomes essential for the school and life success of all students. They include competencies long considered important by educators, parents, and prospective employers. In fact, it is likely that schools in your district already address at least some of these competencies as part of character education, youth development, or initiatives to reduce aggressive or disruptive behavior and promote non-violent conflict resolution or student service.

The Illinois State Board of Education is eager to provide helpful resources for schools as they develop beneficial programming for students. To assist schools that decide implement an SEL curriculum, the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) at the University of Illinois at Chicago has reviewed 250 SEL programs, described 80 that meet basic criteria, and identified 22 high-quality programs. In *Safe and Sound*, you'll find descriptions and ratings of these programs, including information about the strength of the scientific evidence for their positive impact on student behavior. The *Illinois Edition of Safe and Sound* includes the SEL standards, as well as a new introduction specifically for Illinois educators. Download a copy at <http://www.casel.org/home/index.php>, or

contact Cynthia Coleman at CASEL colemanc@uic.edu to purchase copies.

Special Education Pupil Program and FACTS Changes - 2005-06

EDWin CONVERSION TO iePoint>2006

In the coming weeks, Harrisburg Project will release the first version of the new *iePoint>2006* software. As promised, it is based on the *EDWin* software and contains all of its functionality. *iePoint>2006* will completely replace *EDWin* for the remainder of the 2005-06 school year and beyond. It will be used for all of the familiar *EDWin* management tasks: Student/FACTS Approval Reporting, Pupil Claim Reporting, Personnel Approval/Claim Reporting, Class Lists, Event Tracking, Transportation, etc. *EDWin* 9904/2005 will still be used, as is, for all school years prior to 2005-06.

iePoint>2006 represents a substantial upgrade to the *EDWin* software and has many improvements and additions. The main focus of the initial release of *iePoint>2006* is to accommodate all of the following changes mandated by the Illinois State Board of Education and the Federal Office of Special Education.

Funding and Child Tracking System (FACTS) Changes

Please note that page numbers have been added to each change below as appropriate which corresponds to the 2005-06 Special Education Funding and Child Tracking System (FACTS) Approval Procedures" (January 2006, Revision 2). Harrisburg Project has created several animated narrations which illustrate how these changes have been integrated into *iePoint>2006*. You may view these at your convenience by visiting <http://www.hbug.k12.il.us/>. Free Harrisburg User Group (HUG) meetings are scheduled in late March. The HUG schedule will be available on the Harrisburg website in February.

Beginning with the March 17, 2006 optional transmission the following changes will be in place:

- The March 17 transmissions for both FACTS and Personnel Approval have been changed to Optional and the April 28 transmissions have been changed to Required.
- *iePoint>2006* will require IWAS authorization for all Districts, based on Resident District only and ISBE will NOT allow partial file transmissions. This means that in order for a

district to transmit its special education data electronically, it must formally consent to electronic transmission by indicating its approval on ISBE's IWAS web site. This is important to you because until all of your districts grant IWAS approval, ISBE will not accept data from you. (Page 1)

- New Serving District and Resident and Serving School fields. Resident School field is required for all FACTS records. Serving District and Serving School are required fields on all FACTS records for all Fund codes except B, F, and H. Please see the detailed narrative in “2005-06 Special Education Funding and Child Tracking System (FACTS) Approval Procedures” (January 2006, Revision 2) (Pages 3-9). This document is available for previewing on Harrisburg Project’s website. In general, the resident district and/or the special education cooperative to which that district belongs are authorized to report student data.
- For non-public students that are being served via an Individual Service Plan outside their resident district (Fund Code L only), the serving district may report these students as long as they are not dually enrolled. (Pages 3-4)
- Any student served in a school operated by the Department of Human Services (e.g. Ill School for the Deaf or Visually Impaired) may only be reported by the Resident District. (Page 3)
- Any student served by Prairie Crossing Charter School may only be reported by Prairie Crossing Charter School and must indicate the student’s Resident District and Prairie Crossing Charter School as the Serving District. (Page 3)
- New Fund Code P Home-Schooled--Not Enrolled. Please see “2005-06 Special Education Funding and Child Tracking System (FACTS) Approval Procedures” (January 2006, Revision 2) for more details. Please note that these students will not be counted in the non-public proportionate share amount beginning in FY 07.
- FY 07 Non-Public Proportionate Share Calculation
- Beginning in FY 07, the non-public proportionate share amount will be calculated using the number of non-public students receiving services via an Individual Service Plan (Fund Code L students) from the serving school district and the number of non-public students determined as eligible to receive services on December 1, 2005. If the serving school district reports Fund Code L students, it must also indicate the resident district as appropriate. Dually enrolled non-public students (Fund Code K) and home schooled students (Fund Code P)

will not be included in the non-public proportionate share calculation.

- Site of Service field has been eliminated.
- A field for a student’s middle name is available. Although this field is not required you are highly encouraged to enter a student’s middle name to reduce the potential number of duplicates. (Page 10)
- Student Information System (SIS) ID number field has been added. This field is not currently required. (Page 10)
- Ethnic codes have been aligned with the Student Information System (SIS) although “06 Multi-racial” is not available. (Page 11)
- A distinction is made between Pre-K-1 which indicates a student’s first year of attendance in an early childhood program from Pre-K-2 which indicates a student’s second and third year attendance in an early childhood program. (Page 14)
- Language Codes have been expanded to align FACTS with the Student Information System (SIS). (Pages 16-17)
- Bilingual Instruction has been removed as a reporting requirement although the Severity of Disability and the question as to whether an eligible student has completed the Illinois Measure of Annual Growth in English (IMAGE) test have been retained. (Page 18)
- EE Codes 13-16 should only be reported when the serving district is the Department of Human Services (DHS) and the student is educated at a DHS facility. (Page 27)
- Percent Time in Special Education and Full Time Equivalency narrative have been removed from FACTS Approval and placed in the Special Education Pupil Reimbursement.

Additional Data Collection For Students Parentally Placed In Non-Public Schools (Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1412(A)(10)(A)(I))

The following new required data collection elements will be collected by the public school district that have non-public (e.g. parochial) schools in its jurisdiction and is responsible for the evaluation and determination of eligibility to provide special education services.

- Number of Students Evaluated During Entire School Year – This number represents the total number of parentally placed students in non-public schools evaluated for special education services for the entire school year. This number is regardless of whether the student was determined eligible for services or left the non-public school during the school year.

- Number of Students Determined Eligible for Services During Entire School Year – This number represents the total number of parentally placed students in non-public schools evaluated and determined eligible for special education services for the entire school year. This number is regardless of whether the student left the non-public school during the school year.
- Number of Eligible Students in District Jurisdiction NOT Receiving Services on December 1 – This number represents the total number of parentally placed students in non-public schools evaluated and determined eligible, but who are yet to receive special education services from the public school district as of December 1. This number should not include a non-public student who has been evaluated and determined eligible but has left the non-public school in the jurisdiction of the public school district prior to December 1. This number will be used in the calculation of the public school district’s non-public proportionate share calculation beginning in FY 07.

ISBE employment opportunities

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

Highlights from last week’s education news clips are posted at: <http://www.isbe.net/news/2006/newsclips/060127.htm>.



HealthySEAT

Healthy School Environments Assessment Tool

Helping you keep your schools healthy places for children to learn.

Are you a school district health or safety officer, facility manager, or administrator with responsibility for the safety and health of students and staff in your schools?

Have you been looking for a software tool to help you merge all of your school facility environmental, health, and safety information into a single database?

EPA’s new, free, and completely voluntary HealthySEAT software is designed to serve your needs.

- ▶ Identify and address potential environmental, health, and safety problems before they arise;
- ▶ Track environmental health and safety conditions school by school;
- ▶ Generate customized checklists and internal reports;
- ▶ Produce compelling data on facility conditions and needed improvements;
- ▶ Find, with the click of a button, information on EPA regulatory requirements and voluntary recommendations for schools on dozens of issues.

EPA has loaded the key elements of its programs for schools into a single checklist and *fully customizable* software that can be easily adapted to *your district’s policies and priorities*.

Districts can use HealthySEAT to *track any facility conditions*, including safety, security, and occupational health requirements from other federal agencies, many of which are already included in HealthySEAT.

HealthySEAT is self-contained; there is no need to purchase new software. An easy installation wizard will guide you through the set-up process.

Download your free copy of HealthySEAT today at:

www.epa.gov/schools

Once downloaded from the EPA web site, HealthySEAT is yours to customize and use as you see fit. There are no reporting requirements and no obligation to use the checklist EPA has provided.