



Jan. 30, 2012

Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

The Illinois State Board of Education is recommending an increase of \$265 million in the Fiscal Year 2013 K-12 schools budget. This is a responsible ask, representing a 3.8 percent increase over Fiscal Year 12, but still significantly lower than our peak in FY 2009.

Over the past three years, education funding in Illinois has been reduced by \$650 million as we have been mired in a stubborn recession that has wreaked havoc with our economy. State forecasters predict that increased revenue from last year's tax increase will be eaten up by increased pension and Medicaid costs. However, we are an independent Board and our members feel this modest increase in funding is warranted, despite the fact most state agencies will be required to take decreases in their budgets of 5 percent to 10 percent.

The majority of the increase, \$201 million, is in General State Aid (GSA). Last year, insufficient funding was appropriated to pay GSA at the statutory Foundation Level of \$6,119, which resulted in a statewide proration of 95 percent or an effective GSA Foundation Level of \$5,953. However, attempting to increase transparency in budgeting, the Board's FY 13 recommendation shows a decrease in the per-pupil GSA Foundation Level, despite the increase of \$201 million in this line, from the FY 2012 level of \$6,119 to \$5,972.

The Board's recommendation includes new line items to support the comprehensive reform initiatives we have under way which will help us meet criteria outlined for the federal waiver to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Some of the highlights of the proposed FY 2013 budget recommendation include:

- \$201.3 million increase for General State Aid (GSA).
\$19.9 million increase for early childhood education, providing a 6.1 percent increase over FY12 levels but still falling short of the FY09 levels.
\$7 million increase in the bilingual education line item to help districts meet the needs of the growing bilingual population across the state and meet new mandates to provide bilingual preschool programs.
\$5.8 million increase for State Assessments which were cut by nearly 9 percent in FY11, to be used to assess the academic growth of additional students consistent with the parameters of the waiver application. This increase would also cover the cost of restoring the 11th grade PSAE writing exam, which was eliminated this year due to budget cuts.
\$4.1 million in additional funding to support new principal and teacher mentoring as outlined under comprehensive reform legislation, referred to as Senate Bill 7, signed into law last spring.

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- \$3 million appropriation for improvement strategies and interventions in the state’s lowest performing schools.
- \$2.8 million increase in the amount of funding to pay incentives for recently-consolidated districts, and for feasibility studies as districts consider consolidation or another form of reorganization to increase efficiency.
- \$2 million toward training educators on Common Core Standards implementation.
- \$1 million appropriation toward support and resources for the growing population of homeless students in Illinois schools.

The Board based its decisions regarding programs and funding on several key principles, including support for the largest number of students and greatest flexibility for districts, and alignment to ISBE’s strategic goals.

This is the first step in the FY 2013 budget process. We will now submit our budget recommendation to the Governor and General Assembly for consideration as part of the overall State FY2013 state budget. The Board’s budget proposal is posted on <http://www.isbe.net/budget>.

Have a great week!

Chris

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## Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

- **Part 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision) and Part 235 (Early Childhood Block Grant)** – Public comment period ends Jan. 30
- **2011-12 Teacher Salary Study data form deadline** – Feb. 1
- **2011-12 Noncertified Staff Salary Study survey** – Feb. 1
- **Part 30 (Programs for the Preparation of Principals in Illinois)** – Public comment period ends Feb. 14
- **Illinois New Teacher Collaborative’s Induction and Mentoring Conference** – Feb. 22-23 in Springfield
- **Part 226 (Special Education) and Part 575 (School Technology Program)** – Public comment period ends March 26
- **Part 51 (Dismissal of Tenured Teachers under Article 24 and Dismissal of Tenured Teachers and Principals under Article 34 of the School Code)** – Public comment period ends April 2
- **2011-12 Eye Examination Data Collection deadline** – June 30

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## Performance Evaluation Reform Act

### State Board of Education Adopts Model Principal Evaluation Form

The Performance Evaluation Reform Act (PERA) requires, among other things, that all school districts incorporate data and indicators of student growth as a significant factor in principal evaluations beginning with the 2012-2013 school year. PERA also requires that the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), based on recommendations from the Performance Evaluation Advisory Council, adopt a model principal evaluation form that school district may choose to use. At its meeting last week, ISBE adopted a model principal

evaluation form, which will be available soon at the following link: <http://www.isbe.net/PERA/default.htm>. ISBE staff will continue to add information and tools to assist school districts with the implementation of these new evaluation systems. If you have any questions, please contact [yphillip@isbe.net](mailto:yphillip@isbe.net).

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## Innovation and Improvement

### Series of Meetings on Illinois’ ESEA Flexibility Waiver Request Starts Jan. 31

The Illinois State Board of Education is committed to getting feedback from stakeholders on the ESEA Flexibility Waiver announced by President Barack Obama last September. This waiver allows states to apply

for waivers from certain provisions of the Federal No Child Left Behind Act, also known as the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Illinois Leadership supports the waiver opportunity and is committed to working with our stakeholders to develop and submit a strong waiver request in February 2012. It is critical that we engage stakeholders in the process and hear from a diverse group of citizens to inform our waiver request and develop the system that puts Illinois children first. Our waiver request will be based upon the Board's goals to better prepare every student for success in college and careers. It will raise expectations for all students and will be focused on closing achievement gaps. Illinois is a diverse state and we know prescriptive solutions simply don't work. Our waiver request will include flexibilities in spending, supports and reforms to best meet the local needs, while at the same time raising expectations for students and educators through implementation of higher learning standards and an evaluation system based on measured progress. The Illinois State Board of Education will host a series of meetings across the state to elicit feedback from stakeholders. We hope you take advantage of these opportunities to participate and provide your input.

- 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2012, John A. Logan College and Conference Center, Carterville, IL 62918; (618) 985-3741
- 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 2, 2012, President Abraham Lincoln Hotel and Conference Center, Springfield, IL 62701
- 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Friday, Feb. 3, 2012; Rock Falls Hotel, Rock Falls, IL 61071

For questions and concerns, please contact Melina Wright at (312) 814-2804 or [mewright@isbe.net](mailto:mewright@isbe.net).

### **First of Family Engagement Webinar Series Available Online**

The Illinois State Board of Education's Division of Innovation and Improvement has planned a series of 60-minute Family Engagement Webinars as part of a statewide family engagement initiative. The first webinar, "Improving High School Family Engagement through Parent Support Centers," was held Jan. 26, and is available on the IllinoisParents.org website. Go to <http://www.illinoisparents.org/toolbox/PIWebinarSeries/1-26-12ImprovHighSchoolFamilyEngagthruParentSupportCenters.wmv>.

Each webinar in the 2012 series will feature practitioners from the 2011 Regional Summits. The practitioners will share their experiences in the successful implementation of evidence-based family engagement strategies in their schools or districts. These sessions are open to district staff, school staff, parent facilitators and parents. Information on the upcoming session is below and you may register by clicking on the registration included.

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## **Fiscal and Procurement**

### **RFSP for Coordination of Interventions in Low-Performing School Districts Posted**

The Illinois State Board of Education has released a Request for Sealed Proposal (RFSP) for an entity or entities with human resources to assist in the coordination of various aspects of the State Board of Education's interventions in low-performing school districts and to provide technical assistance services to school districts that are participating in educational reform or school improvement initiatives. The RFSP has been posted on the Procurement Policy Board's website.

The selected entity or entities will assist ISBE with the coordination of state-level interventions in one or more identified school districts with persistently low-performing schools. As part of this coordination responsibility, the individuals or subcontractors will visit the identified school districts; ensure coordination of the various interventions and school improvement efforts being implemented in the school districts; serve as a liaison to the State Superintendent with regard to any interventions employed in these school districts; work closely with each school district's board of education and administration on budget, personnel, contracting and other matters; and attend all meetings of each school district's board of education.

Additionally, the selected entity or entities will assist school districts participating in other initiatives specific to education reform and improvement. The individuals or subcontractors would help one or more participating school districts develop a plan of work that achieves the goals and purpose of these initiatives; work with these school districts to track their progress in implementing the activities outlined in their work plans; and help the school districts track and measure their success in meeting their goals and those of the initiatives.

The entity or entities selected will also collect and monitor data and performance objectives from school

districts in which the ISBE has intervened and from school districts participating in other educational reform or school improvement programs and present such information and analyses to state and local personnel as required.

Individuals or subcontractors assigned to the work of this contract will be required to work at ISBE's location in Springfield or Chicago.

The Coordination of Interventions in Low-Performing School Districts is solicitation number 22024369. Registration on the Illinois Procurement Bulletin is required for a potential bidder to view the RFSP, download files that accompany the solicitation or receive automatic e-mail notifications for addendums, award postings, etc. To register, go to <http://www.purchase.state.il.us/ipb/registration.nsf/RegMainFrameset?OpenFrameset>.

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## Funding and Disbursement Services

### Reminder: FY 12 General State Aid Proration and June 20 Payment

As a reminder, the \$6,119 GSA foundation level used in the GSA calculation was based on a total budgeted FY 2012 appropriation of \$4,448,104,514. The GSA net entitlement based upon final local tax revenue and average daily attendance information calculated to \$4,679,299,867. This resulted in a shortfall of \$231,195,353. This shortfall requires a proration of 95 percent, which has been applied towards the gross entitlement for each school district and regional office. The 95 percent proration is not being proportionally applied over the entire year. Consistent with prior years, the entire reduction is instead being applied in full to the two last scheduled payments in June. For most districts, it eliminates the June 20 payment entirely. Final computations and individual claim information for districts and regional offices can be accessed in GSA 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.

### Fiscal Year 2012 Supplemental ARRA Education Jobs Funds Final Allocations

The U.S. Department of Education notified the Illinois State Board of Education that supplemental American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Education Jobs (Ed Jobs) funds in the amount of \$6,136,142 are available for eligible Illinois local education agencies (LEAs). The Supplemental Ed Job funds are in addition to the initial Ed Jobs grant award of \$415,397,841 that was allocated in August 2010 and must be used to pay salary and benefits of school building level employees.

For more detailed information regarding the supplemental funds, including final allocations for all LEAs that accepted the funds, see the following link at [http://www.isbe.net/arra/pdf/arra\\_ed\\_jobs\\_supp\\_final\\_all\\_oc\\_msg\\_fy12.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/arra/pdf/arra_ed_jobs_supp_final_all_oc_msg_fy12.pdf).

The Supplemental Ed Jobs funds are subject to the same requirements as the initial Ed Jobs funds. U.S. Department of Education guidance on the allowable use of Education Jobs funds can be accessed at <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/educationjobsfund/governors-ed-jobs-guidance-revised-4-13-11.doc>.

The FY 12 Supplemental ARRA Ed Jobs program has been assigned revenue code 4880 and is being paid on a reimbursement basis – i.e. to receive reimbursement, the LEA must submit a cumulative (year-to-date) electronic expenditure report via the Electronic Expenditure Reporting system in IWAS reporting the total amount expended on a cash basis in the appropriate function and object code. Detailed reporting procedures are at [http://www.isbe.net/arra/pdf/arra\\_ed\\_jobs\\_supp\\_rptg\\_req\\_fy12.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/arra/pdf/arra_ed_jobs_supp_rptg_req_fy12.pdf).

Questions regarding the ARRA Education Jobs program can be directed to Jim Mathes ([jmathes@isbe.net](mailto:jmathes@isbe.net)) or Marj Beck ([mbeck@isbe.net](mailto:mbeck@isbe.net)) in the Division of Funding and Disbursement Services at (217) 782-5256.

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## English Language Learning

### Applications for Migrant Supplemental Education Services Funding Available

The Division of English Language Learning is accepting applications for migrant supplemental education services funding for the summer of 2012 in districts with qualifying migrant children under Title I, Part C of the No Child Left Behind Act. The application is available at <http://www.isbe.net/bilingual/htmls/migrant.htm>. The application deadline is Thursday, March 15, 2012.

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 due to economic necessity 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 Illinois State Board of Education can assist districts in identifying eligible migrant children. Information about how to request assistance 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 [berobins@isbe.net](mailto:berobins@isbe.net) or (312) 814-3850.

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## Those Who Excel

### Nomination Packets Available for Annual ISBE Awards Program

Do you know an outstanding teacher, principal or school board member? Perhaps your district has an excellent superintendent or a school secretary that consistently goes above and beyond for students. The Those Who Excel/Illinois Teacher of the Year program publicly recognizes those individuals.

Those Who Excel also includes categories for student support personnel, educational service personnel, community volunteers and teams of people who provide our schools with assistance in numerous ways. The 2012-13 Illinois Teacher of the Year is selected from the pool of teachers nominated in this program.

Nomination packets and additional information is available at [http://www.isbe.net/those\\_who\\_excel.htm](http://www.isbe.net/those_who_excel.htm). The deadline for nominations is Friday, June 8, and this year's banquet will be Saturday, Oct. 20, in Normal, Illinois. For a paper copy of the nomination, or if you have questions, please contact Ann Muraro-Lacopo at (217) 782-4648 or email [amuraro@isbe.net](mailto:amuraro@isbe.net).

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## Student Assessment

### Upcoming Dates and Deadlines for the 2012 PSAE

Please see the 2012 PSAE Checklist of Dates for a complete list of PSAE activities, online at [http://www.isbe.net/assessment/pdfs/2012/psae/checklist\\_of\\_dates.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/assessment/pdfs/2012/psae/checklist_of_dates.pdf).

- **Jan. 25, 2012:** PSAE Question and Answer Webinar, 3 p.m. Register at [http://www.isbe.net/assessment/htmls/psae\\_webinar.htm](http://www.isbe.net/assessment/htmls/psae_webinar.htm)
- **Jan. 27, 2012:** Deadline for ACT to **receive** applications for ACT-Approved accommodations for PSAE Day 1.
- **Feb. 6, 2012:** PSAE Question and Answer Webinar, noon. Register at [http://www.isbe.net/assessment/htmls/psae\\_webinar.htm](http://www.isbe.net/assessment/htmls/psae_webinar.htm)
- **Feb. 10, 2012:** Deadline for finalizing PSAE Day 2 orders on PSAE TestSites Online website.
- **Feb. 21, 2012:** PSAE Question and Answer Webinar, 9 a.m. Register at [http://www.isbe.net/assessment/htmls/psae\\_webinar.htm](http://www.isbe.net/assessment/htmls/psae_webinar.htm)
- **Feb. 24, 2012:** PSAE Pre-ID file sent to ACT for label production
- **March 9, 2012:** Deadline for ACT to **receive** requests for State-Allowed accommodations for PSAE Day 1.

### Upcoming Training Modules/Q&As for the 2012 IAA

The 2012 Illinois Alternate Assessment training modules and Power Points will be available Jan. 18 on the IAA webpage, <http://www.isbe.net/assessment/iaa.htm>. These modules are pre-recorded webinars to allow viewing at your convenience. These modules are designed to provide detailed training information on coordinator and teacher responsibilities of the IAA. The Illinois State Board of Education will have separate live Q&A sessions, for coordinators and teachers to address further questions you may have regarding the 2012 IAA.

Training modules for IAA Coordinators:

- Packaging & Distribution
- SchoolSuccess for Coordinators

Registration for a Live Q&A Session for Coordinators

- Wednesday, Feb. 1, 9-10 a.m., Reserve your webinar seat now at <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/374071481>
- Wednesday, Feb. 1, 1:30-2:30 p.m., Reserve your webinar seat now at <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/862090985>

Training modules for IAA Teachers

- SchoolSuccess for Teachers

- Test Administration

Registration for a Live Q&A Sessions for Teachers:

- Thursday, Feb. 2, 9-10 a.m., reserve your webinar seat now at <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/306236096>
- Thursday, Feb. 2, 1:30-2:30 p.m., reserve your webinar seat now at <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/570416968>

### Call for Teachers to Help with ACCESS Development

WIDA and CAL, the developers of ACCESS for ELLs, are currently accepting applications for participation in field tryouts of speaking and writing items. Field tryouts are an important step in preparing items for use on ACCESS for ELLs tests. During the Field Tryouts, teachers administer test items to their students, and then give feedback to test developers via an online survey. The speaking items are slated to appear on Series 301 (2012–2013), while the writing items are expected to appear on Series 302 (2013–2014).

- **Eligibility:** Any licensed teachers in WIDA states who are currently teaching;
- **Task:** Administering field test items to students and recording feedback and observations per instructions received from CAL (tasks will be identified after all applications have been received);
- **Tryout window:** March 5 to March 16, 2012; and
- **Remuneration:** \$75 to \$200 (depending on the number of items tested). If you are unable to accept payment, a donation in the form of a gift card will be made to your school (redeemable for books or school supplies).

Please note that the application deadline is Jan. 27, 2012. Interested educators can apply by visiting <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/fieldtryoutsapplication>.

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## Rules and Waivers

### Invitation to Comment on Rules

Several rulemakings recently reviewed by the Illinois State Board of Education are available for public comment. The proposals have been posted on the agency's website 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 51 (Dismissal of Tenured Teachers under Article 24 and Dismissal of Tenured Teachers and Principals under Article 34 of the School Code):** Streamlines the dismissal process to align to the provisions of P.A. 97-8, effective June 13, 2011, and provides for an optional alternative dismissal process, as per Section 24-16.5 of the School Code [105 ILCS 5/24-16.5].

*Deadline for Public Comment: April 2*

**Part 226 (Special Education):** Limits the conduct of medical reviews to registered nurses who hold school service personnel certificates endorsed for school nurse and individuals licensed to practice medicine in all of its branches.

*Deadline for Public Comment: March 26*

**Part 575 (School Technology Program):** Provides for additional loan award determination dates and payment dates in an effort to ensure that funds in the Technology Revolving Loan Fund are used expeditiously and for the purposes for which the fund was created.

*Deadline for Public Comment: March 26*

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## Career Development and Preparation

### Meeting Scheduled for Feb. 9 to Launch Illinois Pathways

On Feb. 9, 2012, the State of Illinois will launch Illinois Pathways, a Race to the Top funded Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education initiative designed to support college and career readiness. Join Gov. Pat Quinn and Lt. Gov. Sheila Simon in Bloomington from 1 to 3 p.m. as they convene public-private partners for a launch announcement. This event is hosted by State Farm and the Illinois Business Roundtable and will be attended by:

- Director Warren Ribley of the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
- State Superintendent Chris Koch of the Illinois State Board of Education
- President/Chief Executive Officer Geoffrey Obrzut of the Illinois Community College Board
- Executive Director George Reid of the Illinois Board of Higher Education
- Director Jay Rowell of the Illinois Department of Employment Security

During the meeting we will review the State's Round 3 Race to the Top award and the selection process for STEM Learning Exchanges. To register, go to <http://ilpathways.eventbrite.com>. Once registered, check your email for event updates and details.

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## Green Ribbon Schools

### Applications Sought for New Award Program

The Illinois State Board of Education launched its Green Ribbon schools award program, joining 32 other states in the U.S. Department of Education's pilot program. Later this spring, Illinois will nominate up to three public schools and one private school for consideration based on excellence in the three pillars of the program: reduced environmental impact, improved health and environmental literacy.

Applications for nominating Illinois schools can be found on the Illinois Green Ribbon Schools page at [http://www.isbe.net/green\\_ribbon](http://www.isbe.net/green_ribbon). Applications are due to ISBE by Feb. 12, 2012, and Illinois nominees will be announced in March. Following the U.S. Department of Education's announcement of winners in April there will be an award ceremony in Washington, D.C., in late May. The national ceremony will be followed by local ceremonies at each of the winning schools in fall 2012. For more information about the federal program, visit <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/green-ribbon-schools/index.html>.

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## Nutrition

### Resources Available on USDA Nutrition Standards for School Year 2012-2013

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has released the nutrition standards for school meals beginning with school year 2012-2013. The new standards were designed to align school meals with the most recent nutrition recommendations and current capabilities of schools.

The USDA currently has a number of resources available for schools to utilize to help them prepare for changes that are to be put into place for 2012-2013. The resources include:

- Final Rule: Nutrition Standards in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs
- School Meals Sample Menus

- New Meal Patterns and Dietary Specifications Chart
- Implementation Timeline
- Policy Memo SP 10-2012: Questions and Answers on the Final Rule

To access these resources, visit the USDA's website at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Governance/Legislation/nutritionstandards.htm>.

As more information becomes available, the Illinois State Board of Education will be posting updates, information and additional resources to the Nutrition Programs website at <http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/default.htm>.

ISBE Nutrition Programs Division staff are available for assistance by calling (800) 545-7892 or (217) 782-2491.

### Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Grant Application Webinar Coming Up

We are ready to kick off the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) grant application process for School Year 2012-2013. Staff with the Nutrition Programs Division of the Illinois State Board of Education will present a webinar for National School Lunch Program sponsors that are interested in applying for the FFVP grant for school year 2012-2013 on Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2011, from 9-10:30 a.m. Reserve your Webinar seat now at <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/639443265>.

The webinar will provide an overview of the FFVP and details about the grant application. The webinar is highly recommended for all schools that would like to apply for the grant. There will be limited time for questions during the webinar. The application will be available online ([http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/ffv\\_program.htm](http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/ffv_program.htm)) in early February 2012. The deadline to apply for FFVP (School Year 2012-2013) is March 15, 2012.

If you have any questions regarding the FFVP, please contact Lindsay Blough ([lblough@isbe.net](mailto:lblough@isbe.net)) or Roxanne Ramage ([rramage@isbe.net](mailto:rramage@isbe.net)) at (800) 545-7892.

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## Data Analysis and Progress Reporting

### Regional Safe Schools Program (RSSP) Student Reporting on IWAS

A new Regional Safe Schools Program (RSSP) IWAS system will open for school year 2011-12 data entry on Feb. 1, 2012. All regional offices of education and the

City of Chicago School District 299 are required to report student data to the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). The deadline for reporting is July 31, 2012. The user guide for RSSP student reporting on IWAS is available at [http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/rssp\\_iwas\\_user\\_guide.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/rssp_iwas_user_guide.pdf).

A webinar on RSSP end-of-year student data reporting is scheduled for 1-3 p.m. Jan. 31, 2012. An invitation to register for the webinar has been sent via email to all RSSP program directors. RSSP program administrators and/or data-entry personnel are encouraged to participate in the webinar.

Questions about using the RSSP IWAS system should be directed to the ISBE Help Desk at (217) 558-3600. Questions about the data to be reported for individual students should be directed to Dr. Lilibeth Q. Gumia in the ISBE Data Analysis and Progress Reporting Division at (217) 782-3950 or [lgumia@isbe.net](mailto:lgumia@isbe.net).

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## Student Opportunities

### K-12 Students Eligible to Enter Annual Illinois Youth Digital Safety Contest

The Illinois State Board of Education, Attorney General Lisa Madigan and the Illinois Lieutenant Governor's Office have launched the third statewide Illinois Youth Digital Safety Contest to raise awareness about making safe and respectful choices through digital communications. The contest, open to students in grades kindergarten through 12, encourages students to create posters or electronic messages addressing this year's theme "Bystander Intervention," or the idea that students who witness bullying can take action against it.

Students in any public or non-public district can enter the contest by submitting an entry as a poster or in an electronic media format (video, podcast or slideshow). Districts must have all entries mailed to ISBE and postmarked by March 30, 2012. Representatives from all three sponsoring government agencies will judge submissions.

Winners will be announced later in the spring and will be honored at a State Board of Education meeting and at an award ceremony at the Governor's Mansion. Winning entries will be shared on participating school and state websites. More about this year's contest rules, terms and conditions, can be found at [http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/html/internet\\_safety.htm](http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/html/internet_safety.htm).

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## Professional Development

### Details Added on English Language Arts Common Core Standards Work Sessions

English Language Arts Common Core Content Specialists from the Illinois State Board of Education along with Kay Dugan, Assistant Superintendent for Learning in Bensenville, and Laura Beltchenko, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction in Wauconda, will present a work session of the English Language Arts Common Core Standards curriculum alignment process as well as suggest resources, tools and implementation options. Teams will then replicate this process within their school districts. Teams of two to five district curriculum coordinators, teacher leaders and teams, administrators, Regional Offices of Education and Statewide System of Support Coaches are invited to attend. Please register for only one set of dates.

- **Jan. 30 -31:** Keller Convention Center, 1202 North Keller Drive, Effingham, IL 62401; (217) 347-5115; Register at <http://www.kidsroe.org/registration/WorkshopDetail.php?id=5401> (There is a wait list.)
- **Feb. 27-28:** Holiday Inn at the Airport, 3202 E. Empire St., Bloomington, IL 61704; (887) 863-4780; Register at <http://www.kidsroe.org/registration/WorkshopDetail.php?id=5405> (There is a wait list.)
- **April 26-27:** Event to be held at Giovanni's, 610 N. Bell School Road, Rockford, IL 61107; (815) 398-6411. Lodging at Holiday Inn, 7550 East State St., Rockford, IL 61108; (815) 398-2200; Register at <http://www.kidsroe.org/registration/WorkshopDetail.php?id=5406>

More dates will be announced soon.

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## Educator and School Development

### Seventh Annual Induction and Mentoring Conference Scheduled for Feb. 22-23

The Illinois New Teacher Collaborative (INTC) will hold its seventh annual Induction and Mentoring Conference on Feb. 22-23, 2012, in Springfield.



The conference, which is titled “Staying Committed to New Teacher Induction,” will examine how district and school personnel can make a difference in a new teacher’s career, even in tough times. Quality induction programs accelerate new teacher development and assist new teachers in their knowledge, skill, effectiveness and professional development, which, in turn, impact student achievement and success. This conference will provide practical and standards-based ideas about induction resources, evaluation, program goals and design. Conference sessions will help both established and new induction and mentoring programs improve, learn from other programs and develop a network of contacts to pave the way for new teachers’ success.

Conference registration is \$50, and substitute reimbursement and CPDUs are available. For more information or to register for the conference, visit <http://intc.education.illinois.edu/conference>.

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## **Illinois Network of Charter Schools**

### **INCS 2012 Charter Design Institute Set for Feb. 10-11**

The Illinois Network of Charter Schools will hold its 2012 Charter Design Institute on Friday, Feb. 10, and Saturday, Feb. 11, in Richton Park. The event will provide in-depth training on charter school design for those interested in starting charter schools in Chicago and across the state.

The two-day event will include charter school tours, training and presentations from charter experts. For more information and to register, visit <http://charterdesigninstitute.eventbrite.com>.

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## **In the News**

### **Weekly News Clips**

ISBE has posted highlights from last week’s education news clips at <http://www.isbe.net/news/2012/newsclips/120130.htm>.

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## **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>.