



Jan. 31, 2011

Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

Last week an appellate court struck down a law that provided funding for the \$31 billion Capital Bill that was passed in 2009. The court ruled that the law was too broad and violated the state Constitution’s single subject clause. The law raised taxes in 2009 on soda, candy and liquor, privatized administration of the state lottery, increased fees on cars and trucks and legalized video gaming.

This court ruling is causing a lot of uncertainty and questions. Governor Quinn has said that he will appeal the court’s ruling and in the meantime all projects that are already under way will continue as scheduled. ISBE has entitled districts for the School Construction Grants from 2003 and the Capital Development Board has issued the grants awards. However, we have not moved past the 2003 entitlements.

We are still uncertain about additional School Construction Grant funds, Maintenance Grants and Energy Efficiency Grants. We will let you know as soon as we have additional information on these grants and the capital construction program in general.

This week we are honoring the 834 schools that have been named to the 2010 Illinois Honor Roll. These schools are being singled out for making academic progress and the Honor Roll includes 71 schools that are being recognized for their seventh or eighth year. The 2010 Honor Roll includes schools from 364 districts statewide, with downstate schools representing 45 percent of the Honor Roll Schools, suburban schools representing 43 percent and Chicago schools representing 12 percent. In total, there were 852 awards this year in three categories.

- Spotlight Schools – Recognizes 300 high-poverty, high-performing schools that are beating the odds to overcome the achievement gap.
- Academic Excellence Awards – 459 schools have sustained high performance over at least three years.
- Academic Improvement Awards – 93 schools are showing substantial improvement.

Congratulations to the staff and students at all of these schools that were named to the list. While we know that in some instances additional improvements are absolutely needed, this shows that growth is being made and progress in these schools is moving forward.

You can find the entire list of Illinois Honor Roll Schools at <http://www.ilhonorroll.niu.edu>.

Have a great week!

Chris

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Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

- **Illinois New Teacher Collaborative Induction and Mentoring Conference registration deadline** – Jan. 31
- **2010-11 Teacher Salary Study Form deadline** – Feb. 1
- **2010-11 Noncertified Staff Salary Study deadline** – Feb. 1
- **Econ Illinois’ Illinois Personal Finance challenge registration deadline** – Feb. 1
- **Econ Illinois’ Economics Challenge registration deadline** – Feb. 1
- **School Employee Wellness Program Grant application deadline** – Feb. 1
- **Mathematics and the Common Core: Helping Illinois Educators Prepare for New Standards conference in Chicago** – Feb. 16
- **Part 151 (School Construction Program)** – Public comment period ends Feb. 18.
- **Registration deadline for Econ Illinois’ The Stock Market Game** – Feb. 18
- **PSAE Pre-ID labels sent to ACT for printing** – Feb. 25
- **Illinois New Teacher Collaborative’s Induction and Mentoring Conference in Springfield** – March 1-2
- **Union League Club of Chicago hosts Lincoln Inaugural Sesquicentennial** – March 4
- **Receipt deadline for ordering PSAE Day 1 State-Allowed accommodations test materials** – March 11
- **Part 226 (Special Education)** – Public comment period ends March 16
- **Illinois Young Authors’ Conference** – May 21
- **2010-11 Eye Examination Data Collection deadline** – June 30

Data Analysis and Progress Reporting

Administrator and Teacher Salary and Benefits – School Year 2011 Report

Sections 10-20.47 and 34-18.38 of the School Code [105 ILCS 5/10-20.47 and 5/34-18.38] require school districts to report administrator and teacher salary and benefits to the Illinois State Board of Education:

“Each school board shall report to the State Board of Education, on or before July 1 of each year, the base salary and benefits of the district superintendent [or the general superintendent of schools or chief executive officer] and all administrators and teachers employed by the school district. For the purposes of this Section, "benefits" includes without limitation vacation days, sick days, bonuses, annuities, and retirement enhancements.”

To comply with this law, school districts are required to submit to ISBE the following data for each individual employed as an administrator and/or teacher during school year 2011:

- **Name:** Legal last name, first name, and middle name
- **Position:** Main position, i.e., District Administrator, Other Administrator, or Teacher
- **Title:** Title for main position (optional)
- **Base Salary:** Dollar amount of base salary for all positions combined

- **FTE (Full-Time Equivalency):** FTE for all positions combined, counted in hundredths
- **Vacation Days:** Number of vacation days awarded this school year
- **Sick Days:** Number of sick days awarded this school year
- **Bonuses:** Dollar value of bonuses
- **Annuities:** Dollar value of employer-provided qualified and nonqualified annuities
- **Retirement Enhancements:** Dollar value of employer-provided retirement enhancements
- **Other Benefits:** Dollar value of other benefits provided by employer

The data must be submitted via the “Administrator and Teacher Salary and Benefits” system in IWAS. The system will be open for school year 2011 data entry starting Thursday, June 16, and the deadline to submit is Friday, July 1 (11:59 p.m.). The salary and benefits data you report are to include known payments through June 30, 2011, on all forms of compensation received by an individual.

District administrators and other authorized users can access the system March 1 through June 15 to visit a “Preparing for Submission” page. The page contains specific information about the data to be submitted and the required file upload process. ISBE strongly suggests downloading and using the Excel spreadsheet template that includes the proper headers and cell formatting required for your file to upload. You can use the Excel spreadsheet to gather and compile your data. After saving

as a CSV file, you can upload to ISBE once the system opens for data entry.

Questions can be directed to Mark Hobneck in the ISBE Data Analysis and Progress Reporting Division at 217-782-3950. Please note that this is a separate data collection from the Teacher Service Record (TSR), which has different data requirements and reporting timelines.

Curriculum and Instruction

Deadline Coming Up to Submit New Technology Integration Plan

Several federal and state funding programs for schools and districts in the state of Illinois require an approved Technology Integration Plan (TIP). The Illinois State Board of Education serves as the approving entity of Technology Integration Plans for public schools and/or districts outside of the city of Chicago.

Schools and/or districts with a Technology Integration Plan expiring June 30, 2011, have until 11:59 p.m. Monday, Feb. 28, 2011, to submit a new three-year Technology Integration Plan for FY11 approval. Plans will only be accepted for approval if submitted online, via the proper Illinois Interactive Report Card (iirc) template, available online at <http://iirc.niu.edu>, by the deadline. Districts that are not able to submit a plan by the deadline due to extenuating circumstances must request an extension, in advance of the deadline, by contacting Marica Cullen at mcullen@isbe.net.

Special Notice to Schools and Libraries applying for E-Rate reimbursements and/or discounts only: “Beginning with FY2011, technology plans are required only for Priority 2 services (Internal Connections and Basic Maintenance of Internal Connections).”

Read more about these changes online at <http://www.usac.org/sl/applicants/step02/>. Mid-course corrections in response to an annual review of a currently approved tech plan written to support E-Rate services expiring in 2012 or 2013 must be submitted online no later than 11:59 p.m. Feb. 22, 2011, for review and approval.

Districts are advised to contact their local LTC director for technical assistance as needed. For more information, contact Faith Bishop at 217-557-7323 or fbishop@isbe.net.

Free Workshop Kit on Preventing Suicide Among Gay Youth Available

Suicide Prevention among LGBT Youth: A Workshop for Professionals Who Serve Youth is a free workshop kit to help staff in schools, youth-serving organizations and suicide prevention programs take action to reduce suicidal behavior among lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) youth. It is being developed by the Suicide Prevention Resource Center at Education Development Center Inc.

Topics covered include suicidal behavior among LGBT youth, risk and protective factors for suicidal behavior, strategies to reduce the risk, and ways to increase school or agency cultural competence.

The kit contains everything you need to host a workshop: a leader's guide, sample agenda, PowerPoint presentations, sample script and handouts. The workshop includes lecture, small group exercises and group discussion. All these can be adapted to meet the needs of your audiences.

Download the LGBT youth Workshop kit at <http://www.sprc.org/LGBTYouthWorkshopKit.asp>.

Lincoln Inaugural Sesquicentennial Event Set for March 4 in Chicago

The Union League Club of Chicago will host the Lincoln Inaugural Sesquicentennial on from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, March 4. The event celebrates the 150th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's inauguration as president of the United States and brings together Lincoln scholars from across the country.

Some of the speakers include Thomas F. Schwartz, chief historian for exhibits and content at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum and director of research and the Lincoln Collection at the presidential library; Michael Burlingame, author of “Abraham Lincoln: A Life”; and David Zarefsky, author of “Lincoln, Douglas and Slavery: In the Crucible of Public Debate.”

This event is presented in partnership with the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, Chicago History Museum, Chicago Public Library, Civil War Round Table of Chicago, Lincoln Academy of Illinois, Newberry Library and Pritzker Military Library.

Attendance for all sessions, including a luncheon, costs \$45. Visit <http://www.ulcc.org/files/Lincoln.pdf> for complete details.

Assessment

Amendments to Rules Governing the State Assessment (23 Ill. Adm. Code 1.30)

The Illinois State Board of Education has amended its rules governing the State Assessment to define “grade 11” for the purpose of administering the Prairie State Achievement Examination (PSAE) or the Illinois Alternative Assessment (IAA). The text of the revised rule is presented below; ISBE anticipates the rule becoming effective on Jan. 20, 2011.

Section 1.30(b)(4) Districts shall administer the Prairie State Achievement Examination (PSAE) or the Illinois Alternate Assessment (IAA), if applicable under subsection (d) of this Section, to students in grade 11. (See Section 2-3.64 of the School Code.) For the purpose of this subsection (b)(4), “grade 11” means the point in time when a student has earned the number of credits necessary for enrollment in grade 11, as determined by his or her school district in accordance with Sections 1.420(b) and 1.440 of this Part. A district shall not promote a student to grade 12 status until that student has taken either the PSAE or IAA, as applicable.

Guidance for Spring 2011 Testing:

1. For the 2011 Spring PSAE and IAA administration only, home school districts are not required to pull back (reclassify) grade 12 students who have already been promoted to grade 12 prior to the administration of the PSAE or IAA. However, any students who take the PSAE or IAA in spring 2011 will be counted as grade 11 for the purposes of computing Adequate Yearly Progress for participation and performance, as appropriate.
2. Home School Districts are allowed to promote a student to grade 12 if the student was exempt from the state assessment while in grade 11 (Exemptions include: Medically Exempt, Homebound Exempt, In Jail/Locked Facility, Out of State/Country [See 2010-2011 Guidance – PSAE and Receipt of a Regular High School Diploma]). These exempt students would be eligible for a regular high school diploma, even though they would not take the PSAE or IAA.
3. Home School Districts are allowed to maintain a student as grade 12 if the student was exempt

from state assessment while in grade 12 (Exemptions include: Medically Exempt, Homebound Exempt, In Jail/Locked Facility, Out of State/Country, Non-Regular Diploma Recipient, or New to IL Public School in Grade 12). These exempt students would be eligible for a regular high school diploma, even though they would not take the PSAE or IAA.

4. For the 2011 Spring IAA administration only, Home School Districts are allowed to maintain a student as grade 12 if the student was IAA eligible and absent from the assessment while in grade 11 or were IAA eligible last year but not tested due to error. These students would be eligible for a regular high school diploma. However, upon the effective date of the new rule, students for whom the IAA is the appropriate state assessment may not be promoted to grade 12 status until they take IAA.
5. Home School Districts are allowed to maintain a student as being in grade 12 if they are new to the school and had achieved grade 12 status in their previous school that is a non-public school or is located out of the state or country. These transfer students would be eligible for a regular high school diploma, even though they would not take the PSAE or IAA.
6. Students who have completed all coursework but must take the PSAE in the spring to fulfill the PSAE Diploma Requirement should continue to be enrolled in the Student Information System until May 13, 2011, to ensure their inclusion in the Assessment Correction file.
7. Students who are classified by the district as being in grade 11 multiple years (due to credit status) must participate in the state assessment each spring that they maintain grade 11 status.

Nutrition

Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Webinar Scheduled for Feb. 24

We are ready to kick-off the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) grant application process for School Year 2011-12. 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 2011-12 on Feb. 24, 2011, from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Reserve your Webinar seat now at <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/232121505>.

The webinar will provide an overview of the FFVP and details about the grant application. The webinar is highly recommended for schools that would like to apply for the FFVP grant for the first time and for schools that have participated in the FFVP previously, as the application process has changed. There will be limited time for questions during the webinar. The FFVP grant application will be available online (http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/ffv_program.htm) Feb. 23, 2011. The deadline to apply for FFVP (School Year 2011-12) is March 31, 2011.

If you have any questions regarding the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program, please contact Lindsay Blough (lblough@isbe.net) or Roxanne Ramage (rramage@isbe.net) at 800-545-7892.

Nominations Sought for Interagency Nutrition Council Award for Wellness

The Interagency Nutrition Council (INC) is celebrating National Nutrition Month by commemorating those that are doing great things on wellness with the Robin A. Orr Community Partnership Award.

INC is taking nominations for outstanding work in the areas of nutrition, physical activity, wellness and food access. INC wants to hear about the programs and people that work to promote healthy eating; regular physical activity; food access, build positive partnerships; and/or include a community, family or school wellness component that can be replicated as a model program across the state. These programs may be schools, food banks/food pantries, senior/congregate feeding sites, Head Start programs, child care programs, food delivery systems, community programs, and/or local businesses.

For more information and to access the nomination form, please visit INC's website at <http://inc.aces.illinois.edu/>. If you have any additional questions, contact Lindsay Blough at lblough@isbe.net or 800-545-7892.

Applications Available for the Summer Food Service Program

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) is designed to provide nutritious meals during the summer months to children from areas where at least 50 percent are eligible for free or reduced-priced meals during the school year through the National School Lunch and School Breakfast

Programs. Does your area meet the above criteria? If so, consider becoming a sponsor to help bridge the gap for the children in your community. All sponsors will be required to submit the program application and monthly claims for reimbursement through the Illinois State Board of Education's Web Application Security (IWAS).

If the responsibilities of sponsorship of the SFSP are not possible, you can still participate in the program by operating a site, being a vendor or volunteering your time. Visit our website at <http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/summer.htm> to learn more about this vital program and how you can help.

Training workshops for the Summer Food Service Program will be held at the locations listed below for organizations interested in sponsoring the SFSP during the summer of 2011. Current sponsors can attend either the new sponsor training or the current sponsor trainings. Visit the web site above for workshop details, locations, times and registration.

SFSP New Sponsor Training Schedule

- March 15, 2011, in Marion (Williamson County Pavilion)
- March 16, 2011, in Fairview Heights (Four Points Sheraton)
- March 30, 2011, in Alsip (Doubletree)
- April 7, 2011, in Bloomington (Parke Hotel and Conference Center)
- April 13, 2011, in Rockford (Hilton Garden Inn)
- April 14, 2011, in Galesburg (Best Western Prairie Inn)
- May 11, 2011, in Chicago (Midway Four Points Sheraton)
- May 25, 2011, in Springfield (IEA Professional Development Center)

The training sessions are designed to provide a complete overview of the SFSP including ISBE's internet-based program application and claim system. All new sponsors are required to attend one of the trainings above.

SFSP Current Sponsor Training Schedule

- March 17, 2011, in Fairview Heights
- March 31, 2011, in Alsip
- May 12, 2011, in Chicago

For additional information, contact Amy Bianco or Deb Collins in the Nutrition Programs Division at 800-545-7892 or e-mail abianco@isbe.net or dcollins@isbe.net.

School Employee Wellness Program Grant Application Deadline Feb. 1

If your district and/or schools offer a school employee wellness program, consider applying for the Directors of Health Promotion and Education (DHPE) awards program. The program recognizes schools and school districts that demonstrate commitment to the health of their employees by implementing school employee wellness programs.

All applications and supporting materials must be postmarked by Feb. 1. Electronic submissions will be accepted. Learn more about the grant opportunity and listen to the archived webinar at

<http://www.schoolempwell.org/c/awards.web?nocache@1+s@emgtaMNHNoW>.

U.S. Department of Education

Voices in Action: National Youth Summit Scheduled for Feb. 26

As part of President Barack Obama's goal for the United States to lead the world in college completion by 2020, the U.S. Department of Education will host a youth summit in Washington, D.C., on Feb. 26. The Voices in Action: National Youth Summit aims to get ideas from high school and middle school student leaders.

Space to attend is limited. The registration link is <http://usdoedregistration.ed.gov/profile/web/index.cfm?PKWebId=0x4958291>. Details are available at <http://www.ed.gov/college-completion/youth-summit#desc>, including information on organizing a watch party to view a live webcast of the summit.

Over the summer, the Department of Education conducted a National Youth Listening Tour, meeting with more than 1,800 middle and high school students across the country. The day-long summit will address many of the key issues that were raised during the tour, including family engagement, high quality teaching, mentors and school climate.

Educator Certification

Division's Initiatives Put Technology to Use and Improves Efficiency

ISBE's Educator Certification Division has made giant strides in recent years to eliminate paper and make better use of technology. Under the leadership of division administrator Linda Jamali, the division has eliminated

the need for many filing cabinets with the scanning of paper applications and corresponding documentation. All applications are currently scanned at the point of intake. Prior to this, original paper copies filled many file cabinets which have all now been scanned and documents have been archived. This achievement has never before been accomplished in certification. This has helped to streamline the process, provide additional work space for evaluators, and remove a backlog in processing applications. In 2004, the division had an 18-month backlog, which had been as much as 3 years in prior years and currently most processing is completed in less than 60 days.

The division also implemented a new phone system to better handle the hundreds of calls they receive each day, eliminated mailing new certificates when endorsements are added which has reduced mailing costs, and have worked with higher education so that they would support adding endorsements rather than individuals requesting evaluations directly from the ISBE. This last initiative is an effort to move staff from evaluating transcripts to becoming providers of support and guidance to institutions. Since requirements are based on standards, institutions have a strong understanding of what courses meet specific standards rather than evaluators having to study course catalogs, review transcripts and make decisions based on course titles.

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 2011 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 Tuesday, March 15, 2011.

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 State Board 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.

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

FY 2011 Final Title III Allocation Amendments

Final allocations (including carry-over funds from the previous year) for FY11 Title III Language Instruction Programs for Limited English Proficient Students (LIPLEPS) have been posted. School districts awarded initial LIPLEPS funding through the FY11 Consolidated ELL Application must now revise their budgets to reflect these amounts. Please note that carry-over funds and pre-payments will only show up when an amendment is created in IWAS.

Districts with returned applications must revise the LIPLEPS budget to include the entire amount shown on the allotment.

Districts with approved applications must create and submit an amendment.

Please be certain to revise the Payment Schedule, the Proposed Program Activities and all other relevant sections of the application to ensure that they align with the amended budget.

Should you require IWAS technical assistance, please contact the ISBE Helpdesk at 217-558-3600. Any questions related to Title III programs should be directed to your Principal Consultant, who can be reached at (312) 814-3850.

Funding and Disbursement Services

FY 2012 Districts Eligible for Alternate PTELL Adjustment

Per the requirements of Public Act 96-0152, school districts that receive voter approval for an increase to their limiting rate are subject to an alternate adjustment in General State Aid (GSA) calculations. For such districts, the Equalized Assessed Value used in GSA calculations is the lesser of the real EAV for that district or the EAV used in the prior year's GSA calculations, multiplied by 1 + Consumer Price Index, + New Property EAV + Annexed Property EAV + Recovered TIF EAV – Disconnection EAV. The table provided lists all districts

known at this time to be eligible for this adjustment in FY 2012 GSA calculations. The EAV values as reported by the appropriate County Clerk are listed in each of the four categories.

We are asking that school districts listed at the link http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/alt_PTELL_adj_elig_dis12.pdf verify the effective years of the limiting rate increase and also the EAV amounts listed in the four categories. We also ask that any district that believes it qualifies for this adjustment – having a voter-approved limiting rate increase in effect for the 2009 tax year – but does not find itself listed, please contact ISBE and report this information. You may contact Jason Hall at jhall@isbe.net or 217-782-0249 or Jim Mathes at jmathes@isbe.net or 217-782-5256 if you have any questions or wish to report a correction to the data provided. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

New Census Estimates Released for FY 2012 Title I Low Income

The U.S. Department of Education has released the Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) for income year 2009. These estimates will be used to calculate FY12 Title I Allocations. A file of 2009 Poverty Data, by Local Education Agency (LEA), is provided in an alphabetical listing of LEAs, Poverty Count, 5-17 Population, Poverty Percentage and Total Population at http://www.isbe.net/funding/excel/FY12title_I_prelim_elig.xlsx.

With this data, LEAs can determine their potential eligibility for Basic, Concentration, Targeted and Education Finance Incentive Grants (EFIG).

Basic Grant eligibility: An LEA must have at least 10 poverty children and the number of poverty children must be greater than 2 percent of the LEA population of children ages 5-17.

Concentration Grant eligibility: An LEA must have at least 6,500 poverty children or the number of those children exceeds 15 percent of the total 5-17 population.

Targeted and EFIG grant qualifications: An LEA must have at least 10 poverty children and that number must be at least 5 percent of the 5-17 population.

The following link to the Census Bureau, <http://www.census.gov/did/www/saibe/index.html>, provides various aspects of the SAIPE count. We will be using the 2009 data to calculate SY 2011-12 Title I, Part

A allocations because they are the most recent available data.

Superintendents, business managers and Title I directors should carefully examine the data for their LEA as this will be the first indication as to whether your LEA may be gaining or losing in eligibility for Title I funds in FY11. ISBE neither controls nor generates the data.

Note that this preliminary data does not include other non-census information, such as foster, neglected or delinquent counts that may be used to calculate Title I allocations.

If you have questions on the information provided in this message, please contact Sally Cray at scray@isbe.net or Kim Lewis at kLewis@isbe.net in the Division of Funding and Disbursement Services at 217-782-5256.

2012 Federal Grants – Reimbursement Policy Change Webinar Posted Online

On Jan. 13, 2011, the Division of Funding and Disbursements conducted a webinar to explain the cash management changes that will be implemented for FY 2012 Federal grants. For those that were unable to attend the webinar, it is posted and can be viewed on the Division of Funding and Disbursements web page at <http://www.isbe.net/funding/default.htm> under “Current News.”

If you have further questions, please contact Kim Lewis at kLewis@isbe.net or Sally Cray at scray@isbe.net at 217-782-5256.

Innovation and Improvement

Lead Partner RFSP Release for FY 2012 School Improvement Grants

The Innovation and Improvement Division is seeking applications for entities to serve as an Illinois State Board of Education approved Lead Partner to offer services and programs designed to assist school districts [local educational agencies (LEA)] with school improvement efforts in Illinois’ persistently lowest schools.

The Lead Partner RFSP is available at the Illinois Procurement Board (<http://www.purchase.state.il.us>) under the Illinois BID link. The reference number is 22020656: SBE – Lead Partners to Support District and School Improvement Efforts. Registration is necessary to download the document. Complete Lead Partner

applications are due by 4 p.m. Feb. 25, 2011. Questions related to the RFSP are to be directed to Tricia Leezer at tleezer@isbe.net.

A Bidders Webinar will be conducted on Thursday, Feb. 3, 2011, from 1 to 3 p.m. CST to discuss the FY 2012 SIG 1003(g) Lead Partner RFSP and answer questions from potential applicants. Pre-registration is required at <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/580311904>.

Institutions of higher education, community-based organizations, not-for-profit or for-profit entities are eligible to apply provided they have evidence of their demonstrated record of success in supporting academically underperforming schools and districts and demonstrate the qualifications defined in the RFSP. The successful bidders for this solicitation may be contracted for these services in one of two ways:

- Directly by an LEA that has successfully competed for a School Improvement Grant pursuant to Title I, Section 1003(g) of the Elementary and Secondary Act of 1965 or;
- Directly with ISBE to support LEA activities or as part of a direct state intervention. This work will include working with ISBE, the LEA, and the school.

A separate Request for Proposals (RFP) will be used to identify LEAs with eligible Tier I and Tier II schools that will receive Section 1003(g) School Improvement Grants [SIG 1003(g)] in spring 2011 for FY 2012. Detailed information on the SIG 1003(g) grants, including the list of eligible LEAs and schools, access to the USDE SIG Federal Guidance (11//10), and school improvement resources, are available on the ISBE School Improvement Grant web page at http://www.isbe.net/sos/htmls/sip_1003.htm.

Should you have any questions related to the Bidders Webinar for the Lead Partner RFSP or the FY 2012 SIG 1003(g) grant, contact Marti Woelfle at mwoelfle@isbe.net or 217-524-4832.

ISBE Requests Waivers Regarding School Improvement Grants Rules

As part of the School Improvement Grants (SIG), authorized under section 1003(g) of Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (Title I or ESEA), the Illinois State Board of Education is applying for the following waiver that will be applicable to those local education agencies (LEAs or districts) and

schools that apply for and are approved for the competitive subgrants. The State believes that the requested waivers will increase its ability to implement the SIG program effectively in eligible schools in the State in order to improve the quality of instruction and raise the academic achievement of students in Tier I, Tier II and Tier III.

In order to enable the State to generate new lists of Tier I, Tier II and Tier III schools for its FY 2010 competition, waive paragraph (a)(2) of the definition of “persistently lowest-achieving schools” in Section I.A. 3 of the SIG final requirements and incorporation of that definition in identifying Tier II schools under Section I.A.I (b) of those requirements to permit the State to include, in the pool of secondary schools from which it determines those that are the persistently lowest-achieving schools in the State, secondary schools participating under Title I, Part A of the ESEA that have not made adequate yearly progress (AYP) for at least two consecutive years or are in the State’s lowest quintile of performance based on proficiency rates on the State’s assessments in reading/language arts and mathematics combined.

The final requirements for the School Improvement Grants are published in the October 2010 notice of the Federal Register. If additional waivers are prepared, we will include a notification in the Weekly Message. Please send any comments or questions on this matter to nclb@isbe.net by Jan. 31, 2011.

Grant Readers Request for Illinois FY 2012 School Improvement Grants

The Illinois State Board of Education’s Innovation and Improvement Division is seeking grant readers for the FY 2012 School Improvement Grant (SIG) – Section 1003(g) competition. Selected candidates must participate in web-based trainings on the SIG 1003(g) requirements and Illinois’ application assessment process prior to receipt of the district/school applications. ISBE anticipates that readers will need to devote approximately 100 hours to this process over a two to three week period in late March/early April 2011. Readers will complete the review process and submit their scoring results electronically. Following the individual application reviews, readers must attend one face-to-face consensus meeting in Illinois.

Required Qualifications and Skills: A minimum of four years in the field of education. Candidates must have knowledge about turning around low performing schools, high school administrative/teaching experience and

familiarity with the SIG grant requirements. Applicants with work experience in low-performing schools that were effectively turned around are preferred.

Compensation: ISBE will issue a \$4,200 honorarium to readers selected for their service and a maximum of \$800 approvable travel reimbursement based on Illinois state guidelines (transportation, hotel and per diem).

Contact Information: Interested candidates should e-mail Marti Woelfle at mwoelfle@isbe.net to receive the required grant reader application documents.

Educator and School Development

Survey Required for Federal State Fiscal Stabilization Funds

Note: The deadline for this survey has been extended to Feb. 4, 2011. Approximately one half of the districts in the state are still in need of completing the survey. Please do so by the extended deadline.

The Illinois State Board of Education is seeking your cooperation in completing a survey regarding both 2009-10 teacher and principal evaluations being conducted in your district. This survey is required by the federal government in connection with the State’s previous receipt of Federal State Fiscal Stabilization Funds (SFSF).

The goal of the survey is to enable State officials, parents, local educators and other stakeholders to measure Illinois’ progress towards improving teacher effectiveness and achieving equity in the distribution of teachers and principals. Data that will be posted will be aggregated, and will be made available, no later than Feb. 28, 2011, on the following portion of our website: <http://www.isbe.net/peac/html/surveyresults.htm>.

It is imperative that all districts respond to this survey. This is baseline data that will be posted on the ISBE website and will be shared with the Performance Evaluation Advisory Council, which under PA 96-0861, is charged with making recommendations to the State Superintendent for model teacher and principal evaluation frameworks.

The survey can be found at the following link: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/JN2VQMR>. They must be submitted electronically.

If you have any questions please contact Patrick Murphy, Division Administrator, Educator and School Development at pmurphy@isbe.net or 217-782-2948.

Early Childhood

Support and Technical Assistance Regional Network Request for Proposals

ISBE has issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) titled “Support and Technical Assistance Regional Network (STAR NET).” As detailed in the RFP (see link below), STAR NET provides training and technical assistance to local education agencies and special education cooperatives in an effort to improve educational outcomes for young children with disabilities.

The RFP and application forms are posted at http://www.isbe.net/funding_opps/htmls/rfp.htm. Applications must be received by ISBE no later than March 4, 2011. For questions about the RFP, please contact Pamela Reising Rechner at 217-524-4835 or preising@isbe.net.

Illinois EPA

Governor’s Green Youth Awards to Recognize Environmental Projects

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency Director Doug Scott is encouraging Illinois youth to apply for the annual Governor’s Green Youth Awards. The program recognizes outstanding environmental protection projects created by Illinois students.

Classrooms or individual students currently enrolled in K-12 school, Scouts, 4-H or others, and who have participated in an environmental project started no earlier than 2009 are eligible for the award.

The project must involve one or more of the following categories: waste reduction; prevention/reduction of pollution in the air (climate change/global warming), land or water; restoration, preservation or enhancement of natural areas; and energy or water efficiency.

An application and additional information about the program are available from the Illinois EPA website at <http://www.epa.state.il.us/green-youth/index.html> or by calling Deirdre McQuillen at 217-558-0073 or e-mailing deirdre.mcquillen@illinois.gov. The deadline for applications is Friday, March 18, 2011.

An awards ceremony will be held April 21 at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield. Winners will receive a ticket to the museum.

Black History Month

Museum to Host ‘Race, Freedom and Equality: From Lincoln to the Present Day’

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield will host Charles R. Branham on Tuesday, Feb. 15, for a presentation on “Race, Freedom and Equality: From Lincoln to the Present Day.”

Branham will address such questions as “Should Lincoln get all the credit he receives for freedom and equality?” and “Was Lincoln forced by military necessity to issue the Emancipation Proclamation?”

Branham, who earned his Ph.D. in history from the University of Chicago, won an Emmy Award as the writer, co-producer and host of “The Black Experience,” the first nationally televised series on African American history. He is the senior historian at the DuSable Museum of Afro-American History and has been a professor of history at various colleges in Chicago, including the University of Illinois at Chicago, where he received the Silver Circle Excellence in Teaching Award.

The event is set for 7 p.m. at the Union Theater in the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum. The event is free but reservations are required. Call 217-558-8934.

Classroom Opportunities

National Park Foundation Offers Electronic Field Trip

The National Park Foundation will air its next Electronic Field Trip, “Sea Change: Gulf Islands National Seashore,” on Tuesday, March 1, 2011. Two live shows, one at 9 a.m. and another at noon, will look at the science of understanding change as seen daily on the barrier islands of Gulf Islands National Seashore and in how the recent oil spill has impacted wildlife and the habitat.

The show is targeted toward students in fourth through eighth grades. Lesson plans for classroom use and interactive games for youth will be available online. Visit <http://www.nationalparks.org/npf-at-work/our-programs/electronic-field-trip/> for more information and to register.

Illinois School Purchasing Network

Local Office Supply Dealers Announce Deal With Purchasing Cooperative

Local business products dealers announced that their buying cooperative, Independent Stationers Inc. (doing business as is.group), was awarded the U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance office supplies contract (replacing Office Depot), which will be available to all public agencies across the country. The contract was awarded by the County of Los Angeles and will be administered by U.S. Communities. U.S. Communities is a national government purchasing cooperative. Independent Stationers, comprised of more than 290 independent business products dealers, was the only supplier awarded this contract.

This contract offers public agencies lower pricing, exceptional customer service, a robust online ordering solution, as well as personal local representation by local dealers in your area. It offers over 27,000 office supplies that are available for free next-day desk top or dock delivery. Below is a list of Illinois dealers.

- Rogard's Office Plus, PO Box 1280, Champaign, IL 61824; 217-359-1795
- Egyptian Stationers, 107 W. Main St., Belleville, IL 62220; 618-234-2323
- Office Plus of Lake County, PO Box 8758, Waukegan IL 60079; 847-662-5393
- Source One Office Products, 380 Production Drive, South Elgin, IL 60177; 847-429-9999
- Park Ridge Stationers, PO Box 478, Park Ridge, IL 60068; 847-298-6600
- Mid-City Office Products, PO Box 2758, Rockford, IL 61132; 815-633-6789
- Modern Office Interiors, 538 W. Fifth St. Naperville, IL 60568; 630-754-0030
- Warehouse Direct, 1601 W. Algonquin Road, Mount Prospect, IL 60056; 847-952-1925

For more information is available at <http://www.uscommunities.org/isg/> or by calling Sherri Sullivan at 217-785-8777.

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/2011/newsclips/110131.htm>.