



Feb. 1, 2010

Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

People across our state will go to the polls tomorrow to cast their votes for the candidates they feel most appropriate to lead our state. Free elections and the wave of democracy that followed our Independence are among our nation’s greatest global legacies.

I think of each election as a teachable moment; whether it’s to show the differences between parties, how vast ideological differences can be debated and transitions of power can take place peacefully, or just how casting a ballot is part of the civic responsibility bestowed upon the citizens of this great nation. I urge you to work with your teachers to incorporate the primary election into your lesson plans.

In many cases, throughout Illinois, our schools will serve as polling places. While it may seem an imposition, juggling the use of space or possibly adding more security measures, it is certainly a distinguished use of our buildings. It offers another opportunity for citizens in our communities to interact with our schools. I wonder how many voters have an understanding of the state contributions to your budget, the late payments from the state due to the deficit and what even a small decrease in General State Aid would mean for your local district, if it were to occur?

I urge you and your staff to exercise your right to vote. Illinois is in crisis. Our state is billions behind in bills and the deficit is only going to continue to increase. We need to all think long and hard about who we want to face these challenges, because there are going to be no easy decisions. The choices we make at the ballot box will have direct repercussions on the Illinois education community for years to come.

On a lighter note, the Colts and Saints will play for the NFL championship on Sunday. The Super Bowl is more than a sporting event — it is part of American culture. It is a phenomenon that is watched by more than a hundred million people. Please, encourage students and staff to celebrate safely. Possibly consider hosting a party at your school — at least there you know they’ll be safe.

Have a great week!

Chris

Table of Contents
Data Analysis and Progress Reporting 2
Special Education Services..... 2
Department of Labor..... 3
FCC..... 3
Funding and Disbursement Services 4
CMS 4
School Business Services..... 4
Teacher of the Year 5
Nutrition 5
Curriculum and Instruction 7
Rules and Waivers 7
Professional Development 7
Student Opportunities 8
Employment Opportunities 8
In the News 8

Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

- School Year 2011 Annual Commodity Order Deadline – Feb. 1
• Illinois Association for Gifted Children Convention – Feb. 7-9
• Statewide No Child Left Behind Conference – Feb. 9-11

- **Part 228 (Transitional Bilingual Education) and Part 235 (Early Childhood Block Grant)** – Public comment period ends Feb. 15
- **Part 35 (Mentoring Program for New Principals) and Part 145 (Temporary Relocation Expenses)** – Public comment period ends Feb. 22.
- **Non-Certified Staff Salary Study survey deadline** – March 1
- **Preserve America History Teacher of the Year Award nomination deadline** – March 15
- **Part 180 (Health/Life Safety Code for Public Schools)** – Public comment period ends March 15
- **Illinois Young Authors’ Conference in Bloomington-Normal** – May 15
- **2009-10 Eye Examination Data Collection deadline** – June 30
- **Postmark deadline for waiver applications to be considered by the General Assembly in Fall 2010** – Aug. 13
- **Superintendents’ Conference** – Oct. 26-27

Data Analysis and Progress Reporting

Winter 2010 Reduction in Force Survey

Later this month, the Illinois State Board of Education will be surveying districts, special education cooperatives and regional offices of education and intermediate service centers that operate regional programs regarding the number of layoff notices/nonrenewal notifications they have issued and/or anticipate issuing by March 15. These data are being collected to assist the State Board in assessing the potential impact of FY 2011 State budget constraints on public school students.

The Winter 2010 Reduction in Force Survey IWAS system will be open for data entry Feb. 16-26. The survey will request the number of layoff notices/nonrenewal notifications for the following categories of personnel: tenured teachers, non-tenured teachers, administrators, school service personnel (school counselors, nurses, psychologists and social workers), and non-certified staff.

Questions about the survey may be directed to the ISBE Data Analysis and Progress Reporting Division at 217-782-3950.

Special Education Services

Final Guidance on Special Education Eligibility in an RtI Framework

ISBE is pleased to announce that “Illinois Special Education Eligibility and Entitlement Procedures and Criteria within a Response to Intervention (RtI) Framework: A Guidance Document” is available in final form at <http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/Default.htm> (see “What’s New”).

The guidance document is designed to provide Illinois districts and schools with a framework for using RtI to determine a student’s eligibility for and entitlement to special education services. Beginning in the 2010-11 school year, districts must use a process that determines how a child responds to scientific, research-based interventions as part of the evaluation procedures to determine special education eligibility under the category of specific learning disability (SLD), in accordance with 23 Illinois Administrative Code 226.130 (<http://www.isbe.net/rules/archive/pdfs/226ark.pdf>).

While this requirement is specific to SLD, districts also have the option of using such a process as part of the evaluation procedures for other disability categories. The guidance document also aligns directly with the Illinois State RtI Plan (http://www.isbe.net/pdf/rti_state_plan.pdf) and sets the stage for Illinois schools to approach special education eligibility and entitlement decisions from a broader context of quality instruction, intervention, and assessment to address the learning and behavioral needs of all students.

The guidance document was developed and reviewed through an extensive collaborative effort of the Committee on Special Education Eligibility and Entitlement in an RtI Framework and ISBE. The Committee was charged with examining the federal regulations and state rules for special education, as well as informational and guidance materials from Illinois and other states, to develop the comprehensive content of the document. In finalizing the document, the committee also reviewed questions and suggestions received from the field during stakeholder review of the initial draft document. As a result, the committee incorporated changes within various sections of the final guidance document and developed a Frequently Asked Questions supplement, which will be posted at the first link above within the next two weeks.

To support implementation of the process outlined in the guidance document, a series of training events will be conducted in the next several months. Further details, including dates and locations, will be forthcoming. ISBE will also be developing one or more “professional practice” supplements to expand on basic information contained in the guidance document. For example, a supplement providing greater detail related to addressing the needs of English Language Learners (ELL) within an RtI framework will be developed in the near future through a collaborative effort of ISBE and ELL practitioners. Questions about the guidance document may be directed to Special Education Services at 217-782-5589.

Department of Labor

Office of Disability Employment Policy Plans Public Sessions

The U.S. Department of Labor’s Office of Disability Employment Policy is planning sessions across the country to hear opinions on disability employment. Registration is under way for a Feb. 11 session in Chicago. For more information and to register, visit <http://www.dol.gov/odep/disabilitylisteningtour.htm>.

The session is an opportunity for members of the public to provide input to senior Federal officials on their ideas for more effective ways to employ all people with disabilities, including women, veterans and minorities with disabilities and what is currently working in their regions to increase employment of people with disabilities.

The Office of Disability Employment Policy seeks input particularly from:

- **Individuals and Consumers:** youth and adults with disabilities, parents and caregivers.
- **Employers:** public and private
- **Service Providers and Advocacy Organizations** (such as Employment Services and Partners): Independent Living Centers, One-Stops, State Vocational Rehabilitation Programs.

FCC

Announcement Made on Discontinued Use of 700 MHz Wireless Microphones

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has announced that all wireless microphones that broadcast in the 700 MHz frequency band must cease operating no

later than June 12, 2010. This includes all microphones that operate on any frequencies between 698 MHz and 806 MHz.

The FCC seeks to prevent unlawful interference with public safety entities and commercial users that operate on the 700 MHz band following completion of the Digital Television transition last June and to prevent users from receiving interference while using their microphones.

If a microphone does not operate on frequencies within the 700 MHz band, no action is required.

Wireless microphones currently operate in a variety of different frequency bands, including many frequencies outside of the 700 MHz band. Only those wireless microphones using the 700 MHz band must cease operating. Some wireless microphones that operate in the 700 MHz band can be successfully retuned to operate in frequencies other than 700 MHz. If the wireless microphone operates only in the 700 MHz frequency band, it will need to be replaced.

Links to Helpful Information

The following link connects to an FCC site dedicated exclusively to providing consumers with important information on 700 MHz wireless microphones: <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/wirelessmicrophones/>.

This is a link to other consumer information including “Frequently Asked Questions” (FAQs), the “Consumer Fact Sheet,” the “Consumer Advisory,” and the FCC’s wireless microphones press release: <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/wirelessmicrophones/Pubs.html>

A table found at <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/wirelessmicrophones/manufacturers.html> may be useful in determining whether your wireless microphones operate within the 700 MHz band and will need to be replaced or retuned. The FCC recommends contacting your wireless microphone’s manufacturer to answer any technical questions. Links to many manufacturers can be found on this Web site as well.

A link to the FCC decision itself can be reviewed at http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-10-16A1.pdf.

If you have questions, call the FCC Consumer Hotline at 1-888-CALL-FCC.

Funding and Disbursement Services

FY 2010 General State Aid Finalized

Fiscal Year 2010 General State Aid (GSA) calculations have been finalized. Final computations and claim information can be accessed in GSA Inquiry at <http://webprod1.isbe.net/gsainquiry/asp/default.asp>. The GSA appropriation was almost \$18.9 million short of the final computed cost, so according to the GSA statute, the Supplemental GSA (Poverty Grant) must be prorated to 98.3 percent of the eligible reimbursement. The last FY 2010 GSA payment will reflect the prorated amount.

Two bills passed late in the legislative session contributed to the shortfall since their cost was not included in the FY 2010 GSA projections. PA 96-0300 requires that a year newer Corporate Personal Property Replacement Tax be used in the GSA calculation and resulted in an increased cost of just under \$9 million. The second law, PA 96-0152, required an alternate Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL) adjustment in the GSA formula for districts that passed a referendum to increase the limiting rate. This law resulted in an increased cost of \$10.5 million. In addition, errors discovered in some district tax rates and average daily attendance also delayed the final calculation of GSA.

Please note that the remaining GSA payments will not be loaded in the Final Reimbursement Information System (FRIS) Inquiry until after the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF) – Education payments are vouchered in GSA in the next couple of months. We anticipate that three out of four GSA payments will be made with SFSF Education payments in February and March. Further information will be forthcoming.

If you have any questions about General State Aid or the computations, please contact Jim Mathes jmathes@isbe.net or phone 217-782-5256.

Illinois Department of Central Management Services

Reminder: New Cellular Laws in 2010

Please be aware of two new cellular laws that took effect Jan. 1. Illinois is now among 19 states that have outlawed texting while driving to reduce the number of crashes and fatalities. On Aug. 6, Gov. Pat Quinn signed into law House Bill 71 and House Bill 72, which took effect on

Jan. 1. Motorists are impacted in three ways according to the two new laws: 1) no motorist will be allowed to compose, send or read messages or access the Internet while driving; 2) no motorist will be allowed to talk on a cell phone while driving through a construction zone or a school zone (There are exceptions for a person engaged in highway construction or maintenance, emergencies and when the phone is in voice-activated mode.); and 3) no motorist under the age of 19 can use a cell phone at all while driving. The ban includes personal digital assistants and portable or mobile computers.

For additional details, please refer to <http://www.dot.il.gov/texting.asp>.

School Business Services

Green Cleaning Schools Act Reminder

The Green Cleaning Schools Act is the Illinois law that requires green cleaning in Illinois schools. The act requires Illinois elementary and secondary schools, both public and non-public, to purchase and use only environmentally sensitive cleaning supplies. Schools are required to purchase and use six categories of green cleaning supplies;

- Bathroom Cleaners: glass, window and mirror cleaners
- Carpet Cleaners: hand cleaners and hand soaps
- General Purpose Cleaners: paper products used for cleaning
-

Schools were required to begin purchasing and using environmentally sensitive cleaning supplies as of May 9, 2008.

The Green Cleaning Schools Act allows individual schools to forego green cleaning if to do so would not be economically feasible. Any school in such a circumstance may complete an application to provide written notification to the Illinois Green Governments Coordinating Council. For additional information regarding the Green Cleaning Schools Act, visit <http://www.GreenSolutions.il.gov> and follow the link under “Schools” in the navigational menu.

Feedback Sought on Illinois Green Cleaning Schools Act

In 2007, legislation passed regarding “green cleaning” for schools. Please help us understand the impact of this law and let us know how your school is implementing a green cleaning program by visiting

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/5PG662R>. This survey will take less than 15 minutes to complete and will maintain your anonymity.

Lawn Care Products Application and Notice Act

On Aug. 18, 2009, Senate Bill 1769 was signed into law by the Governor as Public Act 96-0424 amending the School Code [105 ILCS 5], the Child Care Act of 1969 [225 ILCS 10] and the Lawn Care Products Application and Notice Act [415 ILCS 65].

In summary, language was added to the School Code, Child Care Act and the Lawn Care Products Application and Notice Act requiring:

- each school district and the Chicago Board of Education to adopt a procedure to comply with the requirements of the Lawn Care Products Application and Notice Act (which requires written or telephonic notification at least four business days before application of the lawn care product) and the Structural Pest Control Act (which maintains the requirement of written notification at least two business days before application of the pesticide), along with designating a staff person who is responsible for compliance with the requirements of these Acts.
- the owners and operators of licensed day care centers to ensure that lawn care products will not be applied to day care center grounds when children are present at the center or on its grounds, and to ensure that proper notice as is given to parents and guardians before applying pesticides or having pesticide applied to the day care center grounds,

Please contact your Regional Office of Education for more specific information about the amendments to the School Code, your Department of Children and Family Services representative regarding the amendments to the Child Care Act of 1969 or the Department of Agriculture at 217-785-2427 regarding the amendments to the Lawn Care Products Application and Notice Act.

Teacher of the Year

State's Top Educators Available to Speak at Events

This year's Illinois Teacher of the Year, Kevin Rutter of Carl Schurz High School in Chicago, is remaining in the classroom. But he is available to speak at your

function/event. Because of the current budget crisis we are requesting a stipend that can be used to cover his travel expenses.

Another option for districts or groups is to contact one of the Teacher of the Year finalists who hail from all over Illinois. These teachers offer a wide range of expertise.

Visit http://www.isbe.net/toy/pdfs/meet_toy_10.pdf to meet the Illinois State Board of Education's Teacher of the Year and the finalists. Contact information is included for the teachers.

Nomination packets for the 2010-11 Those Who Excel/Illinois Teacher of the Year program is available online at http://www.isbe.net/those_who_excel.htm.

For additional information, or a paper copy, please contact Ann Muraro-Lacopo at 217-782-4648 or amuraro@isbe.net.

Nutrition

Spotlight on Schools Web Pages Coming Soon

Watch for the new Nutrition Programs Division Spotlight on Schools Web pages at <http://www.isbe.net/nutrition>. We are thrilled to present a compilation of the ever-growing Illinois school success stories in relation to health, wellness, School Breakfast Program participation, school food authority (SFA) sponsorship in the Child Nutrition Programs, and more.

The intent of the site is to recognize new sponsors in the School-Based Child Nutrition Programs; new grantees of a variety of programs and initiatives; highlight honors and awards bestowed on Illinois schools, at both the national as well as state level; and highlight individual recognitions.

Check this Web site regularly as we intend to post grant opportunities as they arise, announce newest grant awardees and provide due date reminders for grant applications. Hint: You may want to bookmark it.

Two Workshops on Developing School Food Safety Plan Slated

Beginning with the 2005-06 school year, all schools were required to have a food safety plan in place. The Developing a Food Safety Plan, Process Approach to Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point Principles

(HACCP) workshop will help schools satisfy this requirement.

Participants will be introduced to the Process Approach to HACCP principles, which allow for a more practical application of food safety procedures. Participants will receive information and work with hands-on activities they can take back to their schools and immediately use in the development of a food safety plan or revision of a current food safety plan.

Two workshop locations are scheduled, Carbondale on March 24 and Charleston on March 25. To register for these workshops, please visit <http://webprod1.isbe.net/cns/calendar/asp/eventlist.asp>.

Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Grant Applications Available

The Illinois State Board of Education is accepting applications for the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) Grant for the 2010–11 school year. The purpose of the FFVP Grant is to provide fresh fruits and vegetables to elementary students during the school day at times other than meal periods at a minimum of two times a week. Any elementary school participating in the National School Lunch Program is eligible to apply but priority will be given to those schools with 50 percent or greater free and reduced-price eligibility. See http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/ffv_program.htm for additional information about the FFVP Grant, program requirements and to access the FFVP Grant application. You must complete and submit the FFVP Grant application to ISBE no later than March 15 to be considered for the 2010–2011 school year.

If you have any questions, please contact Lindsay Blough (lblough@isbe.net), Stephanie Hinds (shinds@isbe.net) or Roxanne Ramage (rramage@isbe.net) at 800-545-7892 or 217-782-2491. We look forward to another successful year of working with schools to increase children's fresh fruit and vegetable consumption and to influence lifelong healthy eating habits.

Training Workshops on Summer Food Service Program Coming Up

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) is designed to provide nutritious meals during 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 this criterion? If so,

consider becoming a sponsor to help bridge the gap for children in your community. All sponsors are required to submit the program application and monthly Claims for Reimbursement via the Internet.

If the responsibilities of sponsorship in the SFSP are not possible, you can still participate in the program by operating as a site under a different sponsor, being a vendor or volunteering your time. Visit our Web site 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 2010. To register for the workshops, visit <http://www.isbe.net/nutrition>.

Workshop Schedule

Thursday, Feb. 25 — Marion

Thursday, March 4 — Alsip

Tuesday, March 16 — Champaign

Thursday, March 25 — Fairview Heights

Thursday, April 8 — Palatine

Thursday, April 15 — Morton

Thursday, May 6 — Chicago

Monday, May 10 — Springfield

The training sessions are designed to provide a complete overview of the SFSP, including the Illinois State Board of Education's Internet-based program application and claim system. All new sponsors are required to attend training before they can be approved to serve meals.

For additional information, contact Amy Bianco or Deb Collins at 800-545-7892 or cnp@isbe.net.

USDA Farm-to-School Tactical Teams Prepare to Visit Schools

The Tactical Team is comprised of individuals from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) and the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS). This Tactical Team will work together to assist schools in purchasing more local foods.

USDA's Farm-to-School Tactical Teams will soon begin touring America's school cafeterias to identify challenges and opportunities to help them transition to purchasing more locally grown foods. In 2010, the Tactical Team will conduct visits at nine schools that represent varied demographics and characteristics. During these site visits, the team will seek to learn about the school

district's Farm-to-School efforts including, but not limited to, how the activities first began, the relationship between growers and the school district, what obstacles exist or were faced along the way, and the effects the activities have had on the school and the community.

If you are a district interested in being considered for a USDA Farm-to-School Tactical Team visit, would like additional information or to place a request for a visit, go to <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/F2S/f2stacticalteam.htm>. Districts have until Jan. 31 to send in their request for consideration. If you have any additional questions, please contact the Illinois State Board of Education Nutrition Programs Division at cnp@isbe.net or 800-545-7892.

Curriculum and Instruction

First-Graders Through 12th-Graders Eligible for Youth Internet Safety Contest

The Illinois State Board of Education, Attorney General and Governor's offices are sponsoring the Youth Internet Safety Contest. The contest is open to all students in grades first through 12th and encourages students to help spread the word to their peers about Internet safety.

Students are asked to create a poster, video, podcast or slideshow addressing Internet safety, and specifically cyberbullying. Many schools have taught online safety for years. But starting with this school year, districts are required to incorporate Internet safety at least once each school year in grades from third through 12th. The full text of the law can be found in the School Code, Section 27-13.3 (<http://tiny.cc/m9ymS>).

Each local school district can determine how to incorporate the lessons into curriculum. But some recommended topics include safe and responsible use of social networking Web sites, chat rooms, bulletin boards and other means of communication on the Internet. It is also recommended that instruction includes information on recognizing, avoiding and reporting online solicitation by sexual predators; recognizing and reporting online harassment and cyberbullying; and knowing the risks of transmitting personal information on the Internet.

The agency has Internet safety resources and best practices for schools posted to its Web site. Contest rules, terms and conditions, can be found at the same page: http://www.isbe.net/curriculum/html/internet_safety.htm.

Classroom Earth's 2010 National High School Challenge Under Way

Teachers from all subject areas are encouraged to apply for Classroom Earth's 2010 National High School Challenge. This program encourages the incorporation of environmental education into all subject areas through innovative teaching strategies. Teachers across the nation can receive up to \$4,000 to help make their ideas a reality.

The deadline for submission is Feb. 22. Apply at <http://www.classroomearth.org>.

Rules and Waivers

Notice of Completed Rulemaking

Please be advised that a set of amendments recently adopted by the Illinois State Board of Education is now in effect. These rules have been posted on the agency's Web site at www.isbe.net/rules. Please choose "Rules Currently in Effect" and scroll to Part number.

Part 25 (Certification)

Amends numerous sections of these rules to strengthen requirements for various credentials, streamline processes, or achieve greater consistency.

Affected Sections: 25.10, 25.25, 25.65, 25.67, 25.70, 25.72, 25.100, 25.105, 25.115, 25.125, 25.130, 25.145, 25.160, 25.165, 25.215, 25.225, 25.227, 25.235, 25.275, 25.313, 25.315, 25.335, 25.360, 25.365, 25.400, 25.425, 25.427, 25.444, 25.464, 25.485, 25.486, 25.487, 25.488, 25.489, 25.490, 25.493, 25.510, 25.520, 25.530, 25.540, 25.705, 25.710, 25.720, 25.730, 25.731, 25.732, 25.733, 25.735, 25.740, 25.745, 25.750, 25.755, 25.780, 25.805, 25.835, 25.840, 25.855, 25.860, 25.865, 25.870, 25.872, 25.910, and 25.Appendix A

Effective Date: January 12, 2010

Professional Development

Science Educators in Illinois Teaching at Grades 6-12 Eligible for Award

Nomination forms are available for iBIO Institute's iCON Knowledge Builder Award, which is given annually in Illinois to an individual who demonstrates exemplary teaching at the Grade 6-12 level, and who has positively impacted students' understanding of biotechnology's promise and challenges. This educator also serves as a model for colleagues on how to incorporate biotechnology into the classroom and acts as a resource for peers.

The nomination form is available at http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=r869vnOv1qfEN7ow_2fFz1Fw_3d_3d.

Previous winners include Terry Meyer of Red Bud High School in 2009, Hortense Brice of Lindblom Math & Science Academy in 2008 and Myrna Alvarez of Dunbar Vocational Career Academy.

The iBIO Institute provides training and research in biotechnology to members of the business and education world and the public. For more information, visit <http://www.ibioinstitute.org/programs/icon/index.html>.

Student Opportunities

Program to Honor 25 Scholar Athletes

Nominations are being sought for the Scholar Athlete Milk Mustache of the Year 2010 Award Program. Twenty-five senior scholar athletes will be selected from across the country.

Winners in the 13th annual SAMMY awards receive a \$7,500 college scholarship, an invitation to attend an awards ceremony in June and an opportunity to be pictured in a Milk Mustache ad in national publications.

The awards program is presented by America's Milk Processors and USA Today, joined by the American Association of School Administrators, the National Association for Sport and Physical Education, the American School Counselor Association and the National School Public Relations Association.

For the online application and more information, visit <http://www.bodybymilk.com>. The deadline for nominations is March 5. Students can nominate themselves or be nominated by teachers, coaches, parents, etc.

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/2010/newsclips/100129.htm>.