



February 3, 2009

Message from State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

This has been a historic time to be in Illinois with the election of President Obama and impeachment of a sitting Governor. I hope that all of you were able to use this as a teaching opportunity, and transform the daily narrative into lessons on the political process and public service.

I know there are a number of unanswered questions as our state transitions to new leadership under Governor Pat Quinn. It will take time for the new governor to get his arms around all aspects of state government and complete assembling his cabinet. Typically, the governor gives his budget address to the General Assembly in mid-February, but Governor Quinn has indicated that he will seek additional time to prepare his proposal so that he can get a more thorough understanding of the state’s financial challenges.

The business of the agency continues to move forward, regardless of the change in the executive branch. While members of the Board are appointed by the Governor, leadership in the agency will remain unchanged as I am hired by and under contract with the State Board. In addition, four members of the Board have seen their terms expire, however, they will continue to serve until replacements are appointed or they are re-appointed.

I traveled to Washington, D.C., last Thursday, along with other members of the Council of Chief State School Officers, to meet with Education Secretary Arne Duncan. We discussed a number of transition issues, especially the possible economic stimulus package. I know many of you are watching developments in Washington very closely. We have received a number of calls about how much funding may be directed toward education via the stimulus package. At this point, it is too early to speculate. Certainly, we provided our input to Secretary Duncan and we also provided input to members of Congress.

I know that there are some projections of what states and even districts could receive under the stimulus package, but I want to caution you not to try and take those estimates to the bank. So far, only the House has passed a package, and we don’t know what might happen in the Senate. While I am confident something will come out of Washington and that education will be a part of that package, I would hope that we all wait to see just what the President signs before making spending plans.

Thanks and have a great week!

Chris

Table of Contents
Upcoming Dates & Deadlines.....2
Funding & Disbursements .....2
Lincoln Bicentennial.....2
Early Childhood .....3
Professional Development.....3
No Child Left Behind .....5
Nutrition.....5
E-Bulletins.....5
Curriculum & Instruction .....6
Special Education.....6
Grants & Programs.....6
Awards & Grants .....7
Student Opportunities.....7
Employment Opportunities .....8
In the News.....8

---

## Upcoming Dates & Deadlines

- **School Breakfast Survey** – February 6
- **Deadline for Home School Districts to Submit Pre-ID Label Information for PSAE on SIS Website** – February 19
- **Looking for Your Lincoln Hero submissions** – March 1
- **Migrant supplemental education services funding applications for summer 2009** – March 2
- **Receipt Deadline for Schools to Submit PSAE Day 1 State-Allowed Accommodations Applications to ACT** – March 6
- **Textbook Loan Program requests entered online** – March 16
- **History Teacher of the Year Award first round nominations** – March 16
- **Illinois Young Author’s Program entries** – March 27
- **Even Start Family Literacy RFP** – April 2

---

## Funding & Disbursements

### Driver Education – Social Security Numbers

ISBE has received a number of recent inquiries regarding student eligibility for Driver Education courses. Many ask whether a district may require a Social Security number from a student prior to his/her enrollment in a school district’s Driver Education course.

Student eligibility for Driver Education is found in Section 27-24.2 of the School Code [105 ILCS 5/27-24.2] and Section 252.25 of the administrative rules [23 Ill.Admin.Code 252.25]. Eligibility is based only on a student’s age and satisfactory completion of requisite coursework. Further requirements relevant to a student learner’s permit are found in the Illinois Vehicle Code [625 ILCS 5/1-100 et seq.].

Given that ISBE is not required to interpret the Vehicle Code, our staff consulted with the Illinois Secretary of State’s Office (SOS) and determined that the SOS does not require a Social Security number to issue a learner’s permit. As such, it is ISBE’s position that a Social Security number may not be required for enrollment in an approved Driver Education course.

Based on the Illinois Vehicle Code, a Social Security number must be presented at the time a Driver’s License is requested, and students may be made aware of this. However, a student’s failure to produce a Social Security number at the time of enrollment should not be an obstacle to taking the course.

### ISBE Guidance on Court and Agency Placements

Recent changes in the School Code regarding school district educational funding responsibility for Illinois court and public agency residential placements have led to a number of inquiries. Public Acts 95-0844 and 95-0938 clarify responsibility for payment of educational services provided to students in such placements. ISBE has prepared a guidance and Q&A document that highlights the changes in the law and provides answers to initial questions from the field on this issue.

This guidance is entitled “Court and Agency Placements Guidance for School Districts” and can be found at:

[http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/guidance\\_court\\_and\\_agy\\_plcmt.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/guidance_court_and_agy_plcmt.pdf)

(Also see Special Education).

---

## Lincoln Bicentennial

### National Teach-In on Lincoln

The Lincoln Bicentennial Commission and the History Channel will feature a **National Teach-In** on the life and legacy of Lincoln on **Thursday, February 12**, at 1:30 p.m. EST.

The special event will feature three Lincoln scholars: Doris Kearns Goodwin, Harold Holzer and Matthew Pinsker. These historians will share their expertise and answer students’ questions from all over the country. Content is recommended for middle through high school, with a particular emphasis on grade 8.

To register for the live webcast online and also view the program, go to <http://www.history.com/lincoln/>. The first 500 registrants will receive a National History sourcebook on Lincoln and a Lincoln coin box.

### Give a Lincoln for Lincoln

A national **Give a Lincoln for Lincoln** campaign is also underway with teacher and student contests. In partnership with the National Park Foundation and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, HISTORY is encouraging all adult Americans to donate \$5, and children to donate their Lincoln-head pennies in order to preserve six historic sites dedicated to Lincoln's life and legacy. All donations are fully tax-deductible through the auspices of the National Park Foundation.

A special Illinois version of the Give a Lincoln campaign is planned to offer teacher grants and scholarships to the Illinois winners of the Lincoln contests, which are open to all grades. Each Illinois winner would receive \$500. The teacher contest will have a winner at each of three grade levels (elementary, middle, and high school) for best lesson plan. There are two student contests. The first will have a winner at each of the three grade levels, for best coin box created with a Lincoln theme. This could be a team-teaching opportunity for the art teacher and the history teacher. The second is the short-form Lincoln Film Festival, with winners at each of two levels, high school and college. There will be Illinois specific winners for all three contests. Every Illinois contestant will also be entered into the national contests. The national rules are posted at [www.history.com/lincoln](http://www.history.com/lincoln) (click on contests on the right side of the page). Entry deadline is **Wednesday, April 15**.

For more information, contact **Libby H. O'Connell** at [libby.oconnell@aetn.com](mailto:libby.oconnell@aetn.com).

---

## Early Childhood

### Even Start Family Literacy RFP Released

The Even Start Family Literacy FY 2010 Request for Proposals (RFP) has been released. School districts, Regional Offices of Education, approved public university laboratory schools, charter schools or area vocational centers, *in partnership with* a community-based organization, public agency, institution of higher education, or not-for-profit organization may submit a proposal.

The purpose of Even Start Family Literacy grants is to help break the cycle of poverty and illiteracy by improving the educational opportunities of low-income families through the integration of (1) early childhood education, (2) adult literacy, (3) parenting education, and (4) interactive parent and child literacy activities into a unified family literacy program for parents and children, primarily from birth through age 7.

All four of these components must be present in each Even Start program in order to meet the goals of the program, which are to:

- help parents improve their literacy or basic educational skills,
- help parents become full partners in educating their children, and
- assist children in reaching their full potential as learners.

A bidders' conference will be held by conference call on **Friday, February 20**, at 10 a.m. (See the RFP for details.) Should the conditions of this RFP change as a result of the bidders' conference, the State Board will notify all recipients.

The RFP is available online at [http://www.isbe.net/earlychi/html/even\\_start\\_family\\_literacy.htm](http://www.isbe.net/earlychi/html/even_start_family_literacy.htm).

The RFP can also be obtained from **Cindy Zumwalt** in the Early Childhood Division at [czumwalt@isbe.net](mailto:czumwalt@isbe.net) or 217-524-4835.

---

## Professional Development

### Criminal History Record Check Training

The Illinois State Police, Bureau of Identification, in conjunction with the College of DuPage, Suburban Law Enforcement Academy, will host two annual Criminal History Record Check Training Symposiums in 2009 for non-criminal justice users.

Training Symposiums are scheduled for **Wednesday, April 15**, at the College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn and **Tuesday, September 29**, at the Knights of Columbus in Springfield.

For more information, go to: <http://www.isp.state.il.us/crimhistory/crimhistoryhome.cfm>.

## Designing a High-Quality Charter School

A Charter Starter webinar is scheduled for **Thursday, March 12**, from 4-5:30 p.m. and will be presented by **Anne Levy Brown** and **Steve Zemelman**.

The webinar is provided by Illinois Network of Charter Schools. Details will be e-mailed to all registered participants. To register go to:  
[http://www.incschoools.org/start\\_a\\_charter.html](http://www.incschoools.org/start_a_charter.html).

This interactive webinar will provide information to plan a high-performing charter public school in Chicago's suburbs or greater Illinois. Participants will:

- Understand the process and requirements for charter school start-up in Illinois.
- Gain a roadmap for designing an excellent school.
- Learn about common stumbling blocks and how to overcome them.
- Get answers to your pressing questions.

This session is designed to complement *Paving a New Path: A Guidebook for Illinois Charter Public School Development*. Filled with examples, best practices and practical advice, *Paving a New Path* is the essential guide for every step of the charter development process. For more information or to order *Paving a New Path*, visit [www.incschoools.org](http://www.incschoools.org).

For questions, contact **Anne Levy Brown** at [alevybrown@incschoools.org](mailto:alevybrown@incschoools.org) or 312-235-0798 x18.

## National Endowment Fellowship

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) has awarded Illinois College in Jacksonville a grant to host a five-week seminar, "The Frontier Experience in the American Midwest: Greater Illinois to 1860," for teachers **June 28 to August 1, 2009**.

The NEH seminar is designated as a "We the People" project and encourages and strengthens the teaching, study and understanding of American history and culture.

The seminar is designed for full-time K-12 teachers in public, private and religiously affiliated schools, including home-schooling parents. Other K-12 personnel may also be eligible. Fifteen applicants will be selected through a competitive process.

The seminar will include readings, discussions, videos, guest lectures, presentations by participants and several off-campus trips. Illinois College Professor James Davis will direct the seminar. Participants will be housed on campus, receive a stipend of \$3,800 and may receive CPDU credit.

For more information, contact the NEH at [NEHSeminar@ic.edu](mailto:NEHSeminar@ic.edu). Applications must be postmarked by **Monday, March 2**.

## Teaching Ambassador Fellowship

Applications are available for the Teaching Ambassador Fellowship at the U.S. Department of Education for the 2009-2010 school year.

Those eligible to apply include practicing, state certified pre-kindergarten to 12th grade public school teachers and instructional specialists/coaches with at least three years of teaching experience. The application deadline is **Monday, March 16**.

For the 2008-2009 pilot year, 20 part-time Classroom Fellows and five full-time Washington Fellows are serving as Teaching Ambassador Fellows. They are learning about and contributing to the national dialogue on education policy.

For more information about the 2009-2010 Fellowship application and additional opportunities, visit <http://www.ed.gov/programs/teacherfellowship>.

## Ignite Learning - Technology and Standards-Based Instruction

The Technology and Standards-Based Instruction workshop will be held on **March 18-19** in Galena.

The workshop will allow participants to:

- examine the national technology standards
- explore resources and professional development strategies, and
- prioritize efforts and align those with the bigger vision of your school or district.

The presenter is **Chris O'Neal** of the International Society for Technology in Education. For more information, visit Chris' website at:  
[http://edleadersonline.com/WordPress/?page\\_id=7](http://edleadersonline.com/WordPress/?page_id=7).

For session information or to register, go to <https://www.kidsroe.org/registration/WorkshopDetail.php?id=4727>.

The deadline for room reservations at Eagle Ridge is **Monday, February 16**. Call 1-800-892-2269 and ask for the rooms for the Learning Technology group.

---

## No Child Left Behind

### 2009 No Child Left Behind Conference Held This Week

The 2009 No Child Left Behind Conference is scheduled for **February 4 – 6** at the Sheraton Chicago Hotel & Towers in Chicago. The conference title is “Student Achievement: Putting It All Together in a Time of Rapid Change.”

For information on the conference, go to: [www.thecenterweb.org](http://www.thecenterweb.org). **Registration is available onsite.**

---

## Nutrition

### Illinois School Wellness from A to Z

The School Wellness from A to Z conference is scheduled for **Tuesday, May 5**, at the Decatur Conference Center & Hotel in Decatur.

This one-day workshop, sponsored by the State Board and Illinois Action for Healthy Kids, is designed to showcase and highlight successful Illinois wellness policy implementation and school recognition.

**Connie Evers**, noted author and child nutrition consultant, will deliver the morning keynote. Breakout sessions will cover curriculum, food service and nutrition, and physical activity.

For more information, visit [www.actionforhealthykids.org/state\\_profile.php?state=IL](http://www.actionforhealthykids.org/state_profile.php?state=IL).

### Kudos to Ridgeview Elementary—First Silver Level HealthierUS Challenge School

Ridgeview Elementary School in Colfax is Illinois’ first HealthierUS School Challenge (HUSSC) recipient

for the silver level announced the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food and Nutrition Service.

Demonstrating the attributes of the HUSSC, Ridgeview Elementary:

- Is a Team Nutrition school.
- Offers reimbursable lunches that demonstrate healthy menu planning practices as well as principles of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans.
- Provides nutrition education to students and the opportunity for physical education.
- Maintains an average daily participation of 70 percent or greater.
- Adheres to FNS established guidelines for foods served and sold in school outside of the National School Lunch Program.

Ridgeview Elementary’s principal is Andy Jones, the food service manager is Monica Van Note, and Teresa Pratt is the school nurse. Located in McLean county, Ridgeview Elementary has an enrollment of 287 Pre-K through grade 5 students. The school participates in the Coordinated Approach to Child Health (CATCH) program. A 30-minute physical education class and a 20-minute outdoor/gym recess period are both offered daily. A special recognition is planned for **February 17** at Ridgeview Elementary. The school will receive a plaque and banner from USDA representatives.

---

## E-Bulletins

### Equitable Participation of Private School Students

The No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), under Title I, Part A, Section 1120, requires public school officials to provide eligible children attending private elementary and secondary schools with Title I services or other benefits that are equitable to those provided by the school district to eligible public school children.

### Providing Services to Eligible Private School Children

Under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as amended by NCLB, local educational agencies (LEAs) are required to provide services for eligible private school students, as well as, eligible public school students. In particular, Section 1120 of Title I, Part A, requires a participating LEA to

provide eligible children attending private elementary and secondary schools, their teachers, and their families with Title I services or other benefits that are equitable to those provided to eligible public school children, their teachers, and their families.

### Set-Aside Amounts Designed for Specific Purposes

This E-Bulletin describes grant “set-aside” provisions—amounts statutorily designated for specific purposes—under Title I, Part A of NCLB. The second part discusses allocating funds when there are Title I schools within the district identified for school improvement, corrective action, or restructuring. Lastly, details are included on the required district set-asides when the district itself is identified for improvement.

To access these E-Bulletins in their entirety and previous editions, go to ISBE’s website at <http://www.isbe.net/e-bulletins/default.htm>.

If you have a suggestion for an E-Bulletin topic, e-mail it to [NCLB@isbe.net](mailto:NCLB@isbe.net).

---

## Curriculum & Instruction

### Do You Know Any Truly Exceptional Elementary School History Teachers?

The 2009 History Teacher of the Year Award is seeking nominations to honor outstanding elementary school history teachers across the country.

Winners will be selected from each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Department of Defense Schools and the U.S. Territories. Each state winner will receive \$1,000, and a collection of history books and educational materials will be donated to the teacher’s school library. State winners will become finalists for the National History Teacher of the Year Award. To nominate a teacher for the Illinois award, e-mail **Mike Hatfill** at [dhatfill@isbe.net](mailto:dhatfill@isbe.net) with the teacher’s name, school and a paragraph describing why the teacher is exceptional.

For more information, including nomination and application guidelines, visit [www.gilderlehrman.org/teachers/student8.html](http://www.gilderlehrman.org/teachers/student8.html)

The deadline to apply is **Monday, March 16**.

The award is sponsored by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History to recognize the importance of American history education.

### PEP Grants

The [2009 Carol M. White Physical Education Program \(PEP\)](#) competition is now open. The application deadline is **Friday, March 6**.

Applications may be submitted in paper format or online through [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov). Click [here](#) to review the RFP. The full RFP and application information will be [posted](#) on the Department of Education’s website.

---

## Special Education

### ISBE Guidance on Court and Agency Placements

Recent changes in the School Code regarding school district educational funding responsibility for Illinois court and public agency residential placements have led to a number of inquiries.

Public Acts 95-0844 and 95-0938 clarify responsibility for payment of educational services provided to students in such placements. ISBE has prepared a guidance and Q&A document that highlights the changes in the law and provides answers to initial questions from the field on this issue.

This guidance is entitled “Court and Agency Placements Guidance for School Districts” and can be found on the Special Education and Support Services webpage at: <http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/html/guidance.htm>. (Also see Funding & Disbursement).

---

## Grants & Programs

### Scholarship for Youth

The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Young Scholars Program for 7<sup>th</sup> graders supports hundreds of high-achieving students with financial need across the United States. Selected Young Scholars demonstrate high academic achievement, a motivation to succeed, an interest in the arts or other extracurricular areas, and a commitment to leadership and public service.

Applicants must have demonstrated financial need—typically, a family income below \$60,000.

Young Scholars receive a unique combination of services, which may include:

- Guidance in selecting a high school and, if necessary, support in applying to a private or magnet high school.
- Summer academic or enrichment programs.
- Computers, software, or other learning technology.
- Connection with a nationwide community of Young Scholars.
- College advising and counseling.
- Specialized support in music, art, science, math, or other subjects.

For more information and the application, go to [www.jkcf.org](http://www.jkcf.org). The deadline is **Monday, April 27**.

---

## Awards & Grants

### IFI White Sox Illinois Fatherhood Essay Contest

The Illinois Fatherhood Initiative (IFI) and the Chicago White Sox are sponsoring the “What My Father Means to Me” essay contest.

Entries must be postmarked by **Monday, March 2**. For additional information, go to <http://4fathers.org/>.

IFI is the country's first statewide, non-profit fatherhood organization whose mission is connecting children and fathers by promoting responsible fathering and helping equip men to become better fathers or father-figures.

### Healthy Schools, Healthy People – It's a SNAP Award

The School Network for Absenteeism Prevention (SNAP) is a hands-on initiative designed to help keep middle school students in school by improving overall health through clean hands.

One school is chosen as the national award recipient. The school receives an all-expense paid trip for three to Washington D.C. to be honored at a special reception. Two runner-up recipients receive a cash award of \$250

each. All participating classrooms receive a certificate of recognition.

For information on how to apply and where to send materials, to go <http://www.itsasnap.org/index.asp> or e-mail **Nancy Bock** at [nbock@cleaning101.com](mailto:nbock@cleaning101.com) or **Martha Chapin** at [mchapin@cleaning101.com](mailto:mchapin@cleaning101.com).

The deadline for entry for national recognition is **March 1**.

---

## Student Opportunities

### Economics Challenge

[Economics Challenge](#) is for high school students taking an economics or economics-related course this school year. Students from around the state compete by testing their knowledge of economics and their economic reasoning abilities.

In the EconChallenge, student teams compete in one of two divisions according to the economics classes they have taken or are currently taking to win prizes and advance to state, regional, and national levels. The program is made available to Illinois schools by the Illinois Council on Economic Education.

Registrations for the preliminary online competition are accepted through **Wednesday, February 4**. Go directly to: <http://www.econed-il.org/icee/econchal.shtml>.

### Illinois Personal Finance Challenges

[Illinois Personal Finance Challenge \(IPFC\)](#) targets consumer education/personal finance students and is open to all Illinois high school teachers and their students through the Illinois Council on Economic Education.

IPFC provides a fun and competitive way to engage students more fully in learning. Students compete in teams, with 20 advancing to the State Finals in Chicago. Students are recognized for their understanding and application of personal finance concepts and skills; teachers are rewarded for outstanding practices in teaching personal finance topics.

Registrations for the preliminary online competition will be accepted through **Wednesday, February 18**. Go directly to:

<http://www.econed-il.org/icee/ipfc.shtml>

---

## **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/2009/newsclips/090130.htm>

---