



Feb. 6, 2012

Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

Last week we announced the Illinois Honor Roll for 2011, recognizing more than 700 schools in Illinois for their continued academic progress. The Illinois Honor Roll is our annual recognition program for outstanding schools that are making progress toward or maintaining academic excellence. Last Tuesday we recognized schools in Livingston and McLean counties and today we highlighted the work that is going on in Schaumburg District 54.

This year, 703 schools made the Illinois Honor Roll, some receiving more than one award. The three categories of awards are as follows:

- **Spotlight Schools** – Recognizes 167 high-poverty, high-performing schools that are beating the odds to overcome the achievement gap.
- **Academic Excellence Awards** – 438 schools have sustained high performance over at least three years.
- **Academic Improvement Awards** – 114 schools are showing substantial improvement.

The complete list of honor roll schools can be found at <http://www.ilhonorroll.niu.edu/>.

Also last week, Governor Quinn made his State of the State speech to the Illinois General Assembly. In the speech he highlighted several broad strokes for K-12 education, including additional investments in early childhood education and school and classroom technology improvements. The Governor also proposed increasing the minimum age for dropping out of school from 17 to 18 years of age. The Board has not taken a position on these broad strokes but it begins the dialogue on these topics and we will review them as more details become available. The Governor will make his budget address in two weeks.

Finally, I want to thank the Illinois Music Educators Association for inviting me to their annual conference in Peoria. This was a wonderful event showcasing Illinois' rich musical talent. It's an opportunity for professional development for our teachers and a great way for our student musicians to apply their studies through performance. I was able to enjoy some exquisite performances from our students and I truly am amazed at their talent and professionalism. We should all be very proud.

Have a great week!
Chris

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Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

- **“Race to the Top 3: Overview and Participation Requirements” webinar** – Feb. 7 (Register at <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/124005248>)

- **Illinois Pathways Launch Event** – Feb. 9 (<http://ilpathways.eventbrite.com>; sold out)
- **Illinois Green Ribbon Award application deadline** – Feb. 12 (For information, visit http://www.isbe.net/green_ribbon/)
- **Part 30 (Programs for the Preparation of Principals in Illinois)** – Public comment period ends Feb. 14
- **ISAT Test Administration webinar** – Feb. 15 (Register at <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/301892825>)
- **Illinois New Teacher Collaborative’s Induction and Mentoring Conference** – Feb. 22-23 in Springfield
- **Part 226 (Special Education) and Part 575 (School Technology Program)** – Public comment period ends March 26
- **Part 51 (Dismissal of Tenured Teachers under Article 24 and Dismissal of Tenured Teachers and Principals under Article 34 of the School Code)** – Public comment period ends April 2
- **2011-12 Eye Examination Data Collection deadline** – June 30

Race to the Top

Webinar on District Participation in Race to the Top 3 Set for Feb. 7

The “Race to the Top 3: Overview and Participation Requirements” webinar is scheduled for Feb. 7. Space is limited. Reserve your webinar seat now at <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/124005248>.

Illinois will receive \$42.8 million as part of the U.S. Department of Education’s Race to the Top Program to advance comprehensive K-12 reforms aimed at improving student achievement, of which \$21.4 million will be shared with local districts. Under Illinois’ Plan, Participating LEAs will serve as “reform exemplars” by agreeing to a comprehensive set of expectations designed to accelerate and sustain improved student outcomes. This webinar will provide an overview of Race to the Top 3 and will go into detail on what is required of local districts to participate. Here are the webinar details:

Title: Race to the Top 3: Overview and Participation Requirements

Date: Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2012

Time: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

System Requirements: PC-based attendees – Windows 7, Vista, XP or 2003 Server required. Macintosh-based attendees – Mac OS X 10.5 or newer required.

Scheduling is under way for another webinar on the Illinois Shared Learning Environment (ISLE) and its relationship to Race to the Top 3. Details will be announced soon via IWAS and the Weekly Message. Here is a description of the webinar: As part of Illinois’ plan for the Race to the Top program, participating LEAs will be connecting into the Illinois Shared Learning Environment, a comprehensive platform that will provide new ways of using data to differentiate instruction, deliver digital resources and tools, and improve student

outcomes. This webinar will explain what ISLE is and how it works, the resources it will provide, as well as instructional and technical considerations for districts as they evaluate participation in Race to the Top. The webinar will also feature two districts that have already begun a pilot deployment to offer their local perspective.

Student Assessment

Webinar on the Illinois Standards Achievement Test Set for Feb. 15

An ISAT webinar is scheduled for Feb. 15, 2012. Space is limited. Reserve your webinar seat now at <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/301892825>.

The Illinois State Board of Education’s Assessment Division is sponsoring the webinar on ISAT Test Administration. Please have a copy of the District and School Coordination Manual available. The document is at http://www.isbe.net/assessment/pdfs/2012/isat/ISAT_DS_CM_12.pdf. Jim Palmer (from the Assessment Division) and Kathy Johnson (from Pearson) will present. There will be time for questions after the presentation. Here are the details:

Title: ISAT Test Administration

Date: Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2012

Time: 9-10 a.m.

System Requirements: PC-based attendees – Windows 7, Vista, XP or 2003 Server required; Macintosh-based attendees – Mac OS X 10.5 or newer required.

PSAE Day 2 Orders and Enrollment Confirmation Due Feb. 10, 2012

Schools that will be administering the PSAE must order PSAE Day 2 materials using Pearson’s PSAE TestSites Online website no later than Friday, Feb. 10, 2012. User IDs and passwords were sent to school principals in November. If the user ID and password have been

misplaced, the school principal must write to psae@act.org to request this information again.

Additionally, PSAE Test Supervisors must confirm their school's total enrollment count using ACT's Services for State Testing website no later than Friday, Feb. 10, 2012. ACT sent a user ID and password to all PSAE Test Supervisors at the end of January.

Please refer to the 2012 PSAE Checklist of Dates for other important PSAE dates and deadlines, online at http://www.isbe.net/assessment/pdfs/2012/psae/checklist_of_dates.pdf.

Innovation and Improvement

ISBE Announces Family Engagement Webinar Topics for February and March

The Illinois State Board of Education's Division of Innovation and Improvement has planned a series of 60-minute Family Engagement Webinars as part of a statewide family engagement initiative. Each webinar in the 2012 series will feature practitioners from the 2011 Regional Summits. The practitioners will share their experiences in the successful implementation of evidence-based family engagement strategies in their schools or districts. These sessions are open to district staff, school staff, parent facilitators, and parents. Information on the upcoming session is given below and you may use the registration links included to register for the webinar described.

Improving High School Family Engagement Through Social and Emotional Learning: This webinar is set for 3:30-4:30 p.m. Feb. 23, 2012. Reserve a seat at <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/253542057>.

Recent studies have shown that learning improves when schools attend to the social and emotional needs of their students. Parents also need this kind of support and are eager to learn more about how they can connect to and support their kids. New Trier High School's principal, Dr. Tim Dohrer, will explain how various school structures and initiatives offer support to students, parents, and staff in all four dimensions of schooling: academic, social, emotional, and physical. Their efforts have led to a large school that feels small, high levels of academic excellence, and energetic school community that is engaged and excited. Dohrer has worked in a variety of roles in education for over 20 years. For many of those years, he was an English and journalism teacher, student advisor, coach, club sponsor, and chair of many school-based committees and initiatives.

How to Get Families Engaged in an Early Childhood

Setting: This webinar is set for 3:30-4:30 p.m.

March 2, 2012: Reserve a webinar seat now at

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/417583977>. You plan a great event – you even ordered pizza, but only five families showed up. What went wrong?

Through this webinar, participants will:

- Reflect on what they believe about family engagement and how this will impact what types of activities are planned for families.
- Discuss ways to increase your level of family engagement from 25 percent to over 80 percent of families participating as well as increase the number of parent volunteer hours at your school.
- Discuss providing targeted intervention strategies families may complete at home that include a “DVD” teaching module.
- Review implementation techniques that target hard to reach families and get all families involved.

Parent Involvement in High Poverty Schools:

This webinar is set for 3:30-4:30 p.m. March 22, 2012.

Reserve your webinar seat now at

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/661486424>. Dr.

Sandra Lewis will discuss how she has been able to change the culture and climate of the school and community from one that was infiltrated with gangs and low achievement to one that has received many awards for its outstanding school climate, innovative programs, and academic achievement. As a member of the same community for over 40 years, and now principal at Harold Washington Elementary for the past 22 years, she has become an icon in the community. Lewis has formed partnerships all over the city to bring quality programs and projects to her students and families and has been highlighted on radio, television, newspapers, magazines, and other media. She will share how she attends to the social and emotional needs of students and their parents/families, and the unique and effective approaches she's implemented to raise student achievement.

Response to Intervention Trainer Application Available Online

Persons interested in applying as trainers for Response to Intervention (RtI) professional development must complete the Response to Intervention Trainer application. Trainers in these positions will play a critical leadership role in the successful delivery of the new professional development for RtI.

The expectations for a trainer are to complete the required four day trainer professional development workshop March 6, 7, 22 and 23 in Bloomington. The trainer then will present multiple RtI trainings in a particular area. The person must be responsible to read all materials, understand how adults learn and agree to put his/her name on an approved trainer list. Finalists will be interviewed by phone.

Please send completed application electronically by Feb. 10 to Sarah McCusker, principal consultant, at smccuske@isbe.net. Call (217) 524-4832 for questions. The application is posted at http://www.isbe.net/RtI_plan/rti_trainer_ap.pdf.

Illinois School Report Card

Read More About the Redesigned Illinois School Report Card on the ISBE Website

The new Illinois School Report Card will provide clear and concise information about a school in an accessible one-page tool. House Bill 605, which introduced the redesigned Illinois School Report Card, was signed into law on Jan. 24, 2012, by Gov. Pat. Quinn. The legislation, now Public Act 097-0671, followed months of stakeholder deliberations and nearly 60 community focus groups organized by the Illinois P-20 Council's Data, Assessment, & Accountability Committee.

Read more on the ISBE website at http://www.isbe.net/assessment/htmls/rc_redesign.htm. Resources include a Illinois School Report Card fact sheet, a link to the complete public act and more. Additional resources will be posted as they become available.

Illinois Youth Risk Behavior Survey

Results of Survey Released by Illinois State Board of Education Contractor

The Illinois State Board of Education, through its contractor, Children's Memorial Hospital, has just released the results of the 2011 Illinois Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS). The YRBS focuses on priority health-risk behaviors established during youth that result in the most significant mortality, disability and social problems during both youth and adulthood. Questions are about nutrition, tobacco use, alcohol and other drug use, physical activity, injuries and sexual behavior resulting in sexually transmitted diseases and pregnancy.

Additionally, both the Chicago YRBS and the 2011 Illinois YRBS contain questions about students' sexual orientation.

The 2011 Illinois YRBS was completed by 1,712 students in 33 public high schools in Illinois (excluding Chicago) during the spring of 2011. The school response rate was 77 percent, the student response rate was 89 percent, and the overall response rate was 68 percent. The results are representative of all Illinois students in public high schools, grades 9-12. For more information visit our contractor's website at <http://www.chdl.org/yrbs.htm>.

Green Ribbon Schools

Webcast Scheduled to Help With Application Process

The Center for Green Schools at USGBC is joining with Jim Elder of the Campaign for Environmental Literacy to host a webcast for K-12 schools interested in pursuing a Green Ribbon Award through the U.S. Department of Education. They'll be reviewing the criteria and discussing the application process in detail with webcast attendees. Here are the details:

The webcast is set for 3 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2012. The event number is "753 402 875," and the event password is "Gr33n1." The event address for attendees is <https://usgbc.webex.com/usgbc/onstage/g.php?d=753402875&t=a>. Call in toll-free at (866) 469-3239.

Illinois is among 33 states, the District of Columbia and the Bureau of Indian Education that will nominate schools to the U.S. Department of Education for the new award. Applications are due to ISBE by Feb. 12, 2012. For information, visit http://www.isbe.net/green_ribbon/.

Performance Evaluation Reform Act

State Board of Education Adopts Model Principal Evaluation Form

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

form that school district may choose to use. At its meeting last week, ISBE adopted a model principal evaluation form, which will be available soon at the following link: <http://www.isbe.net/PERA/default.htm>. ISBE staff will continue to add information and tools to assist school districts with the implementation of these new evaluation systems. If you have any questions, please contact vphillip@isbe.net.

Fiscal and Procurement

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

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

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

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

The entity or entities selected will also collect and monitor data and performance objectives from school districts in which the ISBE has intervened and from

school districts participating in other educational reform or school improvement programs and present such information and analyses to state and local personnel as required.

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

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

Funding and Disbursement Services

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

As a reminder, the \$6,119 GSA foundation level used in the GSA calculation was based on a total budgeted FY 2012 appropriation of \$4,448,104,514. The GSA net entitlement based upon final local tax revenue and average daily attendance information calculated to \$4,679,299,867. This resulted in a shortfall of \$231,195,353. This shortfall requires a proration of 95 percent, which has been applied towards the gross entitlement for each school district and regional office. The 95 percent proration is not being proportionally applied over the entire year. Consistent with prior years, the entire reduction is instead being applied in full to the two last scheduled payments in June. For most districts, it eliminates the June 20 payment entirely. Final computations and individual claim information for districts and regional offices can be accessed in GSA Inquiry at <http://webprod1.isbe.net/gsainquiry/default.aspx>.

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

Nutrition

Summer Food Service Program Helps Fill the Nutritional Gap for Children

The Illinois State Board of Education is encouraging school administrators to make sure students take advantage of free, nutritious meals and snacks available this summer at more than 1,700 summer food service program sites statewide. Applications to be a sponsor can be submitted to ISBE beginning March 1.

Summer food programs work by providing free meals and snacks to low-income children through age 18 when school is not in session. People ages 18 and older who are enrolled in school programs for persons with disabilities may also participate. Summer food programs typically operate June through August, but can start as early as May and can go into September.

During the summer of 2010, more than 105,000 low-income Illinois children ate free meals through summer food programs. Those children represent 14.7 percent of the roughly 721,000 children who ate free or reduced-priced meals during the 2009-2010 school year. Nationally, the U.S. Department of Agriculture reports that more than 18 million children received free or reduced-price school meals during the 2010 school year, but only 2.8 million children received summer meals.

ISBE administers two federally funded summer food programs – the USDA’s ‘Summer Food Service Program for Children’ and the federal National School Lunch Program’s ‘Seamless Summer Option.’ Both programs are designed to bridge the summer nutrition gap by offering free nutritious breakfasts, lunches or snacks to children age 18 and younger.

Local governments, school districts and non-profits can sponsor summer food sites, which may include schools, parks, recreation centers, housing projects, migrant centers, churches, summer camps and others. Organizations and government entities may apply to ISBE to be a summer food program sponsor beginning March 1 through June 15, 2012. Organizations may also become a site with an existing sponsor; to learn more, visit the ISBE website at <http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/summer.htm>.

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

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has released the nutrition standards for school meals

beginning with school year 2012-2013. The new standards were designed to align school meals with the most recent nutrition recommendations and current capabilities of schools.

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

- Final Rule: Nutrition Standards in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs
- School Meals Sample Menus
- New Meal Patterns and Dietary Specifications Chart
- Implementation Timeline
- Policy Memo SP 10-2012: Questions and Answers on the Final Rule

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

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

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

English Language Learning

Applications for Migrant Supplemental Education Services Funding Available

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

Students who are 0-21 years old and have not graduated from high school may be eligible if they have moved within the past three years due to economic necessity across state or school district lines with a parent or guardian or on their own to obtain temporary or seasonal work in agricultural production, fishing or food processing industries. A certified recruiter must document that children qualify as migrant students.

The Illinois State Board of Education can assist districts in identifying eligible migrant children. Information about how to request assistance is available at http://www.isbe.net/bilingual/pdfs/migrant_survey.pdf. For more information, contact Beth Robinson at berobins@isbe.net or (312) 814-3850.

Those Who Excel

Nomination Packets Available for Annual ISBE Awards Program

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

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

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

Rules and Waivers

Invitation to Comment on Rules

Several rulemakings recently reviewed by the Illinois State Board of Education are available for public comment. The proposals have been posted on the agency's website at <http://www.isbe.net/rules>; choose "Proposed Rules and Amendments." Please submit any comments or suggestions to rules@isbe.net.

Part 51 (Dismissal of Tenured Teachers under Article 24 and Dismissal of Tenured Teachers and Principals under Article 34 of the School Code): Streamlines the dismissal process to align to the provisions of P.A. 97-8, effective June 13, 2011, and provides for an optional alternative dismissal process, as per Section 24-16.5 of the School Code [105 ILCS 5/24-16.5].

Deadline for Public Comment: April 2, 2012

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

Deadline for Public Comment: March 26, 2012

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

Deadline for Public Comment: March 26, 2012

Part 30 (Programs for the Preparation of Principals in Illinois): Amends Section 30.20 in accordance with P.A. 97-607, stating that institutions of higher education can no longer entitle principals with a general administrative endorsement after August 31, 2014; updates Section 30.45 to provide a link to the revised Standards for Professional Learning published by Learning Forward (previously, the National Staff Development Council).

Affected Sections: 30.20, 30.45

Deadline for Public Comment: February 14, 2012

Professional Development

Scaling Up Pathways to Results 2012 Conference Scheduled for Feb. 24

The Office of Community College Research and Leadership at the University of Illinois and the Illinois Community College Board will hold the Scaling Up Pathways to Results 2012 Conference on Friday, Feb. 24, in Springfield.

This conference would be of interest to school district administrators and high school principals, as the PTR model can be helpful for high school faculties to utilize in their school improvement activities. In particular, school leaders will be interested in attending this conference as they consider their schools' effectiveness in promoting college and career readiness for all students.

The cost of registration is \$50, which includes lunch and all materials. The registration link can be accessed at <http://occr1.illinois.edu/projects/pathways/events/scaling-up-february-2012>.

For questions about the conference, contact Don Hackmann at dghack@illinois.edu or (217) 333-0230.

Student Opportunities

Applications for 2012 National Youth Science Camp Available

Applications to attend the 2012 National Youth Science Camp (NYSC) are available online at <http://www.isbe.net/career/default.htm>. Two graduating high school students will be selected to represent Illinois at the all-expenses paid honors program, which will be held from June 27 through July 21, 2012.

For more information about the NYSC, please visit <http://2012.nysc.org/>. For questions about the application process, please contact Gil Downey at (217) 782-4620 or gdowney@isbe.net.

To apply, download the application packet from <http://www.isbe.net/career/default.htm> and follow the enclosed instructions. Mail the completed application to the address below. Applications must be received by Feb. 24, 2012. (Attn: Gil Downey, Principal Consultant, National Youth Science Camp, Illinois State Board of Education, 100 N. First St., C-215, Springfield, IL 62777)

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

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

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

Winners will be announced later in the spring and will be honored at a State Board of Education meeting and at an award ceremony at the Governor's Mansion. Winning entries will be shared on participating school and state websites. More about this year's contest rules, terms and

conditions, can be found at http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/html/internet_safety.htm.

In the News

Weekly News Clips

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

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>.