



Feb. 8, 2010

## Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

The end of 2009 proved to be quite hectic, and with the way 2010 is starting out, this could be an equally dynamic year for Illinois' education community. Already in 2010 we have submitted a blueprint for the evolution of education in Illinois for the next decade in our Race to the Top application and we have seen the passage of performance evaluation legislation that is considered by many to be groundbreaking.

This is truly an exciting time for education, even though the State of Illinois is facing what could be its greatest financial challenge. Despite these tragic economic circumstances, education in Illinois continues to move forward and much of that is due to you.

I want to take just a little time to list a few of our achievements:

- Illinois is a leader in the Common Core, developing internationally benchmarked common learning standards.
- Nearly 1,000 schools made the Illinois Honor Roll in recognition of their continued academic progress.
- Illinois was selected for a federal grant to develop a Longitudinal Data System.
- ACT recognized our state as a national leader in preparing students for college and career readiness with its first Systems of Excellence Award.
- Students show gains on all state tests.
- Illinois joins with 12 other states to develop career-ready courses; the State Leadership Initiative is being led by the Partnership for 21st Century Skills.
- The number of Illinois students taking and passing AP exams is growing, with participation among all categories – by gender, ethnicity and class – increasing in Illinois.
- Illinois is a national leader in teachers receiving National Board Certification, ranking fifth in the nation for the total number of NBCTs.
- The Illinois State Board of Education distributed more than \$1.34 billion in additional funding to Illinois schools under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Table of Contents	
English Language Learning.....	2
Department of Public Health.....	2
Those Who Excel .....	3
Nutrition.....	3
Data Analysis and Progress Reporting .....	4
Special Education Services .....	4
Department of Labor .....	4
FCC .....	5
Funding and Disbursement Services.....	5
Rules and Waivers .....	6
Student Opportunities .....	6
School Opportunities .....	6
Employment Opportunities.....	6
In the News.....	6

These are just a few of the highlights; I know there are many more that we could all share. I appreciate the efforts you put forth everyday on behalf of Illinois students.

Have a great week.

Chris

---

## Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

- **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
- **Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Grant applications 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

---

## Department of Public Health

### **CDC Issues Guidance on Haitian Children Arriving in United States After Earthquake**

In a recent memorandum, the Illinois Department of Public Health provided interim guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Haitian children coming into the country since last month’s earthquake.

The document, “Interim Recommendations for Initial Domestic Medical Screenings of Haitian Orphan Parolees,” is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/immigrantrefugeehealth/exams/recommendations-domestic-medical-screening-haitian-orphan.html>. In you have questions, contact IDPH at 217-782-4977.

---

## English Language Learning

### **Training Webinars Scheduled on Funding Applications**

The FY11 Consolidated English Language Learning Programs Application for state TBE/TPI and federal Title III (LIPLEPS and IEP) funding will be completed and submitted electronically online via eGMS this school year. Please join ISBE’s Division of English Language Learning staff for a training webinar that will present information on accessing and completing Submission Part I of the new electronic consolidated application.

The FY11 eGMS Consolidated English Language Learning Application is divided into two submissions, Part I The ELL Enrollment Summary and Ceiling Calculator and Part II The ELL Program Service Plan and Budgets.

1. The ELL Enrollment Summary and Ceiling Calculator is scheduled to be available online by Feb. 8, and data submissions due to ISBE by March 15. An announcement will go out to districts on IWAS informing them that the system is available for data submission.
2. The ELL Program Service Plan and Budgets is scheduled to be posted online by May 2010 and data submissions due to ISBE by June 30. Only those districts that complete the ELL Enrollment Summary and Ceiling Calculator will be eligible to apply for FY11 funding by submitting the ELL Program Service Plan and Budgets.

The FY11 application submission and approval process will all be completed online. The Excel-based consolidated application forms used in previous years will no longer be available on the ISBE website.

To assist school districts with the eGMS application, a technical assistance workshop via Webinar for Part I has been scheduled from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Feb. 17. A second Webinar for the Part II submission is scheduled for 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. May 12. Both sessions will be recorded and posted on the DELL Web site,

<http://www.isbe.net/bilingual>. With this being the first year of implementation; we strongly encourage anyone responsible for the submission of the application, including program coordinators and directors, to participate in this training.

For more information, call the English Language Learning division at 312-814-3850 or visit the Web site above.

---

## 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 2010-11 Illinois Teacher of the Year is selected from the pool of teachers nominated in this program.

Nomination packets are available online at [http://www.isbe.net/those\\_who\\_excel.htm](http://www.isbe.net/those_who_excel.htm). The deadline for nominations is May 26, and this year's banquet will be Oct. 16. For a paper copy of the nomination, or if you have questions, please contact Ann Muraro-Lacopo at 217-782-4648.

---

## Nutrition

### Food Allergy Guidelines Committee – Public Act 96-0349

By July 1, 2010, the Illinois State Board of Education, in conjunction with the Illinois Department of Public Health, shall make available to each school board guidelines for the management of students with life-threatening food allergies developed by an ad hoc committee.

By Jan. 1, 2011, each school board shall implement policy based on these guidelines. Also, at least every two years, an in-service training program for school personnel who work with students must be conducted by persons with expertise in anaphylactic reactions and management.

The committee will hold its second meeting on Feb. 22, 2010, via video-conference in Springfield and Chicago. For more information on the structure of the guidelines, committee members and meeting locations, go to [http://www.isbe.net/food\\_allergy/default.htm](http://www.isbe.net/food_allergy/default.htm).

### 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/cnscaledar/asp/eventlist.asp>.

---

## 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](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](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](mailto:jmathes@isbe.net) or phone 217-782-5256.

---

## 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](http://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*

---

## Student Opportunities

### Scholarship Available for Students Interested in Studying in Taiwan

Applications are available for the 2010 Senior High School Scholarship for International Students, offered by the Taiwan Ministry of Education. The scholarship is for Illinois students ages 15 to 18 who are interested in studying in Taiwan for a semester.

Tuition is covered by the Taiwan Ministry of Education and includes room and board, a monthly allowance and insurance expenses. Applications are due by March 10.

For an application form, visit

<http://www.edutw.org/english/scholarships/index.html>

and click on "Taiwan Senior High School Scholarship for International Students" on the right side of the page.

More information is available online or by calling 312-616-0805 or e-mailing [info@edutw.org](mailto:info@edutw.org).

---

## School Opportunities

### Nominations Sought for Annual National School Change Awards

Applications are available for the National Principals Leadership Institute's National School Change Awards. The annual awards, co-sponsored by the American Association of School Administrators, go to six schools across the country that have "significantly changed."

Schools are asked to measure themselves against criteria and consider the degree to which they have improved and grown. Schools may nominate themselves. Winners will receive a \$5,000 grant and will be honored with a ceremony at their individual schools. An awards presentation by the U.S. Department of Education in July will also recognize the winners.

The deadline is March 4 for nominations. For more information and applications, visit <http://npli.org/nsca>.

---

## 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/100205.htm>.