



February 9, 2009

## Message from State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

On Thursday, we officially celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Abraham Lincoln. This will be a once in a lifetime opportunity for you and your students. I hope everyone will take this opportunity to celebrate the legacy of our 16<sup>th</sup> President.

As I have mentioned in previous columns, we encourage all schools that are in session on Thursday to participate in a 9:30 a.m. nationwide simultaneous reading of the Gettysburg Address. Lincoln Bicentennial commemorative posters are being sent to schools for distribution to our students in grades 5 and 8. Most schools should have received them by now. I must thank this event’s generous corporate sponsors: JP Morgan Chase, the MacArthur Foundation and The Chicago Community Trust.

Even though we are only able to provide the commemorative posters to the students in grades 5 and 8, we hope that all students in school that day will join the reading. While Lincoln’s Birthday is officially a school holiday, more than 93 percent of schools have petitioned for modifications allowing them to be in class. You can download and print copies of the Gettysburg Address at [http://alplm.org/events/Gettysburg\\_Address/Gettysburg\\_Address\\_text.pdf](http://alplm.org/events/Gettysburg_Address/Gettysburg_Address_text.pdf).

We are working with the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum on the *Four Score and Seven Project*, the simultaneous reading of the Gettysburg Address. Our friends at the museum hope to break the world record for the most people reading aloud simultaneously, which currently stands at 223,363. (Set December 13, 2006—participants read a passage from *Charlotte’s Web* by E. B. White)

If you and your students are interested in participating in this attempt to enter the Guinness Book of World Records, you can get more information at [http://www.alplm.org/events/Gettysburg\\_Address/Gettysburg\\_Address\\_reading.html](http://www.alplm.org/events/Gettysburg_Address/Gettysburg_Address_reading.html). You will need to download and print forms, have participants and witnesses sign and fax back to the museum. It is extra work, but it may prove fun for students and staff.

There are a number of resources to assist educators as they celebrate the Lincoln Bicentennial and this shouldn’t be limited to just Lincoln’s birthday. We have a Lincoln curriculum on our Web site that aligns to the Illinois Learning Standards. This curriculum was developed by the Indiana Department of Education, and you can access it for free at <http://www.doe.in.gov/demo/index.html>.

In addition, the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum has a number of resources, which I know many of you have already accessed at <http://www.alplm.org/home.html>. If your staff accessed information from the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, they ask that you go to this link <http://vovici.com/wsb.dll/s/17692g3a555> to take a short survey to provide feedback. This really is a wonderful collaboration that I look forward to continuing. Any feedback you and your staff may provide will be helpful.

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Thanks, and have a great week!

Chris

“A capacity, and taste, for reading, gives access to whatever has already been discovered by others. It is the key, or one of the keys, to the already solved problems. And not only so. It gives a relish, and facility, for successfully pursuing the [yet] unsolved ones.”

A. Lincoln, September 30, 1859

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## Upcoming Dates & Deadlines

- **USAC Form 471 submission deadline for selection of eligible services** – February 12
- **Home school districts deadline to submit pre-ID label information for PSAE on SIS** – February 19
- **District deadline to submit online Technology Integration Plan (TIP) to ISBE for FY10 approval** – February 27
- **School district Verification Process finalized** – February 27
- **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
- **Part 145 (Temporary Relocation Expenses); Part 151 (School Construction Program); and Part 675 (Providers of Supplemental Education Services): Public comment ends** – March 30
- **Even Start Family Literacy RFP** – April 2

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## School Business Services

### School District Annual Financial Report Verification Process

All district superintendents should have received an e-mail broadcast asking the district to verify the Operating Expense Per Pupil/Per Capita Tuition Charge (OEPP/PCTC) [ISBE Form 50-35](#), and the Financial Profile Report by the **Friday, February 27**, deadline.

The broadcast included links to the memorandum, instructions, and definitions to assist with the verification process. These documents are also available in [IWAS](#) and on the [Verification](#) webpage.

The e-mail broadcast and this notice will be the only ones sent to districts. If you have not received the broadcast, please contact ISBE at 217-785-8779. If you have given

another person authority to verify these reports, please forward the e-mail broadcast to them. The instructions and deadlines are important in completing the verification process in a timely manner. Once the deadline passes, changes to the 2008 Annual Financial Report (AFR) data will not be allowed.

Since the financial profile designation will be approved and publicly released by ISBE, it is crucial that districts review their financial profile data and score. Any district that wishes to include comments that support the Financial Profile report may do so directly in IWAS beneath the report. Although comments are optional, this is an opportunity for districts to explain significant financial circumstances. For further details see the [Verification](#) webpage.

Any questions regarding the verification process should be directed to a School Business Services consultant at

217-785-8779. Any questions regarding IWAS should be directed to the Call Center at 217-558-3600.

## Curriculum & Instruction

### Technology Integration Plans Deadlines

An approved Technology Integration Plan (TIP) is required for participation in and eligibility for e-Rate reimbursement or discounts under NCLB Title II Part D (EETT) funding, and other state or federal funding initiatives that support educational technology.

Districts should have completed and kept on file Basic (Draft Plans) Technology Integration Plans, covering at least one full fiscal funding year (July 1-June 30) prior to submitting a Form 470 for e-Rate reimbursement or discount in **January 2009**.

Please keep the following dates in mind as the filing window for e-Rate FY10 is quickly coming to a close:

**Thursday, February 12:** Last date to submit a USAC Form 471 for selection of eligible services.

**Friday, February 27:** Last date for districts to submit an online Technology Integration Plan (TIP) to ISBE through <http://iirc.niu.edu> for FY10 approval.

Districts should contact their Learning Technology Center (LTC) Director for technical assistance in writing the plan. The LTC Director is able to assist with districts seeking approval for a Technology Integration Plan for the first time or replacing an existing plan that expires **June 30, 2009**.

Questions about the Technology Integration Plan approval process, NCLB Tech Plan rules, and e-Rate Tech Plan compliance are always welcome at ISBE. For assistance, contact **Faith Bishop** at [fbishop@isbe.net](mailto:fbishop@isbe.net) or **Kathy Barnhart** at [kbarnhar@isbe.net](mailto:kbarnhar@isbe.net) or 217-557-7323.

### CDC's Health Education Curriculum Analysis Tool Available

CDC's Health Education Curriculum Analysis Tool (HECAT) now addresses all nine key content areas. It offers guidance, appraisal tools, and resources needed to conduct a clear, complete and consistent examination of health education curricula.

#### Are you interested in:

- Selecting or developing appropriate and effective health education curricula?
- Enhancing your existing health education curriculum?
- Improving the delivery of health education?

#### The nine key content areas of health education include:

- Alcohol and other Drugs
- Healthy Eating
- Mental and Emotional Health
- Personal Health and Wellness
- Physical Activity
- Safety
- Sexual Health
- Tobacco
- Violence Prevention

The HECAT was developed in partnership with health education experts representing state education agencies, school districts, schools, colleges, and national organizations. It is based on the National Health Education Standards and CDC's Characteristics of Effective Health Education Curricula. You can customize the HECAT to meet your community's needs and the curriculum requirements of your state and school district.

HECAT materials are available, at no charge, in PDF and print formats at [www.cdc.gov/healthyouth/HECAT](http://www.cdc.gov/healthyouth/HECAT). Continue to check this web site for updates and resources, including the final module to analyze a comprehensive health education curriculum.

### GlobalFest International Celebration

GlobalFest, the annual celebration of languages and cultures for Illinois junior high and senior high students, is set for **Friday and Saturday, March 13 and 14**, at Urbana High School in Urbana, Illinois.

This international language event brings together students from throughout the state. They experience immersion and cultures of more than 18 languages, art, music, dance, performance, food, activities and presentations from students and adults from around the world.

GlobalFest is connected to the Illinois Learning Standards as well as providing in-service training for teachers and administrators.

For more information on the events planned for students and teachers, contact Mary Slider at [mslider@wfschools.org](mailto:mslider@wfschools.org); 618-932-3126 ext. 160; or FAX 618-932-6515.

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## Rules & Waivers

### Invitation to Comment on Rules

Three proposed rulemakings recently reviewed by the State Board of Education are currently available for public comment. These items have been posted on the agency's web site at [www.isbe.net/rules](http://www.isbe.net/rules); choose "Proposed Rules and Amendments." Please submit any comments or suggestions you may have to [rules@isbe.net](mailto:rules@isbe.net).

#### Part 145 (Temporary Relocation Expenses)

Technical updating only. Correction of reference to Part 110 of the State Board's rules (Program Accounting Manual).

**Deadline for Public Comment: March 30, 2009**

#### Part 151 (School Construction Program)

Technical updating only. Correction of references to Part 110 and Fall Enrollment and Housing Report.

**Deadline for Public Comment: March 30, 2009**

#### Part 675 (Providers of Supplemental Educational Services)

Revisions to reference electronic means of communication in connection with the acquisition and disposal of loaned textbooks.

Changes in various unrelated provisions, intended to respond to issues that have arisen recently in the implementation of supplemental educational services (SES).

- In Section 675.30 (Code of Ethics), a statement is being added to make clear the applicability of these requirements to contractors and other entities acting in conjunction with providers, a prohibition on marketing directly to students is being added, and a provision is being added to emphasize districts' obligation to treat all providers equitably. In addition, the circumstances under which school district employees may be hired by providers is being clarified, resulting in fewer limitations on employees of a given district with respect to working for providers serving other school districts.

- The basis for evaluating providers stated in Section 675.90 is being changed to replace district-specific status with a statewide status for each of the subjects in which a provider offers tutoring. It is felt that parents would be confused to find providers with contradictory status levels for effectiveness, as might very well happen if reporting were to continue on a district-by-district basis.
- Since the USDE has informed states that they must allow providers to be approved to tutor in science and that other subjects may be included in the future, specific references to reading and mathematics are being eliminated in favor of generic references to subjects. See especially Section 675.50.
- In Section 675.175, subsections (b) and (c) are being revised to account for delays that are outside districts' and providers' control that would cause them to miss relevant deadlines. A new subsection (d) will also provide a means by which districts can document their compliance with a requirement of NCLB when parents do not respond.
- Based on recent clarification from the U.S. Department of Education, revisions in Sections 675.210 and 675.220 will allow for the inclusion of costs related to transportation.
- The structure of the assessment of parental satisfaction (Appendix B) is being changed from focusing on positive responses from parents to focusing on negative responses instead. This will continue to entail meeting the same standard but will avoid penalizing providers for low response rates by parents. Also in Appendix B, the criterion related to attendance is being restated to refer to providers' "average attendance" rather than to the "attendance rates," in order to state more clearly how this component of the evaluation is being implemented.

Miscellaneous other revisions will provide clarifications, remedy omissions, and state expressly practices that have been developed in response to particular circumstances.

**Deadline for Public Comment: March 30, 2009**

### Notice of Completed Rulemaking

Please be advised that four rulemaking items recently adopted by the State Board have now gone in effect.

Three of these involve the repeal of entire sets of rules, while the other consists of amendments to Part 130 (please see below). The adopted amendments have been posted on the agency's web site at [www.isbe.net/rules](http://www.isbe.net/rules); choose "Rules Currently in Effect" and scroll to the relevant Part number. If you print the affected Sections, please be sure to include the table of contents, which changes each time a Part is revised.

#### **Part 110 (Program Accounting Manual)**

Repealed in its entirety due to effectiveness of Part 100 (Requirements for Accounting, Budgeting, Financial Reporting, and Auditing).

**Affected Sections:** All

**Effective Date:** January 21, 2009

#### **Part 125 (Student Activity Funds and Convenience Accounts)**

Repealed in its entirety; content subsumed within Part 100.

**Affected Sections:** All

**Effective Date:** January 21, 2009

#### **Part 130 (Determining Special Education Per Capita Tuition Charge)**

Technical updating only; corrects references to the Program Accounting Manual and the Fall Enrollment and Housing Report.

**Affected Sections:** 130.10, 130.30, and 130.40.

**Effective Date:** January 21, 2009

#### **Part 500 (Replacement of Required Rules)**

Repealed in its entirety. All the underlying statutes have been repealed so none of the rules listed will need to be re-promulgated.

**Affected Sections:** All.

**Effective Date:** January 21, 2009

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## **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's 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 has 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 enrollment 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).

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## **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.

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## 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.incschools.org/start\\_a\\_charter.html](http://www.incschools.org/start_a_charter.html)

This interactive webinar will provide the information needed to begin planning 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.incschools.org](http://www.incschools.org).

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

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## 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 at:

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

(Also see Funding & Disbursements).

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## Student Opportunities

### Illinois Personal Finance Challenge

**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>.

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## 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>

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## 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/090206.htm>.

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