



Feb. 11, 2013

Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

Last week I met with a group of stakeholder to discuss the Special Education Certified School Nurse rules. Complying with the rules is proving to be a challenge for districts as they face both shrinking resources and additional mandates from the state and an insufficient supply of CSNs.

My goal during the meeting was for both sides to come together and gain a better understanding of what they were trying to accomplish, what issues they face with implementation and if they could attain a common ground to benefit all students.

I have asked my staff to put together a plan that would be the starting point for a discussion that would ensure that student medical needs are considered fully in the IEP process, while also allowing districts the ability to meet those needs for all students in a way that takes into consideration the supply of CSNs and the reality of our state’s financial situation. I believe if all parties work together we can develop additional training that can be delivered efficiently online or via webinar to nurses currently serving within school districts so that we are able to meet student needs during the IEP process.

I believe both sides in this issue want what is best for our students and I am confident we will be able to find common ground as we move forward.

I also want you to be aware that I am bringing before the Board later this month the rules that define special education and general education class size limits. Our current rules go beyond federal law and I have always been of the mind that the state should not dictate limits on class size.

Class size is an issue that is best addressed locally. We are no longer under the Corey H. settlement agreement and our data shows that these artificial limits are actually keeping students with disabilities out of general education classrooms. It is limiting these special education students’ access to the curriculum and instruction they deserve and need to be successful. I understand that there are those who will not agree with me; however, I do believe it’s what’s best for all students.

After about one week of opening the 5Essentials Survey we have approximately 3 percent of students and 17 percent of teachers responding. Many districts are expressing concerns about the parent survey data going public this year. Given the concerns about security, we will not be sharing parent surveys publicly during this first year, but will leave it up to local administrators to determine if they want to share the data publicly. If you have technical issues during administration you may get support by calling (866) 440-1874 or via email at 5essentials@uchicago.edu.

We have developed a Common Core survey targeting feedback from classroom teachers. It’s designed to provide a snapshot of Illinois’ level of readiness for common core implementation and to identify resources and support for

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classroom teachers. You may access the survey at www.isbe.state.il.us/common_core/ and it will be available until Feb. 14.

Have a great week!

Chris

Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

Please note this is not a complete list of dates and deadlines. For questions, call the Illinois State Board of Education at (866) 262-6663 or (217) 782-4321 or visit the agency's official website at <http://www.isbe.net>.

- **Part 25 (Certification)** – Public comment period ends Feb. 11
- **Part 252 (Driver Education)** – Public comment period ends Feb. 11
- **Part 425 (Voluntary Registration and Recognition of Nonpublic Schools)** – Public comment period ends Feb. 19
- **ISBE offices closed for Lincoln's Birthday** – Feb. 12
- **ISBE offices closed for Presidents' Day** – Feb. 18
- **Illinois New Teacher Collaborative's annual Induction and Mentoring Conference** – Feb. 26-27 (<http://intc.education.illinois.edu/conference>)
- **Part 35 (Mentoring Program for New Principals)** – Public comment period ends March 25
- **Part 375 (Student Records)** – Public comment period ends March 25
- **Part 405 (Payments to Certain Facilities under Section 14-7.05 of the School Code)** – Public comment period ends March 25
- **Part 475 (Contested Cases and Other Formal Hearings)** – Public comment period ends March 25
- **Part 565 (Class Size Reduction Grants)** – Public comment period ends March 25
- **0-3 Prevention Initiative – Outcomes Questionnaire IWAS data entry deadline** – July 1 (IWAS Reporting Guide available at http://www.isbe.net/research/htmls/pfa_prev_init.htm)
- **0-3 Prevention Initiative – Parent Questionnaire IWAS data entry deadline** – July 1 (IWAS Reporting Guide available at http://www.isbe.net/research/htmls/pfa_prev_init.htm)
- **Student Health Data** – Vision system report deadline – July 1
- **Regional Safe Schools End of Year Data reporting deadline** – July 31 (User guide for the IWAS reporting system, http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/rssp_iwas_user_guide.pdf)
- **Truants' Alternative and Optional Education Program (TAOEP) reporting deadline** – July 31 (User guide for the IWAS reporting system, <ftp://help.isbe.net/webapps/taoep/pdf/TAOEP.pdf>)
- **Postmark deadline for waiver applications to be considered by General Assembly in Fall 2013** – Aug. 16 (see <http://www.isbe.net/isbewaivers/default.htm> for new public notice requirements for all waiver requests)

Center for School Improvement

Needs Assessment of Illinois Statewide System of Support Getting Under Way

The Illinois Center for School Improvement is planning a needs assessment of the current Illinois Statewide System of Support (SSOS). The needs assessment, titled SSOS Audit, will engage educators and SSOS partners across the state in a needs assessment to identify strengths and gaps in the current system. The SSOS Audit findings will be used to inform strategies to move the system forward, aligning services to the Eight Essential Elements and

preparing future services for the new differentiated accountability system.

The SSOS Audit includes four phases: data collection, analysis and reporting, triangulation of data (co-interpretation™), and action planning. The data collection phase of the project will occur during February and March. Following data collection, an audit team will prepare a set of data reports, and participants from across the state will be involved in a co-interpretation™ of the data to produce prioritized findings of the current status of the SSOS. Co-interpretation participants will then use these findings to begin action planning for the future of the system. The Center for School Improvement will

disseminate a final report of the SSOS Audit process, findings, and recommendations before the beginning of the 2013–14 school year.

In the next few weeks, Illinois Center for School Improvement staff at American Institutes for Research will be contacting selected participants from SSOS areas, regional offices of education and intermediate service agencies, districts, and schools to schedule interviews. Also, in the upcoming weeks, the Illinois Center for School Improvement will issue additional information regarding details of data collection and the SSOS Audit process.

For updates about the SSOS Audit and center activities, visit <http://www.illinoisCSI.org>.

English Language Learning

Applications for Summer Migrant Education Services Funding Available

ISBE's Division of English Language Learning is accepting applications for FY13 federal Migrant Education Program funding for summer school programs 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 Friday, March 15, 2013.

Students who are 21 years old or younger 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. To request assistance or for more information, contact Beth Robinson at berobins@isbe.net or (312) 814-3850.

Early Childhood

'Early Childhood Education for the Future' Symposium Set for March 15 in Chicago

ISBE's Early Childhood Division, the Loyola University Chicago ChildLaw and Education Institute, and the Illinois Resource Center: Early Childhood are sponsoring a symposium for superintendents and assistant superintendents. The symposium, which is set for 8:30

a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, March 15, is titled "Early Childhood Education for the Future: The Creative Use of Public-Private Partnerships to Provide Cost-Effective, High Quality School Readiness Programs"

The symposium will be held at Loyola University of Chicago School of Law, 25 E. Pearson St., Chicago. There is no charge for registration, which has been extended to Feb. 22. The preliminary agenda, registration and lodging information is available at https://docs.google.com/a/cntrmail.org/file/d/0Bzm_3Jr5ZB6uY2tWZXIONFJzb1U/edit?pli=1. For questions, call (224) 366-8525 or email ec@cntrmail.org.

College and Career Readiness

Session Proposals Sought for 2013 College Changes Everything Conference on July 11

The 2013 College Changes Everything Conference is set for July 11 at the Tinley Park Convention Center. The conference will focus on effective practices and showcase resources available to help with increasing college access and college completion that support the state's Goal 2025 – to increase the proportion of adults in Illinois with high-quality degrees and credentials to 60 percent by the year 2025.

The Conference Planning Committee has issued a call for session proposals for the one-day conference. The proposal forms and additional information is available at www.collegechangeseverything.org/events. Completed forms need to be submitted to the Conference Planning Committee by March 15 by emailing them to isac.collegechangeseverything@isac.illinois.gov.

Sessions should provide in-depth information, practical ideas, and specific strategies for the audience and demonstrate and promote positive steps taken to address college access and completion issues and sharing of specific lessons learned.

Illinois Student Assistance Commission Offers Workshops on Planning for College

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission has scheduled events across the state to inform families of the many programs and services available to help plan, prepare and pay for college for students of all ages.

Each event will have the following concurrent workshop sessions:

- a performance showing children the importance of going to college for a better future. Students

will help create the performance as well as partake in a number of activities to engage their own personal interests. (Recommended for elementary school students)

- an artistic expression exercise through which students will work on identifying who they are and what they want to be by creating personal narratives and developing dialogues centered on the uncertainties and struggles of preparing for college. (Two sessions – one recommended for middle school students and another for high school students)
- a discussion with parents about key milestones on the path to higher education, including an overview of the financial aid process and easy, yet critical, steps you can take while your child is still young.

Here is a list of the upcoming workshops:

- Feb. 23: University of Illinois Springfield
- March 2: Black Hawk College
- March 9: Illinois Central College - North Campus
- March 16: Northern Illinois University
- March 23: Danville Area Community College
- April 13: Triton College
- April 20: Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
- April 27: Southeastern Illinois College

The events will take place from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Find out more information and register by visiting www.isac.org or calling (800) 899-4722.

Those Who Excel

Nomination Forms Available for ISBE's Annual Awards Program

The 2013-14 Those Who Excel/Illinois Teacher of the Year nomination packet is now available. Paper copies have been mailed to the superintendent of each district. You can also access the application at http://www.isbe.net/those_who_excel.htm.

Completed packets must be postmarked by June 3. This year's banquet will be held at the Bloomington-Normal Marriott Hotel and Conference Center on Oct. 19.

If you have questions or need assistance, please call (217) 782-4648.

Special Education Services

Alternative Learning Opportunities Program Continuation Applications Available Online

Alternative Learning Opportunities Program (ALOP) Continuation Applications for fiscal year 2014 are now available at <http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/html/alop.htm>.

Programs who currently have an ALOP program and wish to continue the program for FY 2014 should submit the Continuation Application by the deadline of June 28, 2013.

NFSHSA

Eligibility Information Available for College-Bound Student Athletes

Did you know that the NCAA's initial-eligibility standards for student-athletes enrolling in an NCAA Division I college or university on or after Aug. 1, 2016, (this year's high school freshman class) are changing? Also, the core course requirement has increased from 14 to 16 core courses for student-athletes enrolling in an NCAA Division II college or university on or after Aug. 1, 2013.

To spread the word about this new information, the NCAA has an initial eligibility course available through the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHSLearn.com). To complete the free course, visit <http://www.nfhslearn.com/electiveDetail.aspx?courseID=14000>. The course will familiarize users with the new academic requirements, as well as the NCAA Eligibility Center's registration and certification process required for college-bound student-athletes.

Additional resources are available for those in the education field to communicate and provide the new academic standards with parents and college-bound student athletes. Those materials can be found at <https://web1.ncaa.org/hportal/exec/links?linksSubmit=ShowActiveLinks>. Provide feedback on the materials at https://ncaa.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_0VDbKK3UxPSdbFj.

U.S. Department of Education

StopBullying.gov Launches Spanish Website

StopBullying.gov has launched a new Spanish website: <http://espanol.stopbullying.gov/>. Like the English-language version, the new site provides teachers, parents

and community leaders with the resources they need to prevent bullying.

You will find a Spanish-language Bullying Prevention Training Module, in addition to the resources listed below. They can help Latino stakeholders address bullying in their communities.

- **Training Module with Speaker Notes** – a presentation with suggested talking points, including the latest research to help participants create an action plan for a community event.
- **Training Module PowerPoint** – a slide-by-slide presentation for use at a community event, workshop or town hall meeting.
- **Community Action Toolkit** – a supplemental guide, including tip sheets, a template event agenda, action planning matrix and feedback forms.
- **Misdirections Packet** – a Tip Sheet and a Spanish transcript of the Misdirections video featuring Dr. Catherine Bradshaw, a national expert in bullying prevention who discusses approaches to avoid in bullying prevention and response.

For more information and resources visit www.StopBullying.gov, which provides information from various government agencies, including the U.S. Department of Education, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Department of Justice.

INCS

Registration Under Way for Illinois Network of Charter Schools' Charter Design Institute

The Illinois Network of Charter Schools will hold its Charter Design Institute on Feb. 22-23. The two-day conference will provide training on charter school design, helping with the charter proposal process and providing access to charter experts who can answer questions.

The INCS Charter Design Institute includes charter school tours and trainings and presentations from charter experts.

For more information and to register, visit <http://incscharterdesigninstitute.eventbrite.com>.

In Brief

Student Opportunities

- Students across the state can enter the Illinois Liquor Control Commission's **2013 Don't Be Sorry Youth Art Contest**, which aims to educate the public about the consequences of underage drinking. For more information, visit <http://www.DontBeSorry.org> or contact Ted Penesis at (312) 814-4802 or ted.penesis@illinois.gov. The deadline is Feb. 15.
- Applications to attend the **2013 National Youth Science Camp** are now available online at <http://www.isbe.net/career/html/msp.htm>. For more information, visit <http://www.nysf.com/w/>. For questions about the application process, contact Gil Downey at (217) 782-4620 or gdowney@isbe.net. Applications must be received by Feb. 15.
- Illinois Partners for Clean Air have launched the **Shoot for the Skies PSA Video Contest** for Chicago area high school students. Students are asked to create a public service announcement about Chicago area air quality and actions to improve it. For more information, go to www.cleantheair.org. The deadline for entries is March 15.
- The **National World War II Museum** is seeking entries for its annual essay contests for middle school and high school students. This year's theme asks, "How can people who disagree still work together for victory?" The deadline for submissions is 5 p.m. March 29. For more information, visit <http://www.nationalww2museum.org/essaycontests>.

Educator Opportunities

- The Illinois Chapter of the National School Public Relations Association seeks nominations for its **Distinguished Service Awards**, which recognizes school district stakeholders who go above and beyond regular duties to fulfill their roles as public relations ambassadors for education. For details, go to <http://www.inspra.org/files/INSPRA%20DSA%20brochure.pdf>. Nominations are due by Feb. 14.
- The **Illinois Personal Finance Challenge** targets consumer education and personal finance students. Teams advance to the state finals and a championship team will compete at the national stage. Registration for the preliminary online competition ends Feb. 15. Go to the Econ Illinois website at <http://econed-il.org/icee/ipfc.shtml> to register.
- Registration is under way for the **Illinois Economics Challenge**, an online competition for high school students that tests knowledge of economics and

economic reasoning abilities. Registration for the preliminary round will be accepted through Feb. 15. For more information, visit Econ Illinois at <http://www.econed-il.org/icee/econchal.shtml>.

- **Illinois Computing Educators (ICE)** will hold its annual conference Feb. 28 at Pheasant Run Resort and Conference Center in St. Charles. Read more about the presenters and sessions, which are targeted to the needs of districts and school leaders, at <http://www.iceberg.org/leadership>.
- The 45th annual **Illinois Reading Council Conference**, Literacy for Life, is scheduled for March 14-16 in Springfield. For more information, visit www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org. Read about the IRC's new statewide reading initiative Illinois Reads at www.illinoisreads.org.
- Registration for the spring sessions of **The Stock Market Game Program** for grade 4-12 teachers and their students is open through March 1. For more information, including a schedule for teacher training onsite workshops and online webinars, visit Econ Illinois at www.econed-il.org/icee/smg.shtml.

Weekly News Clips

- The Illinois State Board of Education has posted highlights from recent **education news clips** at <http://www.isbe.net/news/2013/newsclips/130208.htm>.

Employment Opportunities

- An **External Vacancy List for ISBE** is available at <http://www.isbe.net/hr/Default.htm>.