



Feb. 16, 2010

Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

I want to extend my congratulations to Homewood-Flossmoor Community High School. They have been singled out in the AP Report to the Nation as the top school in the country for having the greatest number of African American students from the class of 2009 score a 3 or better on the AP Psychology exam. Good job!

We saw a record number of students take AP exams in Illinois in 2009, and we continue to see a more diverse pool of students taking and passing these exams. We saw an increase of 9 percent in the overall number of students taking the exams, with nearly 11 percent more African American students and 16 percent more Hispanic students taking these exams. Additionally, we saw a 25 percent increase in African American students receiving a 3 or above, a 21 percent increase in Hispanic students scoring a 3 or above and an 8 percent increase in the number of overall students receiving a 3 or above.

The numbers confirm the strides many of you have already seen – more and more students, and a much greater diversity of students, are taking these rigorous courses to better prepare themselves for college and careers. This rigorous coursework will pay dividends for students and schools as we continue our progression toward internationally benchmarked standards.

We are working with the College Board to get more information out to schools about how they can increase their participation in AP courses. You can access a map that details AP participation and performance at the following links:

http://www.isbe.net/pdf/ap_participation.pdf and
http://www.isbe.net/pdf/ap_performance.pdf.

The General Assembly’s spring legislative session is in full swing. Members have been meeting in Springfield the past two weeks and are scheduled to be returning each week until the end of March when they will recess for two weeks.

What will likely demand the most attention will be the budget. Gov. Quinn is set to present his budget March 10. The Board has made its budget recommendation and will meet this week when they may make a minor modification to their budget recommendation dealing with an increase to Mandated Categoricals.

There are already all sorts of rumors floating around about what may or may not end up being in the final budget, but at this point those are only rumors. My advice to you is to review what the Board is recommending, what your district needs are and communicate those needs. Communicate them to your constituents and your elected representatives. Tell them what your district needs are and what the consequences to your district may be if those needs are not provided. Lawmakers need to hear this and the public needs to hear this and hear it from you.

Finally, I know some of you are anxious to know when you need to begin developing your scope of work as part of participation in Race to the Top (RT3). We will not receive notification from the feds until April as to whether or not we will be funded under RT3. If we receive notification that we are one of the states selected we will send out a

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notification via IWAS. Once you receive that notification, you will have 90 days to develop those plans and provide them to ISBE. We will have more specifics at that time.

Have a great week!

Chris

Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

- **Part 35 (Mentoring Program for New Principals) and Part 145 (Temporary Relocation Expenses)** – Public comment period ends Feb. 22.
- **2008-09 Study of School Level Expenditure Report deadline** – Feb. 26
- **Non-Certified Staff Salary Study survey deadline** – March 1
- **Technology Integration Plan 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 School Wellness ... From A to Z Conference** – May 4
- **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

ARRA

Reminder: 2008-09 Study of School Level Expenditure Report Deadline Coming Up

A school level expenditure report for the 2008-09 school year is being required per the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) for local education agencies (LEAs) that are entitled to funds under Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) provided under ARRA (i.e., LEAs that are entitled to ARRA Title I funds calculated under the Targeted Grant and Education Finance Incentive Grant formulas). Such LEAs are required to report school-by-school expenditures from state and local funds for the 2008-09 school year for all of their schools (not just Title I schools). The U.S. Department of Education states that they will use these data to examine the extent to which school-level education resources are distributed equitably within and across LEAs.

To facilitate this required reporting, we have created a new IWAS application, "Study of School Level Expenditures." To access the application, log on to IWAS, and under System Listing, it is located under "Reporting."

This specific report is focused on only state and local fund expenditures for Regular K-12 instruction, within four categories:

- Personnel salaries at the school level for all school-level instructional and support staff.
- Personnel salaries at the school level for instructional staff only.
- Personnel salaries at the school level for teachers only.
- Non-personnel expenditures at the school level (if available).

An Excel worksheet is available for download and completion which can be accessed at <http://webapps.isbe.net/expstudy/download/schoolworksheet.xls>. The specific function and object codes, per Part 100 Requirements for Accounting, Budgeting, Financial Reporting and Auditing, are provided to assist in the calculation of reporting data per school. It is highly recommended that a separate spreadsheet be completed and maintained for future reference and review for each of your schools. These spreadsheets are not to be submitted to ISBE, but used as a tool for assist in arriving at the totals necessary for this report. The four totals calculated for each school, as well as the number of hours necessary to arrive at the data for each school, are the components which must be entered in the "Study of School Level Expenditures" report.

A “calculate and save” feature is available on the “Details” page of the report to allow multiple sessions of entry of the data. Once all data has been entered, the document author must submit it to the district administrator in IWAS. The district administrator submits the report to ISBE. You will receive IWAS messages when each step is complete.

School level expenditures to be excluded from this report include those:

- From federal program funds.
- From special education funds.
- Not associated with regular K-12 programs, such as preschool and adult education.
- That serve students from more than one school attendance area, such as summer school.
- Expenditures for employee benefits.

The report of this data is due Friday, Feb. 26, 2010. If you have any questions, contact Sally Cray of the Division of Funding and Disbursements, at 217-782-5256 or scray@isbe.net.

Data Analysis and Progress Reporting

Report of Administrator and Teacher Salary and Benefits

Public Act 096-0266 added Sections 10-20.46 and 34-18.37 to the School Code [105 ILCS 5/10-20.46 and 5/34-18.37]. The two new Sections contain identical language requiring school districts to report administrator and teacher salary and benefits to the Illinois State Board of Education, effective Jan. 1, 2010:

“Each school board shall report to the State Board of Education, on or before July 1 of each year, the base salary and benefits of the district superintendent and all administrators and teachers employed by the school district. For the purposes of this Section, “benefits” includes without limitation vacation days, sick days, bonuses, annuities, and retirement enhancements.”

To comply with this new law, school districts will be required to submit to the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) in late June the following data for each individual employed as an administrator and/or teacher during the 2009-10 school year:

- **Name:** Legal last name, first name and middle name

- **Position:** Main position, i.e., District Superintendent, Other Administrator, or Teacher
- **Title:** Title for main position (optional)
- **Base Salary:** Dollar amount of base salary for all positions combined
- **Full-Time Equivalency (FTE):** FTE for all positions combined, counted in hundredths
- **Vacation Days:** Number of vacation days awarded this school year
- **Sick Days:** Number of sick days awarded this school year
- **Bonuses:** Dollar value of bonuses
- **Annuities:** Dollar value of employer-provided qualified and nonqualified annuities
- **Retirement Enhancements:** Dollar value of employer-provided retirement enhancements
- **Other Benefits:** Dollar value of other benefits provided by employer

These data will be reported via IWAS, in a new Administrator and Teacher Salary and Benefits system that will be separate from the Teacher Service Record system. The new system will be open for data entry June 16-30, with the salary and benefits data that is to be reported based on known payments through June 30, 2010. Questions about the new system may be directed to the ISBE Data Analysis and Progress Reporting Division at 217-782-3950.

How should FTE be calculated? FTE should be calculated as the total number of hours worked through June 30, 2010, divided by the number of hours in a full-time schedule through June 30, 2010. Consider the total number of hours worked during the school year as equivalent to 1 FTE even if the period is less than 12 months if a teacher is working pursuant to a contract regarded as full time. A teacher working in excess of a full-time contract would be counted as more than 1 FTE (e.g., a teacher who is working 12 months of the year and receiving additional compensation for working during the summer months). That teacher’s FTE should be determined by how many hours the teacher worked in relation to the number of hours in the normal full-time contract.

Curriculum and Instruction

Illinois Advanced Placement Fee Reduction Program for 2010

Illinois will participate in the Advanced Placement Federal Fee Reduction Program for the 2010 testing sessions. High school students in Illinois are eligible to

participate in the program if they qualify for the Federal Lunch Program (either free or reduced levels) and are identified as such in the state's Student Information System.

To participate in the program, the school's AP coordinator must complete the following steps:

- 1) Complete the grid on each eligible student's answer booklet indicating the exam qualifies for the Fee Program;
- 2) Complete the online invoice at the College Board Web site indicating the number of qualifying Fee Program exams;
- 3) Mail a copy of the online invoice to Marica Cullen, Illinois State Board of Education, 100 N. First Street, C-215, Springfield, IL 62777 no later than June 15, 2010; and
- 4) Mail a copy of the online invoice with any payment due to the College Board no later than June 15, 2010.

Deadline Coming Up to Submit New Technology Integration Plan

Several federal and state funding programs for schools and districts in the state of Illinois require an approved Technology Integration Plan (TIP). The Illinois State Board of Education serves as the approving entity of Technology Integration Plans for public schools and/or districts outside of the city of Chicago.

Schools and/or districts with a Technology Integration Plan expiring June 30, 2010, have until 11:59 p.m. Monday, March 1, to submit a new three-year Technology Integration Plan for FY10 approval. Plans will only be accepted for approval if submitted online, via the proper Illinois Interactive Report Card (iirc) template, available online at <http://iirc.niu.edu>, by the deadline. Districts that are not able to submit a plan by the deadline due to extenuating circumstances must request an extension, in advance of the deadline, by contacting Marica Cullen at mcullen@isbe.net.

Districts are advised to contact their local LTC director for technical assistance as needed. For more information, contact Faith Bishop at 217-557-7323 or fbishop@isbe.net.

Request for Proposals Issued for Math and Science Workshop or Program

The Illinois State Board of Education has released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the design and implementation of a summer workshop/institute project. The project will consist of a partnership designed to improve the performance of Illinois students in the areas of math and science by offering an innovative, effective professional development program in teaching math and/or science or other approved grant activity. The program will allow teachers in the program an opportunity to increase their content knowledge as they explore challenging pedagogy and technology integration in the areas of math and science. The RFP is available at <http://www.isbe.net/curriculum/>.

For more information, contact Gil Downey in Curriculum and Instruction Division at gdowney@isbe.net or 217-557-7323.

Illinois Math Science Partnership FY 2011 Request for Proposals

The state board has released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a partnership comprised of an Institution of Higher Education (IHE) and a high-need LEA designed to improve the performance of Illinois students in the areas of math and science by offering an intensive, specialized graduate degree program in teaching math and/or science.

The program will allow teachers in the program an opportunity to increase their content knowledge as they explore challenging pedagogy and technology integration in the areas of math and science. The RFP is available at <http://www.isbe.net/curriculum/html/math.htm>.

For more information, contact Gil Downey, Curriculum and Instruction Division at gdowney@isbe.net or 217-557-7323.

Mark Your Calendar for the Illinois School Wellness ... From A to Z Conference

The third annual Illinois School Wellness ... From A to Z Conference is set for May 4 in Decatur. The one-day workshop is presented by the Illinois State Board of Education and Illinois Action for Healthy Kids.

The conference will feature nationally-known speakers in school wellness, state experts in nutrition and physical education and local wellness champions who will share their success stories from Illinois schools.

From more information, visit

http://take.actionforhealthykids.org/site/Clubs?club_id=1121&sid=1040&pg=event.

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 was scheduled to be available online by Feb. 8, and data submissions are 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 info, 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. 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.

School Opportunities

Annual Book Grant Program Gearing Up

The Illinois School Library Media Association/Library Book Selection Service Fund will issue its third annual book grants this year. Public and private school libraries as well as public libraries registered in any of the Illinois Readers' Choice awards programs — the Monarch Award, the Bluestem Award, the Rebecca Caudill Young Readers Book Award and the Abraham Lincoln Illinois High School Book Award — are eligible to apply.

Grant recipients will be awarded one set of the 2011 reading campaign books for the award program indicated on their application. The titles in each book award set are determined by the individual committees in charge of the reading award programs. Sets include one copy each of the 20 or 22 books, depending on the award program selected.

Information about the grant is available at the ISLMA/LBSS Endowment Fund Web site (<http://www.lbssfund.org>). The online application form will be available at the Web site beginning March 15. All grant applications must be submitted by May 15. Applicants must also be registered for the appropriate 2011 Readers' Choice program by May 15 (a separate process). Questions may be sent to info@lbssfund.org, by fax to 309-649-0916 or by phone to 309-649-0911.

Funds for the endowment fund were received by the Illinois School Library Media Association when the nonprofit Library Book Selection Service was dissolved in June 2005. A stipulation of the agreement between LBSS and ISLMA was that the assets be invested in

order to fund grants to encourage student reading of quality literature in Illinois.

Book vendors interested in bidding for the contract to provide books for this grant will find information at the same Web site. This is a competitive bid.

The ISLMA/LBSS Endowment Fund's mission is to "promote reading in Illinois." Both in 2008 and 2009, the fund awarded 160 sets of books to school and public libraries.

Student Opportunities

Young Scholars Program Seeks 7th-Graders From Across the U.S.

The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation is looking for a few good 7th-graders. The foundation's Young Scholars Program selects 50 students from across the country and follows them through high school with a tailored educational program.

High-achieving students with financial need are encouraged to apply by the deadline of April 26. The average family income is approximately \$25,000 for Young Scholars entering the program.

The tailored programs can include support for summer programs, distance learning courses, and music and art instruction. Some Young Scholars attend a private school if none of their public school options adequately serve their academic potential.

For more information about the program, including how to apply, visit <http://www.jkcf.org/scholarships/young-scholars-program>.

Human Trafficking Awareness Outreach Day Includes Poster Contest

The Department of Human Services and Illinois Rescue and Restore will hold the fifth annual Human Trafficking Awareness Outreach Day on April 24. On this day, DHS and Illinois Rescue and Restore will partner with hundreds of volunteers across the state to hang posters and distribute brochures detailing information on the scope of human trafficking, services available to victims, and the National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline number.

As part of Outreach Day activities, Illinois Rescue and Restore will engage Illinois high school students in the effort to raise awareness about human trafficking. An

Outreach Day Poster Contest for high school students will be held in which contestants are asked to design a poster that creatively portrays a message about the injustice of human trafficking. Students will design a poster on poster board no larger than 22”x14” using appropriate images, drawings, pictures and/or symbols. Text should not be included in the design.

Visit <http://www.dhs.state.il.us/rescueandrestore> for more information regarding the poster contest including poster criteria, evaluation categories, mailing information, and details regarding the winning posters. Contact Rachael Burke at rachael.burke@illinois.gov or at 312-793-7342 with any questions regarding the Illinois Rescue and Restore Outreach Day Poster Contest.

Additionally, if you and/or your students would like to participate in Outreach Day by hanging posters and distributing other anti-trafficking materials in your communities, you can sign up online at <http://www.dhs.state.il.us/rescueandrestore>.

Illinois Rescue and Restore is a statewide coalition of state agencies, health-care providers, law enforcement, advocacy groups, and social service organizations, working together to combat human trafficking in Illinois. The coalition seeks to raise awareness of human trafficking, increase the number of victims identified and help restore them to health.

High School Team Advances to National Competition in Engineering Challenge

The “JetHawks” of Heritage High School in Broadlands, Ill., will advance to national competition after winning the Real World Design Challenge against 23 other teams statewide.

The Real World Design Challenge puts high school students alongside industry experts to gain engineering experience by developing a solution to a proposed challenge. The challenge is a partnership involving the state of Illinois, U.S. Department of Energy, Federal Aviation Administration and others. This year’s challenge involved designing the tail section of an aircraft to maximize fuel efficiency.

The winning team is comprised of Clayton Bosch, Eli Forster, Spencer Lowe and Philip Mayes. Their coach is teacher Scott Gerard. They will compete in Washington, D.C., on March 29.

For information about participating in next year’s challenge, contact the Illinois Department of Transportation, Division of Aeronautics at 217-524-8763 or visit <http://www.dot.il.gov/aero>. Additional information is available at <http://www.realworldchallenge.org>.

Taiwan Ministry of Education Announces Scholarship Programs

The Taiwan Ministry of Education has announced two scholarship programs. The first, known as the Taiwan Scholarship, is offered to students who wish to enroll in a degree program in Taiwan. Recipients also can enroll in the Language Enrichment Program, which is taken a year prior to the regular program. The second program, the Huayu Enrichment Scholarship, is for students who wish to study Chinese.

Interested students must submit required documents by March 31. For more info and application forms, visit <http://www.edutw.org/english/scholarships/index.html>. Contact the Cultural Division of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Chicago at 312-616-0805 or info@edutw.org.

Registration for High School Student Web Design Contest Set for Feb. 17

The registration deadline for a Web design contest sponsored by Microsoft is set for Feb. 17, but final Web site submissions are not due until March 17. Using the company’s Expression Web software, Illinois high school students can participate in teams of two to four people in the “blink” competition.

Microsoft is providing the software to qualifying schools. See <http://www.blinkcontest.com> for details and to register.

The theme for the competition is “I Imagine a Green Future.” Prizes include MP3 players, up to \$300 and a trip to Washington, D.C., in April. In addition, winning Web sites will be featured on a Microsoft site.

Free tutorials and learning materials on Web design are available at <http://expression.microsoft.com/education>. For questions, e-mail ew4hs@innovativeteachers.us.

Professional Development

Rural Chemistry Teachers Sought for Program With University of Illinois

The National Science Foundation funded Institute for Chemistry Literacy Through Computational Science (ICLCS) is seeking rural chemistry teachers.

ICLCS is a five-year project designed to link research and computational/visualization resources at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to chemistry teachers at rural Illinois high schools.

An application form is available at <http://iclcs.uiuc.edu/applications/c3>. The deadline is apply is March 5. For more information, visit the Web site or contact Dave Mattson at dmattson@ncsa.uiuc.edu.

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/100212.htm>.