



Weekly Message

Feb. 18, 2015

Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

The window for the spring Performance-Based Assessment will open in just less than three weeks. Thank you for your hard work in preparing for this initial testing cycle of the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC). I have heard from many of you who are hosting family engagement events, participating in the infrastructure trials and getting your buildings, students and staff ready to implement PARCC.

Anytime that you implement a new system that impacts more than a million users, there will be issues to resolve. Thank you for your leadership and patience. There have been concerns about technology readiness and we ask that you continue to work with your local technology center or reach out directly to Pearson if you have issues.

It's important that all issues be reported, no matter how minor you may consider them, so that they are documented and support can be provided. This will help us to troubleshoot in the future. We offered an extended window for districts to switch their orders from online to paper and pencil and fewer than 68 local education agencies requested a switch of 10 or more PARCC test takers. We estimate that this means we will see about 75 percent of our eligible students taking the PARCC assessments online this year.

Keeping your school communities informed is a priority and that's why we have been working with PARCC Inc. and its member states to develop materials for districts to use in their efforts to engage parents. The PARCC materials are tailored to parents of elementary, middle and high school students. ISBE developed the PARCC Primer, a turnkey event that invites parents and students to participate in English language arts and mathematics activities that relate to the PARCC assessment. We introduced this event a few weeks ago and have heard from many of you that you have held or will soon be holding your own PARCC Primer. Based on your feedback, we've made some modifications to this event, which gives participants hands-on experience by taking a practice test on a computer, just as students will do next month. PARCC Primer materials are available for all schools to use at www.isbe.net/assessment/htmls/parcc-primer.htm.

Last month PARCC Inc. brought communication professionals together from member states to create parent materials. The materials they produced answer the questions parents have about the assessment, such as:

- What is the new assessment?
- Why do we need a new assessment?

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- How is it different from previous assessment tools?
- Who created the test?
- What is the role of technology in the assessment?
- How can students and parents prepare for the assessment?
- How much time will students spend testing?
- What will the test will look like?
- What will test results look like?
- How can we learn more about curriculum at each grade level and how it relates to the assessment?

These materials are available at www.parcconline.org/for-parents.

Have a great week.

Chris

Upcoming ISBE Dates and Deadlines

Please note this is not a complete list of events, meetings 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>.

- **Third annual Illinois 5Essentials survey administration** – Jan.12-March 13(<http://illinois.5-essentials.org>)
- **Deadline to complete survey to participate in the PARCC Diagnostic Field Test** – Feb. 20 (www.cvent.com/Surveys/Welcome.aspx?s=a732f8c1-066f-4a65-a80f-43faaf52cc9c)
- **Illinois School Breakfast Week** – Feb. 23-27 (www.riseandshineillinois.org)
- **“Using Backward Design© in Planning Math Lessons” webinar** – Feb. 24 (<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8602568345047073794>)
- **Illinois Social Science Standards Revision Task Force meeting** – March 6
- **Deadline for 2015 Illinois Fatherhood Initiative (IFI) Chicago White Sox Fatherhood Essay Contest** – March 6
- **2015 Illinois Arts Education Week** – March 16-22
- **Dynamic Learning Maps Alternate Assessment (DLM-AA) testing window** – March 23-May 1
- **Part 650 (Charter Schools) and Part 1105 (Procurement by the State Board of Education)** – Public comment period ends March 23
- **PARCC Diagnostic Field Test** – April 6-17
- **Eighth annual Illinois School Wellness Conference** – April 23
- **Spring 2015 PARCC ELA/L Field Test Administration** – May 4-June 5
- **TECH 2015 student showcase** – May 7
- **ISBE offices closed for Memorial Day** – May 25
- **Deadline to submit nomination forms for the 2016 Those Who Excel/Illinois Teacher of the Year program** – June 8 (www.isbe.net/those-who-excel/pdfs/those-who-excel-app.pdf)
- **Deadline to submit data in the Student Health Data –Vision system** - June 30
- **ISBE offices closed for Independence Day** – July 3
- **Postmark deadline for waiver applications to be considered by the General Assembly in fall 2015** – Friday, Aug. 14, 2015 (See www.isbe.net/isbewaivers/default.htm for public notice requirements for all waiver requests.)

Illinois Learning Standards

Model Math Curriculum Webinar Scheduled for Feb. 24

The second in a series of five webinars on how to use the Model Math Curriculum is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. Feb. 24. The webinar will focus on using Backward Design© in planning math lessons.

K-12 educators interested in backward design planning are encouraged to participate. To register, go to <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8602568345047073794>.

Anita Reid, a practitioner and curriculum writer for the Model Math Curriculum resources, will address the following:

- What are the three parts of the Backward Design©?
- If you wanted to read more about Backward Design©, whose work might you choose?
- How is a standard deconstructed (unpacked) to determine targets for learning?
- What are at least four types of assessments you could consider including in your assessment plan?
- How might you explain the process of aligning your lesson plans and assessments to the standards?

Reid will also include examples from the Model Math Curriculum lesson plans as well as examples from the PARCC assessments to work through the backward design planning – targets, assessments and finally, lesson plans – method.

Title: Using Backward Design© in Planning Math Lessons

Date: Feb. 24

Time: 3:30 p.m.

Register:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8602568345047073794>

Nutrition and Wellness Programs

2015 Illinois Breakfast Challenge Offers Meal Incentives to Schools

Every school day, more than 449,000 low-income children in Illinois are at risk of starting their school day hungry. The good news is that funds are available

to support schools that provide a nutritious breakfast for all students in need.



Join ISBE, Rise and Shine Illinois and the Midwest Dairy Council in the Illinois Breakfast Challenge, which awards participating schools with 25 cents per additional meal

served this spring. All Illinois schools currently participating in the School Breakfast Program (SBP) and serving an alternative breakfast model (Breakfast in the Classroom, Grab N Go or Breakfast After the Bell) are eligible to participate in the challenge, which will run from February through May. Awards will be based on participation increases calculated by comparing SBP rates from corresponding months of the previous school year.

An enrollment form is available at www.riseandshineillinois.org. Up to 20 schools will be accepted into the challenge on a first-come, first-served basis. Schools entering the challenge will receive a marketing starter kit that includes school breakfast fliers, posters and banners to increase participation. The maximum award amount will be \$5,000 per school. For more information, visit www.riseandshineillinois.org or contact Suzy Lee at slee@gcfd.org.

Rise and Shine Illinois is a partnership of the national hunger-relief organization Share Our Strength and Central Illinois Foodbank, EverThrive Illinois, the Greater Chicago Food Depository, Illinois Coalition for Community Services, Illinois Hunger Coalition and St. Louis Area Foodbank.

Illinois School Breakfast Week Scheduled For Feb. 23-27

Activities are planned for the week of Feb. 23 in honor of School Breakfast Week in Illinois.

ISBE and Rise and Shine Illinois are teaming up to raise awareness of the need for school breakfast among low-income schoolchildren. The week's festivities include a Breakfast Challenge kickoff event the morning of Thursday, Feb. 26, in Decatur and a

working lunch convening statewide breakfast partners in Springfield later that day.

Anyone can get involved by “liking” Rise and Shine Illinois on Facebook or following Rise and Shine Illinois (@RiseAndShineIL) on Twitter.

Additional engagement opportunities are available at www.riseandshineillinois.org.

Illinois Association of School Boards

IASB Provides Sample Bullying Policy

The Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) has made available a sample policy on bullying that complies with recent updates to state law.

The sample policy is 7:180, *Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation and Harassment*. IASB revised the policy in its August 2014 Policy Reference Education Subscription Service (PRESS) issue in response to the following legislation amending the bullying statute, 105 ILCS 5/27-23.7.

- P.A. 98-669 (effective June 26, 2014) added components for the bullying prevention policy.
- P.A. 98-801 (effective Jan. 1, 2015) added provisions concerning cyber-bullying at nonschool-related locations or functions or from the use of a device that is not owned, leased or used by a school district or school.

On Jan. 28, [ISBE sent a memo](#) to superintendents describing the required components of the bullying policy. The memo states that the bullying policy must contain examples of the various forms bullying may take. The IASB sample bullying policy contains only required components. However, ISBE considers IASB’s policy to comply with the statute.

IASB’s PRESS provides a suite of bullying prevention material. IASB also offers a bullying prevention course, [“Bullying Prevention: The Board’s Role.”](#) which describes the school board’s legal responsibility concerning the prevention of and appropriate responses to student-on-student bullying and harassment. Fact scenarios guide participants through the key aspects of their duties in an evolving area of school law.

Student Health Issues

Required School Action Following Measles Case in the School

As of Feb. 17, 12 infants and two adults in Cook County have been diagnosed with measles. Widespread outbreaks of measles have been documented in school-age children, with more than 100 cases confirmed in the United States. Measles is a highly contagious viral disease spread airborne by coughing and sneezing and can cause respiratory, immune system and skin complications. Although no deaths have been reported in the United States this year, more than 96,000 deaths were reported worldwide in 2013.

Upon the onset of a measles case by a single student or staff member, the school is required to exclude all susceptible students (students who have not presented proof of immunity or vaccination) until acceptable proof of immunity is received by the school or until 21 days after the onset of the last reported measles case. Students with a written statement from a physician may be eligible for homebound instruction during the period of isolation per 23 Il. Adm. Code 1.520 and 23 Il. Adm. Code 226.300.

The Illinois Control of Communicable Disease Code, Section 690.520, spells out the requirement for unvaccinated students to be isolated during the period of potential transmission – “A notice shall be sent home with each student who has not presented proof of immunity (against measles), explaining that the student is to be excluded, effective the following morning, until acceptable proof of immunity is received by the school or until 21 days after the onset of the last reported measles case (in the school).” (<http://ilga.gov/commission/jcar/admincode/077/077006900D05200R.html>)

Acceptable proof of immunity shall consist of:

- A written record from the student's physician or a health professional that indicates dates of vaccination and type of vaccine administered; or
- A statement from a physician indicating the date when the student had measles; or
- A laboratory report indicating that the student has a protective measles antibody titer as measured by a test with demonstrable reliability.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that students who are being taken for a measles vaccine or booster also receive the current vaccine against influenza. Both diseases are spread by the same route and affect the respiratory system.

Sexual Health Education Course Available for Health Teachers and Registered Nurses

ISBE has a limited number of slots available for a free web-based course, “ABC’s – Abstinence, Birth Control and Condoms,” which will help health teachers meet state law requirements specifying content in sexual health education courses for students in grades 6-12.

Registered nurses who work in Illinois public schools grades 6-12 and could be called upon to be a resource to the health teacher or answer student questions are also invited to enroll in this Internet-delivered course.

Participants are asked to send the following information to Jackie Ruenzi at jruenzi@isbe.net no later than March 1:

- Name of the staff person who will be taking the training (Limited to licensed health teacher or registered nurse who provides some classroom instruction on sex education.)
- Email address and district name (Home email is permissible if you plan to complete this course on a personal email account.)
- ZIP code (For purposes of tracking the trainings geographically.)
- Requested starting date to begin the training (Training must be scheduled to start between Feb. 6 and June 26.)

Participants will have 30 days from their start date to complete the training. Sign-in information will be sent to participants via email.

Six hours of continuing education credit are available upon course completion.

For more information on the course content, please contact Jessica Gerdes at JGerdes@isbe.net or (312) 814-8252.

Standards and Assessments

Still Time to Apply for the PARCC Diagnostic Field Test April 6-17

Illinois schools can still apply to participate in the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) Diagnostic Field Test (for reading comprehension and/or math comprehension). The field test will be administered April 6-17.

Schools must complete the following survey to start the participation process:

www.cvent.com/Surveys/Welcome.aspx?s=a732f8c1-066f-4a65-a80f-43faaf52cc9c. The survey must be completed by **Feb. 20**.

For questions regarding the administration of the diagnostic assessment field test, please contact Pearson’s PARCC Diagnostic Help Center at (888) 493-9888, option #2 (open Monday through Friday, 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.) or email parccdiagnostic@support.pearson.com.

More information about the Diagnostic Assessments is available online at

<https://pearsononline.webex.com/pearsononline/ldr.php?RCID=9a6d17467f0d1f8f49d07962fe6d8a44>.

Participants Sought for PARCC ELA/L Field Test This Spring

PARCC seeks participants for a spring 2015 field test of the English language arts/literacy (ELA/L) Performance-Based Assessments in grades 3-11.

This field test will examine the quality of newly developed tasks for inclusion in the 2015-16 assessment. These ELA/L items are being field-tested separately because they require longer, written responses. Each participating student will respond to one task that could be either literary analysis, research simulation or narrative writing.

The field test administration may occur any time between May 4 and June 5. Interested schools and districts should complete this interest survey at https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PARCC_ELA_FT. ISBE will contact those interested with additional details.

Please contact (866) 317-6034 with any questions.

Resources Available to Assist Computer-Based PARCC Exam Administration

Two documents are now available for schools administering the computer-based PARCC assessments this spring.

The PARCC Map to Technology Guides (see <http://www.isbe.net/ed-technology/pdf/parcc-map-tech-guides.pdf>) provide a map to essential information regarding PearsonAccess Next, TestNav and technology-related tasks for the PARCC assessments.

The Infrastructure Trial - Hot Topics Quick Guide (see <http://www.isbe.state.il.us/ed-technology/pdf/parcc-infrastructure-trial.pdf>) provides a summary of the PARCC Infrastructure Trial information, themes and recommendations.

Rules and Waivers

Notice of Completed Rulemaking

Please be advised that two sets of amendments recently adopted by ISBE are now in effect. Changes have been posted at www.isbe.net/rules/archive/default.htm. Please choose “Rules Currently in Effect” and scroll to the Part number.

Part 425 (Voluntary Registration and Recognition of Nonpublic Schools): Requires nonpublic schools to submit proof of nonprofit status when registering with the State Board; aligns the rules to Section 27-3 regarding recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and to the Illinois Department of Public Health's rules for tuberculosis control; and in response to P.A. 98-663, effective June 23, 2014, requires recognized nonpublic schools to review their emergency and crisis response plans, as per the School Safety Drill Act [105 ILCS 128].

Affected Sections: 425.20 and 425.30
Effective Date: Jan. 22, 2015

Part 5001 (Access to Information of the State Board of Education under the Freedom of Information Act): Responds to P.A. 98-1129, effective December 3, 2014, regarding requests under FOIA that are considered to be “voluminous” and requests for records that are posted online.

Affected Sections: 5001.210, 5001.300 and 5001.510
Effective Date: Jan. 21, 2015

School Safety

Administrators Invited to Participate in Short School Climate Survey

Prevent School Violence Illinois (PSVI), in partnership with the National School Climate Center (NSCC), requests administrator participation in a short school climate survey.

PSVI is a statewide coalition working with school stakeholders to transform schools by addressing bullying and creating optimal conditions for effective learning and healthy development. Jonathan Cohen, president and founder of NSCC, has developed a short, online survey asking district superintendents, assistant superintendents, principals and assistant principals to share opinions about the importance of climate to the academic, social and emotional successes of students. The survey should take five to eight minutes to complete.

The survey can be accessed at <https://ethn.io/57139>.

Please place the letters ‘Illi’ in the box on the first page if you would like to be identified as an Illinois educator. If you have questions about the survey, please contact Jonathan Cohen at jonathancohen@schoolclimate.org. For questions about PSVI, please contact Sarah Schriber, director, at sarah@psvillinois.org.

Illinois Fatherhood Initiative

2015 Illinois Fatherhood Initiative Chicago White Sox Fatherhood Essay Contest

The 2015 Illinois Fatherhood Initiative (IFI) Chicago White Sox Fatherhood Essay Contest is now open to all school-aged children in the state. This year’s theme is “What My Father Means to Me.” More than 400,000 students have participated in past years.

Twelve student participants will each receive a \$100 BrightStart college scholarship.



All students submitting an essay through their school will receive a certificate of participation and gifts from IFI's sponsor partners. One hundred and fifty-six finalists will be recognized on May 9 at the IFI Faces of Fatherhood Celebration and then treated to a Chicago White Sox baseball game. Twelve finalists will be invited to the June 10 IFI Fatherhood Dinner Celebration at the Union League Club of Chicago, and four of these 12 finalists will be treated to a Chicago White Sox baseball game and be able to throw the pre-game ceremonial first pitch.

The top 100 participating schools will each receive a starter kit of fathering resources. All fathers who provide a "dad's response" to their child's essay will become charter members in the new IFI 21st Century Dads Club.

The deadline for submissions is March 6. For more information and entry materials, visit <https://mlsvc01-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/67b2c58a001/68a91065-953b-4df7-b04f-287dadfef844.pdf>.

For additional information, please email information@4fathers.org or call (800) 996-DADS.

In Brief

Grant Opportunities

- The Illinois School Library Media Association/Library Book Selection Service Endowment Fund announces its **2015-16 Readers' Choice Grant**. All Illinois libraries registered in any of the Illinois Readers' Choice programs are eligible to apply. More information is available online at www.lbssfund.org. The online application form will be available starting March 15. All grant applications must be submitted by midnight April 30. Applicants must also be registered for the appropriate 2015-16 Readers' Choice program by April 30 (a separate process). Call (309) 341-1099 or email SLMAexsec@gmail.com with questions.
- The Coalition of Schools Educating Boys of Color has launched its 2015 **COSEBOC School Awards** program, which identifies, recognizes and rewards schools that have a proven track record of success in education boys of color in pre-kindergarten through sixth grade. Award recipients will receive a \$10,000 cash grant. For

details, visit <http://coseboc.org/school-awards>. Interested schools must submit their application by Feb. 23.

Student Opportunities

- The Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln administers the **World War II Illinois Descendants Statewide Scholarship** for high school seniors who are direct descendants of WWII veterans. Two \$1,000 scholarships are available. The deadline is March 1. For more information and eligibility rules, visit <https://app.smarterselect.com/programs/20962-Community-Foundation-For-The-Land-Of-Lincoln>.
- The National WWII Museum seeks submissions for its **National 2015 High School Essay Contest** and **2015 Middle School Essay Contest**. This year's essay prompt was inspired by a quote from Ira Hayes, one of the flag-raisers at Iwo Jima, and asks students, "How do you define a hero?" Submissions are due March 31. Winning essays will receive a cash prize. Full contest guidelines and rules are available online at www.nationalww2museum.org/learn/education/or-students/essay-contests/.
- The **Illinois Heart Rescue Project** invites Illinois high school students to write, edit, produce and upload to YouTube their own 90-second sudden cardiac arrest public service announcement (PSA). The purpose of this competition is to have students create fun and contemporary compression-only CPR videos. The videos will be judged on a local, regional and state level, and the top three will be posted on YouTube for the entire state to vote on the winner. The top video will be played at major sporting events in the Chicago area. Contest details are available at <http://illinoisheartrescue.com/news/illinois-heart-rescue-sponsors-statewide-high-school-video-public-service-announcement-psa-competition/>. The deadline for video submissions is April 15.
- Nominations are being accepted for **You(th) Decide 2015**, a student-led program that gives young people in the Chicago and metropolitan area a chance to explore and deliberate a pending U.S. Supreme Court case. For more information, visit www.crfc.org/YouthDecide2015.

Professional Development

- Registration is open for **Wired Wednesday Webinars**, a unique collaboration that focuses on the Common Core State Standards in speaking and listening. The Illinois Reading Council has partnered with the Wisconsin State Reading Association to provide the webinars. All webinars begin at 7 p.m. For more information or to register, please visit www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org or call (888) 454-1341. Upcoming presenters include:
 - Doug Fisher: Collaborative Conversations and the Speaking and Listening Standards on March 17.
 - Matt Copeland: Facilitating Student Discussion with Socratic Circles on April 15.
- The Illinois Department of Natural Resources' next **Kids for Conservation® Webinar** for educators is scheduled for 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Feb. 19 and will focus on the topic of "Animal Signs." Dr. Carl Strang of the DuPage County Forest Preserve's Mayslake Peabody Estate site in Oak Brook will share his expertise. Login information will be posted at <http://dnr.state.il.us/education/> on the morning of Feb. 19.

Classroom Opportunities

- **Earth Day in the Parks**, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' natural resources stewardship program for students, will be held in April and May at participating Illinois state parks. Applications will be accepted through Feb. 28. To access the application form and the list of participating state parks, visit <http://dnr.state.il.us/education/CLASSRM/EDITP/instruct.htm>.

Upcoming Events

- The **Illinois Network of Charter Schools 2015 Job Fair** is scheduled for Feb. 28 at UNO Veterans Memorial Campus in Chicago. Registration information and additional details are available at www.incschoools.org/event/2015-incs-teacher-job-fair.

Employment Opportunities

- Watch for vacancy lists and find instructions for applying on ISBE's Human Resources webpage at <http://www.isbe.net/hr/Default.htm>.