



Illinois State Board of Education

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Weekly Message

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State Superintendent

February 19, 2008

Message from State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

I know that I speak for agency staff and members of the Board when I say that our hearts and prayers go out to all of the people that were touched by the tragedy of last week’s shooting at Northern Illinois University (NIU). I, like so many of you, continue to be stunned at what transpired and still can’t believe it occurred.

Education is a world unto itself, but a small one. So many of us work with current NIU staff or alumni, or we have family or friends who have attended or are now sending children to this university. It’s one thing to see an attack like this occur half a country away, but it is quite another when it plays out in your own backyard.

As educators we are predisposed to nurture and protect; it is unthinkable that someone would step into one of our classrooms and wish to do our students harm, but it is a sad reality. These are the times in which we live.

I would urge you to please take a few moments to remember why you chose to do what you are doing today. If you are an administrator, then go spend some time in a classroom and take in the sights and sounds of our young people.

I would also urge you to spend a few moments going over your school or district emergency plans. ISBE, along with the Illinois State Police and Illinois Terrorism Task Force, sponsor the “Multi-Hazard Emergency Planning for Illinois Schools” workshops. This initiative began in December 2004 and has since trained more than 4,300 educators from 757 public school districts and 252 non-public schools. If you are interested in participating, then there are more sessions scheduled in the coming weeks. You may get more information at http://www.isbe.net/regionaloffices/training_schedule.htm.

I would also encourage you to take a few moments and remember the victims, their families and all of our friends who are a part of the NIU family.

Thanks.

Chris

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Upcoming Deadlines

- **Student applications for National Science Youth Camp** – February 18, 2008
- **Non-Certified Staff Salary Study survey** – February 29, 2008

- **Submit a Letter of Intent for the Move and Crunch Challenge for Principals**, www.kidseatwell.org – February 29, 2008
- **Technology Integration Plan** – March 1, 2008
- **Charter Planning Grant applications & Charter Implementation Grant applications** – April 30, 2008
- **Deadline for waiver applications to be considered by the General Assembly in Fall 2008** – Friday, August 8, 2008
- **Annual Superintendents' Conference** – Monday, Sept. 29 & Tuesday, Sept. 30, 2008

Student Assessment

ELL Accommodations: Word Glossaries and ISAT Directions

Word glossaries for each of the ISAT content areas and the ISAT directions have been translated into ten (10) different languages and can be found at <http://www.isbe.net/assessment/translations.htm>. Please share this information with those individuals who will be administering the ISAT to ELLs.

ACT Online Prep

We are pleased to announce that the Illinois State Board of Education has entered into an agreement with ACT to provide ACT Online Prep to public high schools in Illinois through May 31, 2009 at no cost to the school or district. The order form to begin receiving ACT Online Prep is available online at <http://www.isbe.net/assessment/htmls/protocol.htm>.

This order form should only be used by sites that currently do not have an active ACT Online Prep license.

If a school currently has an ACT Online Prep license, your licenses will be renewed automatically by ACT and will be valid through May 31, 2009. ACT will not issue an invoice for this renewal and you do not need to submit an order form.

ACT Online Prep is an excellent tool for your students and we are excited to provide this service. Please refer to the Frequently Asked Questions list also available online at http://www.isbe.net/assessment/pdfs/Online_Prep_FAQs.pdf or contact **ACT Customer Services** at 800-498-6065 with questions.

Educator Preparation & Recertification

National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS)

We are pleased to announce that the Illinois State Board of Education awarded two contracts for the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) Program for 2007-2008.

The two contractors are the National Board Resource Center at Illinois State University (NBRC) directed by Dr. Lynn Gaddis, NBCT and the Iroquois/Kankakee Regional Office of Education (I-KAN) directed by Vicki Hensley, Assistant Regional Superintendent.

The work of both partners is aligned to deliver services to support National Board Certified Teachers and candidates in targeted schools.

For more information, visit the NBRC at ISU website at <http://www.coe.ilstu.edu/ilnbpts> and the I-KAN ROE website at <http://www.ilnbpts.org>. Also visit ISBE's web page at <http://www.isbe.net/profprep/nbpts.htm>

English Language Learning

Migrant Summer School Programs

In March, the Illinois State Board of Education will release an application for funding of migrant summer school programs in districts with qualifying migrant students under Title I, Part C of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001.

Students eligible for the program are children ages 0-21 who

- have not graduated from high school;

- have moved within the past three years across state or school district lines;
- live with a parent or guardian or on their own;
- obtain temporary or seasonal work in agricultural production, fishing or food processing industries.

A certified recruiter must document that children qualify as migrant students. ISBE can assist districts with this process. To request assistance in identifying eligible migrant children, districts may complete the survey found at

http://www.isbe.net/bilingual/pdfs/migrant_survey.pdf

For more information, contact **Beth Robinson**, English Language Learning, at 312- 814-3850 or by e-mail at berobins@isbe.net.

Rules & Waivers

Green Cleaning Schools Act

The Green Cleaning Schools Act requires the use of environmentally sensitive cleaning and maintenance products in all Illinois public and non-public elementary and secondary schools with 50 or more students.

Passed into law on August 13, 2007, the Green Cleaning Schools Act will protect Illinois students, teachers and school staff from polluted indoor air that may be five to 100 times more polluted than outdoor air. This pollution is due in part to the chemicals found in everyday cleaning supplies.

The proposed rules and emergency rules for the Green Cleaning Schools Act (P.A. 95-0084) are published in the February 1 issue of the Illinois Register, available online at <http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/index/register/home.html>.

This publication marks the beginning of the first 45-day notice period. During this time, the public (including Green Cleaning Schools Committee participants) may comment in writing according to the instructions published with the proposed rules. Any interested parties may submit comments, data, views or arguments concerning this proposed rulemaking. All comments must be in writing and should be addressed to:

Kate Tomford
Office of Lt. Governor Pat Quinn

100 W. Randolph, Suite 15-200
Chicago IL 60601
Phone: 312/814-5220
Fax: 312/814-4862

The guidelines and specifications for the act were created by the Illinois Green Governments Coordinating Council in coordination with the Illinois Department of Public Health, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, the Regional Offices of Education, Illinois State Board of Education and a panel of interested stakeholders.

Please refer to the Green Cleaning Schools Act web page for links to copies of the emergency and proposed rules, the full text of the guidelines and specifications (requirements and recommendations), related forms and a list of qualified products.

The web page is:

http://www.standingupforillinois.org/green/school_cleaning.php.

Referenda Results

February 5, 2008, School Referenda Results

School referenda results from the February 5, 2008, election are posted on the Illinois State Board of Education's web site at: <http://www.isbe.net/research/htmls/referenda.htm>.

There were 39 referenda introduced by 35 Illinois school districts in the February 5 primary election. These school referenda are sorted into three general types: tax, bond, and miscellaneous. Each type is further sorted into several more detailed categories, such as build/construct, operation/maintenance, office terms/size, school/education, boundary changes, etc. The Illinois State Board of Education has provided the school tax, bond, and miscellaneous referenda categories for easy reference.

Among the 39 referenda, 14 are tax referenda in operations/maintenance and school/education; 20 bond referenda are sorted further into three categories: 18 in build/construct and one each in financing/funding and miscellaneous. The five miscellaneous types of referenda are sorted into three categories: school/education, office terms/size, and boundary changes. A summary of results, obtained on February 6,

2008, from participating school districts and county election boards, are listed on ISBE's web site.

Accountability

FY08 Supplemental General State Aid (SGSA) Plan

Attention School Districts maintaining average daily attendance of more than 1000 students. The ISBE IWAS system is now open to file the required *FY08 Supplemental General State Aid (SGSA) Plan*.

With the passage of and approval of the BIMP bill, the amounts of SGSA payments for each district is now set. SGSA is included within the General State Aid payments. It is generated by the number and percentage of disadvantaged, low income, students and is calculated as part three of the districts general state aid claim. Previous to the BIMP bill's passage, the exact amounts of SGSA being distributed to the schools was unknown and the IWAS system could not accept SGSA plans prior to the due date of October 30th.

The filing of a SGSA expenditure plan for FY08 is required by the School Code for districts exceeding 1000 average daily attendance. Simply log into the ISBE IWAS system and go to SGSA Plan.

A brief narrative explaining how the SGSA expenditures will assist the district's disadvantaged students to succeed academically is required along with a SGSA expenditure budget. Please file the SGSA plans by **Sunday, March 30**.

If you have question please contact **Richard Loman**, Accountability Division, at 217-782-2948 or rloman@isbe.net.

Nutrition

USDA Recall information

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently changed the *hold* status on Westland Meat Company products to a RECALL. The recall covers two commodity products, A608 Fine Ground Beef and A594 Coarse Ground Beef. We are advising all schools of this recall.

For more information regarding this recall, please reference the Illinois State Board of Education's web site at <http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/default.htm>.

For a question and answer document issued by the USDA, please reference their web site at <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usdahome>.

If you have any questions relating to this RECALL, please call Food Distribution staff of the Illinois State Board of Education at 1-800-545-7892.

Summer Food Service Program

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) is designed to provide nutritious meals during summer months to children from areas where at least 50 percent of students are eligible for free or reduced-priced meals during the school year through the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs. Does your area meet this criterion? If so, consider becoming a sponsor to help bridge the gap for children in your community. All sponsors are required to submit the program application and monthly Claims for Reimbursement via the Internet.

Congress expanded the simplified cost procedures nationwide which will reduce paperwork for sponsors and ensures all sponsors receive the maximum federal reimbursements.

If the responsibilities of sponsorship in the SFSP are not possible, you can still participate in the program by operating as a site under a different sponsor, being a vendor, or volunteering your time. Visit our website at <http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/summer.htm> to learn more about this vital program and how you can help.

Training Workshops

Training workshops for the Summer Food Service Program will be held at the locations listed below for organizations interested in sponsoring the SFSP during the summer of 2008. To register for the workshops, visit our website at <http://www.isbe.net/nutrition>.

Summer Food Service Program Training Workshop Schedule

- **Wednesday, March 5**—Fairview Heights
- **Wednesday, March 19**—Alsip
- **Tuesday, March 25**—Moline
- **Wednesday, March 26**—Morton

- **Wednesday, April 2**—Marion
- **Wednesday, April 9**—Schaumburg
- **Monday, May 19**—Springfield

The training sessions are designed to provide a complete overview of the SFSP including the Illinois State Board of Education's (ISBE's) Internet-based program application and claim system. All new sponsors are required to attend training before they can be approved to serve meals.

For additional information, contact **Amy Bianco**, Nutrition Division, at 1-800-545-7892 or e-mail cnp@isbe.net.

Curriculum & Instruction

Illinois Schools Named 2008 NASPE Star Schools

The National Association for Sport and Physical Education (NASPE) has announced the newest recipients of its STARS recognition for exemplary school physical education programs. Three Illinois schools, out of a total of thirteen schools nationally, have achieved this honor. The criteria for STARS recognition are based on the essential elements necessary for a quality physical education program – content based on the National Standards for Physical Education, educationally and developmentally appropriate instructional strategies and teaching skills, adequate facilities and equipment that are safe and appropriate for the age and abilities of the students and that enable students to participate in maximum amount of active time on task, and classes taught by certified physical educators.

Having gone through a rigorous evaluation process, the following schools are models for other schools to emulate and will receive local, state and national recognition for their accomplishments: Congratulations to the following Illinois NASPE Star Schools and their staff!

- **Carpenter Elementary School** (2008-2013)
300 N. Hamlin
Park Ridge
- **Eugene Field Elementary School** (2008-2013)
707 N. Wisner Avenue
Park Ridge

- **Emerson Middle School** (2008-2013)
8101 N. Cumberland
Niles

The STARS physical education teachers and their principals will be honored at the NASPE Hall of Fame Banquet in Ft. Worth, Texas, April 11, during the national convention of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (AAHPERD). The NASPE STARS program recognizes a school's total physical education program as all teachers in the department demonstrate how their program and teaching meet national standards and guidelines. STARS schools receive a STARS banner, teacher certificates, and complimentary products from FlagHouse and Socc Sport.

School Business & Support Services

School District Annual Financial Report (ISBE Form 50-35) Verification Process

District Superintendents received an email broadcast asking the district to verify the Operating Expense Per Pupil (OEPP), Per Capita Tuition Charge (PCTC), and the Financial Profile Report on February 5, 2008. The broadcast included links to cover letters, instructions, and definitions to assist with the verification process. These documents are also available on the IWAS website.

The email broadcast and this notice in the Superintendent's bulletin are the only notices provided to districts. If you have not received the broadcast, please contact ISBE at the number below. If you give authority to another person verifying these reports, please forward the email broadcast to them. It is important that they have the instructions and deadlines to assist them in completing the verification in a timely manner. Once the deadline passes, changes cannot be made to the 2007 Annual Financial Report data.

Since the financial profile designation will be approved and publicly released by ISBE, it is of the utmost importance that you review your financial profile data and score. Any district comments that you want included with your final financial profile report may be entered in the comment box. Although comments are optional, this is an opportunity for districts to explain financial circumstances. For further information see the following website:

<http://www.isbe.net/sfms/afr/OEPPPCTCICRCoverLetter.pdf>

Any questions regarding this notification or verification process should be directed to School Business Services at 217-785-8779. Any questions regarding IWAS should be directed to the Call Center at 217-558-3600.

Funding & Disbursements

School Safety and Educational Improvement Block Grant

Language in the Budget Implementation Bill (BIMP) allows State-recognized, nonpublic schools to qualify for the School Safety and Educational Improvement Block Grant, provided in Section 2-3.51.5 of the School Code <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/fulltext.asp?DocName=010500050K2-3.51.5>.

Average daily attendance (ADA) data from the prior school year is used to calculate two payments on October 30 and April 30 each year. Beginning with the second payment of this school year, which will be paid out this spring, more than 700 State-recognized, nonpublic schools will be allowed to transmit their ADA from the 2006-07 school year and participate in this program. The FY2008 budget does not include a separate appropriation for these nonpublic schools. Therefore, the \$75 million FY2008 appropriation will be divided among both public and nonpublic schools and public school districts will see an April payment that is less than the one received in October. After the nonpublic attendance data is received and the payment recalculated, you will receive notice of the adjusted payment, probably in mid-April.

Professional Development

Illinois School Leadership Task Force – Final Report Is Now Available

In August, 2006, the Commission on School Leader Preparation in Illinois Colleges and Universities submitted to the Illinois Board of Higher Education an analysis and set of recommendations for improving pre-K-12 School Leader Preparation in Illinois. Like the national reports, the Illinois report argued that principal preparation is a key component in improving student learning in schools. Upon receiving the Commission's report, *School Leader Preparation: A Blueprint for Change*, the Illinois Board of Higher Education joined with the Illinois State Board of Education and the

Governor's office to initiate a joint resolution in the Illinois General Assembly. This resolution created a task force charged with moving the *Blueprint* agenda forward.

The Illinois School Leader Task Force was formed in October 2007 to execute the following charge:

Prepare a report to the General Assembly, the Office of the Governor, the State Board of Education, and the Board of Higher Education that details an action plan for strategically improving school leadership preparation in Illinois, based on, but not limited to, the measures detailed in the report of the Commission on School Leader Preparation: *Blueprint for Change*.

The final report is now available and can be viewed at: http://www.isbe.net/gov_relations/.

Grant & Award Opportunities

Improving Literacy through School Libraries Program Competition

The U.S. Department of Education's (USDE) Improving Literacy through School Libraries (LSL) Program has announced its 2008 competition focused on providing funding to public local school libraries in districts with 20 percent or more family poverty.

Approximately 18.5 million dollars will be available for funding to public school districts, charter schools or state-administered schools, with an estimated 80 grants to be awarded in this competition. Funds are used to improve reading achievement through updating library collections, expansion of internet connections, purchase of new technology, professional development for library media specialists, and the extension of school library hours.

Applications are due on **Friday, March 7**. The application package can be found on www.grants.gov along with instructions for registering. If you have any questions, please contact **Dr. Irene Harwarth**, Team Leader, at irene.harwarth@ed.gov.

FY2009 Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grants

Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White and the Illinois State Library are pleased to announce that applications are now available for FY2009 Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grants.

LSTA grants are some of the most popular grants the State Library offers each year, and this year's offerings include several new categories. Information and applications may be found online at http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/what_we_do/lsta2009.html.

Important dates to remember are **Wednesday, April 2**, the deadline for Letters of Intent to be submitted; and **Monday, May 12**, when the full application must be postmarked or hand delivered to the Illinois State Library.

LSTA grant opportunities are made possible by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to the Illinois State Library.

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/2008/newsclips/080215.htm>.
