



Illinois State Board of Education

Weekly Message

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Feb. 19, 2013

Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

The Board will meet tomorrow via videoconference in Chicago and Springfield and will be addressing rules regarding special education class size restrictions and principal preparation. They will also review the spring waiver report, a proposed intergovernmental agreement associated with the Early Learning Challenge and assessment contracts.

Also tomorrow, the College Board will release their AP Report to the Nation. I expect this report will continue to show a trend of increased participation by Illinois students taking and passing AP exams. In addition, I expect that we will see improvement in closing the gaps in AP participation for low-income and minority students.

We are continuing to make available to districts EXPLORE/PLAN for all 9th and 10th graders as we move to a growth model for accountability. The high school assessment plan will provide schools and districts with a more complete picture of student progress and data for calculation of student growth through a majority of their high school years.

During the 2013-14 school year, the state will again pay for administration of EXPLORE at grade 9 and PLAN at grade 10. We are able to expand the test administration window from Sept. 16 to Nov. 8.

Finally, we are now two weeks into the Illinois 5Essentials Survey and so far 115,000 students, or 14 percent, and almost 43,000 teachers, about 51 percent, have completed the survey. A school must have at least a 50 percent response rate for each group in order to get a report. So far, approximately 30 percent of all schools have met that threshold for either students or teachers, or both. The survey is available for schools serving students in 6th through 12th grade and will remain open through the end of March.

Have a great week!

Chris

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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 425 (Voluntary Registration and Recognition of Nonpublic Schools)** – Public comment period ends Feb. 19
- **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)

DCFS

An Important Message About the State's Child Abuse Hotline and Available Resources

School personnel play a vital role in efforts to stop child abuse and neglect in Illinois. School staff – primarily teachers and school social workers – accounted for roughly one in five reports of suspected abuse or neglect to the state's Child Abuse Hotline (1-800-25-ABUSE) during the most recent year.

Reports of suspected abuse or neglect are vital to the efforts of Illinois Department of Children and Family Services to identify victims of abuse or neglect and get them and their families the help they need to ensure every child is safe and nurtured in a loving home.

In most cases, early intervention enables children who have been mistreated to remain in their homes while DCFS provides them and their families with supportive services. In fact, of the more than 106,000 allegations of abuse investigated by DCFS last year, only about 4 percent of children were taken into protective custody. And even when allegations of abuse or neglect are unfounded, reports enable DCFS to connect families with voluntary programs and services like domestic violence counseling or drug treatment to prevent an existing risk of harm from becoming real.

The new [Manual for Mandated Reporters](#) developed by DCFS this fall can help answer questions about rights and responsibilities regarding child abuse investigations. Developed in partnership with educators, law enforcement and child abuse experts, the [DCFS Online Training](#) also serves as an excellent resource.

Center for Innovation and Improvement

Day II of Rising Star Capacity Builders Training Scheduled for Feb. 21 in Lisle

Day II of Rising Star Capacity Builders Training is set for Feb. 21 in Lisle at the Hilton Lisle/Naperville. Registration is from 8:30-9 a.m. with the workshop to follow from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. A beverage and coffee service will be available in the morning and lunch will be provided.

During Day II, "Monitoring and Sustainability," participants will consider the following:

- How can the Rising Star reporting features be used effectively to monitor team progress?
- How can reflective questioning, consensus building, and celebration techniques be used to aid teams in monitoring plan components and in determining whether objectives have been fully met or will require additional tasks?
- How do teams sustain the implementation of objectives that have been designated as fully implemented?
- How do Rising Star continuous improvement plan creators incorporate organizational readiness criteria, collaborative vision, stakeholder ownership, and the principles of continuous renewal to sustain the process over time and during periods of leader transition?

To register, visit <http://webapps.net/ISBEConference>. For more information, visit <http://www.isbe.net/pdf/rising->

[star-event-invite.pdf](#). Day III of training is slated for April 25.

Special Education Services

Deadline for 2012-13 District Technology Plan on Illinois Interactive Report Card is Feb. 28

If your district has a technology plan that will expire on June 30, 2013, please note that the district technology plan, completed through the Illinois Interactive Report Card, is due on Feb. 28, 2013. No late plans will be accepted.

The Illinois State Board of Education has provided a writing guide to help districts through the new template and provide writing guidance. Detailed information and the guide can be accessed at http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/elearning/html/tech_plan.htm.

For access to the IIRC, log in or register at <https://iirc.niu.edu/MyIIRC/Login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fMyIIRC%2fHome.aspx>.

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 <http://www.isbe.state.il.us/earlychi/default.htm>. 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.

Illinois Wind for Schools

Application Process Under Way for Second Year of ILWFS Program

The Illinois Wind for Schools (ILWFS) program is accepting applications from highly motivated middle school and high school teachers in Illinois public school districts. Three to five middle and/or high schools are selected each academic year as ILWFS partner schools for intensive support through on-site teacher training and classroom resources. Those who are sincerely interested in incorporating wind energy into their curriculum and providing outreach to their community are encouraged to apply by March 1, 2013.

Illinois Wind for Schools applications to participate during the 2013-14 school year are available at www.ilwfs.org. Eligible disciplines include math, science, agriculture, industrial technology, engineering and related subject disciplines. An open-enrollment

generalized workshop will be available to all schools who wish to incorporate wind energy into their curriculum. Schools selected for the program will be notified by April 2.

This initiative, made possible through Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) grant funding, is sponsored through a partnership with the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs (IIRA) at Western Illinois University, the College of Business and Technology at Western Illinois University, the Center for Renewable Energy at Illinois State University and the College of Education at Illinois State University.

For more information regarding the Illinois Wind for Schools program, contact Jolene Willis at (309) 298-2835 or Matt Aldeman at (309) 438-1440, or visit www.ilwfs.org.

National Assessment Governing Board

Webcast Will Look at New Report on Trends in Student Achievement in Most Populated States

At 11 a.m. CST on Thursday, Feb. 21, the National Assessment Governing Board will host “Lessons for All: Decades of NAEP Data From the Mega-States,” a live webcast to release the results of a new report from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP).

Drawing on nearly two decades’ worth of data, “Mega-States: An Analysis of Student Performance in the Five Most Heavily Populated States in the Nation” shows trends in student achievement in California, Florida, Illinois, New York, and Texas in the subjects of mathematics, reading and science at grades 4 and 8.

Webcast participants will learn about these states’ changing demographics, how those shifts are related to student achievement and how the findings offer insights for educators nationwide. A panel of education experts representing the mega-states will be on hand to discuss the report. For more information, visit www.nagb.org/mega-states.

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.

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://inc charterdesigninstitute.eventbrite.com>.

In Brief

Student Opportunities

- Students and parents can participate in the **Big Ten Virtual College Fair**, which is scheduled for 1-9 p.m. CST on Feb. 28 at CollegeWeekLive.com. The event includes the opportunity to chat with admission experts and students. For more information, visit

http://www.collegeweeklive.com/en_CA/Guest/BigTen-Virtual-College-Fair.

- 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.cleanteair.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

- **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/130218.htm>.

Employment Opportunities

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