



# Illinois State Board of Education

Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor

## Weekly Message

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Christopher A. Koch, Ed.D.  
State Superintendent (Interim)

February 21, 2007

### Message from Interim State Superintendent Christopher Koch

*There is no opening message this week from Interim State Superintendent Koch.*

#### Upcoming Deadlines

- CTE Educator Scholarships, EIU – February 23, 2007
- Illinois Fatherhood Initiative Essay Contest – March 9, 2007
- Amber Alert Poster Contest – March 13, 2007
- Illinois Textbook Loan Program School Order, Grades 9 through 12 - March 15, 2007
- ECBG for Birth to Age 3 Years: Prevention Initiative RFP – March 15, 2007
- 21<sup>st</sup> Community Learning Center RFP – March 16, 2007
- Non-Certified Staff Salary Study - March 31, 2007
- American Stars of Teaching – April 1, 2007
- Preschool for All Children Ages 3 to 5 Years RFP – May 3, 2007
- Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Young Scholars Program – May 7, 2007
- Waiver applications to be considered by the General Assembly in Fall 2007 – August 10, 2007

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#### Early Childhood

##### Preschool for All Children Ages 3 to 5 years RFP Released

The Preschool for All Children Ages 3 to 5 Years – 08 Request for Proposals (RFP) for new funds has been released. Applicants eligible to submit a proposal for this preschool education program serving 3 to 5 year olds include public school districts, community-based agencies, child care centers and others. Applicants other than public school districts must provide evidence of existing competencies to provide early childhood education programs. The Preschool for All Children program expands the number of young children able to receive high-quality preschool education by focusing not only on children who are determined to be at risk of academic failure but also by serving families of low to moderate income whose children are not considered to be at risk academically and other families that choose to

participate. Continuing providers will find the application process for this year's expansion very similar to the process of applying for expanded grants in years past.

The RFP is available online at [http://www.isbe.net/earlychi/html/block\\_grant.htm](http://www.isbe.net/earlychi/html/block_grant.htm). The RFP can also be obtained by contacting the Early Childhood Division at 217/524-4835.

Preschool for All Children Bidders' conferences will be held for this RFP. Attendance at a bidders' conference is recommended but is not required. Registration prior to the bidders' conference is not required. Security procedures require a photo identification for entry at each location.

- **Springfield**

University of Illinois-Springfield  
One University Plaza  
Tuesday, March 13, 2007  
1 p.m. to 3 p.m.  
Brookens Auditorium

- **Chicago Heights**

Prairie State College  
202 South Halsted  
Thursday, March 15, 2007  
1 p.m. to 3 p.m.  
Auditorium

Should the conditions of this RFP change as a result of the bidders' conference, the State Board of Education will notify all recipients of the RFP of the changes

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## Nutrition

### Kudos to Illinois Schools Serving Breakfast

In honor of National School Breakfast week, March 5-9, ISBE Nutrition Programs recognizes the 2,900 plus Illinois participating in the School Breakfast Program (SBP) serving over 39,750 breakfasts annually. These schools have identified the established link between eating breakfast and academic success.

If your school is interested in starting a breakfast program, visit [www.isbe.net/nutrition](http://www.isbe.net/nutrition) or information on breakfast incentives, reimbursement rates, and more!

### National Nutrition Month 100% Fad Free

The year 2007 marks the 34<sup>th</sup> year to celebrate National Nutrition Month ® in March. This year's theme is "100% FAD FREE." Visit:



[http://www.eatright.org/cps/rde/xchg/ada/hs.xsl/nutrition\\_4920\\_ENU\\_HTML.htm](http://www.eatright.org/cps/rde/xchg/ada/hs.xsl/nutrition_4920_ENU_HTML.htm) for event ideas, a National Nutrition Month ® fact sheet and key messages.

### Illinois Schools Can! Regional Workshops Registration Extended

*Illinois Schools Can! Putting School Wellness Policies into Action* is a regional workshop for K-12 school staff implementing school wellness initiatives. The workshop is sponsored by the Illinois Soybean Association and presented by the Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents and the Illinois Nutrition Education and Training Program.

Registration is \$20 per person for five CPDU credits. By sending a team to the workshop, elementary schools can earn extra credit towards a competitive mini-grant designed to assist schools to prepare and apply for the HealthierUS School Challenge. Register today for one of the six workshops.

For additional conference information, please visit the Illinois Nutrition Education and Training Program website at <http://www.kidseatwell.org/> or call 800-466-7998.

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## 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>.

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## In the News

### Weekly news clips

ISBE has posted highlights from last week's education news clips at:

<http://www.isbe.net/news/2007/newsclips/070216.htm>

