



Feb. 21, 2012

Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

Today the Board approved moving forward with our request for a waiver from some requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), or the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). We have received feedback from hundreds of you throughout this process and I thank you for your willingness to work with us to shape Illinois' request.

The overarching goal of the request calls for cutting in half achievement gaps and the percent of students not making progress over the next six years. Each individual school and district will have their own targets to meet, based on the individual achievement gaps within their district or schools.

The plan also calls for the use of a Multiple Measures Index (MMI) based on four broad categories:

- 1) Outcomes
- 2) Achievement
- 3) Student progress
- 4) Educational context

Once the MMI has been calculated, schools and districts will be categorized into a five-star rating system that will align with various rewards, supports or interventions. You may read the entire proposal on our website at http://www.isbe.net/nclb_waivers/default.htm.

There was a slight delay for some districts in their latest General State Aid payment. The Comptroller's Office said there was a glitch in their transferring of funds and that — for a quarter of all GSA recipients — the payment, which normally would have been released on the evening of Feb. 10, was delayed until the following business day. The Comptroller's Office assures us this was an unfortunate error and is not indicative of any problems with timely GSA payment moving forward.

Finally, Governor Quinn will be introducing his FY 2013 budget tomorrow. We will be watching it closely and comparing it to the Board's recommendation from last month.

Have a great week.

Chris

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Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

- **USDA Updated National School Lunch and School Breakfast Program Meal Pattern Overview webinar** – Feb. 22 (Reserve a seat at <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/654572009>)
- **Illinois New Teacher Collaborative's Induction and Mentoring Conference** – Feb. 22-23 in Springfield

- **Migrant Education Program grant application deadline** – March 15 (Application available at <http://www.isbe.net/bilingual/htmls/migrant.htm>)
- **Part 226 (Special Education) and Part 575 (School Technology Program)** – Public comment period ends March 26
- **Part 51 (Dismissal of Tenured Teachers under Article 24 and Dismissal of Tenured Teachers and Principals under Article 34 of the School Code)** – Public comment period ends April 2
- **2011-12 Eye Examination Data Collection deadline** – June 30
- **2011-12 Regional Safe Schools Program (RSSP) student reporting deadline** – July 31

Race to the Top

Frequently Asked Questions Posted Online for Phase 3 Participating LEAs

The Illinois State Board of Education has posted a new resource on its Race to the Top site. A frequently asked questions document for participating local education authorities about Race to the Top Phase 3 is available at http://www.isbe.net/racetothetop/PDF/phase3_lea_faq.pdf. Additional Race to the Top information is available on ISBE's Race to the Top webpage at <http://www.isbe.net/racetothetop/default.htm>.

The Illinois State Board of Education has posted at http://www.isbe.net/racetothetop/pdf/phase3_stmt_of_intent.pdf a template Statement of Intent that any school district superintendent may submit to the State Board of Education to express the respective school district's commitment to participating in the State's Race to the Top Phase 3 Plan. As noted in the cover letter to the Statement of Intent, we are asking that it be received by no later than Feb. 29, 2012.

Nutrition

National School Lunch and School Breakfast Program Meal Pattern Overview Webinar

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has released the nutrition standards for school meals beginning with school year 2012-13. The new standards were designed to align school meals with the most recent nutrition recommendations and current capabilities of schools. The Nutrition Programs Division of the Illinois State Board of Education will be presenting the USDA Food Based Meal Pattern overview webinar for National School Lunch Program sponsors from 1:30 to 3 p.m. Feb. 22. The webinar will focus on the meal pattern changes that will go into effect for school year 2012-13. Space is limited for the Feb. 22 webinar. Reserve your seat at <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/654572009>.

The USDA currently has a number of resources available for schools to utilize to help them prepare for changes that are to be put into place for 2012-13. The resources include:

- Final Rule: Nutrition Standards in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs
- School Meals Sample Menus
- New Meal Patterns and Dietary Specifications Chart
- Implementation Timeline
- Policy Memo SP 10-2012: Questions and Answers on the Final Rule

To access these resources, visit the USDA's website at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Governance/Legislation/nutritionstandards.htm>. As more information becomes available, ISBE will be posting updates and additional resources to the Nutrition Programs Division website at <http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/default.htm>. ISBE Nutrition Programs Division staff is available for assistance by calling (800) 545-7892 or (217) 782-2491.

Student Assessment

Survey Under Way for Principals and Teachers on ISAT Testing

The IL Assessment Consequences Evaluation (IACE) is conducting an online survey to learn about the consequences of ISAT testing from principals' and teachers' perspectives. Information gathered from this study may contribute to the development of a long-range strategic plan for the IL Assessment and Accountability Program. A randomly selected sample of principals and teachers (grades 3-8) will be receiving an email with the survey link and are strongly encouraged to participate.

All survey results are confidential. For more details, please contact Katherine Ryan, principal investigator, at (217) 333-7177 or email iace@illinois.edu.

PSAE Pre-ID Deadline: Feb. 24, 2012

On Friday, Feb. 24, 2012, ISBE will send the Pre-ID file to ACT for the purpose of producing PSAE Pre-ID labels. PSAE Pre-ID labels will be printed only for students listed in this file with PSAE as the “Test To Be Taken” and with a Testing School code that represents an established PSAE test site. PSAE Pre-ID labels will be shipped directly to the school identified by the Testing School code in the Pre-ID file. To verify that the Testing School code represents an established PSAE test site for 2012, please see http://www.isbe.net/assessment/pdfs/2012/psae/test_sites_codes.pdf.

Schools that enroll grade 11 students in ISBE’s Student Information System after Feb. 24, 2012, must still test these students, and they will automatically be added to the Pre-ID file. However, no PSAE Pre-ID label will be printed for these students, and their answer documents must be completed manually according to instructions provided in the PSAE administration manuals.

Please write to psae@isbe.net or call (866) 317-6034 if you have any questions about PSAE Pre-ID labels or PSAE test administration.

Educator Certification**Driver Education Endorsement Requirements for New Instructors**

Effective Feb. 1, 2012, new driver education endorsement requirements went into effect for new driver education instructors. Please see 23 Ill. Adm. Code 242.40(a)(1) – Driver Education Personnel Requirements as well as 23 Ill. Adm. Code 25.100(n) – Endorsing Teaching Certificates for more detailed information.

23 Ill. Adm. Code 252.40 Driver Education Personnel Requirements

- a) Qualifications of Teachers – All persons who teach a driver education course must meet the applicable standards of this subsection (a).
 - 1) A driver education instructor who teaches in a public school district shall hold a secondary teaching certificate and either have an endorsement for safety and driver education or meet the requirements of 23 Ill. Adm. Code 1.730(q) through January 31, 2012. Each individual first assigned to teach safety and driver education on or after February 1, 2012 shall be required to

hold a certificate valid for the secondary grades and an endorsement received pursuant to 23 Ill. Adm. Code 25.100(n).

23 Ill. Adm. Code 25.100(n) Endorsing Teaching Certificates

- n) Beginning with applications received on or after February 1, 2012, an endorsement in safety and driver education shall be issued when the applicant provides evidence of having completed 24 semester hours of college credit in the field, with at least 12 semester hours at the upper-division or graduate level, as defined by the institution offering the coursework, distributed as follows:
 - 1) 3 semester hours in injury prevention or safety;
 - 2) 12 semester hours in driver education that include:
 - A) driving task analysis (introduction to driver education);
 - B) teaching driver education in the classroom;
 - C) teaching the laboratory portion of the driver education course, including:
 - i) on-street teaching under the supervision of a qualified driver education teacher;
 - ii) the equivalent of at least one semester hour’s preparation in and use of driving simulation;
 - iii) the equivalent of at least one semester hour’s preparation in and use of multiple-car programs; and
 - D) advanced driver education and emergency evasive driving;
 - 3) 3 semester hours of first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation; and
 - 4) 6 semester hours chosen in any combination from:
 - A) the use of technology in instruction;
 - B) safety issues related to alcohol and other drugs;
 - C) driver education for students with disabilities; and
 - D) any other safety-related area.

Certification questions can be directed to the Educator Certification Division at (217) 557-6763.

Illinois Student Assistance Commission

FAFSA Completion Initiative Available to High Schools and Districts in Illinois

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) is working with school districts across the state to help identify which of their high school students have completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) in their pursuit of financial aid for college. Schools can then focus attention and support on those seniors who have not yet taken this critical step in determining how to pay for college.

The FAFSA Completion Initiative is based on work begun in 2008 with Chicago Public Schools (CPS), where FAFSA filing rates have improved by 30 percentage points since the project began. More than 50 individual high schools and three multi-high school districts across the state are now participating in the initiative.

Through this program, ISAC's research department identifies for the high school or district which of their students have completed a FAFSA, along with aggregated data such as the total number who qualify for state and federal need-based grants and the colleges to which students are sending their FAFSAs. This service is provided at no cost to high schools or school districts in Illinois and is open to any high school or district in Illinois that wishes to participate.

To obtain a copy of the research agreement and a flyer with FAQs regarding the program, contact Abel Montoya, ISAC Director of Outreach Operations, at abel.montoya@isac.illinois.gov or (800) 899-4722, ext. 3101.

Arts Alliance Illinois

Arts & Education Exchange Can Help Connect Educators With Arts Providers

Arts Alliance Illinois, in partnership with the Illinois Arts Council and the Illinois State Board of Education, has launched the Arts & Education Exchange, aiming to expand access to the arts in schools across Illinois. The site is a free online service that connects educators with arts providers.

Arts providers post information about their programs and then educators can then use the Exchange to search for

arts programming. Educators can also post specific arts requests for their classrooms. The Arts & Education Exchange can help educators integrate all art forms into curriculum for every subject and find professional development opportunities.

The Exchange evolved from research that found there was not enough information for Illinois educators about what arts resources were available in their area. For more information and to register, go to www.artseducationexchange.org. Contact info@artseducationexchange.org with questions.

PARCC

PARCC Releases Invitation to Negotiate to Engage Educators

The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC), a 24-state consortium working together to create next generation assessments in English language arts and mathematics, has released through the Florida Department of Education, PARCC's fiscal agent, the Educator Leader Cadre, Meeting Logistics and Meeting Content Services Invitation to Negotiate (ITN). The Educator Leader Cadres (ELC) are a major part of PARCC's ongoing work to engage educators in the implementation of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and the development and implementation of the PARCC assessments.

To read more from the PARCC news release, go to <http://www.parcconline.org/parcc-releases-itn-engage-educators>. For those interested in Illinois, send a letter of interest and resume to Susie Morrison, ISBE Deputy Superintendent, at smorriso@isbe.net.

Rules and Waivers

Notice of Completed Rulemaking

Please be advised that three rulemakings recently adopted by the Illinois State Board of Education are now in effect. These rules have been posted on the agency's website at <http://www.isbe.net/rules>. Please choose "Rules Currently in Effect" and scroll to the number of the Part that you wish to review.

Part 25 (Certification): Addresses approval of speech-language pathology programs, and implements several pieces of recently enacted legislation.

Affected Sections: 25.115, 25.130, 25.252, 25.275, and 25.345

Effective Date: January 24, 2012

Part 375 (Student Records): Clarifies school district and nonpublic schools' requirements under the Illinois Student School Records Act [105 ILCS 10] relative to the retention, maintenance, and transfer of student records.

Affected Sections: 375.10, 37.30, 375.40, 375.60, 375.70, 375.75, 375.80, 375.90, and 375.110

Effective Date: January 24, 2012

Part 425 (Voluntary Registration and Recognition of Nonpublic Schools): Amends various sections of these rules addressing initial and renewal deadlines for registered schools; retaining the status of recognized schools at the beginning of the school year; and periodic on-site visits to recognized schools.

Affected Sections: 425.20, 425.30, 425.40, 425.50

Effective Date: January 26, 2012

Student Opportunities

Applications Sought for the 2012 International BioGENEius Challenge

The Biotechnology Institute is accepting applications for the 2012 International BioGENEius Challenge. Private, public and home-schooled students in grades 9 to 12 currently enrolled in biology or science-related courses are eligible to enter the biotechnology research competition.

Students conduct individual research projects and compete in local and national levels to advance to an international competition for high schoolers. For more information about the competition, visit <http://www.biotechinstitute.org/node/1447>. For questions, contact Janelle Curtis at (202) 312-9266.

Fifth-Graders Can Participate in 2012 Bicycling Poster Contest

The League of Illinois Bicyclists and the Active Transportation Alliance are partnering with Saris Cycling Group to launch a poster contest to get fifth-graders to think about the benefits of the bicycle. The contest is asking fifth grade students to create a poster around the theme "Bicycling Takes Me Places!"

One winner will be selected from each state to receive a bike, bike light and helmet. One national winner will win a trip to the 2013 National Bike Summit in Washington DC and their school will receive bicycle parking to park 20 bikes and a bike/walk tracking system called The Hub.

To learn more about the poster contest, view the informational sheet and contest details available at <http://www.bikelib.org/2012/01/deadline-for-bicycling-poster-contest-march-1/>. Each submitted poster must have an entry form. The deadline to enter is March 1. For more information, contact Gina Kenny at gina@bikelib.org or (708) 334-2244.

Register for the Microsoft Bliink 2012 Illinois Web Design Competition

Educators can register their students for the Microsoft Bliink 2012 Illinois Web Design Competition at <http://bit.ly/Bliink>. The competition is co-sponsored by the Illinois Institute of Technology, Illinois Technology Association and the Chicago Public Schools. It is open to Illinois students ages 13-19 participating in teams of two to four.

Students can win prizes by designing websites with Microsoft Expression Studio. For free Expression Studio learning resources, visit <http://bit.ly/WebTutorials>. For more information, including information on receiving Microsoft Expression Studio professional software at no charge, visit <http://www.bliinkcontest.com>.

The deadline to register is Feb. 28 and the project submission deadline is March 20. Students can submit projects created in or out of class. For questions, email Pat Phillips at innovativeteachers@microsoft.com.

National World War II Museum Organizes Student Essay Contests

Middle and high school students across the country can enter the National World War II Museum's annual essay contests. Students in grades 5-8 compete in one division and high school students compete in the other for cash prizes and more.

Students are asked to answer "What WWII invention or innovation has had the biggest impact on your life?" Middle school students are asked to write 500 words or less, and high school students must keep their essay 1,000 words or less.

Visit <http://www.nationalww2museum.org/essaycontests> for more information. The deadline to enter is March 30. A website on the science and technology of World War II (<http://www.ww2sci-tech.org/>) provides lesson plans, links and other resources.

Applications for 2012 National Youth Science Camp Available

Applications to attend the 2012 National Youth Science Camp (NYSC) are available online at <http://www.isbe.net/career/default.htm>. Two graduating high school students will be selected to represent Illinois at the all-expenses paid honors program, which will be held from June 27 through July 21, 2012.

For more information about the NYSC, please visit <http://2012.nysc.org/>. For questions about the application process, please contact Gil Downey at (217) 782-4620 or gdowney@isbe.net.

To apply, download the application packet from <http://www.isbe.net/career/default.htm> and follow the enclosed instructions. Mail the completed application to the address below. Applications must be received by Feb. 24, 2012. (Attn: Gil Downey, Principal Consultant, National Youth Science Camp, Illinois State Board of Education, 100 N. First St., C-215, Springfield, IL 62777)

In the News

Weekly News Clips

ISBE has posted highlights from last week's education news clips at <http://www.isbe.net/news/2012/newsclips/120221.htm>.

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>.