



Feb. 22, 2011

Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

Last week Governor Quinn unveiled his proposal for the state's fiscal year 2012 budget. His proposed budget, while lower than what members of the Illinois State Board of Education proposed in January, is similar in many ways. As State Superintendent, I will continue to advocate for the Board's budget as we move through the legislative process, but it is encouraging to see the current administration shares our philosophy in many ways, with a few key differences.

Overall, the Governor's budget for state funding is about \$420 million less than what the Board proposed. That's primarily due to Governor Quinn proposing a lower Foundation Level for General State Aid; \$6,268 per student as opposed to the Board's recommendation of \$6,416 per student. In addition, the Governor's level of funding for Mandated Categoricals is about \$170 million less than the Board's recommendation, with the greatest difference in Regular Transportation. The Governor proposed a further reduction, while the Board recommended a \$135 million increase in Regular Transportation.

The Governor has also recommended eliminating all state funding for the Regional Offices of Education, whereas the Board suggested an increase for ROE funding to assist with professional development and support.

Despite some of these differences, I believe the Governor's proposal is moving in the right direction by calling for an increase in state funding for education by \$250 million over last year. The Board's recommendation is substantially higher and we will continue to advocate for it. We must keep in mind that this is only the beginning of the process and the final budget will likely be different from either proposal so I would recommend that you engage your local legislators frequently during the next several months so they are aware of their local needs.

In addition, the Governor recommended a Commission on Consolidation. As you know, consolidation has a long history of discussion and study in Illinois, including at the State Board's meeting this past August. We look forward to assisting the Commission by providing the most recent information we have available.

Illinois educators have assisted us with the completion of a gap analysis between the 1997 Illinois Learning Standards and the New Illinois Learning Standards in math and English the Board adopted last summer. You can find this comparison between our old learning standards and the Common Core at

http://www.isbe.net/common\_core/htmls/gap\_analysis.htm. The gap analysis is intended to be a starting point for educators and administrators to organize and begin the necessary discussion about their local curricula. I encourage you to use it as a starting point, a means to initiate discussions and to support teachers as they become familiar with the new standards.

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I encourage you to spend time reviewing our site and exploring some of the tools developed for your use. In addition to the gap analysis resource page, we have developed a video discussion of the Common Core, talking points and presentations you can use with staff or the public and a page devoted to the new assessments that are being developed through the Partnership for the Assessment of College and Careers [http://www.isbe.net/common\\_core/htmls/parcc.htm](http://www.isbe.net/common_core/htmls/parcc.htm)

Feel free to use all or any parts of the materials we have developed as your own.

Finally, Chairman Ruiz has been selected to serve on the U.S. Department of Education Equity and Excellence Commission. Chairman Ruiz joins former Governor Jim Edgar, Elgin Superintendent Jose Torres and a number of national education and civil rights leaders around the country who will examine the impact of school finance on educational opportunity and recommend ways school finance can be improved to increase equity and achievement.

Have a great week.

Chris

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## Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

- **Parent Involvement as a Collaborative Process** webinar – Feb. 24
- **Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Webinar** – Feb. 24
- **PSAE Pre-ID labels sent to ACT for printing** – Feb. 25
- **U.S. Department of Education’s Voices in Action: National Youth Summit** – Feb. 26
- **Webinar on USDA’s Proposed Rule on Nutrition Standards in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs** – March 1
- **Reading Improvement Block Grant FY 10 Performance Reports Due** – March 1
- **Illinois New Teacher Collaborative’s Induction and Mentoring Conference in Springfield** – March 1-2
- **Union League Club of Chicago hosts Lincoln Inaugural Sesquicentennial** – March 4
- **Illinois Coalition for Educating At-Risk Youth spring conference** – March 10, 11
- **Receipt deadline for ordering PSAE Day 1 State-Allowed accommodations test materials** – March 11
- **Part 226 (Special Education)** – Public comment period ends March 16
- **Part 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision) and Part 350 (Secular Textbook Loan)** – Public comment period ends April 18
- **Illinois Young Authors’ Conference** – May 21
- **2010-11 Eye Examination Data Collection deadline** – June 30
- **Postmark deadline for waiver applications to be considered by the General Assembly in Fall 2011** – Aug. 12

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## P-20 Council

### Education Recommendations Established in First Report

The Illinois P-20 Council has delivered its first set of recommendations to Gov. Pat Quinn and the General Assembly. The council’s report includes a goal to increase the proportion of Illinoisans with high-quality degrees and credentials to 60 percent by the year 2025. Currently, about 41 percent of the state’s nearly 7 million working-age adults (ages 25-64) hold at least a two-year degree. The report states that reaching this goal will require coordination of efforts at all levels of the state education system.

The full report and an executive summary of the report can be viewed on the P-20 Council website at <http://www.P20Council.Illinois.gov>. The site also includes meeting agendas and minutes, research tools and links to other agencies involved in the process.

The P-20 Council is a statewide coordinating body composed of government officials, business executives, university administrators and others in the education community. Chicago City Clerk Miguel del Valle serves as chair. The group is charged with the responsibility of making recommendations at all levels of education in Illinois – from pre-kindergarten through grade 20 (graduate and professional school).

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## Assessment

### Online Survey Seeks Opinions on ISAT From Principals and Teachers

The Illinois 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 Illinois Assessment and Accountability Program. A randomly selected sample of principals and teachers (grades 3-8) will be receiving an e-mail 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 e-mail [iace@illinois.edu](mailto:iace@illinois.edu).

### Snow Days and the 2011 ISAT Test Windows

The weather has forced many districts in Illinois to use multiple emergency days. In response, ISBE has offered two options:

- 1) Districts and other testing facilities may test on their original two-week window, or
- 2) Districts and other testing facilities may start their two-week testing window one week later than their original test window.

Districts and other testing facilities may choose either option. Details can be accessed at [http://www.isbe.net/assessment/pdfs/2011/isat/snow\\_days\\_2011.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/assessment/pdfs/2011/isat/snow_days_2011.pdf).

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## Early Childhood

### Preschool for All Children Ages 3-5 Request for Proposals Webinar Set

The electronic Preschool for All Children Ages 3-5 Request for Proposals (eRFP) is available through IWAS for school year 2011-12 (FY 12). Entities that have a Prekindergarten At-Risk of Academic Failure (ECBG Continuing 3-5) and/or Preschool for All Children 3 to 5 Years (PFA 3-5) program and/or received an initial allocation for one of these programs in FY 2010 are eligible to apply. This year all the ECBG Continuing 3-5

and Preschool for All 3-5 will be combined into one proposal.

The PowerPoint for a webinar is on the Early Childhood website, <http://www.isbe.net/earlychi/default.htm>, as the first bullet under "What's New." All Requests for Proposals must be submitted electronically to ISBE by April 14. If you have questions, contact the Early Childhood Division at 217-524-4835.

The webinar, Preschool for All FY12 Competitive Application Process, is set for 9:30-11:30 a.m. Thursday, March 3. Space is limited. Register at <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/509136193>. This webinar provides guidance and instructions for completing a proposal for Preschool for All funding for FY12.

After registering you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the Webinar.

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## Nutrition

### Webinar Planned on USDA's Proposed Rules on Lunch and Breakfast Programs

Staff with the Nutrition Programs Division of the Illinois State Board of Education will present a webinar for National School Lunch Program sponsors that are interested in learning about the USDA's proposed rules on the nutrition standards in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs on March 1, 2011, from 2-3:30 p.m. (CST).

In January 2011, the USDA published proposed rules in the Federal Register to align school meals with the 2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans, as recommended by the Institute of Medicine (IOM) in the report School Meals: Building Blocks for Healthy Children. The webinar will summarize the proposed changes and key provisions of the rule while identifying for school personnel how to provide comments to USDA on these proposed rules by the deadline of April 13, 2011.

A copy of the proposed rules is available online at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Governance/regulations/2011-01-13.pdf>. Reserve your webinar seat now at <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/972630816>.

### Salad Bar Grant Opportunity Offered to K-12 Schools

The United Fresh Association and the Let's Move initiative are offering a salad bar grant opportunity for K-12 schools. Schools that are certified as USDA's HealthierUS School Challenge received top priority. The Let's Move Salad Bars to Schools initiative has a goal to fund and award 6,000 salad bars over the next three years. Apply at <http://saladbars2schools.org/guidelines>.

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## Rules and Waivers

### Invitation to Comment on Rules

Two proposed rulemakings recently reviewed by the Illinois State Board of Education are available for public comment. The proposals have been posted on the agency's website at <http://www.isbe.net/rules>; choose "Proposed Rules and Amendments." Please submit any comments or suggestions to [rules@isbe.net](mailto:rules@isbe.net).

#### Part 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision)

Addresses annual measureable achievement objectives for progress for English language learners, as well as the process to appeal the regional superintendent of schools' decision relative to a statutory or regulatory exemption pursuant to P.A. 96-1441, effective August 20, 2010; technical changes also are proposed in sections dealing with the state assessment and supervisory qualifications. *Deadline for Public Comment: April 18*

#### Part 350 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision)

Updates the definition of "textbook" to include electronic textbooks and technological equipment necessary to gain access to and use electronic textbooks, as per P.A. 96-1403, effective July 29, 2010. *Deadline for Public Comment: April 18*

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## Curriculum and Instruction

### Reading Improvement Block Grant FY 10 Performance Reports Due

All school districts receiving Reading Improvement Grant funds for FY 10 must submit an annual performance report. The Reading Improvement Performance Report was due 30 days after the project end date. Since the extension for FY 10 funds was until December 31, the due date for the report was Jan. 30, 2011. The FY 10 Annual Performance Report must still be submitted upon completion of your FY 10 grant activities in order to remain in compliance with the program rules and be eligible for any future funding.

Your district has received this message because your performance report has not been submitted.

Please complete this report and submit by March 1, 2011. If you have any additional questions, contact Sarah McCusker in the Curriculum and Instruction Division at 217-557-7323 or [smccuske@isbe.net](mailto:smccuske@isbe.net).

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## Innovation and Improvement

### Final Webinar in Parent Involvement Series Scheduled for Feb. 24

The Illinois State Board of Education's Division of Innovation and Improvement will conclude its Parent Involvement Webinar series this month. The webinars have examined areas of best practices pertaining to Parent Involvement and provided tools and resources for implementing evidence-based strategies.

The webinars have been developed with district staff, school staff, parent facilitators and parents in mind. The first three in the series are now available at <http://illinoisparents.org/> on the "Tool Box" page. Information on the final webinar is given below.

#### Parent Involvement as a Collaborative Process,

3:30-5 p.m. Feb. 24, 2011: No single person can hum a symphony – it takes a full orchestra to deliver all of the elements that make it a symphony. Student success is much like a symphony in that it depends on several persons coming together in a collaborative spirit to play their part. This webinar will examine three dimensions of Parent Involvement that together build a supportive educational network through intentional collaborative processes. It will offer evidence-based tools, strategies, and resources to help schools develop collaborative relationships with families, other schools, and assist in building positive relationships between families that support student success. Register at <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/276971937>.

### Seventh-graders Eligible for Jack Kent Cooke Young Scholars Scholarships

The 2011 Jack Kent Cooke Young Scholars application for seventh-graders is available. The national scholarship program is designed to guide exceptional students who have demonstrated, through academic excellence and extracurricular activities, that they have the potential to excel.

The Young Scholars Scholarship Program offers these students individualized educational guidance and financial support for various educational programs and opportunities from advanced online and summer programs to music and art instruction. JKC may even pay the costs for some students to attend private high schools if their public school cannot meet their academic potential. Financial support is provided to students during grades 9 through 12 and continues through college and graduate school.

The Young Scholars Program Scholarship application is available at <http://www.jkcf.org>. Applicants must have a grade-point average of above 3.5 or mostly “A” grades and have unmet financial need (low to moderate income). The application deadline is April 25.

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## Illinois Violence Prevention Authority

### Bullying Prevention Grant Program Request for Proposals Announced

The Illinois Violence Prevention Authority (IVPA) has announced the release of a Request for Proposals for the Bullying Prevention Grant Program.

The RFP for the FY 11 Bullying Prevention Grant is available at <http://www.ivpa.org>. Public school districts, including alternative schools and charter schools, and non-profit and/or tax exempt organizations are eligible to apply for 12 month grants (April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2012) for up to \$15,000 to implement school-based bullying prevention programs for students in grades K-12, and training of school personnel and parents on bullying prevention.

IVPA will host a Bidders Conference Call at 1 p.m. Feb. 17. The Bidders Conference will provide participants with an overview of the Bullying Prevention Grant Program, the RFP and budget requirements. The Bidders Conference is not mandatory, but it is recommended for organizations interested in applying for the grant. See the RFP for details.

A PowerPoint for the Bidders Conference will be available at the website on Feb. 16. For questions about IVPA or the RFP, contact Sara Moffitt at 312-814-8261 or [sara.moffitt@illinois.gov](mailto:sara.moffitt@illinois.gov).

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## Funding and Disbursement Services

### Teachers Retirement System 2010-11 Employer Contribution Rates Adjusted

The Employer TRS (Teachers Retirement System) contribution on federally-funded salaries has been adjusted due to Public Act 96-1511. The Teachers Retirement System was required to recertify the appropriation amount to TRS from the state of Illinois for fiscal year 2011. The required 2010-11 state funding rate recertified by the TRS Board of Trustees is 23.10 percent. As a result, the employer TRS contributions on salaries paid from federal funds for the 2010-11 school year has changed from 25.12 percent to 23.10 percent. This change is retroactive to July 1, 2010.

#### 2009-10 Federal Grants (FY 2010)

Local education agencies (LEAs) with approved 2009-10 Federal grants need to revise their FY 2010 final expenditure reports submitted to the Illinois State Board of Education if the following conditions exist:

1. The federally-funded TRS rate was paid for those salaries AFTER July 1, 2010, and
2. The higher rate was charged to the grant and reported on the final Fiscal Year 2010 expenditure report.

Please send an e-mail to the appropriate contact person listed below in the Division of Funding and Disbursement Services and request that they remove the final expenditure report indicator so that a revision can be transmitted due to the TRS rate change. The reduction will result in a greater carryover amount into FY 2011 projects that allow carryover. Please include in the e-mail, the Project Number (fiscal year, program code AND the Region-County-District-Type code).

#### 2010-11 Federal Grants (FY 2011)

LEAs with approved 2010-11 Federal grants may have to submit an amendment if the difference of the TRS rate is needed for another expenditure and the additional expenditure is greater than the allowed variance of 20 percent or \$1,000, whichever is greater. An amendment is NOT required if the only change is to adjust the rate as described in the breakdown/budget details.

For further information regarding this change in the law, please communicate with TRS, via e-mail at [employers@trs.illinois.gov](mailto:employers@trs.illinois.gov) or call (888) 877-0890.

If a specific program is not listed or further information is needed regarding expenditure report and/or budget amendment changes, please call the Division of Funding and Disbursement Services at 217-782-5256.

- Title I, Title I Neglected, Delinquent, School Improvement: Diann Gragg, [dgragg@isbe.net](mailto:dgragg@isbe.net)
- Title IIA, IID, IV, 21st Century: Ernie Barrow, [ebarrow@isbe.net](mailto:ebarrow@isbe.net)
- IDEA Flow Through and Preschool, Special Ed Discretionary: Sharon Conrath, [sconrath@isbe.net](mailto:sconrath@isbe.net)
- Title III (LIPLEP, IEP), Migrant: Judy Conboy, [jconboy@isbe.net](mailto:jconboy@isbe.net)
- Perkins Secondary, State Leadership: Jodi Whitlow, [jwhitlow@isbe.net](mailto:jwhitlow@isbe.net)
- Even Start, McKinney Homeless: Jamie Johnson, [jjohnson@isbe.net](mailto:jjohnson@isbe.net)

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## Illinois Emergency Management Agency

### Severe Weather Preparedness Week Set to Kick Off on Feb. 28

There are a number of severe weather hazards that affect Illinois, including thunderstorms, tornadoes, lightning, floods and flash floods, damaging winds and large hail. Severe weather hazards can cause extensive property damage, injury or death.

A copy of the Severe Weather Preparedness Booklet and more information will be available on the IEMA website soon. Go to <http://www.iema.illinois.gov>.

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## Illinois Student Assistance Commission

### Website Offers Help With College and Career Decisions

Trying to pick a major? Looking for a new career path? The Illinois Student Assistance Commission sponsors a website that can help point individuals in the right direction.

The What's Next Illinois website, <http://www.whatsnextillinois.org>, offers a variety of assessments to gauge interests in certain careers. The site also offers a wide range of tools for college planning, including help on picking a college and searching for

scholarships. Those already in the work force can get tips on transferable skills for new jobs.

Parents, students and others can get started by going to the website above and creating a free account.

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## Professional Development

### Superintendents Offered Opportunity to Attend NSPRA National Seminar

The National School Public Relations Association is offering scholarships for superintendents to attend the organization's annual National Seminar. The scholarships cover the cost of registration to the event, which is set for July 10-13 in San Antonio.

Those currently employed as a superintendent of schools or similar education agency are eligible, with preference given to those with less than five years experience as a superintendent. Eligible superintendents have never attended an NSPRA National Seminar or have not attended in the past three years.

For additional information and to register, go to [http://www.nspr.org/files/docs/Supt%20scholarship%20form%2011\\_0.pdf](http://www.nspr.org/files/docs/Supt%20scholarship%20form%2011_0.pdf). The application deadline is April 8. For questions about the scholarships, which are sponsored by Edline (<http://www.edline.com>), call 301-519-0496 or e-mail [ewillis@nspra.org](mailto:ewillis@nspra.org).

### Program Offers Opportunity for Teachers to Explore in Costa Rica

Full-time classroom teachers and teacher-librarians for grades 7 – 12 are eligible for the 2011 Toyota International Teacher Program to Costa Rica. (Note: Teachers who teach 6th grade as part of a Junior High or Middle School may be considered for the program. However, elementary school teachers are not eligible.)

The fully-funded opportunity, which is administered by the Institute of International Education, aims to advance environmental stewardship and global connections in U.S. schools and communities. Selected teachers will travel to Costa Rica this year from Nov. 19 to Dec. 3, where they will visit schools and museums, experience the rainforest first-hand and meet with local experts.

For eligibility details, application instructions and addition information, visit <http://iie.org/toyota>. The deadline to apply is May 4. For questions, call 877-832-2457 or e-mail [toyotateach@iie.org](mailto:toyotateach@iie.org).

## Illinois Coalition for Educating At Risk Youth Spring Conference Coming Up

The Illinois Coalition for Educating At-Risk Youth (ICEARY) will hold its spring conference March 10 and 11 in Bloomington. Keynote speakers are Craig Zablocki (<http://www.craigzablocki.com>) and Debbie Silver (<http://www.debbiesilver.com>). Registration forms for ICEARY 2011: SOS – Save Our Students can be found at <http://www.iceary.org>.

## Third Annual Sustainable Schools Symposium Scheduled for April 1

The Governor and Lt. Governor's Offices invite attendees, sponsors and exhibitors to the third annual Sustainable Schools Symposium. The Illinois Green Governments Coordinating Council, Chicago Public Schools Environmental Affairs and the Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences in Chicago will host the symposium on Friday, April 1.

Speakers and workshops will cover topics such as sustainable school facility planning, green facilities management, sustainable renovation and construction, energy efficiency and conservation, environmental education and service learning, water conservation, waste reduction and sustainable school transportation.

The symposium is free but requires participants to register online in advance at <http://admin.usgbc-chicago.org/widget/calendar?eventId=271493&EventViewMode=EventDetails>. Visit the website for additional information, including exhibitor, presenter and sponsorship details.

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## Student Opportunities

### Illinois High Schools Selected for Program That Aims to Improve Teen Driver Safety

Two Illinois high schools are among the 26 selected from the United States and Canada for the teen driver safety initiative Project Ignition, which is sponsored by State Farm and coordinated by the National Youth Leadership Council. ROWVA High School in Oneida and Fieldcrest High School in Minonk will each receive \$2,000 to implement student-led campaigns this school year.

The two Illinois schools join two Project Ignition National Leader Schools in Illinois: Gibson City-Melvin-Sibley High School in Gibson City and Harry D. Jacobs High School in Algonquin. Ten National Leader Schools

were chosen from last year's selections to extend their projects for a second school year.

The student projects vary from public service announcements, classroom-based physics lessons, community events, interactive demonstrations and more. They aim to save lives; car crashes are the leading cause of death for teenagers in the U.S. For more information, including what our Illinois schools are doing to make a difference, visit <http://www.sfprojectignition.com>.

### Poster Contest for Fifth-Graders Promotes Benefits of Bicycling

The Active Transportation Alliance, League of Illinois Bicyclists and others are teaming up to offer a poster contest for fifth-graders. The theme is "Bicycling is fun ... and healthy too!"

Before students pick up their art materials, visit <http://www.bikelib.org/2011/02/poster-contest-to-promote-bicycling-launched/> for complete rules and additional information.

One winner from each school will be eligible to compete in a statewide contest, with the winning student winning a mountain bike, a helmet and a bike light. The winning student's school wins a bicycle parking rack. The state winner will compete in a nationwide contest for a trip to the 2012 National Bike Summit in Washington, D.C.

Entries are due by April 22.

### International Green Lifestyle Creative Contest for High School Students

High school students from around the world are invited to participate in the International Green Lifestyle Creative Contest organized by Taiwan's Feng-Chia University and the International Association for Hydrogen Energy Taiwan Chapter.

Teams of up to five students and two advisers will present creative concepts with green-related topics. For more information, visit <http://iglcc.coiee.fcu.edu.tw> or e-mail [iglcc@fcu.edu.tw](mailto:iglcc@fcu.edu.tw). Advance registration is required with the project deadline April 30.

### Taiwan Ministry of Education Announces Scholarship Programs

The Taiwan Ministry of Education is offering two scholarship programs. The first, known as the Taiwan Scholarship, is offered to students who wish to enroll in a

degree program in Taiwan. Recipients also can enroll in the Language Enrichment Program, which is taken a year prior to the regular program. The second program, the Huayu Enrichment Scholarship, is for students who wish to study Chinese.

Interested students must submit required documents by March 31. For more details and application forms, visit <http://www.edutw.org/english/scholarships/index.html>. Contact the Cultural Division of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Chicago at 312-616-0805 or [info@edutw.org](mailto:info@edutw.org).

### **Entries Sought for Annual World School Children’s Art Exhibition**

The 42nd World School Children’s Art Exhibition is scheduled for Aug. 25 to Sept. 27, with the deadline for entries set for April 20. The exhibition is organized by the Association for Education Through Art and the Association of Formative Art Education of the Republic of China (Taiwan).

In previous years, more than 70 countries and territories have participated in the annual event. Students ages 6 to 15 are eligible. For more information, call (312) 616-0805 or e-mail [info@edutw.org](mailto:info@edutw.org). The rules can be downloaded at <http://ed.arte.gov.tw>.

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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/2011/newsclips/110222.htm>