



Weekly Message

Feb. 23, 2015

Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

Last week Governor Bruce Rauner unveiled his proposal for the state’s fiscal year 2016 budget. There were significant cuts proposed to many areas of state government; however, he is proposing a \$300 million increase to PK-12 education. While this is significantly less than what the Board recommended in its FY 2016 budget, it is good to see that the Governor is working to increase funding for our students at a time when so many areas of state government services are being proposed for reduction or elimination.

The Governor’s FY 2016 proposal includes a \$289 million increase in General Funds Appropriations when compared to FY 2015 appropriation levels, with the vast majority of that increase included in General State Aid. We forecast that the appropriation level for General State Aid would result in a proration level of 94.5 percent. The Special Education Mandated Categorical appropriations recommended by the Governor are sufficient to meet the Federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Maintenance of Fiscal Effort requirements based upon estimated data. The Early Childhood Education funding level increase is \$25 million. Bilingual Education, Regular/Vocational Transportation Reimbursement and Assessments were level funded.

Unfortunately, to achieve the increase in the General State Aid appropriation level, several targeted appropriation line items were eliminated in the Governor’s recommendation and none of the new lines recommended by the Board in January were recommended for funding in FY 2016. You can see a side-by-side comparison of the current FY 2015 budget, the Board’s FY 2016 recommendation and the Governor’s recommendation at <http://www.isbe.net/budget/fy16/FY16-budget-compare-gov.pdf>.

Please remember that this is only one step in the budget-making process. The budget will not likely be finalized until late May and is likely to look very different than what has been proposed thus far.

In two weeks we will begin the spring Performance-Based Assessment for the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC). Testing began last week in Ohio, and on a smaller scale in a couple of other states. Overall more than 200,000 exams were started and nearly 40,000 were completed. As expected, there were a few minor glitches, but those were addressed and testing continues this week.

Table of Contents

Performance Evaluation Advisory Council	3
Standards and Assessments	3
Rules and Waivers	4
Illinois Virtual School	5
Nutrition and Wellness Programs	5
Illinois P-20 Council	6
School Health Issues	6
Illinois Network of Charter Schools	6
Illinois Learning Standards	6
Illinois Association of School Boards	7
In Brief	7

As you continue to prepare for administering the PARCC, please work with your regional Learning Technology Center or reach out directly to Pearson if you have issues. It's important that all issues be reported; this will help us troubleshoot in the future.

Finally, I'd like to congratulate a couple of our former Teachers of the Year, Joe Fatheree (2007) of Effingham District 40 and Pam Reilly (2014) of Sandwich School District 430, for being among six teachers nationally who were chosen to attend the 2015 International Summit on the Teaching Profession. The conference will be held in Alberta, Canada, at the end of March and will include education leaders from around the world who will gather to share best practices and policies in education.

Have a great week!
Chris

Upcoming ISBE Dates and Deadlines

Please note this is not a complete list of events, meetings 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>.

- **Third annual Illinois 5Essentials survey administration** – Jan.12-March 13(<http://illinois.5-essentials.org>)
- **Illinois School Breakfast Week** – Feb. 23-27 (www.riseandshineillinois.org)
- **“Using Backward Design© in Planning Math Lessons” webinar** – Feb. 24 (<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8602568345047073794>)
- **ISBE-Funded ACT Plus Writing** – March 3; makeup March 17 (www.isbe.net/assessment/act.htm)
- **ISBE-Funded ACT WorkKeys** – March 4; makeup March 18 (www.isbe.net/assessment/act.htm)
- **Illinois Social Science Standards Revision Task Force meeting** – March 6
- **Deadline for 2015 Illinois Fatherhood Initiative (IFI) Chicago White Sox Fatherhood Essay Contest** – March 6
- **2015 Illinois Arts Education Week** – March 16-22
- **Dynamic Learning Maps Alternate Assessment (DLM-AA) testing window** – March 23-May 1
- **Part 650 (Charter Schools) and Part 1105 (Procurement by the State Board of Education)** – Public comment period ends March 23
- **Deadline to complete the new teacher evaluation system survey** – March 24 (www.surveymonkey.com/s/PEACImpSur)
- **“Teacher Leadership: Learning Forward with Maddie Fennell” event** – April 2 (www.eventbrite.com/e/teacher-leadership-learning-forward-with-maddie-fennell-tickets-15739229459)
- **PARCC Diagnostic Field Test** – April 6-17
- **Part 100 (Requirements for Accounting, Budgeting, Financial Reporting, and Auditing), Part 120 (Pupil Transportation Reimbursement), Part 151 (School Construction Program), Part 365 (Children’s Low-cost Laptop Program), Part 525 (Regional Offices of Education and Intermediate Services), New Part 525 (Intermediate Services) and Part 560 (Parental Participation Pilot Program)** – Public comment period ends April 13
- **Eighth annual Illinois School Wellness Conference** – April 23
- **Spring 2015 PARCC ELA/L Field Test Administration** – May 4-June 5
- **TECH 2015 student showcase** – May 7
- **ISBE offices closed for Memorial Day** – May 25

- **Deadline to submit nomination forms for the 2016 Those Who Excel/Illinois Teacher of the Year program** – June 8 (www.isbe.net/those-who-excel/pdfs/those-who-excel-app.pdf)
- **Deadline to submit data in the Student Health Data –Vision system** - June 30
- **ISBE offices closed for Independence Day** – July 3
- **Postmark deadline for waiver applications to be considered by the General Assembly in fall 2015** – Friday, Aug. 14, 2015 (See www.isbe.net/isbewaivers/default.htm for public notice requirements for all waiver requests.)

Performance Evaluation Advisory Council

Survey Available to Collect Feedback on New Teacher Evaluation Systems

The Performance Evaluation Reform Act (PERA) requires Illinois districts to adopt new teacher evaluation systems that address teacher performance and student growth. To assess districts’ challenges in implementing their new evaluation system, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and the Performance Evaluation Advisory Council (PEAC) contracted with American Institutes for Research to conduct a survey.

The purpose of the survey is to collect anonymous data from Illinois school districts on the challenges encountered during the design and implementation of their new teacher evaluation systems, in accordance with PERA requirements. Your responses will help PEAC and ISBE identify district needs and address those needs through potential resources and supports.

The survey link (www.surveymonkey.com/s/PEACImpSur) will also be sent to district superintendents and union leaders. Superintendents and union leaders (or designees) are asked to complete the survey and then forward the link to other members of the district committee that studies, reviews, informs and/or makes decisions regarding the teacher evaluation system.

The survey will close on March 24. Please contact Vince Camille at vcamille@isbe.net with questions.

Standards and Assessments

Parental Engagement Materials on PARCC Assessment Now Available for Districts

ISBE and PARCC Inc. have released materials for school districts to use in their efforts to engage parents with the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessment that will be administered as early as

March in grades 3-8 and some high school courses in public schools throughout Illinois. The PARCC assessment materials are tailored to parents of elementary, middle and high school students.

ISBE developed the PARCC Primer, a turnkey event that invites parents and students to participate in English language arts and mathematics activities that relate to the PARCC assessment. This event also gives participants hands-on experience by taking a practice test on computer, just as students will do next month. PARCC Primer materials are available for all schools to use and are posted on ISBE’s website at www.isbe.net/assessment/htmls/parcc-primer.htm.

PARCC Inc. brought communication professionals together from across the United States in January for a work day in Washington, D.C., where the sole focus was to create parent materials. The materials produced answer the questions parents have of the assessment, such as:

- What is the new assessment?
- Why do we need a new assessment?
- How is it different from previous assessment tools?
- Who created the test?
- What is the role of technology in the assessment?
- How can students and parents prepare for the assessment?
- How much time will students spend testing?
- What will the test look like?
- What will test results look like?
- How can we learn more about curriculum at each grade level and how it relates to assessment?

These materials are available at www.parcconline.org/for-parents.

Rules and Waivers

Invitation to Comment on Rules

Three sets of proposed amendments, a set of proposed rules and three proposed repealers recently reviewed by ISBE are available for public comment. The proposals have been posted on the agency's website at www.isbe.net/rules; choose "Proposed Rules and Amendments." Please submit any comments or suggestions to rules@isbe.net.

Part 100 (Requirements for Accounting, Budgeting, Financial Reporting, and Auditing): Provides an accounting code for the federal Race to the Top Preschool Development Grant Program, needed for recipients to prepare applications and report on the use of the funds; updates the auditing standards specified at Section 100.20; and adds an expenditure code for charter schools.

Public Comment period ends April 13, 2015.

Part 120 (Pupil Transportation Reimbursement): Responds to P.A. 98-1057, effective Jan. 1, 2015, that allows for reimbursement of transportation costs of parents of students in City of Chicago School District 299 under certain circumstances.

Public Comment period ends April 13, 2015.

Part 151 (School Construction Grant): Responds to P.A. 98-710, effective July 16, 2014, that adds special education cooperatives as eligible applicants for school maintenance grants under the School Construction Program.

Public Comment period ends April 13, 2015.

Part 365 (Children's Low-cost Laptop Program): Proposes the Part for repeal since statutory authority for the program no longer exists.

Public Comment period ends April 13, 2015.

Part 525 (Intermediate Services): This new Part responds to several pieces of legislation enacted since 2009 that re-focused the work of the advisory boards, eliminated the suburban Cook County Regional Office of Education and its advisory board, and transferred responsibility of the delivery of intermediate services to the suburban Intermediate Service Centers.

Public Comment period ends April 13, 2015.

Part 525 (Regional Offices of Education and Intermediate Services): Proposes the Part for repeal to be replaced with new Part 525.

Public Comment period ends April 13, 2015.

Part 560 (Parental Participation Pilot Program): Proposes the Part for repeal since statutory authority for the program no longer exists.

Public Comment period ends April 13, 2015.

Notice of Completed Rulemaking

Please be advised that a set of emergency amendments and two regular rulemakings recently adopted by ISBE are now in effect. Changes have been posted at www.isbe.net/rules/archive/default.htm. Please choose "Rules Currently in Effect" and scroll to the Part number.

Part 26 (Endorsements in Early Childhood Education and in Elementary Education): Proposes new standards that articulate the knowledge and skills in several areas, including English language arts and mathematics, needed for receipt of the early childhood endorsement and to which educator preparation programs and content-area tests must align.

Affected Sections: 26.100, 26.110, 26.120, 26.125, 26.130, 26.135, 26.140, 26.150, 26.240 and 26.245
Effective Date: Feb. 2, 2015

Part 100 (Requirements for Accounting, Budgeting, Financial Reporting, and Auditing)

EMERGENCY: Provides an accounting code for the federal Race to the Top Preschool Development Grant Program, needed for recipients to prepare applications and report on the use of the funds.

Affected Sections: 100.130 and Table C
Effective Date: Feb. 11, 2015

Part 375 (Student Records): Proposes a technical change to remind school districts to designate on a student's academic transcript, which is part of the student's permanent record, his or her receipt of the State Seal of Biliteracy or the State Commendation Toward Biliteracy; reiterates the need for school districts to retain the copy of a student's certified birth certificate or other relevant documentation in the student's permanent record; and acknowledges the change in the statutory citation for the state assessments. (See P.A. 98-972, effective Aug. 15, 2014)

Affected Sections: 375.10
Effective Date: Feb. 2, 2015

Illinois Virtual School

Illinois Virtual School Offers New Online Professional Development Course

The Illinois Virtual School is offering a new online professional development course, “Teaching in a Blended Learning Model,” until April 30.

This free, self-paced course was designed for teachers who are new to blended learning and want to discover strategies to optimize instruction. Participants will earn 10 professional development clock hours for successful completion.

Go to <https://pd.ilvirtual.org> to select a start date and enroll.

Nutrition and Wellness Programs

8th Annual School Wellness Conference Scheduled for April 23 in Champaign

Illinois Action for Healthy Kids is hosting the eighth annual School Wellness Conference on April 23 in Champaign.

Conference sessions will highlight successful school health and wellness-related outreach in schools, innovative projects that improve the overall health of the school community and emerging issues affecting school health and wellness.

The event targets school administrators, physical education teachers, school food personnel, school nurses, school health/wellness team members, board members and other leaders of healthcare organizations, students/learners, educators, community advocates and childcare providers.

“Early bird” registration costs \$75 and ends March 15. Standard registration is \$100 and ends April 17. The registration fee includes continental breakfast, lunch, conference materials and raffle prizes.

Register online at www.actionforhealthykids.org/events/event/236. For more information or questions, contact Ryan Monroe,

Illinois state coordinator, at rmonroe@actionforhealthykids.org.

- **What:** Illinois School Wellness Conference
- **When:** April 23, 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- **Where:** Hilton Garden Inn, 1501 S. Neil St., in Champaign
- **Register:** www.actionforhealthykids.org/events/event/236

2015 Illinois Breakfast Challenge Offers Meal Incentives to Schools

Every school day, more than 449,000 low-income children in Illinois are at risk of starting their school day hungry. The good news is that funds are available



to support schools that provide a nutritious breakfast for all students in need.

Join ISBE, Rise and Shine Illinois and the

Midwest Dairy Council in the Illinois Breakfast Challenge, which awards participating schools with 25 cents per additional meal served this spring. All Illinois schools currently participating in the School Breakfast Program (SBP) and serving an alternative breakfast model (Breakfast in the Classroom, Grab N Go or Breakfast After the Bell) are eligible to participate in the challenge, which will run from February through May. Awards will be based on participation increases calculated by comparing SBP rates from corresponding months of the previous school year.

An enrollment form is available at www.riseandshineillinois.org. Up to 20 schools will be accepted into the challenge on a first-come, first-served basis. Schools entering the challenge will receive a marketing starter kit that includes school breakfast fliers, posters and banners to increase participation. The maximum award amount will be \$5,000 per school. For more information, visit www.riseandshineillinois.org or contact Suzy Lee at slee@gcfd.org.

Rise and Shine Illinois is a partnership of the national hunger-relief organization Share Our Strength and

Central Illinois Foodbank, EverThrive Illinois, the Greater Chicago Food Depository, Illinois Coalition for Community Services, Illinois Hunger Coalition and St. Louis Area Foodbank.

Illinois School Breakfast Week Scheduled For This Week

Activities are planned this week in honor of School Breakfast Week in Illinois.

ISBE and Rise and Shine Illinois are teaming up to raise awareness of the need for school breakfast among low-income schoolchildren. The week's festivities include a Breakfast Challenge kickoff event the morning of Thursday, Feb. 26, in Decatur and a working lunch convening statewide breakfast partners in Springfield later that day.

Anyone can get involved by "liking" Rise and Shine Illinois on Facebook or following Rise and Shine Illinois (@RiseAndShineIL) on Twitter.

Additional engagement opportunities are available at www.riseandshineillinois.org.

Illinois P-20 Council

Free Teacher Leadership Event Scheduled for April 2 at Illinois State University

Educators are invited to learn more about the power of teacher leadership during a free event April 2 at the Illinois State University Bone Student Center.

Maddie Fennel, a U.S. Department of Education teacher ambassador and the 2007 Nebraska Teacher of the Year, will present on the Teach to Lead initiative and share stories of teacher leadership from across the nation. Annice Brave, a National Teacher of the Year finalist and the 2011 Illinois Teacher of the Year, will also speak.

The event goes from 6 to 8 p.m. For more information and to register, visit www.eventbrite.com/e/teacher-leadership-learning-forward-with-maddie-fennel-tickets-15739229459.

The Illinois P-20 Teacher and Leader Effectiveness Committee organized the event, with ISBE as a co-sponsor.

School Health Issues

ISBE Sexual Health Education Online Training Now Closed

ISBE's Sexual Health Education Online Training, which is provided through Centers for Disease Control (CDC) funding, is now closed to additional participants.

Agency staff hopes that additional funds will become available in fiscal year 2016 so the course may be offered again next school year.

Illinois Network of Charter Schools

Starting a Charter School Webinar Scheduled for March 11

The Illinois Network of Charter Schools is hosting a webinar on how to start a charter school from 4 to 5:30 p.m. March 11.

Participants will learn about charter public schools and what it takes to start a charter in their own community.

For more information and to register, go to <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1479922124731542273> or contact Anne Levy Brown at alevybrown@incschools.org.

Illinois Learning Standards

Model Math Curriculum Webinar Scheduled for Feb. 24

The second in a series of five webinars on how to use the Model Math Curriculum is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. Feb. 24. The webinar will focus on using Backward Design© in planning math lessons.

K-12 educators interested in backward design planning are encouraged to participate. To register, go to <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8602568345047073794>.

Anita Reid, a practitioner and curriculum writer for the Model Math Curriculum resources, will address the following:

- What are the three parts of the Backward Design©?

- If you wanted to read more about Backward Design©, whose work might you choose?
- How is a standard deconstructed (unpacked) to determine targets for learning?
- What are at least four types of assessments you could consider including in your assessment plan?
- How might you explain the process of aligning your lesson plans and assessments to the standards?

Reid will also include examples from the Model Math Curriculum lesson plans as well as examples from the PARCC assessments to work through the backward design planning – targets, assessments and, finally, lesson plans – method.

Title: Using Backward Design© in Planning Math Lessons

Date: Feb. 24

Time: 3:30 p.m.

Register:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8602568345047073794>

Illinois Association of School Boards

IASB Provides Sample Bullying Policy

The Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) has made available a sample policy on bullying that complies with recent updates to state law.

The sample policy is 7:180, *Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation and Harassment*. IASB revised the policy in its August 2014 Policy Reference Education Subscription Service (PRESS) issue in response to the following legislation amending the bullying statute, 105 ILCS 5/27-23.7.

- P.A. 98-669 (effective June 26, 2014) added components for the bullying prevention policy.
- P.A. 98-801 (effective Jan. 1, 2015) added provisions concerning cyber-bullying at nonschool-related locations or functions or from the use of a device that is not owned, leased or used by a school district or school.

On Jan. 28, [ISBE sent a memo](#) to superintendents describing the required components of the bullying policy. The memo states that the bullying policy must contain examples of the various forms bullying may

take. The IASB sample bullying policy contains only required components. However, ISBE considers IASB's policy to comply with the statute.

IASB's PRESS provides a suite of bullying prevention material. IASB also offers a bullying prevention course, "[Bullying Prevention: The Board's Role](#)," which describes the school board's legal responsibility concerning the prevention of and appropriate responses to student-on-student bullying and harassment. Fact scenarios guide participants through the key aspects of their duties in an evolving area of school law.

In Brief

School Safety

- A symposium is scheduled for March 31 and April 2 at the Homeland Security Education Center at the College of DuPage to educate non-criminal justice users about the **Illinois State Police and Federal Bureau of Investigation Criminal History Record Information (CHRI) programs**. The Illinois State Police's Bureau of Identification has partnered with the Suburban Law Enforcement Academy (College of DuPage) and the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police to put on the event on both dates. In order to protect children, the elderly and people with disabilities, it is important that non-criminal justice CHRI users make good hiring and licensing decisions regarding potential child care providers, health care workers, local governmental, school and retail employees as well as general employment staff. More information is available at www.isbe.net/pdf/fbi-isp-symposium.pdf. The registration deadline for either session date is March 20.

Grant Opportunities

- The Illinois School Library Media Association/Library Book Selection Service Endowment Fund announces its **2015-16 Readers' Choice Grant**. All Illinois libraries registered in any of the Illinois Readers' Choice programs are eligible to apply. More information is available online at www.lbssfund.org. The online application form will be available starting March 15. All grant applications must be submitted by midnight April 30. Applicants must also be registered for the appropriate 2015-16 Readers' Choice program by

April 30 (a separate process). Call (309) 341-1099 or email SLMAexsec@gmail.com with questions.

- The Coalition of Schools Educating Boys of Color has launched its 2015 **COSEBOC School Awards** program, which identifies, recognizes and rewards schools that have a proven track record of success in education boys of color in pre-kindergarten through sixth grade. Award recipients will receive a \$10,000 cash grant. For details, visit <http://coseboc.org/school-awards>. Interested schools must submit their application by Feb. 23.

Student Opportunities

- The Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln administers the **World War II Illinois Descendants Statewide Scholarship** for high school seniors who are direct descendants of WWII veterans. Two \$1,000 scholarships are available. The deadline is March 1. For more information and eligibility rules, visit <https://app.smarterselect.com/programs/20962-Community-Foundation-For-The-Land-Of-Lincoln>.
- The National WWII Museum seeks submissions for its **National 2015 High School Essay Contest** and **2015 Middle School Essay Contest**. This year's essay prompt was inspired by a quote from Ira Hayes, one of the flag-raisers at Iwo Jima, and asks students, "How do you define a hero?" Submissions are due March 31. Winning essays will receive a cash prize. Full contest guidelines and rules are available online at www.nationalww2museum.org/learn/education/for-students/essay-contests/.
- The **Illinois Heart Rescue Project** invites Illinois high school students to write, edit, produce and upload to YouTube their own 90-second sudden cardiac arrest public service announcement (PSA). The purpose of this competition is to have students create fun and contemporary compression-only CPR videos. The videos will be judged on a local, regional and state level, and the top three will be posted on YouTube for the entire state to vote on the winner. The top video will be played at major sporting events in the Chicago area. Contest details are available at <http://illinoisheartrescue.com/news/illinois-heart-rescue-sponsors-statewide-high-school-video-public-service-announcement-psa-competition/>. The deadline for video submissions is April 15.

- Nominations are being accepted for **You(th) Decide 2015**, a student-led program that gives young people in the Chicago and metropolitan area a chance to explore and deliberate a pending U.S. Supreme Court case. For more information, visit www.crfc.org/YouthDecide2015.

Professional Development

- Registration is open for **Wired Wednesday Webinars**, a unique collaboration that focuses on the Common Core State Standards in speaking and listening. The Illinois Reading Council has partnered with the Wisconsin State Reading Association to provide the webinars. All webinars begin at 7 p.m. For more information or to register, please visit www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org or call (888) 454-1341. Upcoming presenters include:
 - Doug Fisher: Collaborative Conversations and the Speaking and Listening Standards on March 17.
 - Matt Copeland: Facilitating Student Discussion with Socratic Circles on April 15.

Classroom Opportunities

- **Earth Day in the Parks**, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' natural resources stewardship program for students, will be held in April and May at participating Illinois state parks. Applications will be accepted through Feb. 28. To access the application form and the list of participating state parks, visit <http://dnr.state.il.us/education/CLASSRM/EDITP/instruct.htm>.

Upcoming Events

- The **Illinois Network of Charter Schools 2015 Job Fair** is scheduled for Feb. 28 at UNO Veterans Memorial Campus in Chicago. Registration information and additional details are available at www.incschools.org/event/2015-incs-teacher-job-fair.

Employment Opportunities

- Watch for vacancy lists and find instructions for applying on ISBE's Human Resources webpage at <http://www.isbe.net/hr/Default.htm>.