



Illinois State Board of Education

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Weekly Message

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State Superintendent (Interim)

February 27, 2007

Message from Interim State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

Announcement of SEL and Mental Health Support Grants

I am very pleased to announce that a Request for Proposals (RFP) is available for each of two new school district grant programs that are part of ISBE’s implementation of the school-based recommendations contained in the Illinois Children’s Mental Health Partnership (ICMHP) State Plan for which funding was appropriated in FY 07. The two grant programs are the SEL (Social Emotional Learning) Standards Grants Program for which \$500,000 is available statewide for grants up to \$10,000 each, and the Mental Health Supports Grants Program for which \$850,000 is available statewide for grants ranging from \$25,000 to \$75,000, depending on the size of the school district. The grants are being processed this year through the Illinois Violence Prevention Authority (IVPA) on behalf of ISBE and ICMHP. It is anticipated that ISBE will issue the grants directly next year. The RFP for both grant programs is posted on the ISBE website (http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/html/grant_info.htm) and the IVPA website (www.ivpa.org). **Due date for submission of applications is Friday, March 30th.**

ISBE has been an active partner in the Illinois Children’s Mental Health Partnership and we share the Partnership’s goals of implementing the Social Emotional Learning Standards and increasing schools’ capacity to provide mental health supports for students, especially where early intervention could prevent more significant problems and assist children in meeting their full learning potential. Illinois is a leader in the children’s mental health field, and ISBE is proud to be a part of moving education toward teaching and responding to the whole child.

I want to recognize the tireless efforts of ICMHP leaders and advisors such as Ruth Cross and Annette Johnson, co-chairs of the ICMHP School Policy and Standards Committee, and Roger Weissberg of UIC CASEL, all of whom have provided expert leadership and assistance to ISBE and ICMHP in the development and implementation of the SEL Standards and the associated professional development plan. Thanks also to ICMHP staff and to Barbara Shaw and IVPA for collaborating with us to implement these important new schools and mental health initiatives.

Chris Koch

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Upcoming Deadlines

- **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
- **21st 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

Special Message from the Governor's Office



Lowered flags honor Illinois' fallen

Governor Blagojevich ordered flags at all State of Illinois buildings to fly at half staff on Friday, March 2, to honor **Army Sgt. Pedro J. Colon**, and Tuesday, Feb. 27, to honor **Army Pfc. Ryan C. Garbs**.

Sgt. Colon, 25, Cicero, died February 19, 2007, in Baghdad, Iraq, from injuries suffered when his unit came under attack by enemy forces using multiple weapons. Colon was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

Pfc. Garbs, 20, Edwardsville, was supporting Operation Enduring Freedom when he was killed in a Chinook helicopter crash in southeastern Afghanistan on February 18, 2007. Garbs was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, Fort Benning, Ga.

Lowering of flags is at the discretion of local school administration. Information regarding gubernatorial orders to lower flags is shared at the request of Regional Offices of Education and local school districts.

Student Assessment

AYP Appeals Process

With final AYP having been posted for high school and unit districts, school districts may appeal their district or high school status to the Illinois State Board of Education. A letter from the district superintendent to the State Superintendent of Education for consideration by the Appeals Advisory Committee, listing the issue and rationale for the appeal, begins the process. The district must submit the appeal within 30 days after receipt of state notification of status, from the State Board of Education. For more information go to: http://www.isbe.net/assessment/pdfs/appeals_status.pdf or contact **Andrea Wingo** at awingo@isbe.net.

ISBE Student Information System (SIS) 2007 Assessment Correction Process Conference Calls

The Illinois State Board of Education has scheduled **three (3)** telephone conference calls.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the SIS conference calls is to provide School Districts with the information they need to correct their 2007 Assessment information using the ISBE Student Information System.

TOPICS: We will present the timelines, process and updates to correcting your student assessment data for the upcoming state testing for ISAT, PSAE, IMAGE and IAA.

WHO SHOULD CALL IN? Please have any of your assessment and/or data people call in to receive this important information as well as to ask questions.

MATERIALS NEEDED: An ISBE 2007 Assessment Correction Process PowerPoint presentation will be posted on the ISBE SIS website on Friday March 2, 2007.

HOW TO CALL: You do not have to sign up ahead of time for these calls. The conference lines will open 15 minutes prior to the conference for registration. Here are the specific dates, times, and dial-in information for each conference call:

Host: Becky McCabe
Division Administrator
Student Assessment Division
(217) 782-4823

- **Tuesday, March 6, 2007**
9:30 – 11:00 am
PHONE Primary Dial-In: 1 (800) 640-9765
Confirmation Number: 17095138
- **Thursday, March 8, 2007**
1:30 – 3:00 pm
PHONE Primary Dial-In: 1 (800) 640-9765
Confirmation Number: 17095140

- **Tuesday, March 13, 2007**
9:30 – 11:00 am
PHONE Primary Dial-In: 1 (800) 640-9765
Confirmation Number: 17095141

Special Education

Illinois ASPIRE – South and Central Regions announce 2007-2008 School Demonstration Site RFPs

Illinois ASPIRE (Alliance for School-based Problem-solving and Intervention Resources in Education) is a regionalized training and technical assistance project funded by the Illinois State Board of Education and has an overarching goal of increasing the capacity of schools to utilize school-based problem solving and provide early intervening services to at-risk students and students with disabilities. In addition to providing training and technical assistance to districts within each of the four Illinois ASPIRE regions (Chicago, North, Central and South), an important component of the project is to establish and provide services to school demonstration/data collection sites.

The Illinois ASPIRE – Central and Illinois ASPIRE – South regions are pleased to announce the release of their Requests for Proposals (RFPs) to establish new school demonstration/data collection sites for the 2007-2008 school year. Only those public school districts located within the South or Central region and not currently serving as a demonstration site are eligible to apply. To determine if your district is in the South region or the Central region, please refer to the map on the home page of the Illinois ASPIRE website at www.illinoisaspire.org.

The 2007-2008 school demonstration/data collection site RFPs for Illinois ASPIRE – South and Illinois ASPIRE – Central are available on the Illinois ASPIRE website. Click on the relevant regional tab (Central or South) located near the top of the home page to access the appropriate RFP. All questions should be directed to the contact person(s) specified in each RFP.

Please Note: Information about 2007-2008 school demonstration/data collection sites in the Illinois ASPIRE – North region will be forthcoming. Information regarding 2007-2008 school sites for Illinois ASPIRE – Chicago will be issued through a communication within the school district.

Training Sessions on ISBE Electronic Grant (eGrant) system for IDEA Part B grants

Training workshops will be offered to assist state approved Directors of Special Education in preparation of FY2008 IDEA Part B Flow Through, Preschool, and Discretionary grant applications. The electronic grant system will be explained and workshop participants will understand how to complete IDEA Part B applications online through the ISBE IWAS site.

A complete listing of training dates and locations for the eGrant application workshops can be found online at http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/egrant_training.pdf. The same training session will be offered at five locations: Mt. Vernon, Oak Forest, Algonquin, Normal, and Sterling (Deer Grove). **Your attention to heed the RSVP deadline is greatly appreciated.**

The workshop is open only to state approved Directors of Special Education and their business office staff who assist them to submit annual IDEA applications. Because of capacity limitations, these workshops are not intended to include local directors/member districts of cooperatives/associations. It will be the responsibility of the cooperative/association, as the fiscal agent for the IDEA grants, to provide assistance to their member districts in preparing sub grants.

If you have questions regarding these workshops, please contact **Bonnie Douglas** or **Penny Kelly** at 217/782-5589.

School Business and Support

Severe Weather Preparedness Week

March 4 through 10 is Severe Weather Preparedness Week. The statewide tornado drill is scheduled for Tuesday, March 6, 2007, at 10 a.m.

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 have the potential to cause extensive property damage, injury and/or death. This week is observed to highlight the importance of knowing what steps to take before, during and after severe weather strikes. The Severe Weather Preparedness booklet is available at <http://www.state.il.us/IEMA/>.

Professional Development

“Gifted Left Behind”

For those interested, the February 2007 edition of *The School Administrator* (February 2007, Number 2, Volume 64) is devoted to “gifted left behind.” The publication can be found online at <http://www.aasa.org/publications/saissuedetail.cfm?ItemNumber=8202>.

The Illinois Association of Gifted Children – which was designated by the Illinois State Board of Education’s *Advisory Council on the Education of Gifted and Talented Students* as the official repository of gifted resources in Illinois – can be contacted at:

- IAGC
800 E. Northwest Hwy., Suite 610
Palatine, IL 60074
Phone: 847-963-1892
Fax: 847-963-1893
Web site: www.iagcgifted.org

English Language Learning

2nd Annual Illinois Statewide Bilingual Parent Summit set for April 14

The 2nd Annual Illinois Statewide Bilingual Parent Summit for members of Bilingual Parents Advisory Councils (PAC) will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, April 14, 2007, at the Doubletree Oak Brook in Oak Brook, Ill.

This year’s conference will address four important topics:

- Pre-K-12 educational programs and services,
- higher education opportunities,
- parental leadership and advocacy,
- and community outreach and family support.

Speakers will include State Senator Willie Delgado, and noted children’s book authors Alma Flor Ada, F. Isabel Campoy, and Ji-Li Liang.

Lodging, travel (more than 50 miles) and registration reimbursement is available for up to five individuals per district. For further information and registration, please call the Illinois Resource Center at 224-366-8500 or visit us at our website at www.thecenterweb.org and click on the IRC.

Nutrition

Nutrition Programs Announces 2007 Training Schedule

If you have been looking for new skills, insights and ideas related to your profession in school food service, read on! The Nutrition Programs Division of the Illinois State Board of Education is pleased to announce the school year 2007 training schedule for school food service and nutrition staff. These FREE workshops were planned with your needs in mind, covering current topics such as *Developing a School Food Safety Program*, school meals, administration updates, and more! Plan ahead to join your peers and participate in these beneficial opportunities today!

How to Register:

Pre-registration is required for these trainings. You may register for these trainings on our website at www.isbe.net/nutrition. Please plan on spending the day. Complimentary lunch will be provided.

School-Based Child Nutrition Administrative Workshops—June 2007

School food authorities (SFAs) are required to have a food safety program based on Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) principals for the preparation and service of school meals served to children. To assist districts in this effort, this year’s Administrative Workshops (for school food employees who participate in the National School Lunch and/or Breakfast Programs) will be provided by the National Food Service Management Institute (NFSMI) and focus on *Developing a Food Safety Program*. A complimentary lunch will be provided. Space is limited so please register only one representative from your school food authority. Ideally that individual will share the information with other food service staff in their district. Registration begins at 8 a.m. and the workshop ends at 4:30 p.m.

The following lists the scheduled dates and locations of the seven workshops.

Date & Locations

- Wednesday, June 6 – Carbondale, Civic Center
- Thursday, June 7 – Fairview Heights, 4 Points Sheraton
- Tuesday, June 12 – Springfield, The Route 66 Hotel and Conference Center

- Wednesday, June 13 – Decatur, Decatur Conference Center & Hotel
- Thursday, June 14 – Peoria, Holiday Inn City Center
- Wednesday, June 27 – Rockford, Clocktower Resort and Conference Center
- Thursday, June 28 – Oak Lawn, The Hilton

Basic Training—August through October 2007

Perhaps you are new to the school-based Child Nutrition Programs or maybe you have worked with the programs for years, but have not heard the latest regulatory updates. If either applies to you, please plan to attend one of these informative workshops this Fall! This workshop serves as an excellent overview of the latest program regulations for anyone with responsibilities of processing household applications, completing the verification process, submitting annual applications and required reports, planning menus, ordering commodities, and much more. A Basic Training Manual along with a complimentary lunch will be provided. Registration begins at 8 a.m. and the workshop ends at 4 p.m. **Pre-registration is required** and will soon be available online at www.ibe.net/nutrition.

Other Training Opportunities Scheduled in 2007

Watch our division website at www.isbe.net/nutrition and future *The Outlook* newsletters for details and announcements regarding professional development opportunities.

2007-2008 Illinois HealthierUS School Challenge Competitive Mini-Grants for Elementary Schools

The Illinois Nutrition Education & Training Program in conjunction with Nutrition Programs is pleased to announce the availability of 2007-2008 Illinois HealthierUS School Challenge Competitive Mini-Grants for elementary schools.

The purpose of this mini-grant, funded by USDA Team Nutrition is to help Illinois elementary schools/districts work toward and submit an application for a **Silver or Gold School** designation in the HealthierUS School Challenge. Schools that participate in the USDA National School Lunch Program are eligible to apply for the grant. Grants up to \$2,500 will be awarded to ten schools or districts. Up to 25 extra points can be earned by applicants attending or scheduling a HealthierUS School

Challenge training **prior to the application due date of April 13, 2007.**

For more information on the mini-grant and training opportunities, please visit the Illinois Nutrition Education & Training Program website at www.kidseatwell.org or call 800/466-7998.

Curriculum and Instruction

Eighth Annual National School Change Awards

Nominations of schools are currently being accepted for the Eighth Annual National School Change Awards. The annual award recognizes six schools across America as having “significantly changed.” Nominated schools measure themselves against 16 different criteria.

The awards are conducted and co-sponsored by the American Association of School Administrators (AASA) and the Fordham University Graduate School of Education.

Information and application materials are available online at: www.npli.org/nsca. **All materials must be received by Monday, March 19, 2007.** For more information, contact Francesca Sinatra at 202-636-6682 or fsinatra@forham.edu.

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>.

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/070223.htm>