



Illinois State Board of Education

Weekly Message

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Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

Last week Governor Quinn introduced his budget for Fiscal Year 2013. In many cases, it was not pleasant. A number of state agencies saw their overall budgets recommended for significant reduction, state facilities around Illinois are being targeted for closures and hundreds of layoffs are being proposed. However, for K-12 education Governor Quinn's proposed budget is cause for relative optimism.

The Governor's proposed FY 2013 budget is very similar to the State Board of Education's recommendation, with a few key exceptions. While the Board recommended an increase in General State Aid (GSA) of \$200 million, the Governor is recommending level funding for GSA. We estimate that if the Board's recommendation is enacted, it would mean a 96 percent proration on the Foundation Level of \$6,119. If GSA is level funded, as the Governor is proposing, the proration is estimated to be about 92 percent.

We have posted a budget comparison between Fiscal Year 2012 and the Board's FY 13 recommendation and the Governor's FY 13 request. You may access the comparison at http://www.isbe.net/budget/FY13_budget_compare_gov.pdf.

While the Governor's budget introduction is an early step in the budget making process, we are pleased with a slight increase of 0.4 percent for education when compared to the 9-10 percent reductions in many areas of state spending. I will testify before the House Elementary and Secondary Education Appropriations Committee on Tuesday, followed by a number of appearances scheduled throughout March and April in committees of both legislative chambers. A final budget is expected in May.

Wednesday is the deadline for submitting your Statement of Intent to partner with us in Race to the Top 3. Statements of Intent, signed by the district superintendent and the union president (where applicable), should be sent via email to rt3@isbe.net in order for a district to be a Participating LEA. We have posted an updated FAQ and last week's webinar on our Race to the Top site at <http://www.isbe.net/racetothetop/default.htm>. Direct links and more information follow later in the Weekly Message.

Have a great week.

Chris

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Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

- **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
- **Maintenance Grant Program application deadline** – May 1
- **ISBE offices closed for Memorial Day** – May 28
- **2011-12 Eye Examination Data Collection deadline** – June 30
- **ISBE offices closed for Independence Day** – July 4
- **2011-12 Regional Safe Schools Program (RSSP) student reporting deadline** – July 31

School Business Services

Maintenance Grant Program Applications Available Soon

Application materials for the Maintenance Grant Program are available beginning March 1, 2012, on the IWAS System. Applications must be submitted to the Regional Offices of Education by May 1, 2012. The Maintenance Grant Program is a dollar for dollar state matching grant program providing up to \$50,000 for the maintenance or upkeep of buildings or structures for educational purposes. All school districts, cooperative high schools and Type 40 area vocational centers are eligible.

On Feb. 16, Governor Quinn announced the release of \$50 million for the Maintenance Grant Program as a part of the Illinois Jobs Now! Capital Program. The grant application can be found on the IWAS system. For more information and assistance, contact Kimberly Beachy with the School Business Services Division at (217) 785-8779.

Race to the Top

Phase 3 Webinar Available Online; Statement of Intent Due by Feb. 29

Thank you to those who participated in the Feb. 21 Race to the Top 3 webinar, which focused on the Illinois Shared Learning Environment. The webinar is posted at http://www.isbe.net/asx/2012/RTTT3_ISLE_022112.asx. Based on questions raised during that webinar and other questions that we have received since our posting of the RTTT3 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document, ISBE has issued an updated FAQ document available at http://www.isbe.net/racetothetop/PDF/phase3_lea_faq_changes.pdf. For your convenience, the updated FAQ shows the changes made from the original version.

Please remember that Statements of Intent, signed by the district superintendent and the union president (where applicable), must be submitted to rt3@isbe.net by Feb. 29 in order for a district to be a Participating LEA. ISBE

has posted a template Statement of Intent at http://www.isbe.net/racetothetop/pdf/phase3_stmt_of_intent.pdf. If you have any questions, please send them to rt3@isbe.net.

Common Core

IMSA to Hold Session on Assessing the Common Core Standards and Practices

With support of the governor's P-20 Council and ISBE, the Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics and the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy are sponsoring an event to write assessment items aligned with the Standards and Practices. During the two-day session, participants will learn about models from the top performing countries, review the latest information from PARCC and view examples from other states, but the vast majority of time will be devoted to writing items that require higher order thinking skills and the ability to apply critical concepts. The main goal is to create a significant pool of sample items that will prepare students for future assessments and inform both Illinois leaders and the national PARCC consortium. Please note that while travel or housing is not covered, meals and snacks will be provided. Here are the details:

Assessing the Common Core Standards and Practices: Friday, March 9 (10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) and Saturday, March 10 (9 a.m. to 1 p.m.); Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy; 1500 Sullivan Road, Aurora, IL 60506.

Please RSVP by March 5 to Mindy at (630) 907-5023 or Michelle at (630) 907-5037 or via email to mmalenke@imsa.edu.

U.S. Department of Education

Attention: 2011-12 Civil Rights Data Collection Under Way

The U.S. Department of Education (ED) 2011-12 Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC) has started. This is a universal collection from all LEAs, schools and state-

operated facilities (e.g. schools for the deaf and blind and other facilities for individuals with disabilities and juvenile justice facilities).

- The CRDC Advance website, <http://www.crdc2011.org>, has opened. ED requests every district to access the site by March 15, 2012, to provide district contact information and update the school list.
- Your district's Log in ID and Password information was included in the Jan. 3 letter from ED, mailed to your district via USPS.
- The submission of CRDC data will be in the August/September to December 2012 time frame.

If you need any information (including your district's log-in ID and password) or if you have any questions about the 2011-12 CRDC, contact the CRDC Partner Support Center:

- Phone: (855) 320-6459
- Email: eden_crdc@ed.gov
- Fax: (888) 329-3336
- TTY/TDD: (888) 403-3336

Simplified Pre-Application Process for Annual i3 Competition Kicks Off

The U.S. Department of Education has announced the third year of the Investing in Innovation (i3) grant competition for local educational agencies, groups of schools and non-profit organizations to improve student results through innovative practices. This competition invites entities interested in grants of up to \$3 million — termed “Development” grants under the i3 competition — to submit a simplified pre-application starting today through April 9. To learn more about the i3 grant program and the new pre-application process, visit <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/innovation/index.html>.

Student Assessment

Translated ISAT Directions for 2012 Available Online

Translated Illinois Standards Achievement Test directions for 2012 are now available online under the “Information for ISAT Coordinators” heading on the ISAT web page, <http://www.isbe.net/assessment/isat.htm>.

The languages available are Arabic, Chinese, Gujarati, Korean, Polish, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, Urdu and Vietnamese.

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.

Educator Certification

Information on the Speech Language Paraprofessional Approval Phase Out

Please note that the 2013-14 school year will be the final year in which the Speech Language Paraprofessional (SLPP), or Pilot Speech-Language (PSL), Approval will be issued. Consistent with current procedures, the credentials issued during the 2012-13 and 2013-14 school years will be district-specific and valid for one year of serving as a SLPP. After June 30, 2014, all SLPP/PSL approvals will expire and no additional SLPP/PSL approvals will be issued. Please share this information with any SLPP who is currently employed by your district or special education cooperative.

Questions or concerns about the SLPP/PSL Approval should be directed to Crystal Strohkirch at cstrohki@isbe.net.

See the sample questions and answers below. You may want to consult with private counsel regarding employment matters and other individual issues.

Our district currently utilizes SLPPs to deliver speech and language services and plans to do so again for the 2012-2013 school year. What do we need to do?

Districts may continue to utilize SLPPs to provide speech and language services through the 2013-14 school year, provided that a valid SLPP/PSL Approval is in place for each SLPP during each year of service. For example, the SLPP must be approved for the current year, and an approvable request must be submitted for each SLPP to be utilized in the 2012-13 and 2013-14 school year(s).

What staff members can provide services currently provided by SLPPs? Consistent with current law and rules, speech and language services can be provided by properly certificated speech-language pathologists [23 IAC 25.45, 23 IAC 25.252], speech-language pathologist interns [23 IAC 25.255] and speech-language pathology assistants [105 ILCS 5/14-6.03]. In addition, school districts may consider contracting for speech-language pathology services, consistent with the requirements of Section 14-6.04 of the School Code [105 ILCS 5/14-6.04].

I currently hold a SLPP/PSL Approval. What are my options? Individuals who hold a current SLPP/PSL Approval may continue to provide appropriate speech and language services for the remainder of the current school year (2011-12). In addition, such individuals may continue to provide those services through the 2013-2014 school year, provided that the school district or special education joint agreement that employs the individual applies for and receives a SLPP/PSL Approval valid for 2012-13 and/or 2013-14 school year(s). Thereafter, SLPP/PSL Approvals will no longer be granted, and individuals wishing to continue providing speech and language services will need to pursue further certification, consistent with all applicable requirements, as a speech-language pathologist, speech-language pathology intern or speech-language pathology assistant.

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.

Student Opportunities

Jack Kent Cooke Young Scholars Program Seeks Eligible Seventh-Graders

Applications are available for the Jack Kent Cooke Young Scholars Program, which is a highly competitive national scholarship program open for academically talented seventh-graders. If awarded, the scholar will be given academic and financial support through high school and college.

Only seventh-graders can apply. Students must have A's and B's in core subjects since the sixth grade, Family Adjusted Gross Income must be below \$80,000, and parents or guardians of the student do not have a graduate or professional degree.

The deadline to apply is April 16. For more information, visit <http://www.ctd.northwestern.edu/jkc/> and <http://www.jkcf.org/>. For questions, contact Tammie Stewart of Northwestern University's Center for Talent Development at (847) 491-7127 or tammie-stewart@northwestern.edu.

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.

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.

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/120227.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>.