



Illinois State Board of Education

Weekly Message

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March 5, 2012

Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

Severe weather can occur anytime, a truth many of us know firsthand. Our southern counties were struck by tragedy last week as tornadoes and severe storms crashed through, destroying homes and businesses and taking life.

Living in Illinois, we know that a violent change in weather can occur within a matter of minutes, whether it's a blizzard, flood, severe thunderstorm or tornado. We can only plan and prepare for the worst. While tragic, it is a timely reminder for all of us to take a few moments and review our preparedness efforts, both for our schools and personally. Review the plans you have made and the various contingencies, in buildings, on buses, at extracurricular events or in responding to assist your community. Make sure staff understands their role in protecting our students. We have many online resources, including the School Emergency and Crisis Response Plan Template districts are required to complete and review with first responders each year at <http://www.isbe.net/safety/guide.htm>. Districts can also get information on Emergency Planning Guides, Bio-Terrorism and other links at http://www.isbe.net/construction/health_safety/default.htm.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the people of Harrisburg who now are beginning the long process of rebuilding their community and dealing with lost family and friends.

We had 140 districts, including the Chicago Public Schools, submit Statements of Intent to become participating districts in our Race to the Top 3 grant. The preliminary allocations have been posted on our website at <http://www.isbe.net/racetothetop/PDF/phase3-partic-lea-alloc-prelim.pdf>. The U.S. Department of Education requires all Race to the Top states to calculate each Participating LEA share based on the Title I share of the Participating LEA compared to the Title I share of all Participating LEAs combined. Due to the Title I numbers of the Participating LEAs, the preliminary allocation for the Chicago Public Schools is \$16.4 million or 77 percent of the \$21.4 million total, rather than their overall statewide share of Title I, which is about 48 percent. This means substantially smaller shares for other Participating LEAs than what many of us expected, but the formula is set in federal law so there is no leeway.

We will have a webinar from 10 a.m. to noon Thursday, March 8, for those districts that will be completing a Scope of Work to continue on in partnership with us. You can register for the webinar at <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/598489120>.

Thanks,
Chris

Table of Contents

Innovation and Improvement	2
PARCC	2
Educator Certification.....	2
Educational Surrogate Parent Program	3
Special Education	3
IASBO	4
Response to Intervention	4
Data Analysis and Progress Reporting.....	5
Nutrition	5
School Business Services	6
Common Core	6
U.S. Department of Education	7
Student Assessment	7
Student Opportunities	7
In the News	8
Employment Opportunities	8

Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

- **Overview of SIG 1003(g) Intervention Models and Grant Requirements webinar** – March 14 (Register at <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/582815441>)
- **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
- **Prevention Initiative – Parent Evaluation reporting deadline** – July 2 (User guide for reporting on IWAS available at http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/86-56A_60_Instructions.pdf)
- **ISBE offices closed for Independence Day** – July 4
- **2011-12 Regional Safe Schools Program (RSSP) student reporting deadline** – July 31

Innovation and Improvement

Overview of SIG 1003(g) Intervention Models and Grant Requirements

Join us for the Overview of SIG 1003(g) Intervention Models and Grant Requirements webinar on March 14. Space is limited. Reserve your webinar seat now at <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/582815441>.

This introductory webinar is designed for schools that are eligible to apply for the SIG 1003(g) grant. Staff from Innovation and Improvement will explain the requirements of the four intervention models required under the grant, i.e. turnaround, transformation, restart and closure. Additionally staff will provide a general overview of the grant application process, requirements for working with a pre-approved lead partners and the grant application timeline.

Participants are encouraged to review earlier SIG 1003(g) RFPs and related resources at http://www.isbe.net/sos/htmls/sip_1003.htm. Here are the webinar details:

Title: Overview of SIG 1003(g) Intervention Models and Grant Requirements

Date: Wednesday, March 14, 2012

Time: 1:30-3 p.m.

System Requirements: Windows 7, Vista, XP or 2003 Server required for PC-based attendees.

Mac OS X 10.5 or newer required for Macintosh-based attendees.

PARCC

PARCC Releases Invitation to Negotiate to Engage Educators

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

To read more from the PARCC news release, go to <http://www.parcconline.org/parcc-releases-itn-engage-educators>. For those interested in Illinois, send a letter of interest and resume by March 15 to Susie Morrison, ISBE Deputy Superintendent, at smorriso@isbe.net.

Educator Certification

Taskforce Asks Superintendents to Complete Survey on Sexual Abuse Prevention Programs

The taskforce created by Erin's Law, (Public Act 096-1524) requests superintendents' assistance in the following short survey. As the final report is prepared, the taskforce would like to identify districts that currently offer sexual abuse prevention programs and understand how such programs are structured across the state. Thank

you in advance for your participation in our data collection survey.

The survey can be found online at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ZCT57Z9>. Survey responses are due by March 19.

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 Strohkirsch 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.

Educational Surrogate Parent Program

FY 13 Educational Surrogate Parent Program Training and Recruitment RFP Released

The educational Surrogate Parents Program Request for Proposals (RFP) was released Feb. 17. The purpose of the RFP is to identify a qualified entity to coordinate the statewide training and recruitment of volunteers willing to serve as Educational Surrogate Parents as outlined in this RFP. Proposals must be received at ISBE no later than 4 p.m. on March 16. The RFP is available at http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/html/surrogate_parent.htm. The RFP can also be obtained by contacting the Special Education Division at (217) 782-5589.

Special Education

State Board Seeks Public Comment on FFY 2012 Draft IDEA Part B Application

ISBE's Division of Special Education Services has completed the grant application under Part B of IDEA as amended in 2004. Upon receipt and approval of the required assurances, certifications and information in the application, the state is eligible to receive Part B funds.

The General Education Provisions Act (GEPA) requires that states must publish their Part B Application for at least 60 days and accept public comment for at least 30 days. The State Board plan can be reviewed at the ISBE website through Monday, April 30, at <http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/Default.htm>, or directly at http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/IDEA_PartB_app_FFY12.pdf.

The plan includes a checklist of assurances that Illinois has policies and procedures in effect to comply with the requirements of the December 2004 amendments to IDEA. Where Illinois is not in compliance with the IDEA amendments of 2004, a date is given by which Illinois assures that policies and procedures will be in effect. The plan for expenditure of state-level IDEA funds by category is also a component of the state plan.

Written comments will only be accepted March 30 to April 30. To submit a written comment, go to http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/IDEA_PartB_FFY12_comment.pdf.

In addition, public comments can be emailed to partbapplication@isbe.net or mailed to: David Andel, Division Administrator, Illinois State Board of Education, Division of Special Education Services, 100 N. First St. – N-253, Springfield, IL 62777-0001.

Interested persons can review a copy of the plan and comment form in the Information Center, First floor South of the Illinois State Board of Education, 100 N. First St., Springfield.

Illinois Association of School Business Officials

Routing Practices Survey Under Way for School District Transportation Directors

The Illinois Association of School Business Officials is asking for all school district transportation directors to complete a short survey regarding current transportation policies and procedures for their respective district. The data collected through this survey will be summarized and presented during the annual IASBO conference in May at the Transportation Professional Development Committee's "Best Routing Practices" session. Participation in this survey is requested and appreciated.

Please click on the following link to complete the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/routingbestpractices2012>.

Response to Intervention

Registration Open for RtI Professional Development Trainings

The following Response to Intervention (RtI) Professional Development Trainings are available for

registration. Rooms are available under RtI at participant's expense at each site. Continental breakfast, lunch and beverages will be provided. There is no cost associated with workshop attendance but each participant must register. Five CPDU are available for credit per day. Each participant will receive a flash drive with access to all seven modules, including the PowerPoint presentations and handouts. More workshops will be available in June throughout the state as well.

Encouraged to attend are K-12 grade: administrators, curriculum directors, special education directors, school psychologists, teacher leaders, math and reading specialists, special education teachers, English language learner teachers, general education teachers and content area teachers.

These modules were designed to provide guidance for districts to fully implement the Response to Intervention process. We strongly suggest all participants register for the two-day overview and then take either the two-day literacy or math training. The literacy and math trainings are provided on the same day, and each grade band training is presented concurrently. Choose a grade level to attend: K-3, 4-8 or 9-12. However, if a participant would like to register for only the overview or only a math or literacy training, registering for just one module is acceptable. Registration starts at 8 a.m. and the training workshops will be from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Contact Sarah McCusker, Principal Consultant, at smccuske@isbe.net or (217) 524-4832 with questions. For more information on Response to Intervention visit http://www.isbe.net/RtI_plan/default.htm. Register at http://maconpiattroe.org/joomla15/index.php?option=com_eventbooking&view=category&Itemid=106. Here are the locations:

Naperville: March 29-30 overview and April 16-17 math and literacy; Hilton-Lisle, 3003 Corporate W. Drive 60533; (630) 505-0900

Fairview Heights: March 27-28 overview and April 9-10 math and literacy; Four Points Sheraton, 319 Fountains Parkway; (618) 622-9500

Springfield: March 27-28 overview and April 4-5, math and literacy; Crowne Plaza, 3000 S. Dirksen Parkway; (217) 529-7777

Chicago: TBD

Data Analysis and Progress Reporting

2011-12 Prevention Initiative – Parent Evaluation is Available on IWAS

The “Prevention Initiative – Parent Evaluation” IWAS system is open for school year 2011-12 data entry. All educational entities that received Prevention Initiative funds this school year to serve at-risk children birth to age 3 (0-3) and their families are required to submit these data to ISBE, per Section 2-3.89 of the Illinois School Code (105 ILCS 5/2-3.89). The deadline for submitting the data is July 2. The user guide for “Prevention Initiative – Parent Evaluation” reporting on IWAS is available at http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/86-56A_60_Instructions.pdf.

Questions about using the “Prevention Initiative – Parent Evaluation” IWAS system should be directed to the ISBE Help Desk at (217) 558-3600. Questions about the data to be submitted should be directed to Dr. Lilibeth Q. Gumia in the ISBE Data Analysis and Progress Reporting Division at (217) 782-3950 or lgumia@isbe.net.

Nutrition

SY2012-2013 Meal Pattern Question and Answer Webinar Scheduled for March 21

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has released the nutrition standards for school meals beginning with school year 2012-13. The new standards were designed to align school meals with the most recent nutrition recommendations and current capabilities of schools. The Nutrition Programs Division of the Illinois State Board of Education presented a webinar on the USDA Food Based Meal Pattern Overview for School Year 2012-2013 on Feb. 22. This recorded webinar as well as the PowerPoint presentation used for this webinar are available on our website. (See link below.)

Another webinar for Illinois schools on this topic is planned for 1:30 p.m. March 21. The webinar will provide a brief overview of the new meal pattern with a focus on question and answers submitted by schools since the earlier webinar regarding overall implementation. Space is limited. Register online at <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/173745472>. If you are unable to attend the webinar, this webinar will be recorded and available for viewing on ISBE’s website shortly after the live webinar is presented.

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

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

To access these resources, as well as the ISBE recorded webinar and PowerPoint presentation, visit our website, http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/nslp_hhfka_implementation.htm. If you have any questions, please contact our office via email at cnp@isbe.net or via telephone at (800) 545-7892.

First Choice: A Procurement Training for School Food Service Training Announced

The Nutrition Programs Division of the Illinois State Board of Education is happy to announce a training opportunity related to general food service procurement planned for June 2012. Trainers with the National Food Service Management Institute (NFSMI) will be in Illinois to offer the 2 1/2 day First Choice Procurement Training at two locations: June 5-7, 2012, in Springfield and June 12-14 in Joliet. Space is limited. Register online at <http://webprod1.isbe.net/cnscaledar/asp/eventlist.asp>.

The second edition of the First Choice: A Purchasing Manual for School Food Service (available online at <http://www.nfsmi.org/ResourceOverview.aspx?ID=64>) will be used for this training. The second edition updates procurement information and integrates food safety information to assist purchaser in establishing procedures to assure receipt of a safe product. Procurement requirements will be explained including steps in purchasing, regulations, market place environment, product movement, bid units, specifications, brand approval, obtaining prices, monitoring cost, product testing, receiving and storage and purchasing cooperatives.

Questions related to this training can be addressed to Chad Martel at cmartel@isbe.net or (800) 545-7892.

Community Eligibility Option Webinar for New Applicants Scheduled for March 27

Community Eligibility Option (CEO) is an alternative to collecting, approving and verifying household eligibility applications for free and reduced price eligible students in high poverty local educational agencies (LEAs) for schools participating in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs.

For a LEA to be eligible to use CEO for school year 2012-13, the LEA must have one or more school that has an identified student percentage of 40 percent or greater as of April 1, 2012. The identified student percentage is NOT the same as the total number of students eligible for free and reduced-price meals. Identified student counts ONLY include the following:

- Directly certified students and extension of direct certification benefits to other household members
- Homeless students certified as such by the district liaison
- Migrant youth certified by local officials
- Runaway youth certified by local officials
- Head Start students
- Pre-K Even Start students, and
- Foster children, certified based on documentation from the foster child case worker.

The LEA and school must agree to offer all enrolled students breakfasts and lunches at no cost (free) and cover any cost above the federal reimbursement received with non-Federal funds. CEO is approved for four successive school years, with an option annually to return to traditional meal counting and claiming procedures. Reimbursement for schools participating in CEO is based on claiming percentages (Free and Paid only) derived from the percentages of identified students multiplied by a USDA established factor.

ISBE's Nutrition Programs Division will host a CEO webinar for new applicants from 2-3:30 p.m. March 27. This webinar will provide interested sponsors general information about CEO, how to determine the "identified student" number as well as application information. Register for this webinar at <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/608304953>. If you are unable to attend the webinar, this webinar will be recorded and available for viewing on ISBE's website shortly after the live webinar is presented.

The CEO application for SY2012-13 (July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013) will be available online on April 1.. The

application must be completed and returned to ISBE for review by the close of business June 29.

For more information about CEO, including the USDA Fact Sheet about this option, visit our website at http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/nslp_hhfka_implementation.htm. If you have any questions, please contact our office via email at cnp@isbe.net or via telephone at (800) 545-7892.

School Business Services

Maintenance Grant Program Applications Available on IWAS

Application materials for the Maintenance Grant Program are available on the IWAS System. Applications must be submitted to the Regional Offices of Education by May 1.. 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, Gov. Pat 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, go to the School Maintenance Program Grant page on ISBE's website at http://www.isbe.net/sbss/smp_grants.htm or contact Kimberly Beachy with the School Business Services Division at (217) 785-8779.

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.

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.

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/120305.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>.