



Illinois State Board of Education

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Weekly Message

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March 6, 2007

Message from Interim State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

Good afternoon. This week I wanted to update you on some information related to Career and Technical Education.

The Division of Career Preparation and Development is pleased to introduce its first public demonstration of its Curriculum Revitalization Initiative. The purpose of this initiative is to design, develop, and disseminate web-based model Career and Technical Education curriculum and lessons, aligned with Illinois' learning standards and professional content standards, in the fields of Industrial Technology, Health Sciences and Technology, Family and Consumer Sciences, and Business Management and Marketing. Building on the success of Illinois' Agricultural Education curriculum model, this project is in the initial stages of developing web-based tools that will assist CTE instructors in high schools across Illinois. The mission of this web-based resource is to enhance the instructional program improvement by aligning lessons with the Illinois Learning Standards and content-specific skill standards, and, by providing a tool to document CTE contributions to ILS. Direct your browser to www.ilcte.org and select "Lesson Library" to view our 100 demonstration lessons, including a tutorial that guides the usage of the lessons and the curriculum "matrix" that facilitates the building of CTE courses aligned to the Illinois Learning Standards.

The long-term plan for this initiative is to provide a statewide process to bring teachers looking for high-quality CTE curriculum together with business and industry to develop and validate curriculum models for statewide use by CTE teachers. The models will identify a common core of skills in CTE. The curriculum will not be mandatory but will offer teachers the opportunity to adopt the best possible framework and resources with an incentive program aimed at matching quality learning to funding incentives. Each curriculum model will include:

- Units of instruction
- Lesson plans aligned with Illinois Learning Standards
- Student evaluation tools
- Visual aids
- Recommended resources
- Professional development for teachers and administrators
- Technical assistance

I wish you all a great week.

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 Education

Identification of Students with Disabilities in Illinois – By the Numbers

ISBE is working hard to use data to make decisions and to inform policy and practice.

Identification Rates

Illinois schools are identifying more and more students as students with disabilities. Each year the incidence rate increases: 12/1/02 (**14.6%**), '03 (**14.7%**), '04 (**14.9%**). In 2005 our incidence rate was **15.0%**; the national incidence rate was **12.9%** in 2004, the latest national incidence rate available.

According to the 12/1/05 Child Count (rounded to the nearest whole number), **59** districts identified **25% or more** of their students as disabled; **nine** districts identified **30 % or more** of their students as disabled. Chicago identified **12.9 %**, the national average.

Identification by Race/Ethnicity and Disability

In general, students categorized as Hispanic, Asian or other Pacific Islander, or American Indian/Alaska Native are identified as students with disabilities less than their proportion of the total population.

White students are **57%** of the total student population, **60 %** of the students with disabilities, **80%** of Other Health Impaired and **42 %** of Mentally Retarded.

Black students are **21%** of the student population, **24%** of the special education population, **35%** (**67% higher** than their percentage of the student population) of Emotionally Disturbed, and **42%** (**double** their

percentage of the student population) of Mentally Retarded.

2007 Applications for 1% Cap Exceptions – application reminder

If more than one percent (1%) of students in **grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 11** are identified as significantly cognitively disabled, districts should prepare a request for an exception to the one percent cap. If the conditions for the exception are approved, then all progressing and attaining scores earned by students taking the Illinois Alternate Assessment (IAA) in reading and math will be counted as proficient in making determinations for school, district and state AYP.

K-8 districts may apply after ISAT testing is completed in those districts. **High school** and **K-12 districts** should apply after the PSAE makeup test dates (May 9-10).

APPLICATIONS ARE DUE FRIDAY, JUNE 1, 2007. The form may be **MAILED** or **FAXED** to 217-782-0372 – attention Pearl Schneider.

The form and instructions are available at: http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/37-58_percent_cap_form.pdf

For additional information please contact **Pearl Schneider** at 217-782-5589 or via email at pschneid@isbe.net.

Rules & Waivers

Notice of Completed Rulemaking

Please be advised that one new set of rules and one set of amendments recently adopted by the State Board of Education are now in effect. These rules have been

posted on the agency's web site at www.isbe.net/rules; choose "Rules Currently in Effect" and scroll to the relevant Part number. If you print the affected Sections, please remember to include the table of content, which changes each time a Part is amended.

Part 60 (The "Grow Your Own" Teacher Education Initiative)

Partial forgiveness of loans for partial service; waiver and deferral of repayment obligation; other technical updates to reflect statutory revisions.

Affected Sections: 60.20, 60.80, 60.90, and 60.100

Effective Date: February 15, 2007

Part 70 (Early Childhood Teacher Preparation Assistance Grant)

New rules setting forth requirements for the implementation of this program.

Affected Sections: All

Effective Date: February 20, 2007

Professional Development

'Differentiation and Understanding by Design: Connecting Content and Kids'

The Illinois Association for Gifted Children (IAGC) is sponsoring Dr. Carol Ann Tomlinson's presentation, "Differentiation and Understanding by Design: Connecting Content and Kids" on June 18 and 19, 2007. The event will take place at the Doubletree Hotel, 211 Butterfield Road, Downers Grove, IL 60515.

For information regarding content, registration, and costs please see the following link from IAGC:

<http://www.iagcgifted.org/professionaldevelopment/CaroAnnTomlJune18.pdf>. Inquiries should be addressed to IAGC at 847-963-1892.

Horace Mann – Abraham Lincoln Fellowship Program application deadline approaching

The Horace Mann Educators Corporation and The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum have teamed up to offer 50 instructors a fellowship to study and the life and legacy of our 16th president this summer at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and

Museum in Springfield thru the 2007 Horace Mann-Abraham Lincoln Fellowship Program.

The fellowship is open to any full-time teacher teaching kindergarten through 12th grade in the United States. Selected teachers, one from every state, will attend either a June 24-29 or July 8-13 session. The fellowship includes round-trip transportation, lodging, most meals and all workshops, seminars and tours.

The deadline to apply is **Sunday, March 11, 2007**. More information and application materials can be found online at www.horacemann.com or www.alplm.com.

Safer Schools Seminar

The Indiana Insurance Co. is hosting a 'Safe Schools Seminar' from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesday, March 20, 2007, at Illinois State University in Normal, Ill. The guest speaker is Michael Dorn, founder and executive director of Safe Havens International Inc.

The seminar is designed for superintendents, principals, business managers, school resource officers and teachers who oversee building and child safety issues within a school or district.

Participants are asked to register online at www.mysaferschool.com. For more information, contact Stacey Dulin at 1-800-562-2424 or stacey.dulin@indiana-ins.com.

Educator opportunities at National Museum of Mexican Art

The National Museum of Mexican Art in Chicago is offering educators the opportunity to experience the Maya Culture through two programs at the museum.

- Educator's Workshop: *Integrating the Maya Culture into Your Classroom* from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on **Saturday, March 17, 2007**. This workshop offers the opportunity for teachers to learn about the rich history of the Maya culture and how to introduce it to their students. The class will examine the Maya culture through the themes and textiles displayed and receive a curriculum packet with activities aligned to the Illinois Learning Standards. Cost is \$30 (general) and \$20 (members). Space is limited, so call 312-433-3950 for reservations.

- Adult/Educator Art Classes: **Maya Textiles and Codices Through Printmaking**. The 8-week session is from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the following Saturdays: March 24, March 31, April 7, April 21, April 28, May 5, May 12 and May 19. Cost is \$120 (general) and \$100 (members). Space is limited, so call 312-433-3950 for reservations.

Also, the museum is offering a **free public tour** of the exhibition, *Arte Textil Maya!* on **Saturday, March 31**. No reservations are needed for the noon tour in English and 1 p.m. tour in Spanish.

For more information and future events, visit the museum's web site at www.nationalmuseumofmexicanart.org or call 312-738-1503. The museum is located at 1852 W. 19th St., Chicago, IL 60608.

Student Honors

Two Illinois students win national volunteer awards – Eight other students are recognized

Two Illinois students were recently selected as Illinois' top youth volunteers for 2007, in the 12th annual Prudential Spirit of Community Awards.

As State Honorees – **Rishi Sethi**, 18, of Barrington Hills and **Kendall Ciesemier**, 14, of Wheaton – will each receive \$1,000, an engraved silver medallion and an all-expense-paid trip to Washington D.C. in May for the program's national recognition events.

Eight other Illinois students were also recognized as Distinguished Finalists in honor of their community service activities. They are:

- **Bethany Figura**, 18, of St. Charles
- **Taylor McGillis**, 12, of Toluca
- **Brittany Metz**, 17, of Mundelein
- **Elizabeth Peters**, 18, of Lake Bluff
- **Priyanka Vedak**, 17, of Crystal Lake
- **Susan Vinyard**, 16, of Downers Grove
- **Mary Welsh**, 17, of Naperville
- **Brian Zimmerman**, 18, of Batavia

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards represents the United States' largest youth recognition program based solely on volunteer service. More information on all of this year's State Honorees and Distinguished Finalists can be found online at:

www.prudential.com/spirit or
www.principals.org/prudential.

English Language Learning

ESL/Bilingual/Dual Language Job Fair

Interested school district administrators are encouraged to send a representative to the annual statewide job fair for English as a Second Language (ESL), Bilingual and Dual Language Teachers from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. on **Saturday, March 10, 2007**, at the Holiday Inn, 3405 Algonquin Road, Rolling Meadows, Ill. The Illinois Resource Center is sponsoring the job fair.

Many districts and schools from the metropolitan Chicago area will be recruiting pre-K to 12th grade teachers. Over 40 school districts will be represented.

Highlights of the job fair include:

- Interviews with multiple districts in one day
- Network with representatives from schools with available positions
- Find out about possible job opportunities throughout the state for Bilingual/ESL/Dual Language/Bilingual Special Education Teachers, Aides and Administrators (K-12)

The cost is \$7 if you pre-register and \$10 on the day of the event. Registration information for individual teachers can be found online at:

<http://www.thecenterweb.org/irc/pdf/jobfair-reg.pdf>.

Districts interested in participating can contact Paula McDaniel with IRC at 224-366-8538.

For more information, also contact: Nora Sandoval with IRC at 224-366-8555. The Center/Illinois Resource Center is located at 2626 Clearbrook Drive, Arlington Heights, IL 60005-4626

Nutrition

Department of Defense Fresh Fruit and Vegetables – Unused Funds

For the current school year, the Department of Defense (DoD) allowed participation in the program to all schools that requested to participate subject to a \$500 allocation floor. The Illinois State Board of Education allocated the money we could spend with DoD amongst all schools that selected "yes" under *Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Participation* on the *Annual Order Forms* menu option

on the Illinois Commodity System (ICS). Recent reports from DoD indicate many schools that have money allocated to them have yet to place any orders for fresh fruits or vegetables. Schools can see how much money has been allocated to them by selecting *Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Participation* on the *Annual Order Forms* menu option on ICS.

Those schools that have not spent any of the money allocated to them are advised to contact DoD at 800-795-3544 to begin placing orders or risk having the money used by other schools participating in the program. Unused funds will be available for use by other schools participating in the program beginning April 1, 2007.

Curriculum and Instruction

Reading First Given “Effective” Rating by OMB

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) rated Reading First at the highest level of effectiveness. The program was reviewed this year with the Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART) and the results were included in the FY 2008 budget. PART was developed to assess program performance and to help identify strengths and weaknesses in federal programs. PART is also used to inform management decision-making and drive funding to successful federal programs. Only four programs within the Department of Education were rated “effective” this year.

The Reading First program was found to have a strong program design and good management practices, and to bring about improvements in students' reading abilities. Relative to its size, the program was found to function effectively with one of the Department's smallest program staffs, while providing a high level of oversight and assistance to its grantees.

The program received a favorable rating for its data collection and grant monitoring practices. The PART review cited the evaluation of the implementation of the Reading First program that has been completed and yielded positive results and the expected large-scale scientifically based examination is scheduled to generate an interim report in 2007 and a final report in 2008.

The PART process identified areas where Reading First has room to improve. For example, although the program has shown improvements in the reading ability of various

subgroups of students and has met performance targets, some groups are not improving as quickly as others. The Department will seek to target professional development activities to meet this need. Additionally, to improve program efficiency, the Department set a goal to receive complete Annual Performance Report (APR) data from all States within 30 days of the due date so that data can be used to drive decision-making more rapidly.

More information about the PART review of Reading First can be found at:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/expectmore/summary/10003321.2006.html>.

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.

Federal Grants & Programs

FY08 NCLB: Training for grant coordinators

Training for all grant coordinators for the completion of the FY08 federal Titles I, II, IV, and V grants will be conducted at **1:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 27, 2007**, via teleconference. There will be a question and answer session following the presentation.

A PowerPoint presentation along with telephone and confirmation number can be found online at:

http://www.isbe.net/htmls/egrants_workshop.htm.

This training will be more effective if you have access to the PowerPoint presentation. Each district will be able to make as many copies of the PowerPoint presentation as necessary for staff.

For questions or more information, contact **Amy Eskew** at 217-524-4832 or via email at aeskew@isbe.net.

Funding & Disbursements

FRIS Inquiry Enhancement

The FRIS (Financial Reimbursement Information System) Inquiry has been enhanced to include historical financial data for all state and federal grant budgets/amendments and expenditure report transmissions. For any fiscal year back to 1995, financial data can be viewed and printed for all approved budgets/amendments and expenditure reports for the particular fiscal year and project selected.

To see this information, please go to FRIS Inquiry via the Illinois State Board of Education's web page – www.isbe.net.

- FRIS Inquiry link (under State seal)
- After choosing a fiscal year and entering the local education agency information in contains field, click on Display Projects button
- Choose a project to view information
- From the Project Summary
 - Budget Section – Click for Details – Choose a Submit date
 - Expenditure Section – Click for Details – Choose a Thru/Submit date

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/070302.htm>