



March 28, 2011

Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

The Illinois State Board of Education is teaming up with AT&T, Derrick Rose of the Chicago Bulls and others to discourage teens from texting while driving. The use of mobile technology has exploded in recent years and is becoming a major factor in distracted driving crashes.

AT&T has produced a powerful documentary designed to discourage teens from texting and driving, and Rose will take part in a public service announcement to help draw attention to the campaign. In addition, posters with Rose promoting the campaign to stop texting and driving will be available to schools, and AT&T will promote contests for students to take the pledge against texting and driving.

In Illinois, legislation was recently passed to make it illegal to text while driving. In 2009, there were 1,300 auto crashes in which cell phone distractions, including texting, were the primary or secondary cause of the crash — a 9 percent increase over 2008. Preliminary data from 2010 shows that the number of crashes where cell phone distractions were a primary or secondary cause was down, but still nearly 1,100, and more than 360 of these crashes resulted in at least one injury.

I would encourage you to view the AT&T documentary, “The Last Text,” and consider including it as part of your driver’s education curriculum. It tells the story of eight individuals who lost loved ones because of texting while driving. This is a relatively new and emerging issue and it is completely avoidable. We need to work with students to help them develop new habits and discipline surrounding this technology just as many of us adults learned to buckle up and take other safety precautions. All of us, not just students, need to be aware that taking your eye off the task of driving, even for a second, can have fatal consequences that can change many lives forever. You can view “The Last Text” at <http://www.att.com/gen/press-room?pid=2964>.

Table of Contents	
Innovation and Improvement.....	2
Department of Defense	2
Nutrition.....	3
Data Analysis and Progress Reporting	3
Illinois Arts Education Week	4
U.S. Department of Education	4
Student Opportunities.....	4
School Opportunities	5
Professional Development.....	5
Employment Opportunities.....	5
In the News.....	5

The Illinois State Board of Education surveyed public school districts regarding teacher and principal evaluations as part of the requirements for receiving federal State Fiscal Stabilization Funds in 2009 and 2010. The goal of the survey was to enable state officials, parents, local educators and other stakeholders to see Illinois’ progress toward improving educator effectiveness and equity in the distribution of teachers and principals.

The initial survey resulted in a 60.5 percent response rate from districts. You can see the results of the survey at <http://www.isbe.net/PEAC/html/surveyresults.htm>. Please take a few moments to review the results and if you have not completed it yet, please do so. If you have any questions, please contact Patrick Murphy at (217) 782-2948.

Have a great week.

Chris

Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

- **2011-12 School Improvement Grants Request for Proposals Bidders' Webinar** – April 4
- **CTTC/HVG/ldu'c'pf 'xgpf qt 'f cw'ht 'vj g'tgr qt vpi 's wct vt 'gpf lpi 'O ct ej '53.'4233.'f gcf npg'**– April 5
- **Part 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision) and Part 350 (Secular Textbook Loan)** – Public comment period ends April 18
- **Illinois School Wellness Conference in Decatur** – May 3
- **Illinois Young Authors' Conference** – May 21
- **2010-11 Eye Examination Data Collection deadline** – June 30
- **Prekindergarten At-Risk Program Record and the Preschool For All Program Record deadline** – June 30
- **2010-11 Early Childhood – Parent Evaluations/Demographics survey deadline** – July 15
- **Postmark deadline for waiver applications to be considered by the General Assembly in Fall 2011** – Aug. 12
- **2010-11 High School Students Taking Community College Courses system district-level data submission deadline** – Sept. 15

Innovation and Improvement

Preparing for a Parent Survey

The Center for Research in Educational Policy (CREP) at the University of Memphis conducts an annual evaluation on behalf of ISBE of Supplemental Educational Services (SES). As many of you are aware, SES is a component of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as reauthorized by the No Child Left Behind Act, which provides extra academic assistance for students from low-income families attending designated Title I schools (those in their second year of school improvement, in corrective action, or in restructuring status).

The evaluation conducted by CREP assists ISBE in monitoring the effectiveness of providers approved to offer SES in the state of Illinois. The primary components of the evaluation are: SES student achievement outcomes, SES student attendance and the perceptions of parents with children attending SES. Parental feedback plays a critical role in the evaluation of SES providers. Increasing the level of input from parents, through increasing the survey response rate, will ensure the evaluation contains accurate, reliable information.

In April, schools that are designated SES-eligible will begin receiving boxes containing parent surveys in English and in Spanish and instructions for returning surveys. Please be aware that the SES parent surveys will be arriving in April at SES-eligible schools. Please share this information with your schools and emphasize the importance of the survey distribution and return in an effort to increase the rate of survey submissions.

For questions or additional information regarding the parent survey, contact Beth Murphy, Research Assistant, Center for Research in Educational Policy, The University of Memphis at kmurphy3@memphis.edu or (866) 670-6147. For general SES questions, contact Gary Greene at (312) 814-3989 or ggreene@isbe.net.

Department of Defense

Military Families Expected to Relocate in U.S. Following Disasters in Japan

The Department of State has authorized a voluntary departure from the Island of Honshu, Japan, for U.S. military family members. The Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) is requesting the support of school district leaders to provide a continuum of education for the children of our families impacted by recent events. They are anticipating that some families with school-age children will choose to relocate.

“To the extent that children of military families will temporarily enroll in your schools, we ask that you partner with us in easing the burden on the students affected by this tragic natural disaster,” DoDEA Acting Director Marilee Fitzgerald states in a letter to school administrators. “To that end, we have encouraged our families to resume the stability and routine of school once settled at a safe haven. We know that a significant element of support for these children is the educational setting; one that provides not only a quality education but that recognizes and responds to each child's unique needs.”

Read the letter in its entirety at <http://www.dodea.edu/home/docs/letter-stateside.pdf>. For

additional information and questions, contact Kathleen Facon at kathleen.facon@hq.dodea.edu or (703) 588-3191. Visit <http://www.dodea.edu/home/> for more resources.

Nutrition

Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Grant Applications Deadline 4 p.m. March 31

The Illinois State Board of Education is accepting applications for the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) Grant for the 2011-12 school year. The purpose of the FFVP Grant is to provide fresh fruits and vegetables to elementary students during the school day at times other than meal periods a minimum of two times a week. Any elementary school participating in the National School Lunch Program is eligible to apply but priority will be given to those schools with 50 percent or greater free and reduced-price eligibility.

See http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/ffv_program.htm for additional information about the FFVP Grant, program requirements and to access the FFVP Grant application. The completed grant application must be submitted to ISBE no later than 4 p.m. CST on March 31, 2011, to be considered for the 2011-12 school year.

Questions? Contact Lindsay Blough (lblough@isbe.net) or Roxanne Ramage (rramage@isbe.net) at (800) 545-7892 or (217) 782-2491.

Illinois School Wellness Conference Scheduled for May 3 in Decatur

The fourth annual Illinois School Wellness Conference at the Decatur Conference Center is just around the corner. Attend the conference on May 3 to learn about the latest school wellness strategies and resources.

The conference is ideal for school administrators, school nurses, educators, food service staff, wellness committee members, parents, students and anyone else who wants to learn more about encouraging healthy lifestyles and healthy food at school. Other topics will include Food Trends in Schools, Fuel up To Play 60, The New P.E., Wellness Success Stories from Illinois, Ways to Host Healthy Fundraisers and active discussion that will include healthy food options in school stores and concession stands.

Dr. Toni Yancey, author of “Instant Recess: Building a Fit National 10 Minutes at a Time,” has been selected as

keynote speaker. Yancey played basketball for Northwestern University and is a professor in the UCLA Department of Health. She is also a national board member for Action for Healthy Kids. Her presentation will be based on her book, which provides “doable” solutions to encourage students to get moving.

Register by April 19 to take advantage of the early bird rate of \$45 for adults and \$25 for students. Go to <http://www.actionforhealthykids.org>, click on the “In Your State” tab and select Illinois to find more information about the conference.

The conference is presented jointly by the Illinois State Board of Education and Illinois Action for Healthy Kids Team to fulfill Public Act 094-0190, House Bill 1541 School Health Recognition Program.

Data Analysis and Progress Reporting

High School Students Taking Community College Courses System Open in IWAS

The 2010-11 High School Students Taking Community College Courses system is open in IWAS for district-level data submission. The deadline to submit is Sept. 15, 2011.

Only unit and high school districts need to submit the required data, per Section 2-3.144 of the Illinois School Code. Each district needs to submit a report, even those that did not have any high school students taking community college courses during the 2010-11 school year. In this instance, the district should access the system, click on “No,” and submit the report by Sept. 15.

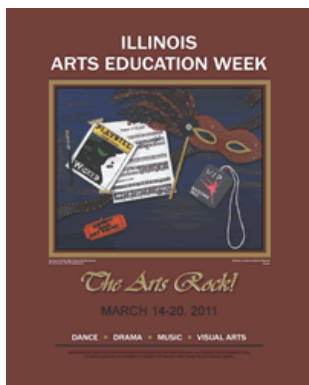
Questions about the IWAS system should be referred to the ISBE Help Desk at (217) 558-3600, and questions about the information to be entered for this data collection should be referred to Niann-Tsyr Chern in the Data Analysis and Progress Reporting Division at (217) 782-3950.

Illinois Arts Education Week

Students and Arts Educators Recognized for Their Work

The Illinois State Board of Education joined the Illinois Alliance for Arts Education to honor student winners of a statewide poster contest and arts educators during the

29th annual Illinois Arts Education Week held March 14-20.



Students across the state competed to create posters reflective of this year's theme, "The Arts Rock!." Nicole Maslow, a senior at Hinsdale South High School in Hinsdale School District 86, was chosen as the winner of the 2011 statewide poster contest.

While celebrating Arts Education Week, ISBE also recognized Adlai E. Stevenson High School, SD 125, Lincolnshire, one of five schools in the country to win the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts National Schools of Distinction Award for their work during the recent 2009-10 school year.

Posters can be requested by contacting ISBE's Curriculum and Instruction division at (217) 557-7323; arts@isbe.net; or via mail at 100 N. First St., Springfield, IL 62777-0001. The back of the poster contains references to the Illinois Learning Goals and Standards for the Fine Arts, upcoming art events for 2010, Internet resources and more. To view all the winning artwork, visit http://www.isbe.net/curriculum/html/arts_week.htm. A complete list of arts educators honored is at http://www.isbe.net/curriculum/arts_week/2011/program.pdf. Visit the Illinois Alliance for Art Education's website at <http://www.illinoisalliance4artsed.org/>.

U.S. Department of Education

Notice of responsibilities under FERPA and PPRA

Listed below are links to the U.S. Department of Education's annual notice to SEAs and LEAs of their responsibilities under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA).

- <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpc/pdf/chiefsea.pdf>
- <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpc/pdf/pprasuper.pdf>
- <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpc/pdf/ferparights.pdf>
- <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpc/pdf/ppraconsent.pdf>

- <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpc/pdf/ppranotice.pdf>
- <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpc/pdf/directoryinfo.pdf>

For questions about the requirements of these laws, call the Family Policy Compliance Office at (202) 260-3887 or e-mail ferpa@ed.gov.

Student Opportunities

High School Students Invited to Compete in Online National Civil War Challenge

To commemorate the 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War, the History channel and Houghton Mifflin Harcourt are presenting the National Civil War Student Challenge. The academic competition invites high school students from across the U.S. to participate in an online trivia contest.

Registration and a study guide and practice game are available online at <http://www.civilwarchallenge.com>, along with the official rules and additional information. The National Civil War Student Challenge is set for April 7-9 online. The top 30 students will advance and take a final exam on April 25. Scholarships totaling nearly \$30,000 will be awarded. Teachers with students in the final round will have a chance to win classroom supplies.

For questions, contact Ben Turk at (212) 426-7006 or civilwarchallenge@cegnyc.com.

Latino Art Beat Offers Competition for High School Juniors and Seniors

Latino Art Beat, a national not-for profit arts organization, has announced its 14th annual art competition will be themed "What Hispanic Heritage & Culture Means to Me?" The competition is available to all high school juniors and seniors currently enrolled in an Illinois high school. Competition categories include drawing, painting, film and animation.

Scholarship awards will be given to winners of the 2011 competition. To date, Latino Art Beat has awarded more than \$3 million in scholarships to students on a national basis. The Illinois deadline for entries is Monday, May 9, 2011.

For full competition information, applications and the 2011 Rules & Guidelines booklet, e-mail a request to latinoartbeat@hotmail.com or call (773) 291-6901.

School Opportunities

Grant Opportunity Available for Award-Nominated Books

The Illinois School Library Media Association/Library Book Selection Service Endowment Fund will donate complete sets of the Monarch, Bluestem, Caudill and Lincoln book award nominees to selected libraries. Grant recipients must be registered with the corresponding Illinois Readers' Choice Book Award program by May 15.

The Monarch, Bluestem and Lincoln award master lists are available at <http://www.islma.org>. The Caudill master list is available at <http://www.rcyrb.org>.

The online grant application and additional information is available at <http://www.Lbssfund.org>. The deadline to apply is May 15. Grant recipients will be determined this summer and books will be shipped in August.

Professional Development

Illinois Association of Educational Office Professionals Plans Spring Conference

The Illinois Association of Educational Office Professionals will hold their annual spring conference April 15-17 in Springfield.

Conference presenters include Whitney Thorpe-Klinsky of New Baden who was crowned Miss Illinois 2010 last June.

The registration deadline for the conference is April 5. For more information, visit the IAEOP web site at <http://www.iaeop.com/>.

Upcoming Workshops Take an International Perspective

Registration is under way for professional development workshops co-sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education National Resource Centers for International and Area Studies at the University of Illinois. CPDUs are available for all workshops.

The workshops include "Innocent Victims of International Conflict: Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law," which is set for July 25-29. For more information and to register, visit http://i2i.illinois.edu/2011_institute.php.

Other workshops include:

- Illinois Council for Social Studies Conference, "Seeing Eye to Eye: Bringing International, National and Local Perspectives to Social Studies," April 15, <http://www.illinoiscss.org/home.php>
- Global Studies Forum, "The Responsibility to Protect: Exploring International Humanitarian Law," April 16, <http://cgs.illinois.edu/content/global-studies-forum-exploring-international-humanitarian-law>

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/2011/newsclips/110328.htm>.