



Sept. 17, 2012

Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

This week the members of the Illinois State Board of Education will meet Wednesday and Thursday in Bloomington for the September Board meeting and annual retreat and strategic planning session. This is one of the most important meetings of the year because it allows members time to focus on the big picture policy decisions that help to guide us.

We'll have significant discussions on budget, legislative priorities and reform measures. This will officially kick off the FY 2014 budget making process, as Board members provide guidance to staff to begin the research and development of our budget proposal for the following fiscal year. Additionally, the Board will consider requests to streamline the state intervention process and recommendations from the Classrooms First Commission.

Last week, I attended an event with Governor Quinn announcing \$2.3 million in federal Race to the Top funds that are being used to leverage another \$8 million worth of private business resources and funding to develop eight Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) Learning Exchanges. The eight STEM Learning Exchanges, coordinated through multiple state agencies in partnership with the Illinois Business Round Table, will be established through contracts with the Illinois State Board of Education.

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The following STEM fields of study are to be implemented as exchanges beginning this year:

- Manufacturing
- Health Sciences
- Research & Development
- Information Technology
- Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources

Three STEM exchanges are being planned in the energy, finance and transportation, distribution and logistics fields of study.

These statewide Learning Exchanges will work together with regional educational and business entities and networks to aggregate curricular resources, assessment tools, professional development systems, work-based learning opportunities and problem-based learning challenges. You can get more information on the STEM Learning Exchanges by visiting www.illinoisworknet.com/ilpathways.

We continue to see significant progress with administrators completing their performance evaluation training. Almost 90 percent of those scheduled to take the teacher performance evaluation training have begun and of those, 88 percent have completed the first three modules and 31 percent have completed all five modules. In addition, 77 percent of those administrators scheduled to take the principal evaluation training have begun, and of those 68 percent have completed the first three modules and 43 percent have completed all five.

Thanks for all you do for the students of Illinois.

Chris

Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

- **2011-12 High School Students Taking Community College Courses data submission deadline** – Sept. 17
- **21CCLC Grants Request for Proposals application deadline** – Sept. 18 (<http://www.isbe.net/21ccle>)
- **Illinois RtI Network statewide conference** – Sept. 24-25 (http://www.isbe.net/RtI_plan/default.htm)
- **Administrator and Teacher Salary and Benefits report deadline** – Oct. 1
- **ISBE offices closed for Columbus Day** – Oct. 8
- **U.S. Senate Youth Program/Hearst Scholarship deadline** – Oct. 3 (<http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/html/hearst.htm>)
- **Thomas Lay Burroughs Award nomination deadline** – Oct. 5 (http://www.isbe.net/pdf/burroughs_award.pdf)
- **ISBE offices closed for Columbus Day** – Oct. 8
- **RtI Professional Development Training, Grayslake** – Oct. 9-10 (Register at <http://webapps.isbe.net/ISBEConference/IsbeConfMenu.aspx>)
- **Part 25 (Certification), Part 75 (Agricultural Education Program) and Part 140 (Calculation of Excess Cost under Section 18-3 of the School Code)** – Public comment period ends Oct. 15
- **RtI Professional Development Training, Belleville** – Oct. 15-16 (Register at <http://webapps.isbe.net/ISBEConference/IsbeConfMenu.aspx>)
- **Title I Directors Conference in Springfield** – Oct. 16-17 (<http://www.iatd.net>)
- **School District/Joint Agreement Budget Form deadline** – Oct. 31
- **ISBE offices closed for Election Day** – Nov. 6
- **ISBE offices closed for Veterans' Day** – Nov. 12
- **Diabetes Awareness Day** – Nov. 14 (<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/97/PDF/097-0819.pdf>)
- **School District/Joint Agreement Annual Financial Report (AFR) form deadline** – Nov. 15
- **ISBE offices closed for Thanksgiving** – Nov. 22-23
- **School District /Joint Agreement Annual Statement of Affairs (ASA) form deadline** – Dec. 15
- **Postmark deadline for waiver applications to be considered by General Assembly in Spring '13** – Jan. 18

Funding and Disbursements

Sept. 30, 2012, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Data Due Oct. 5, 2012

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs and vendor data for the quarter ending Sept. 30, 2012, is due at the Illinois State Board of Education on or before Friday, Oct. 5, 2012. This data is required for all ARRA projects that had activity after June 30, 2012.

ARRA data reporting includes two primary elements: the number of jobs funded in the reporting quarter with ARRA dollars and a single payment made to a vendor,

using ARRA dollars, in the amount of \$25,000 or more. All ARRA data must be reported via the ARRA Reporting System in IWAS. Please refer to the ARRA Reporting Instructions at http://www.isbe.net/arra/pdf/arra_reporting_inst.pdf for detailed reporting procedures.

IMPORTANT: Grant recipients with active ARRA projects must report regardless of whether any jobs were funded or any payments were made to a vendor of \$25,000 or more in the reporting quarter.

Please follow these three steps below to properly calculate the jobs FTE that must be reported for the period ending Sept 30.

- **Step 1:** Determine the number of hours in a full-time schedule for ARRA funded employees between July 1 and Sept. 30 (i.e. an employee works 40 hours a week for 13 weeks, the quarterly hours in a full-time schedule is 520 hours). Note: This figure may change depending on the type of employee.
- **Step 2:** Determine the number of hours employees were paid with ARRA funds for the reporting quarter ending Sept 30.
- **Step 3:** Divide the number calculated in Step 2 by the quarterly hours in a full-time schedule calculated in Step 1. This calculation should be performed for each employee funded with ARRA dollars. The formula for reporting can be represented as:

$$\frac{\text{Total Number of Hours ARRA Funded Within Reporting Quarter}}{\text{Quarterly Hours in a Full-Time Schedule}} = \text{FTE}$$

Sept. 30 ARRA data must be reported for the following ARRA programs for all local education agencies with active ARRA projects after June 30, 2012:

- Title I Low Income – Revenue Code 4851, CFDA #84.394
- Title I Low Income Neglected – Revenue Code 4852, CFDA #84.394
- Title I Low Income Delinquent – Revenue Code 4853, CFDA #84.394
- Title I School Improvement – Revenue Code 4854, CFDA #84.394
- Title I School Improvement (1003g) – Revenue Code 4855, CFDA #84.388
- Title II D Enhancing Education Through Technology – Revenue Code 4861, CFDA #84.386
- Education Jobs Fund Program – Revenue Code 4880, CFDA #84.410 (If compensation and/or benefits have been or will be requested for employees from July through Sept)

If you have any questions, contact Funding and Disbursements at (217) 782-5256.

EDUCATION JOBS ARRA REPORTING

REMINDER – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY: If the LEA has submitted or plans to submit an expenditure report requesting reimbursement of qualifying expenditures (i.e. compensation and benefit costs) that occurred between July 1 and Sept. 30, the full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs and vendor data must be reported for the period ending Sept. 30 even if an expenditure

report for reimbursement has yet to be filed for that period of time. For example, if the LEA is going to submit in mid-October an Ed Jobs expenditure report requesting reimbursement of compensation and benefits expended during the reporting quarter ending Sept. 30, the LEA is required to report FTE jobs and vendor data to ISBE on or before the required ARRA reporting deadline of Oct. 5, 2012, even though the expenditure report has not yet been submitted by the LEA. This is true for any subsequent quarter.

Further, once the LEA begins to request Ed Jobs expenditure reimbursement they are obligated to report ARRA FTE jobs and vendor data via the ARRA Reporting System every subsequent quarter until all Ed Jobs Funds have been requested and reported, even if no expenditure reports for reimbursement have been submitted in the current ARRA reporting quarter. For example, if the LEA requested reimbursement and reported ARRA data through June 30 and after doing so still has unexpended allocation, but has no Ed Jobs expenditures between July 1 and Sept. 30, they must still submit ARRA FTE jobs and vendor data for the Sept. 30 ARRA reporting quarter that reflects that 0 FTE jobs or vendor payments were funded with Ed Jobs dollars during the reporting quarter. Again, the LEA must continue to submit ARRA data reports for each reporting quarter, beginning with the quarter in which the compensation funding start date occurs until all Ed Jobs funds have been requested and reported.

If you have further questions or concerns with the Ed Jobs program, contact Jim Mathes at jmathes@isbe.net or Marj Beck at mbeck@isbe.net. Both can be reached at (217) 782-5256.

Final Obligation Date for ARRA Title I, Title II and Education Jobs – Sept. 30, 2012

Please be advised that Sept. 30, 2012, is the final date to obligate funds for the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Title I Low Income (Revenue Codes 4851, 4852, 4853 and 4854), Title II D Technology (Revenue Code 4861) and Education Jobs (Revenue Code 4880) programs. All local education agencies (LEAs) with active projects in these programs must complete all activities and financial obligations no later than Sept. 30, 2012.

To assist you with what constitutes an obligation please see below:

- **If the obligation is for:** Personal services by an employee. **The obligation is made:** When the service has been performed.

- **If the obligation is for:** Personal services by a contractor (not an employee). **The obligation is made:** On the date on which a binding written commitment to obtain the services has been made.
- **If the obligation is for:** Performance of work other than a personal service. **The obligation is made:** On the date on which a binding written commitment to obtain the work has been made.
- **If the obligation is for:** Public utility service. **The obligation is made:** When the service is received.
- **If the obligation is for:** Travel. **The obligation is made:** When the travel is taken.
- **If the obligation is for:** A pre-agreement cost that was properly approved by the State. **The obligation is made:** When the pre-agreement costs were approved by the State.

IMPORTANT: In addition to obligating funds on or before Sept. 30, 2012, LEAs must report separately on full-time equivalent positions funded with ARRA dollars as well as any vendor payments made in excess of \$25,000 via the ARRA Reporting System in IWAS. Please refer to the ARRA Reporting Instructions at http://www.isbe.net/arra/pdf/arra_reporting_inst.pdf for detailed reporting procedures. All Sept. 30, 2012, ARRA reporting is due at the State Board of Education on or before Oct. 5, 2012. The data is required for all ARRA projects that had activity between July 1 and Sept. 30, 2012.

Education Jobs Program

(http://www.isbe.net/arra/html/ed_jobs_fund.htm): As a reminder, these funds may only be used for compensation and benefits and other expenses, such as support services, which includes, among other things, salaries, performance bonuses, health insurance, retirement benefits, incentives for early retirement, pension fund contributions, tuition reimbursement, student loan repayment assistance, transportation subsidies, and reimbursement for childcare expenses necessary to retain existing employees, to recall or rehire former employees, and to hire new employees, in order to provide early childhood, elementary, or secondary educational and related services. Ed Jobs funds are provided on a reimbursement basis after the LEA has submitted eligible expenditures via the Electronic Expenditure Report in IWAS.

LEAs with undisbursed FY 2011 Original and/or FY 2012 Supplemental Education Jobs funds as of Sept. 10, 2012 can be found at

http://www.isbe.net/arra/pdf/arra_ed_jobs_undisbursed_fy11-12.pdf.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact Funding and Disbursements Division at (217) 782-5256.

Fiscal Year 2013 Supplemental General State Aid Plans Due Oct. 30

Per Section 18-8.05(H)(3) of the School Code, school districts with an average daily attendance of more than 1,000 are required to submit a Supplemental General State Aid (SGSA) plan to the Illinois State Board of Education on or before Oct. 30 for the use of the funds resulting from the supplemental General State Aid for the improvement of instruction in which priority is given to meeting the education needs of disadvantaged children.

The SGSA plan for qualifying districts must be filed electronically via the ISBE IWAS System. The SGSA system is now open for fiscal year 2013. Critical information is pre-populated for each district. A brief narrative is required along with a budget breakdown of the SGSA funds. SGSA funds may be expended in various ways but must primarily benefit disadvantaged, low-income students that generate the district funding without supplanting other funds already in place.

If you have questions regarding the SGSA program please contact Jim Mathes (jmathes@isbe.net) in the Division of Funding and Disbursements at (217) 782-5256.

Assessment

Pre-ID Label Process for 2012-13 ISBE-Funded EXPLORE/PLAN Program

ISBE will extract Pre-ID data from SIS shortly after the Sept. 28, 2012, deadline and submit a file to ACT on behalf of school districts. It is imperative that district personnel enroll students in grades 9 and 10 on or before the Sept. 28 deadline. As with other testing programs, districts can, and should, continue to update demographic data through SIS.

Project information can be accessed at <http://www.isbe.net/assessment/htmls/protocol.htm>. The timeline for the ISBE-Funded EXPLORE/PLAN program is below:

- **Sept. 28, 2012:** ISBE sends ACT the Pre-ID file – in order to receive pre-ID labels for 9th and 10th grade students, staff will need to update

student demographic information to the Student Information System (SIS) before this date.

- **Sept. 30, 2012:** 11:59 PM CST deadline to order – ACT closes order window and begins processing materials.
- **Oct. 29, 2012:** Secure and Non-secure materials arrive at testing sites (no later than this date).
- **Nov. 5-16, 2012:** Testing window for 9th grade EXPLORE and 10th grade PLAN.
- **Nov. 21, 2012:** Last day to ship materials to ACT for processing.
- **Dec. 11, 2012:** School reports ship from ACT (no later than this date).
- **Dec. 28, 2012:** District reports ship from ACT (no later than this date).
- **Feb. 1, 2013:** District/school reports available through SIS.

If you need assistance with creating a new account, accessing your existing account or ordering EXPLORE or PLAN materials, call ACT Customer Service at (877) 789-2925.

Announcements for Grade 11 Testing

Opportunity to Receive the ACT National Career Readiness Certificate: WorkKeys Locating Information completes the battery of three WorkKeys assessments required for students to be eligible to receive a National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC). Since its first administration in spring 2001, PSAE Day 2 has included the other two WorkKeys assessments required for eligibility – WorkKeys Applied Mathematics and WorkKeys Reading for Information.

This third WorkKeys assessment, Locating Information, will be administered to all eligible grade 11 students immediately after the PSAE Day 2 tests unless accommodations allow testing on a later day. Data from the WorkKeys Locating Information will be reported separately and will not be part of any PSAE reporting. Grade 11 students for whom the Illinois Alternate Assessment (IAA) is the appropriate state assessment are not required to participate in the administration of WorkKeys Locating Information.

For more information about ACT's NCRC, visit www.act.org/certificate/about.html. Staff at established PSAE test sites will receive detailed information about logistics and administration details via the 2013 PSAE Administration Training Webcast and the PSAE Day 2 Supervisor's Manual of Instruction. The webcast and

Day 2 Manual will both be available on the PSAE website, www.isbe.net/assessment/psae.htm.

Grade 11 Writing: As announced by State Superintendent Koch in his July 11, 2011, Weekly Message, the grade 11 writing component has been eliminated from state assessment. This remains true for spring 2013 for both PSAE and IAA.

Many districts inquired as to whether the ACT Writing, which had been part of the PSAE, could be optionally self-funded, and ACT has indicated to ISBE that this is not a feasible option.

PSAE Day 1 will consist of the battery of four multiple-choice ACT tests to enable students to receive the bonus of a college-reportable ACT score, as long as PSAE Day 1 is administered under standard-time conditions or with ACT-Approved accommodations.

Students taking the PSAE this year will not receive an ACT Writing score, and, therefore, students who are seeking admission to universities and colleges that require a writing score on a national examination must take either the ACT or SAT on a national test date and independently from the PSAE that is being administered this spring.

Contact: Please direct any questions to the Assessment Division at (866) 317-6034.

PEAC

Evaluator Training Administrators Academy and Professional Development Information

As people who are involved in teacher or principal evaluator training complete the first three modules and then each module thereafter of Teacher Evaluation training and after Modules 4 & 5 of Principal Evaluation Training, CEC and ISBE are working together to post designations to each person's ECS account.

For more information and to see ECS account examples, go to ISBE's Performance Evaluation Advisory Council webpage at <http://www.isbe.net/peac/> and click on "What's New?"

Special Education Services

FY13 School Technology Revolving Loan Applications

The FY13 School Technology Revolving Loan Program (STRLP) application materials for eligible districts and

schools are available at http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/elearning/html/revolving_loan.htm. This year the loan will be for school districts serving grades 9-12. Applications will be accepted through Dec. 1, 2012.

The loans will be awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis. The School Technology Revolving Loan Program (STRLP) is a three-year loan with a 2 percent interest rate. The amount which each district is eligible to apply is listed under “Eligible Applicants.”

Assistive Technology Guidance Manual Available on ISBE Website

The purpose of the Assistive Technology Guidance Manual is to provide guidance to school systems regarding the processes associated with effective AT use by students with disabilities. The manual is intended to inform the practices of schools systems to promote successful outcomes related to AT use by students with disabilities and to serve as a point of reference for school administrators, teachers, related service personnel, students and parents of students with disabilities.

To view the manual look under “What’s New” on the Special Education Services webpage (<http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/Default.htm>) or the Assistive Technology webpage (http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/html/assist_tech.htm).

Districts Required to Complete Timely and Meaningful Consultation With Private Schools

It’s the time of the year when districts should be planning to complete annual timely and meaningful consultation (TMC) with private schools and families of home-schoolers with disabilities. Please remember this is a requirement for any district that has known home-school students and private school students with disabilities regardless of whether a district has funds to expend on such students. Also, please note the requirement to provide families in the district with a public notice of the TMC requirement even if there are no private schools in the district.

The specific steps for conducting TMC can be found in ISBE’s guidance memo at http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/Memo_08-2_Clarification.pdf, http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/guidance_06-3.pdf and http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/guidance_06-2.pdf. The affirmation form can be accessed at <http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/pvtschAppA.pdf>.

Please plan on completing the TMC by no later than Oct. 15, 2012, and submitting documentation of the TMC by Nov. 1, 2012. Please contact Special Education Services at (217) 782-5589 with any questions.

Webinar Addresses Nonpublic Proportionate Share Requirements

The Special Education Services Division has provided a brief webinar that addresses nonpublic proportionate share requirements specific to the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) grants. The webinar, which lasts just under 15 minutes, focuses on key requirements and includes a question and answer section. The webinar is available at <http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/Default.htm>.

Questions specific to the webinar and IDEA grant proportionate share requirements can be directed to the IDEA grant coordinators by telephone at (217) 782-5589 or email: Tammy Greco, tgrec@isbe.net; Betty Hendrickson, bhendric@isbe.net; Felicia Malloy, fmalloy@isbe.net; Gary Miller, [gmiller@isbe.net](mailto:gmill@isbe.net).

Data Analysis and Accountability

Administrator and Teacher Salary and Benefits – School Year 2012 Report Open in IWAS

The Administrator and Teacher Salary and Benefits system is open in IWAS for school year 2012 data submission. Effective Jan. 1, 2012, Sections 10-20.47 and 34-18.38 of the School Code [105 ILCS 5/10-20.47 and 5/34-18.38] were amended to require school districts to 1) report administrator and teacher salary and benefits to ISBE by Oct. 1 and 2) present the information at a school board meeting before posting on the website of the district:

“Each school board shall report to the State Board of Education, on or before Oct. 1 of each year, the base salary and benefits of the district superintendent [or the general superintendent of schools or chief executive officer] and all administrators and teachers employed by the school district. For the purposes of this Section, "benefits" includes without limitation vacation days, sick days, bonuses, annuities, and retirement enhancements.

Prior to this annual reporting to the State Board of Education, the information must be presented at a regular school board meeting, subject to applicable notice requirements, and then posted on the Internet website of the school district, if any.”

To comply with the law, school districts are required to submit to ISBE by Monday, Oct. 1 (11:59 p.m.), the following data for each individual employed as a superintendent/CEO, other administrator, and/or teacher during school year 2012:

- **Name:** Legal last name, first name, and middle name
- **Position:** Main position, i.e., District Administrator, Other Administrator, or Teacher
- **Title:** Title for main position (optional)
- **Base Salary:** Dollar amount of base salary for all positions combined
- **FTE (Full-Time Equivalency):** FTE for all positions combined, counted in hundredths
- **Vacation Days:** Number of vacation days awarded this school year
- **Sick Days:** Number of sick days awarded this school year
- **Bonuses:** Dollar value of bonuses
- **Annuities:** Dollar value of employer-provided qualified and nonqualified annuities
- **Retirement Enhancements:** Dollar value of employer-provided retirement enhancements
- **Other Benefits:** Dollar value of other benefits provided by employer

The data must be submitted via IWAS, by Oct. 1. The salary and benefits data you report are to include payments made for all duties performed as a school district employee during school year 2012, on all forms of compensation received by an individual. ISBE strongly suggests downloading and using the Excel spreadsheet template currently provided in the IWAS system that includes the proper headers and cell formatting required for your file to upload. To upload to ISBE, you must save as a CSV file.

Questions may be directed to Mark Hobneck in the ISBE Data Analysis and Accountability Division at (217) 782-3950. Please note that this is a separate data collection from the Teacher Service Record (TSR), which closed Aug. 15 and had different data requirements.

Nutrition and Wellness Programs

Illinois Awarded Team Nutrition Training Grant

Illinois has been selected as a recipient of the USDA 2012 Illinois Team Nutrition Training (TNT) Grant. The

ISBE will collaborate with the Illinois Action for Healthy Kids (IL-AFHK) to assist 50 Illinois elementary or secondary schools in submitting HealthierUS School Challenge (HUSCC) applications.

This project will address the Team Nutrition behavior-oriented strategy to provide schools with technical assistance to create and maintain healthier school environments. The grant allows for 50 competitive HealthierUS School Challenge (HUSCC) mini-grants to Illinois schools.

Watch for more information on this grant opportunity in late fall.

Join ISBE Staff for Upcoming Talk it Up Tuesday Webinars

ISBE's Nutrition and Wellness Programs Division would like to remind the School-Based Child Nutrition Program sponsors of the Talk It Up Tuesday Webinars, which will continue every other Tuesday morning from 9-10 a.m. through the end of October 2012. Division staff will host each webinar to provide the most current information. Each session may provide different topics for discussion. Registration information will be posted for each session, at the conclusion of the prior session. Monitor our website, www.isbe.net/nutrition.

The remaining Talk It Up Tuesday Webinar dates are Sept. 25, Oct. 9 and Oct. 23.

2012-13 Illinois School Breakfast Challenge Kicks Off

Breakfast is not just for testing week. Children who eat a nutritious breakfast tend to perform better in school, have a better attendance record and exhibit fewer behavior problems. Therefore, the Illinois State Board of Education, the Midwest Dairy Council and the Illinois No Kid Hungry Campaign are proud to sponsor the 2012-13 Illinois School Breakfast Challenge.

Challenge: All Illinois schools participating in the School Breakfast Program (SBP) are eligible and are automatically entered to participate in the Illinois Breakfast Challenge. Winners will be announced in April of 2013. Participation increase will be calculated by comparing the SBP participation rates from January-May of 2012 to August-December of 2012. Awards will be given to schools with the largest percentage increases in average daily participation rates.

There will be four categories for the Challenge with each tier awarding three prizes: \$5,000, \$3,000 and \$1,000.

For more information, please visit <http://il.nokidhungry.org/school-breakfast> or contact Dawn Melchiorre at dmelchiorre@gcfd.org.

Application Process Under Way for School Breakfast Grants

Grants through Share Our Strength and the Illinois No Kid Hungry Campaign will support schools with expanding breakfast participation. Funds can be used to purchase approved equipment and to create materials and initiatives that facilitate alternative breakfast delivery models (such as in-classroom breakfast, grab-n-go or second-chance breakfast).

Applying schools must either be implementing or be prepared to implement an alternative breakfast delivery model. Grants will be awarded up to \$5,000 on a rolling basis. For more information or to apply, please visit the Illinois No Kid Hungry website at <http://il.nokidhungry.org/grants-school-breakfast>.

Title Grant Administration

Illinois Association of Title I Directors Conference Scheduled for Oct. 16-17

The Illinois Association of Title I Directors and the Illinois State Board of Education will host the annual Title I Directors Conference on Oct. 16-17, 2012. The purpose of the conference is to promote and facilitate communication and cooperation among Title I education and management specialists throughout the state of Illinois. During the conference, staff from the Illinois State Board of Education will provide updates and breakout sessions, such as NCLB grant completion, parent involvement, SSOS and Intro to the Center for School Improvement, supplemental education services, Common Core, and provide updates on other ISBE initiatives. Jay McTighe will be the keynote speaker at this year's conference.

While membership is not required to attend the conference, becoming an IATD member has many benefits. Membership provides a discount to the winter and spring workshops, opportunities to collaborate with ISBE, access to the IATD listserv and opportunities for professional development, networking and support for those associated with Title I.

Registration for the conference and lodging arrangements can be completed through the association's website at <http://www.iatd.net>. Registration is \$200 or \$250 for registration and membership fees. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield for \$118 plus tax per night under "IATD."

For additional registration questions, contact Jennifer Frerichs at (217) 384-3565. For lodging questions, please contact Scott Horsch, IATD president, at shorsch@mendotahs.org.

Student Opportunities

ISBE Accepting Nominations for U.S. Presidential Scholar Program

The Illinois State Board of Education is seeking candidates for the U.S. Presidential Scholar Program. This program honors outstanding high school students based on their outstanding scholarship and promise of future success. ISBE is encouraging principals to nominate students who might not otherwise be nominated through the current SAT/ACT or arts recognition process.

All high school seniors graduating between January and June 2013 who are U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents, who attend public, parochial or independent schools, as well as those who are home-schooled, are eligible.

The 2013 U.S. Presidential Scholars will be selected by the Commission on Presidential Scholars and will receive the Presidential Scholars Medallion and an expense paid trip to Washington, D.C., in June.

When submitting a student for consideration, the nomination letter should address the following questions:

1. What about the student makes him or her stand out as having outstanding scholarship?
2. What special challenges or hurdles has this student overcome while still achieving high academic success?

Please submit nominations to ISBE, Public Information, 100 N. First St., Springfield, IL 62777. Nominations must be received by Oct. 31.

For additional information about the program, visit <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/psp/index.html>.

Application Deadline Coming Up for 2012-13 U.S. Senate Youth Program/Hearst Scholarship

There is still time to apply for the 2012-13 U.S. Senate Youth Program/Hearst Scholarship. A letter from the state superintendent, brochure and application concerning the U.S. Senate Youth Program/Hearst Scholarship is sent to high schools in early August. Applications can be obtained from guidance counselors or by clicking on <http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/html/hearst.htm>, then select the application in the Resource Box on the right side of the page. Click on the brochure link for a description of the program and associated rules. The application deadline is 5 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 3, 2012.

High school juniors and seniors are eligible to apply for this program. The first phase of this program brings two students from each state to Washington, D.C., March 9-16, 2013, to participate in the U.S. Senate Youth Program (USSYP). Delegates will be immersed in Washington activities throughout their week-long stay.

Visits to the Senate, House of Representatives, Supreme Court and Pentagon are interspersed with time spent at various Smithsonian museums. Delegates will hear policy addresses by senators, cabinet members, officials of various executive departments and others. The William Randolph Hearst Foundation will pay all expenses for the week, including transportation, hotel and meals.

The second phase awards both recipients a college scholarship of \$5,000. The Hearst Foundation requires that to obtain scholarship funds, a student must, within two years after high school graduation, enroll at an accredited U. S. college or university. The student is encouraged to include courses in government or related subjects to his or her undergraduate program.

More information on this program can be obtained at www.hearstfdn.org/ussyp/. In Illinois, contact Sally Veach, Principal Consultant, Illinois State Board of Education, Special Education Services (N-243), 100 N. First St., Springfield, IL 62777-0001. Phone (217) 782-5589 or e-mail sveach@isbe.net.

Professional Development

Raising Student Achievement Conference Scheduled for Dec. 3-4 in St. Charles

The Regional Offices of Education and Intermediate Service Centers announced that registration is open for the annual Raising Student Achievement Conference set

for Dec. 3-4, 2012, at Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles. Conference registration is available at <http://www.roeachievementconference.org>.

RSAC 2012 will address the multifaceted issues facing all school districts in pursuit of academic success for every student. Keynote addresses, featured schools, featured speakers and more than 100 breakout sessions will provide the most recent thinking on proven best practices to help attendees enhance and refine current programs, and to inspire change where it is needed in every instructional area. The theme, “Moving All Children Forward,” reflects both the spirit and content of the conference. Administrators' Academy sessions are available on Monday, Dec. 3.

Illinois Network of Charter Schools

Applications Available for 2012-13 Session of Charter Starter Consulting Program

The Illinois Network of Charter Schools (INCS) is accepting applications for the 2012-13 session of Charter Starter Consulting, a program that delivers critical support to help educational innovators plan and open charter schools in Illinois.

Participants can apply for one of two offerings: 1) The Charter Starter Design Series, a series of expert-led training sessions, presented through workshops, school visits and webinars. Topics include team-building and project management, community engagement, educational program design, school operations and the charter application process; and 2) Fast Forward, a specialized program that provides customized support for the most advanced design teams through individualized expert support in priority areas and a comprehensive charter application review.

Applications are due Oct. 12, 2012. For more information, visit www.incschools.org/start_a_charter or contact Anne Levy Brown at alevybrown@incschools.org.

In the News

Weekly News Clips

The Illinois State Board of Education has posted highlights from recent education news clips at <http://www.isbe.net/news/2012/newsclips/120910.htm> and <http://www.isbe.net/news/2012/newsclips/120917.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>.