



Feb. 4, 2013

Message From State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

Last week I was in Mt. Prospect to announce the 2012 Illinois Honor Roll and recognize more than a dozen local schools. This year 624 schools made the honor roll, with 50 schools being recognized for the 9th or 10th year in a row. Community Consolidated School District 59’s John Jay Elementary School, one of three schools in the state to win the Academic Improvement Award four times, hosted the recognition ceremony.

All of the schools on the Illinois Honor Roll are being recognized for academic progress or excellence. This is a tremendous achievement, showing a remarkable ability to overcome challenges, strategically manage instructional resources and close achievement gaps.

The Illinois Honor Roll is divided into three categories – Spotlight Schools, Academic Excellence and Academic Improvement. Each award has unique criteria that best reflect the diverse circumstances of Illinois schools.

- **Spotlight Schools** – Recognizes 105 high-poverty, high-performing schools that are beating the odds by overcoming the achievement gap.
- **Academic Excellence Awards** – 454 schools have sustained high performance over at least three years.
- **Academic Improvement Awards** – 81 schools are showing substantial improvement.

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The 2012 Honor Roll roster includes elementary, middle and high schools, including charter schools, and represents 293 public school districts statewide. During the next several months we will celebrate the accomplishments of dozens more on this list during recognition ceremonies throughout the state. A complete listing of the 2012 Illinois Honor Roll Schools can be found online at <http://www.ilhonorroll.niu.edu>.

The 5Essentials Survey began on Friday with more than 50 completed surveys by 7 a.m. I know there is some concern in the field, but I also know there is also significant interest in having this information. As of this morning, 970 students, 2,400 teachers and 3,900 parents had completed the survey. If you have technical issues during administration you may get support by calling (866) 440-1874 or emailing 5essentials@uchicago.edu.

Finally, we continue our survey of districts to determine whether or not we could comply with the U.S. Department of Education’s (ED) timeline for implementation of new evaluation systems incorporating student growth. You may recall this is the one issue that stands between Ed’s approval of our waiver request from some aspects of the No Child Left Behind Act. In order to receive the NCLB waiver, we need to show to ED that our districts intend to implement the new evaluation system by 2015-16, a year earlier than required under state law. Thus far 110 districts have responded to the survey. Please take some time between now and Friday, Feb. 8, to complete the survey at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/F2VDXCM>.

Have a great week.

Chris

Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

Please note this is not a complete list of dates and deadlines. For questions, call the Illinois State Board of Education at (866) 262-6663 or (217) 782-4321 or visit the agency's official website at <http://www.isbe.net>.

- **Division of English Language Learning's Two-Day Regional Institute at Southwestern Illinois College in Red Bud** – Feb 6-7 (Details and registration: http://www.thecenterweb.org/irc/pages/f_events-isbe.html)
- **Madrid ELL teacher recruitment informational meeting in Chicago** – Feb. 8 (Details available at http://www.isbe.net/bilingual/htmls/spanish_exchange.htm)
- **Part 25 (Certification)** – Public comment period ends Feb. 11
- **Part 252 (Driver Education)** – Public comment period ends Feb. 11
- **Part 425 (Voluntary Registration and Recognition of Nonpublic Schools)** – Public comment period ends Feb. 19
- **ISBE offices closed for Lincoln's Birthday** – Feb. 12
- **ISBE offices closed for Presidents' Day** – Feb. 18
- **Illinois New Teacher Collaborative's annual Induction and Mentoring Conference** – Feb. 26-27 (<http://intc.education.illinois.edu/conference>)
- **Part 35 (Mentoring Program for New Principals)** – Public comment period ends March 25
- **Part 375 (Student Records)** – Public comment period ends March 25
- **Part 405 (Payments to Certain Facilities under Section 14-7.05 of the School Code)** – Public comment period ends March 25
- **Part 475 (Contested Cases and Other Formal Hearings)** – Public comment period ends March 25
- **Part 565 (Class Size Reduction Grants)** – Public comment period ends March 25
- **0-3 Prevention Initiative – Outcomes Questionnaire IWAS data entry deadline** – July 1 (IWAS Reporting Guide available at http://www.isbe.net/research/htmls/pfa_prev_init.htm)
- **0-3 Prevention Initiative – Parent Questionnaire IWAS data entry deadline** – July 1 (IWAS Reporting Guide available at http://www.isbe.net/research/htmls/pfa_prev_init.htm)
- **Student Health Data** – Vision system report deadline – July 1
- **Regional Safe Schools End of Year Data reporting deadline** – July 31 (User guide for the IWAS reporting system, http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/rssp_iwas_user_guide.pdf)
- **Truants' Alternative and Optional Education Program (TAOEP) reporting deadline** – July 31 (User guide for the IWAS reporting system, <ftp://help.isbe.net/webapps/taoep/pdf/TAOEP.pdf>)
- **Postmark deadline for waiver applications to be considered by General Assembly in Fall 2013** – Aug. 16 (see <http://www.isbe.net/isbewaivers/default.htm> for new public notice requirements for all waiver requests)

Those Who Excel

Nomination Forms Available for ISBE's Annual Awards Program

The 2013-14 Those Who Excel/Illinois Teacher of the Year nomination packet is now available. Paper copies have been mailed to the superintendent of each district. You can also access the application at http://www.isbe.net/those_who_excel.htm.

Completed packets must be postmarked by June 3. This year's banquet will be held at the Bloomington-Normal Marriott Hotel and Conference Center on Oct. 19.

If you have questions or need assistance, please call (217) 782-4648.

Special Education Services

Alternative Learning Opportunities Program Continuation Applications Available Online

Alternative Learning Opportunities Program (ALOP) Continuation Applications for fiscal year 2014 are now available at <http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/html/alop.htm>. Programs who currently have an ALOP program and wish to continue the program for FY 2014 should submit the Continuation Application by the deadline of June 28, 2013.

U.S. Department of Education

StopBullying.gov Launches Spanish Website

StopBullying.gov has launched a new Spanish website: <http://espanol.stopbullying.gov/>. Like the English-language version, the new site provides teachers, parents and community leaders with the resources they need to prevent bullying.

You will find a Spanish-language Bullying Prevention Training Module, in addition to the resources listed below. They can help Latino stakeholders address bullying in their communities.

- **Training Module with Speaker Notes** – a presentation with suggested talking points, including the latest research to help participants create an action plan for a community event.
- **Training Module PowerPoint** – a slide-by-slide presentation for use at a community event, workshop or town hall meeting.
- **Community Action Toolkit** – a supplemental guide, including tip sheets, a template event agenda, action planning matrix and feedback forms.
- **Misdirections Packet** – a Tip Sheet and a Spanish transcript of the Misdirections video featuring Dr. Catherine Bradshaw, a national expert in bullying prevention who discusses approaches to avoid in bullying prevention and response.

For more information and resources visit www.StopBullying.gov, which provides information from various government agencies, including the U.S. Department of Education, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Department of Justice.

English Language Learning

Series of Regional Institutes Planned Across the State for ELL Practitioners

A series of two-day Regional Institutes for ELL Practitioners featuring presenters from the Illinois Resource Center (IRC) and WIDA is being presented by ISBE Division of English Language Learning. The institutes are research-based and designed to support programs that enhance ELL academic performance and English language acquisition.

The institutes will take place throughout Illinois, including Red Bud, Bloomington and Lake and Cook counties. There is no charge to attend. Participants can register to attend either one or both days; and CPDUs will be provided through the IRC.

To register for the Feb. 6 and 7 institutes, “Key Practices for All Teachers of English Language Learners (ELLs)” and/or “Using the English Language Development (ELD) Standards for Lesson Planning,” go to http://www.thecenterweb.org/irc/pages/f_events-isbe.html. For dates and upcoming information about future institutes, go to <http://www.isbe.net/bilingual/default.htm>.

School Health Issues

Department of Public Health Issues Alert on Spread of Skin Infection

Students engaging in sports often have contact with other students, whether on the basketball court or the wrestling mat or volleyball court. Due to prolonged, skin-to-skin contact in wrestling, student wrestlers are at higher risk for diseases spread by contact.

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) has alerted ISBE that a skin infection, herpes gladiatorum, has been tentatively identified in members of several high school wrestling teams throughout the state. The infection is caused by a Herpes simplex virus and is spread by direct, skin-to-skin contact. Although the symptoms on the skin appear almost eight days after contact, some students may have a sore throat, swollen glands, fever or a tingling sensation to the skin before the rash appears. The rash appears as a cluster of blisters.

IDPH recommends that wrestlers with skin sores or lesions be referred to a physician, and medical care should be immediately sought if the lesions occur around the eyes. A link to a guidance document from IDPH is posted at http://www.isbe.net/pdf/school_health/idph-herpes012213.pdf.

Public Act

PA 97-742: 5 Hours of Instruction on First and Last Day of School (Effective June 30, 2013)

Senate Bill 2850 was signed by Gov. Pat Quinn on July 5, 2012, to become Public Act 97-0742 and has an effective date of June 30, 2013. This public act repeals Section 18-8.05 (F)(2)(b) of the School Code, which allows the first and last day of student attendance to be less than 5 instructional hours. Except as otherwise

provided in Section 18-8.05 of the School Code, beginning with the 2013-14 school year calendar, for Public School Calendar and General State Aid attendance calculation purposes, days of attendance by pupils, including the first and last day of pupil attendance, shall be counted only for sessions of not less than five clock hours of school work per day.

For more detailed information regarding the new public act, go to <http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/pa97-0742guidelines.pdf>. If you have questions regarding this information please contact Marj Beck at mbeck@isbe.net or (217) 782-5256.

Rules and Waivers

Invitation to Comment on Rules

Five proposed rulemakings recently reviewed by the Illinois State Board of Education are available for public comment. The proposals have been posted on the agency's Web site at <http://www.isbe.net/rules>; choose "Proposed Rules and Amendments." Please submit any comments or suggestions to rules@isbe.net.

Part 35 (Mentoring Program for New Principals): Makes technical changes to conform the rules to the new licensure system to take effect July 1, 2013.
Public comment period ends March 25, 2013.

Part 375 (Student Records): Establishes a process to allow parents an opportunity to determine which of their students' scores from college entrance examinations will appear on the academic transcript; and provides additional clarity about health-related information, consideration of video recordings as a student record, and maintenance of records in a secure manner.
Public comment period ends March 25, 2013.

Part 405 (Payments to Certain Facilities under Section 14-7.05 of the School Code): Makes technical changes to conform the rules to the new licensure system to take effect July 1, 2013, and aligns to changes being proposed in 23 Ill. Adm. 25 (Certification) that will eliminate, as of September 1, 2015, the short-term emergency approval in special education.
Public comment period ends March 25, 2013.

Part 475 (Contested Cases and Other Formal Hearings): Makes technical changes to conform the rules to the new licensure system to take effect July 1, 2013.
Public comment period ends March 25, 2013.

Part 565 (Class Size Reduction Grants): Makes technical changes to conform the rules to the new licensure system to take effect July 1, 2013.
Public comment period ends March 25, 2013.

In Brief

Student Opportunities

- Students across the state can enter the Illinois Liquor Control Commission's **2013 Don't Be Sorry Youth Art Contest**, which aims to educate the public about the consequences of underage drinking. For more information, visit <http://www.DontBeSorry.org> or contact Ted Penesis at (312) 814-4802 or ted.penesis@illinois.gov. The deadline is Feb. 15.
- Applications to attend the **2013 National Youth Science Camp** are now available online at <http://www.isbe.net/career/html/msp.htm>. For more information, visit <http://www.nysf.com/w/>. For questions about the application process, contact Gil Downey at (217) 782-4620 or gdowney@isbe.net. Applications must be received by Feb. 15.
- Illinois Partners for Clean Air have launched the **Shoot for the Skies PSA Video Contest** for Chicago area high school students. Students are asked to create a public service announcement about Chicago area air quality and actions to improve it. For more information, go to www.cleantheair.org. The deadline for entries is March 15.
- The **National World War II Museum** is seeking entries for its annual essay contests for middle school and high school students. This year's theme asks, "How can people who disagree still work together for victory?" The deadline for submissions is 5 p.m. March 29. For more information, visit <http://www.nationalww2museum.org/essaycontests>.

Educator Opportunities

- The **Illinois Association for Gifted Children's** 18th annual Gifted Convention will be Feb. 10-12 in Naperville. For more information, including rates, registration, schedule of sessions, hotel reservations, exhibitors, visit <http://www.iagcgifted.org/events-a-news/eighteenth-iagc-convention.html>.
- The Illinois Chapter of the National School Public Relations Association seeks nominations for its **Distinguished Service Awards**, which recognizes school district stakeholders who go above and beyond regular duties to fulfill their roles as public relations ambassadors for education. For details, go to

<http://www.inspra.org/files/INSPRA%20DSA%20brochure.pdf>. Nominations are due by Feb. 14.

- The **Illinois Personal Finance Challenge** targets consumer education and personal finance students. Teams advance to the state finals and a championship team will compete at the national stage. Registration for the preliminary online competition ends Feb. 15. Go to the Econ Illinois website at <http://econed-il.org/icee/ipfc.shtml> to register.
- Registration is under way for the **Illinois Economics Challenge**, an online competition for high school students that tests knowledge of economics and economic reasoning abilities. Registration for the preliminary round will be accepted through Feb. 15. For more information, visit Econ Illinois at <http://www.econed-il.org/icee/econchal.shtml>.
- **Illinois Computing Educators (ICE)** will hold its annual conference Feb. 28 at Pheasant Run Resort and Conference Center in St. Charles. Read more about the presenters and sessions, which are targeted to the needs of districts and school leaders, at <http://www.iceberg.org/leadership>.
- The 45th annual **Illinois Reading Council Conference**, Literacy for Life, is scheduled for March 14-16 in Springfield. For more information, visit www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org. Early registration ends Feb. 1. Read about the IRC's new statewide reading initiative Illinois Reads at www.illinoisreads.org.
- Registration for the spring sessions of **The Stock Market Game Program** for grade 4-12 teachers and their students is open through March 1. For more information, including a schedule for teacher training onsite workshops and online webinars, visit Econ Illinois at www.econed-il.org/icee/smg.shtml.

Special Events

- **U.S. Poet Laureate Natasha Trethewey** will deliver a public reading Feb. 7 at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield. The reading is free but reservations are required. Tickets are also available for a private dinner. Read more at <https://alplmfoundation.tix.com/Event.asp?Event=539990>.

Weekly News Clips

- The Illinois State Board of Education has posted highlights from recent **education news clips** at <http://www.isbe.net/news/2013/newsclips/130204.htm>.

Employment Opportunities

- An **External Vacancy List for ISBE** is available at <http://www.isbe.net/hr/Default.htm>.