Hello,

As the school year is coming to a close, we are still wrestling with the major challenges presented by underfunding our students in Illinois. At the Board meeting in Springfield last week the Board continued studying ways to respond to this challenge in ways that will provide the most, and most equitable, support for our students. In a standing-room only board room the Board members listened to thoughtful testimony from students, local superintendents, stakeholder groups, and agency staff.

About 50 local administrators who are members of the Funding Illinois’ Future coalition attended and provided testimony. They shared their perspective that students in districts with less property wealth are disproportionately negatively impacted when across the board proration is applied. These leaders urged the Board to consider a per pupil reduction. Representatives of several stakeholder organizations acknowledged that proration was imperfect and that something has to change in the short and long term to help those districts disproportionally impacted by inadequate state funding and the added burden of proration.

Board members asked staff for additional analysis to address concerns for those districts with lower amounts of Total Operating Revenue on a per pupil basis that are impacted negatively by the Capped Per Pupil Reduction. Additionally, staff have received requests for and are modeling different approaches for addressing insufficient appropriations for General State Aid.

This issue is before the Board again at its June meeting. The Board asked staff to continue working on scenarios in advance of the June meeting.

Thanks to your remarkable work, we published statewide numbers that show Illinois continues to lead the nation in narrowing the performance gap for Latino students taking Advanced Placement tests. Latino students made up 18.1 percent of Illinois’ Class of 2014, but they represented 20.4 percent of graduates who took at least one AP exam during high school. Additionally, the number of low-income graduates scoring a 3 or higher has nearly doubled in the last four years.
Illinois ranks 13th in the nation for the percentage of 2014 graduates who scored at least a 3 on an AP exam during their high school career. You may access more information about Illinois’ AP data at http://www.isbe.net/news/2015/may11.htm.

I am impressed by the great work I have already seen and am committed to sharing the great stories of your leadership that are resulting in improved outcomes and opportunities for Illinois students. I am enjoying my first meetings with you and moving forward I intend to transition this weekly update to a message that will highlight examples of adults working together to create communities of learning, excellence, and opportunities for students. If you have ideas about how to best identify and communicate these highlights, please let me know.

Finally, please join me in a webinar on May 28 at 1 p.m. This is a chance for me to introduce myself, discuss my priorities, and also take some questions from you. I know this is an extremely busy time of year for you, so if you can’t make the webinar as it happens live we will record it for playback. You may register at https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1370072119055564289.

Thank you for the kind words of welcome I have received during my first few weeks as your State Superintendent. I look forward to meeting and working with you in the weeks and months ahead.

**Upcoming ISBE Dates and Deadlines**

Please note this is not a complete list of events, meetings 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.

- **Extended Dynamic Learning Maps Alternate Assessment (DLM-AA) testing window** – March 16 to May 29
- **Spring 2015 PARCC ELA/L Field Test Administration** – May 4-June 5
- **Applications for the Exception to the 1.0 Percent Cap due** – May 21
- **ISBE offices closed for Memorial Day** – May 25
- **“Meet the New State Superintendent: Tony Smith, Ph.D.” webinar** – May 28 (https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1370072119055564289)
- **Deadline to submit Qualified Zone Academy Bond (QZAB) program applications** – May 29 (www.isbe.state.il.us/construction/html/qzab.htm)
- **Application deadline for 2015-16 Student Advisory Council** – May 29 (www.isbe.net/sac)
- **Deadline to submit final fiscal year 2015 State and Federal Grant Amendments for projects ending June 30** – May 31
- **Deadline to complete online survey on the implementation of the new Illinois Learning Standards** – May 31 (www.affect.com/studies/1515003.asp?id=SUPLIST&l=SUPLIST)
- **Fiscal year 2016 School Technology Revolving Loan Program (STRLP) application period** – June 1 to Dec. 1 (www.isbe.net/ed-technology/html/revolving_loan.htm)
- **Deadline to submit nomination forms for the 2016 Those Who Excel/Illinois Teacher of the Year program** – June 8 (www.isbe.net/those-who-excel/pdfs/those-who-excel-app.pdf)
- **Part 210 (Illinois Hope and Opportunity Pathways through Education Program), Part 232 (Summer Bridges Program) and Part 240 (Alternative Learning Opportunities Program)** – Public comment period ends June 15
• “Lead … Focus … Connect: Every Student College and Career Ready” conference – June 23
  (www.eventbrite.com/e/lead-focus-connect-conference-tickets-15693652136)
• Deadline to submit data in the Student Health Data –Dental system – June 30
• Deadline to submit data in the Student Health Data –Vision system – June 30
• ISBE offices closed for Independence Day – July 3
• Postmark deadline for waiver applications to be considered by the General Assembly in fall 2015 –
  Friday, Aug. 14, 2015 (See www.isbe.net/isbewaivers/default.htm for public notice requirements for all
  waiver requests.)
• ISBE offices closed for Labor Day – Sept. 7
• ISBE offices closed for Columbus Day – Oct. 12
• Deadline to submit fiscal year 2016 School District Budget/Joint Agreement Forms to ISBE – Oct. 30

State Superintendent
Meet the New State Superintendent
Webinar Scheduled for May 28

District personnel are invited to participate in a May 28 webinar to meet new State Superintendent of
Education Tony Smith, Ph.D.

Smith began his term as superintendent on May 1. The
webinar will give Superintendent Smith an opportunity
to introduce himself to the field, take questions from
district staff and provide an insight into his education
philosophy and vision for his role as state
superintendent.

Registration is now open, and participants will receive
a confirmation email containing information about
joining the webinar.

• What: “Meet the New State Superintendent: Tony
Smith, Ph.D.” webinar
• Date: May 28
• Time: 1 p.m.
• Register: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1370072119055564289

Funding and Disbursements
FY 2015 Year-End Expenditure Report
Changes – Obligations for Federal Grants

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has
implemented new expenditure reporting requirements
effective with all fiscal year 2015 federal grant
projects and thereafter, if the project end date extends
past June 30.

As a reminder, please be advised of the following
regarding the need for a project end date extension:
• An end date extension past June 30 is NOT needed
  for regular term staff salaries paid on a 12-month
  salary schedule.
• An end date extension past June 30 is NOT needed
  to pay obligations (e.g., purchase order for
  supplies) incurred June 30 or prior.
• An end date extension past June 30 IS NEEDED
  for new activities and obligations incurred July 1
  or later (e.g., Summer School, Professional
  Development).

The new change in the Electronic Expenditure
Reporting System is:
• All federal grant recipients with a project end
date after June 30 must report the split of
obligations incurred June 30 and prior
compared to July 1 and after.

Please review the changes in the following
presentation at www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/end-year-
changes15.pdf.

If you have questions regarding these changes, please
contact the Funding and Disbursement Division at
(217) 782-5256.

Deadline for Final FY 2015 State & Federal
Grant Amendments & End Date Extensions

Many state and federal grant projects are approaching
a June 30 end date for obligating fiscal year 2015 grant
funds. Please be advised that per Policy Statements 2
and 3 on page 6 of the State and Federal Grant
Administration Policy and Fiscal Requirements and
Procedures,
www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/fiscal_procedure_handbk.p
df, all state and federal project end date extension requests and final budget amendments must be received at ISBE no later than 30 calendar days prior to the end date of the project.

As a reminder, please be advised of the following regarding the need for a project end date extension:
- An end date extension past June 30 is NOT needed for regular term staff salaries paid on a 12-month salary schedule.
- An end date extension past June 30 is NOT needed to pay obligations (e.g., purchase order for supplies) incurred June 30 or prior.
- An end date extension past June 30 IS NEEDED for new activities and obligations incurred July 1 or later (e.g., Summer School, Professional Development).

Final amendments for state and federal grants with a project end date of June 30, 2015, must be received by ISBE no later than May 31, 2015. For those grants with a project end date of Aug. 31, 2015, the last day amendments will be accepted is Aug. 1, 2015. However, budget increases for state-funded grant projects must be received by June 30, even if the project end date has been extended. For grant applications in the electronic Grants Management System (eGMS), the deadline is also referenced on the Program Overview page under “Amendment Due Date.”

Note to Special Education and Education for Employment Cooperative Administrators: Member district amendments need to be submitted to the Cooperative/EFE Administrator timely to accommodate a final review for accuracy and approvability before acceptance and approval to ISBE on or before the May 31/Aug. 1 deadline.

Questions regarding this information can be directed to Funding and Disbursements at (217) 782-5256.

Below are links to important related documents. Please use them for assistance when submitting your data.

School Dental Examinations Information Sheet: 
www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/dental_information.pdf

IDPH Proof of School Dental Examination Form:
www.idph.state.il.us/HealthWellness/oralhlth/DentalExamProof10.pdf

IDPH Dental Examination Waiver Form:
www.idph.state.il.us/forms/ohpm/Dental%20Exam%20Waiver.pdf

Dental Information-Data Entry Worksheet:
www.isbe.net/research/xls/dental_worksheet.xls

As mandated by Section 5/27-8.1 of the School Code, dental data must be submitted for all Illinois schools serving any combination of kindergarten, grade 2, and/or grade 6 students who are enrolled as of May 15.

Public school districts may enter the data for each of their schools or approve school IWAS users to enter the data. Regardless of who enters data, it is the responsibility of the nonpublic school administrator/public school district administrator to review the accuracy of entered data and submit the finished data to ISBE.

The deadline to enter dental data is 11:59 p.m. June 30.

For technical assistance with IWAS, please contact the ISBE Help Desk at (217) 558-3600.

Rules and Waivers

Notice of Completed Rulemaking

Please be advised that five sets of amendments recently adopted by ISBE are now in effect. Changes have been posted at www.isbe.net/rules/archive/default.htm. Please choose “Rules Currently in Effect” and scroll to the Part number.


Data Analysis and Accountability

2014-15 Dental Data Collection Now Open

The Student Health Dental System is now open for data entry through June 30. The data must be submitted online using IWAS. Once logged into IWAS, the “Student Health Data – Dental” link will appear on the System Listing page under “Annual.”
requirements for the educator license with stipulations endorsed for career and technical educator, the superintendent endorsement and the principal endorsement, respectively.

Affected Sections: 25.70, 25.337, 25.355, 25.360

Effective Date: April 27, 2015

Part 33 (Programs for the Preparation of Superintendents in Illinois): Makes a technical correction in Section 33.70 to reference the “superintendent” preparation program rather than the "principal" preparation program.

Affected Section: 33.70

Effective Date: April 27, 2015

Part 235 (Early Childhood Block Grant): Incorporates requirements specific to the ExceleRate Illinois quality rating and improvement system, and proposes standards for programs serving children from birth to age 3.

Affected Sections: 235.20, 235.30, 235.40, 235.50, 235.60, 235.65, 235.67, 235.70, and 235.APPENDIX C

Effective Date: April 27, 2015

Part 252 (Driver Education): Makes a technical change to update a web address in Section 252.20(e).

Affected Section: 252.20

Effective Date: April 27, 2015

Part 1850 (Public Information, Rulemaking and Organization): Responds to P.A. 98-1129, effective Dec. 3, 2014, regarding requests under FOIA that are considered to be “voluminous” and requests for records that are posted online, necessitating a change in the rules of the Illinois Purchase Care Review Board (IPCRB); includes an appendix listing fees to be charged for materials, as per a directive from the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules.

Affected Sections: 1850.10, 1850.APPENDIX B

Effective Date: April 27, 2015

Illinois P-20 Council

Opportunity to Provide Feedback on Key State Education Policies and Programs

The Implementation Review Committee of the Illinois P-20 Council, an education group that advises state policymakers, invites educators, parents and community members to share their thoughts and suggestions on key state education policies and programs impacting Illinois schools.

Small group conversations will be held to discuss important issues in four areas:

- Standards: What are students learning?
- Assessment: How students are tested? For what purposes?
- Data: What student and educator information is collected and how it is used?
- Evaluations: How are teachers and principals evaluated?

Some sessions will be held in person and others will be conducted by phone. Groups are available in English and Spanish primarily in the evening. Please check registration link at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ILedconvos for the most up-to-date times and dates.

These discussions are an opportunity to help strengthen and improve the implementation of key initiatives. Participants’ comments and suggestions will be shared with state education leaders and policymakers guiding these programs.

Please note that registration is not confirmation of participation as space is limited. Following registration, participation will be confirmed by email or by phone (based on preference). Confirmation will include address or call-in number, parking and transportation options along with other details.

Contact Amber at akirchh2@illinois.edu with questions or to learn more.

Principal and Superintendent Input Sought for Teacher Leadership Survey

The Illinois P-20 Council Committee on Teacher and Leader Effectiveness is seeking feedback from administrators on what’s happening with teacher leadership throughout the state and the needs that exist.

The committee has developed surveys for principals and superintendents to share their feedback. The survey information will help the committee move forward on supporting preschool through adult education in our state through the teacher leadership lens.

The surveys are available online:
Principal’s Survey
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/illinoisprincipals
Superintendent’s Survey
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/illinoissuperintendents

The survey should only take about 15 minutes, and responses are completely confidential. Questions about the survey can be directed to Pam Reilly at reillyreillypc@gmail.com.

Illinois Emergency Management Agency

IEMA Helps Schools Remove Unused Radioactive Materials at No Cost

More than 60 schools have benefited from a state program that helps schools safely remove unused radioactive materials at no cost. The Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) is encouraging other schools to check for similar materials in storage closets and laboratories and contact IEMA about collection and disposal.

The types of radioactive materials found in schools are chemical compounds containing uranium or thorium and small solid sealed sources. This material is commonly used in chemistry, physics and earth science experiments to demonstrate the physical and chemical properties of radioactive material.

There is no cost to schools for IEMA’s removal of the materials. A school that does not take advantage of IEMA’s program could pay more than $1,000 to dispose of these materials. In addition, a spill of the materials at the school could create extra expenses for cleanup activities.

Any school with unwanted radioactive materials can contact IEMA at (217) 558-5135 for more information about the Orphan Source Recovery Program School Initiative.

Illinois Learning Standards

ISBE Online Survey of the New Illinois Learning Standards for Educators

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) is requesting educators’ participation in an online survey on the implementation of the new Illinois Learning Standards. Participation is crucial to helping ISBE determine the statewide implementation of the standards along with additional supports still needed for educators.

Educators are asked to complete the survey before the end of May. The online survey is completely confidential and is being hosted by a local independent research company, Aeffect Inc. Participants can take the survey from any PC, laptop or mobile device at anytime.

The survey is available at www.affect.com/studies/1515003.asp?id=SUPLIST&l=SUPLIST.

For help with any technical issues with accessing the survey, contact Frank DeMonte, Aeffect’s IT director, at fdemonte@affect.com.

Center for Performance

FY 2016 School Technology Revolving Loan Applications

The fiscal year 2016 School Technology Revolving Loan Program (STRLP) application materials for eligible districts and schools have been posted to ISBE’s webpage at www.isbe.net/ed-technology/html/revolving_loan.htm. This year the loan is for school districts serving grades K-8.

Applications will be accepted from June 1 through Dec. 1, 2015.

The loans will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. The STRLP is a three-year loan with a 2 percent interest rate. The amount that each district is eligible to apply for is listed under “Eligible Applicants.”

Nutrition and Wellness Programs

Help Available for HealthierUS School Challenge: Smarter Lunchrooms Initiative

Action for Healthy Kids can help schools receive recognition and funding through the HealthierUS School Challenge: Smarter Lunchrooms initiative.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) HealthierUS School Challenge: Smarter Lunchrooms
(HUSSC: SL) is a voluntary initiative established to recognize schools for their efforts to improve food and beverages, teach kids about nutrition, and help kids be more physically active. Click here to learn what is required, who should be involved, and where to find more information about the initiative.

Action for Healthy Kids has created materials and resources to help schools get recognized, including a checklist, a sample application and 10-minute mini-webinars to help navigate particular sections of the application. These resources are available at www.actionforhealthykids.org/storage/documents/Resource_page_with_links_FINAL.pdf.

For more information and additional help in completing the HUSSC: SL application, contact Jocelyn Toney at jtoney@actionforhealthykids.org.

**Student Recognition**

**Chicago High School Student Earns World Food Prize International Internship**

Chicago high school student Madeline Poole is one of 23 students from 11 states who have earned a prestigious World Food Prize Borlaug-Ruan International Internship.

The students will delve into issues relating to hunger and poverty throughout the world during the eight-week, all-expenses paid summer internships at leading research centers in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East.

Madeline, a junior at Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences, will travel to India to work at the Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Company (Mahyco) in Jalna.

The Borlaug-Ruan Internship is a unique program that allows student interns to participate in projects with distinguished researchers at leading agricultural research centers and non-governmental organizations around the globe.

While getting a firsthand view of real and pressing food security issues and nutrition problems in poverty-stricken areas, the students become an integral part of a project, spending time in the lab as well as days or weeks at a time in the field conducting research and interviews and gathering data.

To learn more, visit www.worldfoodprize.org/en/youth_programs/borlaugruan_international_internship/.

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**In Brief**

**Professional Development**

- The Illinois New Teacher Collaborative (INTC) is presenting a two-day conference for new STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) teachers on July 28-29 in Champaign. Priority will be given to first- and second-year teachers, including secondary teachers of math, science, technology and engineering and elementary teachers who teach any STEM content. For more details and to register, visit http://inct.education.illinois.edu/stem.

- Funded by a grant from the Library of Congress, the Teaching with Primary Sources (TPS) program provides professional development and ongoing support in the use of primary sources in the classroom, including alignment with current state standards and initiatives. For more information about TPS professional development, please visit www.loc.gov/teachers/tps/about/professional.html. For a list of the 11 TPS partners in Illinois, including contact information, please visit www.loc.gov/teachers/tps/consortium/#il.

**School Opportunities**

- The Roads to Reading Summer Camp Kid Explorer Club is a free, turn-key program available to schools that provides a comprehensive reading curriculum aligned with the Common Core standards for students in prekindergarten through sixth grade. The program, which includes before- and after-school and full-day services, provides free resources (including books, iPads and access to more than 6,000 online books) to participating schools and offers financial aid to qualifying students to attend. Roads to Reading also provides a Parent Incentive Program. For more details and information on how to become a host school, call (888) 293-1605. The deadline to sign up is July 1.
Safety Issues

- The League of Illinois Bicyclists’ Bicycle Safety Quiz is a classroom-ready bicycle safety education website for both bicyclists and motorists that provides raining in an interactive format through three separate quizzes for children, adults (including teenagers) and motorists. The child bicyclist and motorist quizzes are set up for easy use by school teachers and driver’s education instructors. For more information, visit www.bikesafetyquiz.com/teacherpage.

Employment Opportunities

- Watch for vacancy lists and find instructions for applying on ISBE’s Human Resources webpage at http://www.isbe.net/hr/Default.htm.