



REGIONAL OFFICE *of* EDUCATION

Bi-County Brief

Monroe & Randolph Counties

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ISAT PERFORMANCE LEVELS ARE RAISED

ISBE just raised the performance levels of the Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) for third through eighth graders to better align with the more rigorous Common Core State Standards in English language arts and math and a new assessment system to debut in 2014–15. Scores from this spring's ISATs will reflect the new cut-off system. The ISATs, which assess student achievement in math, reading and science, have not proven to be a strong indicator of college and career readiness, especially in light of the disconnect between the 82% of Illinois students meeting or exceeding standards on the ISAT and the 51% meeting or exceeding standards on the Prairie State Achievement Exam given in 11th grade. The higher expectations of the new ISAT cut scores will cause a downward shift in the number of students who meet or exceed standards. According to the 2012 ISAT results, 79% of all grade 3 through 8 students scored proficient in reading, and 86% of students scored proficient in mathematics. When using the new cut scores to analyze the ISAT data collected in spring 2012, however, the percentage of students who meet and exceed standards drops to 60% for both reading and mathematics. Everyone should understand that the drop is a result of raising expectations, not a reflection of student or teacher performance.

2012 ILLINOIS HONOR ROLL ANNOUNCED

Four bi-county schools are on "a very special list," according to State Superintendent of Education Christopher A. Koch, because they were named to the 2012 Illinois Honor Roll. Coulterville Jr. High School is a Spotlight School for demonstrating that low-income students and schools with limited resources can show impressive academic performance. Sparta Primary Attendance Center received the 2012 Academic Improvement Award for schools that show an upward trend in state test results, and Columbia Middle School and Valmeyer Jr. High School received 2012 Academic Excellence Awards for sustaining very high academic performance over at least 3 years. Congratulations from the ROE!

REGIONAL ADVISORY BOARD EXPERIENCES CHANGE

The Monroe-Randolph County Regional Advisory Board, which focuses on the professional development of bi-county educators, has recently been revised. Its members must be certificated teachers or administrators, with a majority of them being teachers, and must represent every district and program in our area. We thank Karyn Albers, Lori Brutton, Cheryl Kuhlman and Lynda Loesing for past service on the Advisory Board and welcome Richard McDermott, Stephanie Mulholland, Linda Pickett, Teena Riechmann, Drew Schneider, Tim Schnoeker and Amanda Wetzler as new members. Members continuing to serve are Sandra Daniels, Kelton Davis, Beth Horner, Mandy Kueker, Patricia Miles, Mary Ann Quivey, Carol Root, Johnathan Schmiege and Laurie Wright. The Board's next meeting will be held at the SWIC Red Bud Campus, Room 123 on February 15, 2013 from noon until 3:00 p.m.

SPEAK UP IN THE 5ESSENTIALS SURVEY

Between February 1 and March 31, 2013, teachers, students and parents will be asked to take a 15-minute research-based survey to help identify strengths and weaknesses in their school's climate and learning conditions. Responses on the survey will help drive school improvement on five Essentials—effective leaders, collaborative teachers, involved families, supportive environment and ambitious instruction. They will also generate data to help schools target resources and make decisions that help accelerate learning and test score gains. Research shows that schools strong in 3 to 5 of the Essentials are ten times more likely to improve student learning than schools weak in 3 to 5 of the Essentials. "The State Board has long understood that test scores alone do not offer the full picture of schools and learning," says State Superintendent of Education Christopher A. Koch. "The Illinois 5Essentials Survey will finally help us paint that fuller picture of learning conditions and guide local and state improvement initiatives so that every student has access to a world-class education."

SHARE IDEAS FOR COMMON CORE MATH

Middle and high school mathematics teachers are invited to a meeting at Waterloo High School on Saturday, February 9 from 9:00 a.m. 'til noon to work together on Common Core State Standards. Judith McDermott leads the informal gathering where participants spend the time sharing activities that are working well in their classroom; discussing ideas, concerns and successes and sharing helpful resources to make the transition easier. Bring a bottle of water and join them.

HAVE A HEART FOR HOMELESS

Secretaries, join other secretaries on Wednesday, February 13 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for McKinney-Vento Homeless Children and Youth Program training at the Kaskaskia College Lifelong Learning Center, 27210 College Road, Centralia. Guest speaker Christi L. Coleman-Flaherty from Mickes Goldman O'Toole, LLC will enlighten her audience on keeping accurate and useful student records. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. for a day of extra special treatment, great food and fun, learning and camaraderie with others who are instrumental in recognizing and supporting homeless students. Register at roe3workshops@gmail.com or fax a registration form—available from the ROE—to Regina at 618-664-1497.

AT MY STOP - YOU STOP!

Artists in your school might like to enter the 2013 National School Bus Safety Week Poster Contest, whose theme is *At my Stop - You Stop!* The poster contest is open to all students in grades kindergarten through eighth grade and will be judged for safety impact, originality and artistic ability in divisions: K-2, 3-5, 6-8 and special services students. The Illinois Association for Public Transportation suggests school districts conduct their own poster contest during March, allowing ample time for those local winners to compete at the state level, where entries are due June 3, 2013. Then first place state winners will advance to national competition in November. Rules and student guidelines are available at the ROE.

GET INVOLVED WITH EARTH DAY IN THE PARKS

Teachers can apply now for the 2013 Earth Day in the Parks program, which promotes stewardship of our natural resources by Illinois school children. During April and May students and their teachers will come to participating Illinois state parks to take part in natural resources stewardship activities such as planting native trees and wildflowers, building and installing nesting/roosting boxes, removing invasive exotic species and building brush piles for wildlife. Students will be helping the environment and wildlife, participating in outdoor activities to increase their fitness and learning that their actions can make a difference in the world. Students are also encouraged to return to the state park to see and study the results of their work. Applications to participate in Earth Day in the Parks are accepted through February 28. For details, go to <http://dnr.state.il.us/education/CLASSRM/EDITPinstruct.htm>.

GET ILLINOIS FACTS

Want your students to know more about Illinois? The Illinois Department of Natural Resources has eight pages of interesting *Illinois Facts* on its Web site <http://dnr.state.il.us/education>.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Feb. 5, 2013	Danielson Framework-Teacher Implement.	Sparta High School-Forum	4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Feb. 6, 2013	Danielson Framework-Teacher Implement.	Sparta High School-Forum	4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Feb. 6, 2013	Continuous & Systemic Improvement	Sparta Holiday Inn Express	8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Feb. 6, 2013	English Language Learners	SWIC-Red Bud	8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Feb. 7, 2013	English Language Learners	SWIC-Red Bud	8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Feb. 13, 2013	ELA K-5 Common Core	Red Bud Regional-Red Bud	4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Feb. 9, 2013	Common Core Math Meeting	Waterloo High, Rm. B123	9:00 a.m. - noon
Feb. 15, 2013	Monroe-Randolph Regional Advisory Board	SWIC-Red Bud Room 123	Noon - 3:00 p.m.
Feb. 20, 2013	ELA K-5 Common Core	Red Bud Regional-Red Bud	4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Feb. 21, 2013	Math Common Core K-5 (SSOS Area V)	Mon. Co. Annex-Waterloo	8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Feb. 22, 2013	Math Common Core 6-12 (SSOS Area V)	Mon. Co. Annex-Waterloo	8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Feb. 28, 2013	ELA 6-12 Common Core	Red Bud Regional-Red Bud	4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
March 6, 2013	Rube Goldberg Competition	Red Bud High School	9:00 a.m.
March 7, 2013	ELA 6-12 Common Core	Red Bud Regional-Red Bud	4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
March 9, 2013	Young Authors' Conference	Sparta Lincoln Middle	8:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.
March 12, 2013	Math K-5 Common Core	Sparta High School-Forum	4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
March 15, 2013	Superintendents' Council	Red Bud Regional-2 nd Floor	9:00 a.m. - noon
March 19, 2013	Platinum Chef	Red Bud High School	8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
March 20, 2013	Danielson Framework-Coll. Conversations	TBA	8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
March 21, 2013	Math K-5 Common Core	Sparta High School-Forum	4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
April 4, 2013	Math 6-12 Common Core	Red Bud Regional-Red Bud	4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
April 4, 2013	Art Festival	Valmeyer Elementary	5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

THE MONROE-RANDOLPH ROE IS HERE TO SERVE YOU. CONTACT THE WATERLOO OFFICE AT 618-939-5650 OR THE CHESTER OFFICE AT 618-826-5471.