

Special Message from the Illinois State Board of Education



Aug. 17, 2010

Message from State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

This morning Governor Pat Quinn submitted Illinois' application for its share of the \$26 billion Education Jobs Fund bill. Illinois schools will receive an additional \$415 million through this legislation.

Federal officials say they should be able to begin sending money back to the states within a couple of weeks of receiving a completed application. In conversations with staff from the Governor's office they have indicated it is his intent to get funding from the Education Jobs Fund bill into the districts as soon as possible.

To assist you in your planning, we have posted preliminary calculations for gross GSA and Education Jobs Funds. These are preliminary numbers that will likely change and should only be used for planning purposes at this time, but will give you a good idea of what you can expect to receive. You can access the district estimates for GSA and the additional Education Jobs Fund bill estimates at http://www.isbe.net/funding/excel/fed_stimulus_jobs11.xls. *We will notify you via the Weekly Message once final allocations are posted.*

I know there are many questions about how to use the Education Jobs Fund bill money. I would encourage you to review the federal guidance to local schools, which can be found at <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/educationjobsfund/applicant.html>. You will not be required to fill out a new application, but the same transparency and accountability measures required under the provisions of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (ARRA-SFSF) funds are required of these dollars.

These funds are required to be used to pay salaries and benefits for school level personnel. Many of you had planned to use local funds this year to pay for some salaries and benefits. The guidance states that you can use these new federal funds for the purposes of retaining existing staff. Like the ARRA-SFSF funds, you will be expected to provide quarterly reports on jobs retained, saved or created.

It is the intent of the Governor to get these funds to you as close to the beginning of the school year as possible. We have submitted the application to the U.S. Department of Education and they have indicated it will take them a couple of weeks to review and sign off on the application. We will provide you with more information as it becomes available.

Chris