June 2013

Dear Administrator:

During this spring’s legislative session, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) had a legislative proposal (HB496) to modify professional development requirements for licensure renewal for administrators, teachers and school service personnel (Section 21B-45 of the School Code). Due to time constraints, this legislation did not pass both houses of the legislature. Unfortunately, two sections of the school code that deal with professional development for administrators and school service personnel (Section 21-7.1 and Section 21-25 of the School Code) are set to repeal on June 30, 2013. Without the revisions that were going to be made by HB496, the School Code has no requirements for professional development for licensure renewal for administrators or school service personnel in FY14.

We have received inquiries regarding whether professional development would be required during the interim and offer the following guidance:

ISBE is committed to working with statewide stakeholder organizations to move new legislation forward in the near future specific to administrators and school service personnel. We strongly encourage administrators to continue with professional development during FY14. Any Administrators’ Academy or other approved professional development completed during this interim period will count towards the administrator’s licensure renewal requirements once the professional development requirements bill passes. As you know, professional development will help you to stay apprised of many important state initiatives such as common core implementation and teacher evaluation. Please note that professional development requirements for teachers (21-14 of the School Code) will not be repealed on June 30, 2013. Professional development requirements for teachers remain in place for FY14.

ISBE, the Statewide School Management Alliance and other stakeholders will continue to stress to the legislature the importance of HB496 and encourage passage during the veto session. Should you have questions or want further information regarding these opportunities, please contact ISBE Educator Licensure at licensure@isbe.net or (217) 557-6763, or your Regional Office of Education. Other stakeholder groups such as IASBO, IASB, IASA and IPA will continue to offer professional development opportunities statewide over the summer and into fall.

Sincerely,

Christopher A. Koch, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Education