

District Parent Announcements – March 2014

Pre-K / ECE

As a cost-savings measure, we are examining the possibility of blending our Pre-K and Early Childhood programs. Even though there has been some recent integration of the two programs, basically, the programs run parallel and operate as two separate entities. If we blend the two programs, the two programs become one. This blended program concept would slightly reduce the number of students served from approximately 45 to 37 students. As you are aware, our predicted budget deficit for 2013-2014 is approximately \$500,000. This change would save our school district roughly \$50,000 each year. This savings would be realized through attrition. The proposed program would consist of one certified teacher and two non-certified paraprofessionals as opposed to the current two teacher / two paraprofessional arrangement. The criteria for admission and selection process would not change; however, due to the slight reduction in class size, fewer students will qualify. Our Board of Education recognizes the importance of early childhood and the impact it plays in the early development of our students. We are confident this change will not compromise this belief.

Open Position for 2014-2015

Southeastern Community Unit School District # 337 has the following open position for the 2014-2015 school year:

> Title I Certified Teacher (Grades K-6)

If interested, please e-mail a letter of application, resume, and a copy of your teaching certificate no later than Friday, March 21, 2014 to bcorrigan@southeastern337.com.

5Essentials Survey

The 5Essentials Survey is a state learning climate survey designed to provide detailed data on leading indicators for school improvement. As you know, Southeastern 337 participated in the Spring of 2013. According to state law, school districts are required to participate at least every other year. Therefore, Southeastern 337 will not participate this year. We will participate in the Spring of 2015.

Graduation

Our 2014 high school graduation will be Sunday, May 18, 2014 at Southeastern Junior/Senior High School at 2:00 p.m. The location will be the gymnasium.

School Calendar

At this time, our 2013-2014 school calendar looks like this:

Pupil Attendance Day = 160
 Interrupted Day = 9
 SIP Days = 6
 Total Attendance Days = 175

Substitute Cooks Needed

If you are interested in applying for a substitute cook position in the Southeastern School District, please contact the district office at 217.392.2172.

Full Day Parent/Teacher Conference = 1
 Teacher Institute = 3
 Act of God Day = 1
 Total Calendar Days = 180

At this time, the last day of student attendance will be June 2nd - with our teacher institute on June 3rd.

Third Quarter

The end of the third quarter is now March 21. Parent-Teacher Conferences are now March 27-28. Our school improvement day on March 14 will not change. It will remain on March 14.

This is *unofficial* and has not been approved by the Regional Office or the Illinois State Board of Education. After you exhaust your emergency days, you apply for Act of God days. Emergency days are "made up." Act of God days are not.

Enclosed

1. Enclosed you will find an invitation to a public forum on Monday, March 24, 2014.
2. Enclosed you will find a letter from the State Superintendent about changes with state assessments.

Please Take The Time To Review



Illinois State Board of Education

100 North First Street • Springfield, Illinois 62777-0001
www.isbe.net

Gery J. Chico
Chairman

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

February 2014

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am writing to let you know about changes with state assessments. These changes may modify your child's assessment experience this spring before assessments permanently change in 2015.

As you may have heard, Illinois is among a group of leading states participating in the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) – an internationally-benchmarked assessment of applied knowledge designed to measure the new Illinois learning standards. PARCC will replace the ISAT and PSAE in 2015. As a member state, our educators are helping to develop these computer-based tests in math, reading, and writing that are of exceptional quality. These tests will measure students' content knowledge and key skills, such as their ability to think critically, solve problems, and use information from their reading material to write well-developed essays.

Before we can administer these PARCC-developed tests statewide, we must conduct field tests this spring. This is really a "test of the test" to see how well it works and whether we need to make any adjustments before students take the actual PARCC exams in the 2014-15 school year. This is also a chance to make sure that students can use their schools' tablets, laptops, and desktop computers to take the tests and learn of any issues for those taking the paper-and-pencil version of the new tests. Students won't get scores back based on the results, but they will get a chance to engage in challenging math or English problems and writing exercises. By taking part in the field tests, our teachers and students will play an important role in the development of Illinois' future tests.

The Illinois State Board of Education expects that by participating in the field test, students will take an additional two to six hours of testing this spring, depending on the content area, the PARCC component(s), and the grade level.

Teachers and principals throughout the state have told me that they are looking forward to the opportunity to become more familiar with PARCC, which is aligned to the new Illinois' learning standards. Together, we hope these new, more rigorous standards and exams will help better prepare students for success in college and careers.

Thank you for all you do on behalf of your children. If you have any questions, please contact your child's school principal or my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher A. Koch".

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



Invitation to a Public Forum



Southeastern CUSD 337 invites you to attend a public forum conducted by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), Division of Special Education Services. Our district has been selected for a focused monitoring review regarding educational placement decisions for students with disabilities. The ISBE team leader will explain the focused monitoring process about placement decisions and provide you an opportunity to share your comments.

Monday, March 24, 2014

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

High School Library

D. Todd Fox
Superintendent
P.O. Box 215
Augusta, IL 62311
T 217.392.2172
F 217.392.2174

Tim Kerr
Sr. High Principal
P.O. Box 155
Augusta, IL 62311
T 217.392.2125
F 217.392.2229

Cyle Rigg
Jr. High Principal
P.O. Box 155
Augusta, IL 62311
T 217.392.2125
F 217.392.2229

Nancy Akers
Elementary Principal
P.O. Box 247
Bowen, IL 62316
T 217.842.5236
F 217.842.5248

Dear Parent and/or Guardian:

Our district has been selected by the **Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE)** for a focused monitoring review of the educational placement decisions for students with disabilities. The selection of our district was based on district data that we submitted to ISBE.

The purpose of focused monitoring is to investigate compliance with federal and state special education laws and regulations. This monitoring process additionally seeks to ensure that the district is following appropriate procedures in making educational placement decisions for students with disabilities. Educational placement is the location where a student with a disability receives his/her education.

The purpose of the public forum is to allow parents and/or guardians the opportunity to share their experiences about the process of determining the educational placement for their child. The ISBE team leader will lead the public forum along with a parent member from the focused monitoring team who has the experience of also being the parent of a child with a disability.

The meeting agenda includes:

- An explanation of how the district is selected for focused monitoring by ISBE and what the process includes, and
- A discussion will occur on how the district collaborates with parents on determining the educational placement, the location where a student with a disability receives his/her education.

All information gathered during the focused monitoring forum is confidential, and those who contribute information remain anonymous. Verbal or written comments are encouraged at the public forum. The information collected during the forum will be reviewed by the ISBE team leader. The team leader will complete a written report that may include recommendations to administration regarding the procedures and practices for making educational placement decisions for students with disabilities.

ISBE has respectfully requested that district staff and administration do not attend the forum. Opportunities are provided at the district and school levels for the staff and administration to contribute information to this process also.

We hope you will be able to attend the public forum.

Monday, March 24, 2014

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

High School Library

If you require special accommodations to attend the forum, (e.g., translator), please contact Mr. Todd Fox, Superintendent, at 217-392-2172. Additionally, if you are unable to attend the forum you may contribute to this process by completing our parent survey at the following link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/87KLQ2B>

Best regards,

D. Todd Fox
Superintendent of Schools
Southeastern CUSD #337