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News and updates from the
Early Childhood Department



Illinois
State Board of
Education

January 2023

From the Early Childhood Director's Desk

Dear Colleagues:

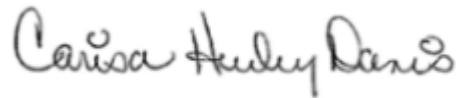
It is hard to believe we are through the first semester. The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) is excited to announce that the agency received an increase in Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG) funding this year so we awarded new Prevention Initiative, Preschool for All, and Preschool for All Expansion programs. Additionally, ISBE provided a 5 percent cost-of-living adjustment to increase salaries of staff working in community-based organizations because we are committed to addressing salary parity for staff working in school district and community-based organizations. Furthermore, we understand the importance of prenatal supplemental supports in our Prevention Initiative programs, so this year we are prioritizing funding to our home visiting programs that wish to implement supplemental doula services.

On another note, Subpart D was added to the Administrative Code at 44 Ill. Reg. 1942, effective January 10, 2020. This applies to exclusionary discipline in early childhood programs that receive ECBG funding (Section 2-3.7(a)(7) of the School Code). The exclusionary discipline amendment is composed of a Behavior Support Plan, a Program Transition Plan, and annual reporting requirements based on these plans. Behavior Support Plans must be completed to document support that is being provided to address challenging behaviors in the classroom. A Program Transition Plan is to be completed prior to a child being removed from a program as a last resort when the previous steps have not been successful. The link to the forms and other related documents can be found below:

- [Behavior Support Plan 37-50B](#)
- [EC FAQ Behavior Transition Plan](#)
- [Behavior Support Transition Plan Instruction Manual](#)
- [Program Transition Plan 37-50A](#)

As always, ISBE appreciates all you do for Illinois' youngest learners! Happy holidays!

Sincerely,



Carissa Hurley Davis
Director of Early Childhood
ISBE

Prevention Initiative

FALL 2022 PREVENTION INITIATIVE FORUM

The ISBE 2022 Fall Prevention Initiative Forum was held virtually on Oct. 20-21. The English and Spanish recordings of the Prevention Initiation Forum, other presentations, and additional materials are now available on the Start Early [forum event page](#).

DOULA INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Thank you to everyone who participated in the doula informational meeting on Nov. 30. We are excited to see so many Prevention Initiative home visiting programs interested in providing doula services.

BLUE RIBBON DESIGNATION

The Start Early Parents as Teachers (PAT) Illinois State Office would like to congratulate the ISBE-PI PAT affiliates that earned the Blue Ribbon designation in 2022. Programs that earn the Quality Endorsement are recognized by the national Parents as Teachers office as exemplary Blue Ribbon Affiliates, delivering high-quality services to children and families. These affiliates earned the Blue Ribbon designation by meeting or exceeding all of the PAT Essential Requirements, along with the required Quality Standard No. 1 and at least 80 percent of the additional 80 Quality Standards through completion of the affiliate self-study. The PAT Illinois State Office commends this group of affiliates for implementing high-quality services and positively impacting families in their communities. Congratulations to all of the ISBE-PI awardees!

- Right Steps Family Center
- Wayne County Family Enrichment Program
- Family Focus Evanston PI
- Cairo School District #1/Emerson Elementary School PAT
- Community Support Systems
- Family Focus Aurora-Prevention Initiative
- Clay County Health Department
- HOME Danville School District #118
- Aurora East School District #131/Jumpstart Program
- East Dubuque School District #119/Family TIES
- Shiloh CUSD #1/Partnership in Parenting
- Murphysboro CUSD #186/Southern Region Early Childhood Programs - PA
- Wabash Community School District 348/Project CARES

Preschool for All/Preschool for All Expansion

HOW TO BECOME A SUB

Any substitute serving in a Preschool for All/Preschool for All Expansion classroom must hold an ISBE substitute license. Please refer to [How to Become a Substitute Teacher](#) for specifics on requirements and number of days a substitute can be in place.

LICENSURE FLEXIBILITIES

Recent legislation provides flexible routes for licensure that allow individuals to teach while fulfilling requirements for full licensure in an effort to reduce the teacher shortage. To identify the best pathway for you, visit our [Approvals webpage](#). Also view the [Early Childhood Licensure document](#) to see requirements for each position related to early childhood.

Early Childhood Special Education

LEAST RESTRICTIVE ENVIRONMENT

ISBE has released sample job descriptions for both [early childhood special education community-based itinerant teachers](#) and for a [supervisor/coordinator of an early childhood special education community-based itinerant teacher](#). The intention of the sample job descriptions is to have school districts consider the unique features of working as a community-based itinerant early childhood special education teacher or supervising someone in that role, including responsibilities, qualifications, and skillset. This job description does not imply that these requirements are the exclusive standards of the position. School districts may modify this job description to meet the needs of the district.

DECISION APP TREE

Early CHOICES has launched a decision tree application available for either [Apple](#) or [Android](#) devices. Search "Early CHOICES Decision Trees." The app serves to keep the decision trees for Early Childhood Outcomes and Preschool Environment Codes handy for you. Data accuracy is fundamental to continuous quality improvement.

Kindergarten/KIDS

SIXTH ANNUAL KIDS SUMMIT

Thank you for attending the sixth annual Mastering KIDS Summit at the Wyndham Springfield Centre. We loved seeing educators have the opportunity to network, learn from experts and peers across the state, and gain practical insights to use in your classroom and school.

KIDS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND COACHING

Sangamon County Regional Office of Education 51 is the successful vendor for our KIDS Professional Development and Coaching contract. The coaches will begin reaching out to you after the start of the new year. In the meantime, see the [KIDS webpage](#) for resources and professional development calendars.

Professional Development

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION SERIES FOR FAMILIES

Early CHOICES is hosting an [Inclusive Education Series for Families](#) that will focus on understanding inclusion by defining it, its benefits, and how important it can be in the life of a young child. The series will highlight content from the Understanding Inclusion modules that Early CHOICES and the Early Intervention Training Program at the University of Illinois have created with families for families. The first sessions have already taken place, but there are still opportunities for families to join.

- [Jan. 19](#): Inclusive Education Family Series: LRE and Inclusive Practices
- [Feb. 16](#): Inclusive Education Family Series: Benefits of Inclusion
- [March 16](#): Inclusive Education Family Series: Inclusive Settings and Goal Writing
- [April 20](#): Inclusive Education Family Series: Implementing Inclusion and Next Steps

CIRCLES FROM THE START

STAR NET and Early CHOICES are collaborating to bring to Illinois an exceptional professional learning opportunity for early childhood educators and administrators starting **Jan. 9**. Facilitators are Dr. Julie Causton and Dr. Kristie Pretti-Frontczak of Inclusive Schooling so we know we will learn use-today strategies while having fun. We will deep dive into play, setting up daily activities, assessment, and designing instruction in inclusive classrooms. All who attend will receive access to archived recordings of each session, and unlimited and lifetime access to a custom dashboard with resources. You do not want to miss this series. [Register now!](#)

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING CALENDAR

Check out all of the upcoming professional development from our providers using the

[Professional Learning Calendar](#). Filter by grade level to see those trainings specific to early childhood or kindergarten.

SHARING A VISION REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS NOW OPEN

The Sharing A Vision Conference Committee invites proposals for workshop presentations and innovative practices poster sessions for the 2023 Biennial Conference. Information regarding the Request for Proposals is [here](#). Each proposal is required to acknowledge the conference theme and align with the principles in the National Association for the Education of Young Children's Advancing Equity in Early Childhood Education statement. Visit the [Sharing A Vision website](#) for more information.

PARTNER PLAN ACT CONFERENCE

The Community Systems Statewide System of Support team is excited to announce that the annual Partner Plan Act conference will take place virtually on **May 16-18!** This year's conference theme is **Equity from the Start: Overcoming Obstacles, Leveraging Opportunities**. At last year's conference, participants explored how to take action and shift power to communities most impacted by racial inequities, and why it is important. This year, take the "how" to the next level and explore the ways in which communities are moving the needle toward equity by overcoming obstacles they face and by leveraging existing opportunities.

Is your community making efforts toward creating a more equitable early childhood education and care system? We want to hear from you. Please consider submitting a proposal for a conference breakout session. Submissions are due by Jan. 27, and should be sent to partnerplanact@actforchildren.org with the subject line [2023 PPA CONFERENCE RFP].

ILLINOIS STATEWIDE TRANSITION COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

The Illinois Statewide Transition Community of Practice is for Illinois early childhood professionals who work with children and their families transitioning out of Early Intervention services to Early Childhood Special Education services to come together and share ideas on how to support one another through the transition process. Opportunities will occur for breakout room discussions with professionals who have similar responsibilities and participants from your region of the state. Register [here](#).

ILLINOIS EARLY CHILDHOOD OUTCOMES COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

Illinois early childhood professionals who work with students receiving special education services are invited to come together and share ideas on how to support the Early Childhood Outcomes process. Together we will identify practices in assessment and determination of ratings for the Early Childhood Outcomes summary to ensure accuracy and analyze data and discuss how to use data for program improvement. Register [here](#).

EARLY CHILDHOOD BLOCK GRANT EXTENSION

At its November meeting, ISBE approved a two-year extension of the fiscal year 2019 cohort of Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG) awards and the release and award of an FY 2024 Request for Proposals (RFP) for new and/or expanding Prevention Initiative 0-3.

Preschool for All 3-5, and Preschool for All 3-5 Expansion.

What does the two-year extension mean for the FY 2019 cohort?

- These programs will not enter into a re-competition for FY 2024 to maintain their current grant.
- Current programs will maintain their funding for FY 2024 and FY 2025.
- Current programs may apply to expand their program through the FY 2024 Notice of Funding Opportunity.
- Current programs must submit continuation grant applications through the IWAS system in FY 2024 and FY 2025.

What is the FY 2024 ECBG RFP?

- This RFP is for eligible school districts and community-based organizations that are not currently receiving ECBG funding, or current ECBG programs that wish to expand their grants services to provide Prevention Initiative, Preschool for All or Preschool for All Expansion Programs.

Dates to Remember

JANUARY

20 Second-Quarter Expenditure Reports Due



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Illinois
State Board of
Education



The Illinois State Board of Education is the State Education Agency for Illinois. Our mission is to provide each and every child with safe and healthy learning conditions, great educators, and equitable opportunities by practicing data-informed stewardship of resources and policy development, all done in partnership with educators, families, and stakeholders.

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