Preliminary results from the 2014 5Essentials Survey of Learning Conditions will be available next week for principals and superintendents to review. Principals and superintendents will receive an email on July 30 with details on how to access the preliminary data. Final results will be available when the rest of the State Report Card data is released later this fall.

We will be working with stakeholders to identify a pool of viable alternative surveys to the 5Essentials per recently enacted legislation. These alternative surveys are planned to be available for the coming spring 2015 administration of the required school climate and learning conditions survey. Additional details, including the process for selecting alternative surveys, will be announced in August. The administration window for the 2015 Survey of Learning Conditions will be Jan. 12 through March 13. Immediately following the column is more information on the Survey of Learning Conditions.

We are seeking seven individuals to serve on the Illinois Advisory Council on Bilingual Education. The council helps review and guide policy decisions for our English Language Learners. If you or any parents or staff within your district are interested in serving on the council, please have them email a cover letter and resume to dell@isbe.net before the close of business July 28. We will notify successful candidates to serve on the IACBE in August, and their three-year term of office will begin Sept. 1.

Finally, I want to thank all of you who have worked with our Nutrition and Wellness Division as they have sought to increase our students’ access to the summer food program. The U.S. Department of Agriculture singled out Illinois for efforts to increase participation in this important service to students. The number of participating sites in the Summer Meals Program has increased by more than 10 percent across our state. Thank you for working with us to increase these opportunities for our youth.

Have a great week!
Chris

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Upcoming ISBE Dates and Deadlines

Please note this is not a complete list of events, meetings and deadlines. For questions, call the Illinois State Board of Education at (866) 262-6663 or (217) 782-4321 or visit the agency’s official website at [http://www.isbe.net](http://www.isbe.net).

- PSAE Final Data Scheduled to be Posted in SIS – Aug. 1
• 2013-14 Pupil Transportation Reimbursement Claim – Aug. 15
• Postmark deadline for waiver applications to be considered by General Assembly in Fall 2014 – Friday, August 15, 2014 (See http://www.isbe.net/isbewaivers/default.htm for public notice requirements for all waiver requests.)
• Part 25 (Educator Licensure), Part 50 (Evaluation of Certified Employees under Articles 24A and 34 of the School Code), Part 51 (Dismissal of Tenured Teachers under Article 24 and Dismissal of Tenured Teachers and Principals under Article 34 of the School Code) and Part 305 (School Food Service) – Public comment period ends August 25
• Capital Needs Assessment Survey deadline – Sept. 1 (http://www.isbe.net/construction/default.htm)
• ISBE offices closed for Labor Day – Sept. 1
• ISBE offices closed for Columbus Day – Oct. 13
• FY 2015 School District Budget/Joint Agreement Forms – Must be submitted to ISBE no later than Oct. 31 (http://www.isbe.net/sfms/budget/default.htm)
• ISBE offices closed for Election Day – Nov. 4
• Eighth annual Conference on Best Practices in Nonpublic Special Education Programs – Nov. 6-7 (http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/np_handouts/default.htm)
• Annual Statement of Affairs (ISBE 50-37) – To be filed with ISBE by Dec. 15 (http://www.isbe.net/sfms/asp.htm)
• ISBE offices closed for Veterans’ Day – Nov. 11
• ISBE offices closed for Thanksgiving – Nov. 27-28
• ISBE offices closed for Christmas Day – Dec. 25

Survey of Learning Conditions
2014 5Essentials Results to Be Released to Principals and Superintendents July 30

Preliminary results from the 2014 5Essentials Survey of Learning Conditions will be sent to principals and superintendents for review on July 30, 2014. On that date, each principal and superintendent will receive an email from our survey provider, UChicago Impact, with details on how to access the secure reports.

The reporting website will enable principals and superintendents to grant access to others by entering a list of email addresses. These preliminary data will otherwise remain private to the principal and superintendent audience until they are finalized and publicly released on Oct. 31 through the State School Report Cards on http://www.illinoisreportcard.com.

In addition to a summary of the responses of teachers and students to individual survey questions, this year’s results will include scores on statistical measures created from multiple survey items. These 5Essentials Measures are designed to make the data easier to interpret and work with. We will also report scores on the five Essentials: Effective Leaders, Collaborative Teachers, Involved Families, Supportive Environment and Ambitious Instruction. These Essentials are calculated from the survey measures and have been linked through research to improvements in student outcomes.

These Essential scores will be benchmarked (or normed) against the 2013 statewide data. This 2013 Illinois benchmark will be a fixed point of comparison for all future administrations of the survey.

On the reports released July 30, 5Essential Measure and Essential scores for both 2013 and 2014 will be displayed. Districts who administered the survey in both years will be able to compare their progress from one year to the next, as both years will be benchmarked against the 2013 statewide data. Principals and superintendents who did not administer the survey in 2014 may still benefit from logging in to the reporting site so that they can see their 2013 results in comparison to the 2013 state average.

The results released to the public on Oct. 31 will include 2014 results for these Measures and Essentials. The State School Report Cards will contain the 2014 results on the 5Essentials. They will also contain a link to a detailed report containing 2014 results on Measures and the responses to individual questions.
Measure and Essential data for 2013 will not be publicly released through the Report Cards; instead, the raw data currently posted on the Report Cards will remain available.

Details on the 2015 administration of the Survey of Learning Conditions will be announced in August. The administration window for the 2015 survey has been set for Jan. 12, 2015 through March 13, 2015. All school districts that did not administer a survey in 2014 will be required to participate.

Pursuant to recent changes in statute (105 ILCS 5/2-3.153), school districts will have the option to select an alternative to the 5Essentials from a pre-approved pool for next year’s administration. Selection of an alternative will require school board and local union approval and would be at the district’s own expense. The statute specifies that the alternative surveys meet the following criteria:

- be able to provide summary reports for each district and attendance center intended for parents and community stakeholders
- meet scale reliability requirements using accepted testing measures
- provide research-based evidence linking instrument content to one or more improved student outcomes
- have undergone and documented testing to prove validity

Details on this process will be announced in August and the pool of 2-3 alternative surveys will be announced in September.

Principals and superintendents with questions or concerns about their 2014 data, including any suspected misuse, may contact the 5Essentials helpdesk at (866) 440-1874 or 5essentials@uchicago.edu.

**ISBE to Offer Alternatives to the Illinois 5Essentials Survey**

On June 13, 2014, HB 5546 became Public Act 98-0648. The legislation amends the Survey of Learning Conditions statute by authorizing the State Superintendent of Education to select at least two but no more than three alternatives to the state’s survey of learning conditions. Once the alternatives have been selected, school districts may elect to use, on a district-wide basis, with school board and local union approval and at their sole cost and expense, one of these alternate surveys of learning conditions. A full copy of the legislation can be found at [http://ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/98/PDF/098-0648.pdf](http://ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/98/PDF/098-0648.pdf).

The legislation provides for an approval process by the State Superintendent for these alternate survey instruments. Within the month, ISBE is convening a learning conditions instrument review committee consisting of teachers, principals and superintendents to assist with this work. The panel welcomes suggestions of instruments that meet the set of criteria as set forth by the legislature. These instruments must:

- be able to provide summary reports for each district and attendance center intended for parents and community stakeholders;
- meet scale reliability requirements using accepted testing measures;
- provide research-based evidence linking instrument content to one or more improved student outcomes; and
- have undergone and documented testing to prove validity.

To suggest an instrument that meets these requirements, please complete a brief survey found at [https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BMTCT6R](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BMTCT6R). The survey will close at 4 p.m. on July 25, 2014.

Details on the 2015 Survey of Learning Conditions and the process for selecting an alternative survey will be announced next month.

**Illinois Virtual School**

**Illinois Virtual School Expands Opportunities for Students**

In response to growing demand and national trends, Illinois Virtual School (IVS) has changed its virtual program in order to better serve students in Illinois.

IVS experienced a 20 percent growth in course enrollments for the 2013-2014 school year. The completion rate for teacher-facilitated, full-service courses also remains high at 89 percent.
Based on feedback from recent outreach, IVS is reducing its price structure and expanding the course catalog. Starting Aug. 21, IVS updates will include:

- New fee for teacher-facilitated full service courses.
  - $190/semester enrollment
  - $175/semester enrollment for a Purchase Order commitment of 20-plus enrollments
- Continue the Credit Recovery Solution for students that initially failed a course and need to recover the credit to graduate or stay on track.
  - $70/semester credit recovery enrollment
- Expanded course catalog with seven new full-services courses for fall. The course catalog can be found at [www.ilvirtual.org/course-info/full-service-courses](http://www.ilvirtual.org/course-info/full-service-courses).

For more information, visit IVS at [http://ilvirtual.org](http://ilvirtual.org) or call (309) 676-1000.

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**Illinois Teacher of the Year**

**Award-Winning Teacher Pam Reilly Available for Speaking Engagements**

Pam Reilly, the 2014 Illinois Teacher of the Year, is seeking speaking engagements for the fall semester this year. She is anxious to meet teachers and students from all over the state. Pam is a second-grade teacher at Woodbury Elementary School in Sandwich CUSD 430. She would be happy to meet with other teachers, read to young students, visit classrooms, speak at professional development opportunities or share her experiences as a classroom teacher with pre-service teachers.

You can contact her either via email at reillypc@comcast.net or by submitting the speaker request form found at [http://www.sandwich430.org](http://www.sandwich430.org).

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**Early Childhood**

**Illinois Prevention Initiative Biennial Report for FY 12 and FY 13 Available**

The Prevention Initiative (PI) Biennial Report for FY12 and FY13 is provided to fulfill Section 2-3-89, subsection C, of the Illinois School Code (105 ILCS 5/2-3.89). The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) is required to submit a Prevention Initiative program status report to the Illinois General Assembly every two years. The report is mandated to include the following:

1. Characteristics of the children, parents and families served
2. Types of services delivered
3. Program models used by funded projects to address the needs of those receiving services
4. Unmet needs
5. Results of the funded programs
6. Section 2-3.89 of the Illinois School Code (105 ILCS 5/2-3.89), otherwise known as the Illinois Early Childhood Prevention Initiative (PI) Program, was established to provide coordinated services to infants and toddlers at risk of academic failure and their families. The components of these coordinated services include: a) screening to determine eligibility, b) parent education, c) developmental monitoring, d) family needs assessment and case management services, e) development and implementation of an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP), f) family involvement opportunities and g) community collaborations.

Here is the link to the Illinois Prevention Initiative Biennial Report (FY 2012 and FY 2013):

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**Nutrition and Wellness Programs**

**Smart Snacks in Schools Effective July 1, 2014**

On July 1, 2014, the USD- issued Interim Final Regulations on “Nutrition Standards for all Foods Sold in Schools” take effect. These regulations will impact ALL food and beverages sold to students on the school campus during the school day for schools participating in the National School Lunch and/or School Breakfast Programs.

During the June 2014 Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) Board Meeting, board took action and implemented Illinois Administrative Rules, Part 305 (emergency rule) in order to provide guidelines to
schools for exempted fundraising days. These emergency rules are now in effect (as of June 25, 2014) and will be for a maximum of 150 days. Concurrent to this emergency rule making, ISBE, on July 11, 2014, issued proposed rules with the same language. Public Comment will be accepted through Aug. 25, 2014.

**RESOURCES:**
- ISBE’s Smart Snack Website: [http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/nslp-usda-nutrition-stds.htm](http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/nslp-usda-nutrition-stds.htm)

**HealthierUS School Challenge Application Deadline Coming Up**

If your school is considering applying for the USDA HealthierUS School Challenge to be reviewed under the old criteria, the application must be submitted to ISBE’s Nutrition and Wellness Programs Division no later than Saturday, Aug. 30, 2014. The USDA Food and Nutrition Service is extending the deadline for the HealthierUS School Challenge under the current criteria until Aug. 30, 2014.

If you have any questions regarding the HUSSC application process, please email cnp@isbe.net. The HUSSC application is located at [http://www.fns.usda.gov/huscc/healthierus-school-challenge-application-materials](http://www.fns.usda.gov/huscc/healthierus-school-challenge-application-materials).


**Curricula Funding Available for HealthierUS School Challenge**

Funding is still available for schools of grants up to $650 each to purchase approved curricula that will assist the school in meeting the Nutrition Education/Physical Education criteria in the HealthierUS School Challenge (HUSSC). Criteria for the selection of the grantees follow:

- Must be a Team Nutrition School participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP).
- Must complete and submit a one-page application.
- Current certified HUSSC schools are not eligible.

Reminder: As your school(s) plans curriculum schedules, consider inclusion of USDA’s FREE Team Nutrition Education materials for elementary and middle schools, as detailed below.

**Elementary Schools:**
- Blast Off Game
- Dig In! (Grades 5-6)
- The Great Garden Detective Adventure (Grades 3-4)
- Maximizing the Message: Helping Moms and Kids Make Healthier Food Choices
- Serving Up MyPlate: A Yummy Curriculum
- Team Up at Home: Team Nutrition Activity Booklet

**For Middle and High Schools:**
- Empowering Youth Manual
- Empowering Youth Online Modules
- Healthier Middle Schools: Everyone Can Help
- Nutrition Voyage: The Quest to Be Our Best
- The Power of Choice: Helping Youth Make Healthy Eating and Fitness Decisions
- Read It Before You Eat It Poster

**For K-12 Schools:**
- Changing the Scene: Improving the School Nutrition Environment
- Eat Smart. Play Hard.™ Power Panther™
- Empowering Youth With Nutrition and Physical Activity-Online Modules
- Fruit and Vegetable Challenge Packet
• Making It Happen! School Nutrition Success Stories
• MyPlate for Kids: Make Half Your Plate Fruits and Vegetable Poster

Applications will be approved on a FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVE basis and must be complete to be approved. ISBE will reimburse the approved schools when receipts are submitted.

The RFA is posted under Funding Opportunities at http://www.isbe.net/funding_opps/htmls/rfp.htm. Please contact cnp@isbe.net with any questions regarding this RFA. Apply today!

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**English Language Learning**

**Individuals Sought to Serve on the Illinois Advisory Council on Bilingual Education**


New members would serve a three-year term of office, beginning on Sept. 1, 2014. New members will be expected to attend four meetings per year, as well as actively participate in additional meetings and special projects.

If you are interested in serving on the Illinois Advisory Council on Bilingual Education, please email a cover letter and resume to William P. Garcia (wgarcia@isbe.net), Principal Consultant, English Language Learning, before the close of business on July 28, 2014. Successful candidates selected to serve on the IACBE will be notified by the State Superintendent in August 2014.

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**School Health Issues**

**‘Statewide Tool to Help Illinois Schools Support Student Mental Health’ Webinar**

Registration is under way for the July 31 webinar “Statewide Tool to Help Illinois Schools Support Student Mental Health,” which is sponsored by the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Illinois State Board of Education.

Participants will learn how they can access Illinois’ online training to support student mental health that has already been used to train almost 5,000 in one year. This online simulation is made freely available to all high school and middle school personnel through funding from IDPH. Attendees will learn more about this valuable resource, how you can use it to create a greater safety net for our students and how other Illinois schools and districts have successfully (and easily) integrated this training as part of their back-to-school and professional development initiatives.

The webinar is recommended for superintendents; principals and administrators; school behavioral health specialists; social workers and school guidance counselors; and student support staff, including school psychologists, nurses and counselors.

The 30-minute webinar will be facilitated by Lori Janjigian of Kognito, who will conduct a live demonstration of the training and show data supporting its impact on behavior change. Kognito is a developer of online gatekeeper training simulations in the areas of health and behavioral health. Twelve trainings are included in the SPRC Best Practices Registry for Suicide Prevention and three are included in the National Registry of Evidence-based Programs & Practices (NREPP).

The webinar is scheduled for 11 a.m. to noon on Thursday, July 31. Space is limited. Register at https://www4.gotomeeting.com/register/399806647. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

**System Requirements:** For PC-based attendees, Windows 8, 7, Vista, XP or 2003 Server is required. For Mac-based attendees, Mac OS X 10.6 or newer is required. For mobile attendees, iPhone, iPad, Android phone or Android tablet is required.

**‘A Workshop for RN’s Working in the Schools’ Scheduled for July 31-Aug.1**

School districts that are hiring registered nurses new to school nursing and who do not hold ISBE’s Professional Educator License endorsed in school nursing may want to direct the RN to attend an upcoming two-day course. The workshop is held most summers near the beginning of the school year in order...
to provide those registered nurses content information appropriate to safe functioning in the school setting.

“A Workshop for RN’s Working in the Schools” is offered by Lewis University in Oak Brook on July 31 and Aug. 1. It carries 13.25 continuing nursing education contact hours approved by the INA Continuing Education Unit. The registration form is available at https://www.lewisu.edu/RN- Workshop/index.htm.

**School Discipline Workshop**

‘Best Practices in Addressing Student Behaviors While Keeping Schools Safe’

Loyola University Chicago School of Law’s Education Law and Policy Institute, Loyola University Chicago School of Education and the Illinois State Board of Education will present a school discipline workshop next month in Chicago. “Best Practices in Addressing Student Behaviors While Keeping Schools Safe” is set for 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 6, at Loyola University Chicago School of Law, located at 25 E. Pearson St.

This seminar for school administrators will address the research, application and implementation of best practices in school discipline. The state and federal legal requirements relating to school discipline will be covered, as well as the research demonstrating the need for reforming school disciplinary policies. Participants will have the opportunity to hear from school administrators from across the state who have been successful in implementing disciplinary reforms.

This program qualifies for six hours of Continuing Professional Development Units (CPDUs) from the Illinois State Board of Education. For more information and to register, please visit http://www.luc.edu/law/centers/childlaw/institutes/child_education/research_outreach.html.

**DCEO**

**Illinois Energy Now Applications Available for Public Sector Entities**

Illinois Energy Now is an energy efficiency program administered by the state of Illinois that provides millions of dollars in rebates to public facilities that make large-scale equipment improvements to their electric and natural gas systems. More than $70 million is available annually to help fund these projects.

Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) funding is for public sector entities only and is separate from funding provided through similar programs with utility companies for businesses, 501c3s and private schools. If you are not a public sector organization, please check with your utility provider to see what energy efficiency programs may be available for you.

More information about Illinois Energy Now, including a link to application, is available online at http://www.illinois.gov/dceo/whyillinois/KeyIndustries/Energy/Pages/EnergyEfficiency.aspx.

**In Brief**

**Student Opportunities**

- On July 7, Google and Maker Media launched the third edition of **Maker Camp**, a free, online summer camp for kids that runs for six weeks. Maker Camp, which is hosted on Google+, features virtual field trips, projects and activities, and the opportunity to meet experts “makers.” For more information, visit http://makercamp.com.

**Employment Opportunities**

- An **External Vacancy List for ISBE** is available at http://www.isbe.net/hr/Default.htm.