



## 2018-19 Back to School Webinar for Administrators with State Superintendent Smith (Aug. 7, 2018) Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: What is the status of the FY 2019 Evidence-Based Funding (EBF) payment calculations and payments?**

**A:** ISBE sent vouchers to the Illinois Comptroller for the first EBF payments on Aug. 7. The Comptroller released payments on Aug. 10. The FY 2019 EBF payment calculations are now available at [www.isbe.net/ebfdist](http://www.isbe.net/ebfdist).

**Q: When will we receive our final summative designations?**

**A:** All schools will receive a final summative designation based on an expanded data set (ELA and math proficiency, graduation rate, English Learner progress to proficiency, 9<sup>th</sup> grade on track, growth, and chronic absenteeism) **in October**. ISBE will provide advance notice and resources. The final designations will appear on the 2018 Illinois Report Card.

Current school designations are preliminary and based on a limited data set (the above list, minus growth and chronic absenteeism). The designations identify only Underperforming and Lowest-Performing schools for the purpose of providing access to supports and funding as early as possible.

As a reminder, ISBE is releasing the list of preliminary summative designations upon request and has received several FOIA requests.

To learn more, please view the recording of the Summative Designation Deep-Dive webinar from Aug. 10. An FAQ from this webinar is coming soon and will be available on the Back to School webpage.

**Q: What are the key components of IL-EMPOWER?**

**A:** The IL-EMPOWER structure is grounded in equity and based on our obligation to support schools with the highest student needs. Identified schools will receive additional funding, which includes an adequacy target calculation.

IL-EMPOWER is a capacity building system through differentiated support. School support managers advise schools in their effort to determine improvement needs and implement a work plan supported by IL-EMPOWER learning partners.

Support managers are former school and district administrators (principals, assistant superintendents, and superintendents). All school support managers have strong expertise in school improvement processes leading to results. School support managers are connecting with identified schools/ districts during August.

IL-EMPOWER has established partnerships with highly qualified entities across the state and country to provide consultation, professional learning, coaching, mentoring, and strategic planning to schools.

ISBE will enter into a no-cost contract with fixed rates for these services. Districts can build off this contract.

A recording of the IL-EMPOWER Deep-Dive webinar from Aug. 14 will be available soon and posted on the Back to School Webpage.

**Q: Is there an update available on the KIDS data?**

**A:** Districts received their KIDS data on Aug. 6 via the Student Information System and Ed360, along with an email containing a toolkit of resources prepared by our KIDS partner organizations.

ISBE issued a press release and provided the district- and state-level data report to media on Aug. 13. Visit [www.isbe.net/kids](http://www.isbe.net/kids) for more information, including a toolkit for families with activities to support children's healthy development at home. As a reminder, KIDS coaches are available to provide training to any district upon request.

**Q: Where can I find more information about HB 5627, the recently passed licensure bill?**

**A:** Public Act 100-0596 changed licensure requirements to make it easier for out-of-state, retired, and substitute teachers to obtain a license to teach in Illinois. The new law addresses the state's need for more teachers in the Illinois education workforce. Resources and detailed information are available on our Education Licensure page under the "Legislation/Rules" tile.

**Q: I have schools that have expressed interest in competency-based education (CBE). Where do we begin?**

**A:** Resources and information are available on our competency-based education webpage – [isbe.net/competency](http://isbe.net/competency). The application for the second cohort closed on Aug. 1, but please look out for the next opportunity. Please reach out if you would like to discuss or get connected to any of the current pilot districts. The presentation from our recent summit, "Growing Leaders in Educational Innovation," provides details on steps for getting started with CBE.

**Q: Can you provide an update on the assessment plans for the for the spring 2019 administration?**

**A:**

I. At the 3-8 level, the bids have been received and evaluated by our panel of expert reviewers. They are meeting this week to conduct the post-evaluation conference and discuss any outlier scores. From there, if necessary, we will move to bidder presentations. This process can take three to four weeks.

Please join us for the [Assessment Deep-Dive webinar](#) on Aug. 24, when we hope to have more information available.

II. At the high school level, we are working to finalize the contract with College Board. We are working to provide the best information possible, but all information is subject to change pending a fully executed contract.

- a. Spring administration of PSAT at grade 9 and 10 is now required, in addition to the SAT School Day at grade 11.
- b. The main administration day for the SAT School Day is April 9, with a make-up day on April 23. There is some flexibility in administering PSAT.
- c. In general, we want schools/districts to choose the shortest continuous administration window possible to minimize impact to instruction and provide the best situation for

security. The window must be consistent across the district, and entire grades must test on the same day.

- i. Please test all students on April 9 if you have the capacity to do so.
- ii. It is acceptable to test two grades on April 9 and the remaining grade the next day if you need to do so for capacity reasons. You may test grade 11 on April 9 and the two remaining grades the next day if you so choose.
- iii. You may expand your window from April 9 through April 11 if your capacity allows you to test only one grade per day. This is the least preferable option.
- iv. The window must be continuous. Districts cannot test on April 9, skip the 10th, and test again on April 11.
- v. Remember that students with accommodations, particularly 100 percent extended time and one-on-one or small group testing, can test at any point within the two-week accommodated testing window.