2019 Special Education Directors Conference
Transformational Leadership: Partnering for Success

July 24-26, 2019
Crowne Plaza Hotel
Springfield, IL
JB Pritzker
Governor

Illinois State Board of Education Members

Darren Reisberg
Board Chair

Dr. Christine Benson
Board Member

Dr. Donna Simpson Leak
Board Vice Chair

Cynthia Latimer
Board Member

Dr. Cristina Pacione-Zayas
Board Secretary

Dr. David Lett
Board Member

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Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee

Susie Morrison
Board Member

Jacqueline Robbins
Board Member

Dr. Carmen I. Ayala
State Superintendent of Education
Transformational Leadership: Partnering for Success

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the 2019 Special Education Directors Conference. On behalf of the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), Special Education Services Division, we welcome you to the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield, Illinois. We hope you find these conference days filled with information which is practical, proactive, and progressive! Our goal, as always, is to provide you with the most up-to-date information regarding special education policy, practices, procedures, and programming. In addition, this year we are hoping to highlight again some innovative ways to improve outcomes for all students, especially students with disabilities.

To begin this year’s conference, there is session for new and seasoned directors on Wednesday afternoon, July 24, where a variety of information related to ISBE processes and procedures will be shared. Topics will include State and Federal Special Education Funding, Data Collection through I-Star and SPP Indicators, Nonpublic Facilities, Private/Parochial Schools, Supports, and Website Resources.

On Thursday, July 25, we will open with a keynote address, titled Transformational Leadership: Partnering for Success, by Barbara Moore, ISBE’s Director of Special Education Services. I will also have the pleasure of addressing you when I present my State of the State address following Ms. Moore. Thursday’s session strands cover a wide range of topics, including the Special Education Teacher Shortage; Residential Placements by Districts, Agencies, and Courts; IDEA Grants; Due Process; Assistive Technology; and Assessment and Accountability. In addition, you will have an opportunity to join your fellow colleagues and ISBE personnel at the Thursday evening Social Hour from 4:00-5:00 p.m. in the Ballroom.

The conference continues on Friday, July 26, with the ISBE data team who will present Using Data to Transform Special Education. This session will help uncover the location of all the data collected by ISBE and discover meaningful ways to use the data to improve outcomes for students with disabilities.

Again this year, to continue our efforts to “go green,” all presentations will be posted to the ISBE website on the Special Education Services webpage: https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Special-Education-Programs.aspx

Additionally, we ask that you please take a moment to complete a survey which will help us in planning future conferences. The link to the survey may be found at: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2019GPGTF8N and will be available on Thursday, July 25. It may also be accessed via the QR code below.

We hope you find this year’s conference valuable and enlightening and look forward to collaborating with you in advancing educational support programming throughout Illinois. As you plan for the future, please save the dates of July 29-31, 2020, for the 2020 Illinois Special Education Directors Conference to be held here at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

Heather Calomese
Executive Director of Special Education – ISBE
**ISBE SPECIAL EDUCATION DIRECTORS CONFERENCE**  
July 24 – 26, 2019 ● Crowne Plaza Hotel ● Springfield, Illinois

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<th><strong>WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 2019</strong></th>
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| 1:00-4:00 | Session for New and Seasoned Directors  
Are you a new Director of Special Education or do you want to know more about essential special education topics and the ISBE consultants who manage them? If so, join us for this fast-paced informational-rich session. Topics include navigating ISBE’s website for resources, finance, nonpublic facilities, private/parochial procedures, conflict resolution and many other topics and supports. You will leave this session with a wealth of knowledge regarding where to locate information and resources as we partner together for success as transformational leaders of special education throughout Illinois. |

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<tr>
<td>7:00-4:00</td>
<td>Registration Open (Registration Desk)</td>
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<td>7:30-5:00</td>
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<td>7:30-8:30</td>
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| Ballroom 8:15-9:15 | Welcome and Keynote Speaker: Barbara Moore, Director of Special Education – ISBE  
Transformational Leadership: Partnering for Success  
Barbara Moore will kick off the conference with a light-hearted presentation about leaders transforming special education through strong partnerships. Transformational leadership is a theory of leadership where leaders work with teams to identify needed change, create a vision for change through inspiration, and execute the change with the members of their team. The work to be done - to improve educational outcomes for students with disabilities - requires more than ever that every leader reach out to colleagues to partner as a team. As Helen Keller said, “Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.” Come away inspired to lead your teams by partnering with ISBE and others to help us succeed in ensuring equitable outcomes for all students. |
| Ballroom 9:15-10:15 | Special Education Update: Heather Calomese, Executive Director of Special Education – ISBE  
State of the State  
Transformation begins by knowing where we have been, where we are, and where we are going. Heather Calomese will share highlights of what has been accomplished in the past year at the Illinois State Board of Education and its Special Education Services Division to meet the agency’s vision, mission, and goals. Information on current and future projects of the agency and division will be provided. More importantly, Ms. Calomese will describe how these activities will impact your work in school districts and special education cooperatives. This hour-long session will be jam-packed with information that can’t be missed. |
<p>| 10:15-10:30 | BREAK |</p>
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<td><strong>SESSION #2</strong> Early Childhood Special Education Inclusion</td>
<td><strong>SESSION #3</strong> IL-EMPOWER Case Study</td>
<td><strong>SESSION #4</strong> DRS Transition Services for Students with Disabilities</td>
<td><strong>SESSION #5</strong> Updated Assistive Technology Requirements and Supports</td>
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<td><strong>SESSION #7</strong> Pyramid Model: Supporting Early Childhood PBIS</td>
<td><strong>SESSION #8</strong> Residential Placements by Districts, Agencies, and Courts</td>
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<td>4:00-5:00</td>
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  - Matt Ulmer
  - Director of Federal and State Monitoring

- **SESSION #13**: Nonpublic Special Education Facilities Overview
  - Barbara Moore
  - ISBE Director of Special Education Services

- **SESSION #14**: Every Student Counts, Every Day Matters
  - Dr. Antoinette Taylor
  - Illinois Attendance Commission Chair

- **SESSION #15**: Assessment and Accountability
  - Laura Quimby
  - ISBE Assessment Division Supervisor

- **SESSION #16**: The RDA Cohort Experience: Reflections on a Model of Supports for Schools and Districts
  - Titia Kipp
  - Principal
  - Waters Elementary School – Chicago #299

- **SESSION #17**: Forming Joint Agreements and the Withdrawal Process
  - Sue Taylor
  - ISBE

- **SESSION #18**: 2019 School Health Updates - ISBE
  - Rebecca Doran
  - Candace Decker
  - Adenike Sosina
  - ISBE

- **SESSION #19**: Special Education Teacher Shortages in Illinois: Perspectives & Initiatives
  - Emily Fox
  - ISBE Director of Educator Effectiveness

- **SESSION #20**: Themes and Trends in Conflict Resolution
  - Andy Eulass
  - Sherry Colegrove
  - Mark Conyer
  - ISBE
Using Data to Transform Special Education

Do you know where to locate all the data sources available through ISBE to facilitate the school improvement process? Join us for this session to uncover where to locate all the data collected by ISBE and discover meaningful ways to use the data to improve outcomes for students with disabilities. ISBE staff and partners will guide participants through the process of locating, producing reports, and analyzing data for a variety of purposes. You will leave this session with practical resources and increased knowledge regarding all aspects of the data collection process.

With Gratitude to All Our Partners, Collaborators, and Personnel

ISBE is especially grateful to our state’s Directors of Special Education who on a daily basis lead their teams in response to the needs of all the students with disabilities with services and programming designed to improve student outcomes and promote well-being. Our state Directors are on the front lines and demonstrate their commitment through inspired leadership and professional guidance to make incredible differences in the lives of our students with disabilities.

ISBE also acknowledges our partners in practice, professional development, and supportive programming who enhance ISBE initiatives and participate in ISBE efforts to advance promising educational programming, technical assistance opportunities, and guidance on serving unique audiences of students with diverse needs. Our field partners work diligently to communicate with all special education personnel to develop appropriate IEPs, promote quality early childhood programming, assist with tiered interventions, engage families, and promote school attendance.

Finally, we are grateful for the unflagging support and ongoing professionalism of our staff representatives in Springfield and Chicago who never forget the mission of ISBE’s Special Education Services Division, to serve the children of this state who have disabilities that affect their involvement and progress in the general education curriculum and to ensure their growth, development, and transition.
Session for New and Seasoned Directors

Wednesday, July 24, 2019 ● 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.  Plaza I

Are you a new Director of Special Education or do you want to know more about essential special education topics and the ISBE consultants who manage them? If so, join us for this fast-paced informational-rich session. Topics include navigating ISBE’s website for resources, finance, nonpublic facilities, private/parochial procedures, conflict resolution and many other topics and supports. You will leave this session with a wealth of knowledge regarding where to locate information and resources as we partner together for success as transformational leaders of special education throughout Illinois.

Thursday, July 25, 2019 ● 8:15 – 8:30 a.m.  Ballroom

WELCOME: Barbara Moore, Director of Special Education – ISBE

8:30 – 9:15 a.m.  Ballroom

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Barbara Moore, Director of Special Education – ISBE

Transformational Leadership: Partnering for Success

Barbara Moore will kick off the conference with a light-hearted presentation about leaders transforming special education through strong partnerships. Transformational leadership is a theory of leadership where leaders work with teams to identify needed change, create a vision for change through inspiration, and execute the change with the members of their team. The work to be done - to improve educational outcomes for students with disabilities - requires more than ever that every leader reach out to colleagues to partner as a team. As Helen Keller said, “Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.” Come away inspired to lead your teams by partnering with ISBE and others to help us succeed in ensuring equitable outcomes for all students.

9:15 – 10:15 a.m.  Ballroom

SPECIAL EDUCATION UPDATE: Heather Calomese, Executive Director of Special Education – ISBE

State of the State

Transformation begins by knowing where we have been, where we are, and where we are going. Heather Calomese will share highlights of what has been accomplished in the past year at the Illinois State Board of Education and its Special Education Services Division to meet the agency’s vision, mission, and goals. Information on current and future projects of the agency and division will be provided. More importantly, Ms. Calomese will describe how these activities will impact your work in school districts and special education cooperatives. This hour-long session will be jam-packed with information that can’t be missed.
SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

Thursday, July 25, 2019 ● 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

SESSION #1
Facilitated IEP Process
Sherry Colegrove (ISBE) and Dr. Michael McElherne (ISBE Facilitator)

The Division of Special Education Services has completed its second full year of IEP facilitation and what a fabulous year it has been! This session will focus on success stories and lessons learned and provide tips for districts to further support positive outcomes at IEP meetings.

SESSION #2
Early Childhood Special Education Inclusion
Kelly Rathbun-Hunt (La Grange Area Department of Special Education - LADSE), Tammy Basel (Autism Consultant, Harvard CUSD 50), Lindsey Doetch (Social Worker, Harvard CUSD 50), Chris Pennell (Director, Four Rivers Special Education District), and Kim Nelson (Administrator, Four Rivers Special Education District)

Join this session to hear from special education cooperatives and districts where personnel have worked to increase inclusive preschool options in their communities. We will hear about a variety of models they have implemented and how they collaborated with partners to assure high quality inclusive practices.

SESSION #3
IL-EMPOWER Case Study: Partnering to Improve Outcomes for ALL Students
Merle Sieffken (Director IL-EMPOWER), Dr. Melissa Hannasch (IL MTSS-N Statewide Program Director), Pam Walden (Coaching Services Coordinator, IL MTSS-N), Paula Hubbard (Director of Special Education, Granite City CUSD #9), and Jill Relleke (Supervisor of Special Education, Granite City #9)

IL-EMPOWER is the Illinois Statewide System of Supports and Accountability that focuses on excellence and equity and provides support for systems to implement continuous school improvement to improve outcomes for all students. Approved Learning Partners, such as the IL-MTSS Network, are partners and provide direct support to schools identified for targeted or comprehensive support. The district in this case study has schools with the lowest performing designations for all student groups and underperforming designations for schools with an IEP student group. The district developed school improvement plans to build a multi-tiered system of supports for ALL students with an emphasis on students with IEPs. The district is also part of the Transformation Zone to improve outcomes in reading for 3rd grade students with IEPs. The district, with its Learning Partner, began working at the elementary buildings using their state and local data and needs assessment (District Capacity Assessment, Self-assessment of MTSS Implementation – Illinois Version, and Illinois Quality Framework Supporting Rubric) to target areas of improvement and improve outcomes for all students with a focus on the whole child.

SESSION #4
DRS Transition Services for Students with Disabilities
Douglas Morton (DRS Planning Administration), Louis Hamer (DRS Bureau Chief), and Kristin Wagner (DRS Community Resources Manager)

The Department of Human Services’ Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) provides transition services to about 11,000 students with disabilities each year. This presentation will highlight the concept of pre-employment transition services and how work-based learning experiences, provided in partnership with local schools, contribute to the post high school success of many students. The presenters will also describe the Fast Track Transition program which targets students as young as age 14. Information will also be provided on the contractual relationship between DRS and local schools.

SESSION #5
Updated Assistive Technology Requirements and Supports Available for Districts
Erin Saxton (ISBE); Peggy Childs, Peggy Zegley, and Greg Grill (Infinitec); Willie Gunther and Mark McCabe (IL Assistive Technology Program)
Session will provide information on Public Act 100-0993 and resources available to districts to support assistive technology (AT) implementation. ISBE/Infinitec technical assistance (TA) and training has set high priority for AT consideration, AT assessment and AT resources for training this coming school year via seminars, webinars and conferences, in addition to Admin Academy offerings for leaders and intense augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) and AT assessment training for teams. The ISBE Exchange Network (EN) grant provides refurbished computers/laptops to identified Illinois students allowing access to technology for school or home use. Durable medical equipment (DME) provides mobility items and therapy equipment for school use. Also, the Illinois AT Program provides free AT and AAC evaluations for students 3-21 throughout the state of Illinois. We will examine the process from the initial online request to the final report. Included in this discussion will be the vital role played by our device loan program. The course of action necessary to request a device will be explained along with a description of the large variety of items available in our library.

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

Thursday, July 25, 2019 • 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

SESSION #6

IL-MTSS Network: Demonstrating Improvement Through District and School Partnerships

Brett Nelson (ISBE), Dr. Melissa Hannasch (IL MTSS-N Statewide Program Director) and Lori Hensold (IL MTSS-N Professional Learning Coordinator)

Illinois MTSS Network (IL MTSS-N) is a grant-funded learning initiative of ISBE and an approved IL-EMPOWER Learning Partner. IL MTSS-N collaborates with districts to establish an effective and efficient tiered support system to improve student outcomes. IL MTSS-N coaches provide job-embedded professional learning, coaching, and technical assistance to build district and school capacity around systems, data, and evidence-based practices to support ALL learners. This session will highlight the current landscape of MTSS in Illinois and insights from implementing MTSS in a variety of school and district settings. Participants will explore the IL MTSS-N coaching model and experience a walk-through of an online learning module.

SESSION #7

Pyramid Model: Supporting Early Childhood PBIS

Denise Henry (STAR NET Region 4) and Evelyn Green (STAR NET Region 5)

What is the Pyramid Framework and how does it impact your work? We will provide an overview of the Pyramid Model for Social Emotional Learning, discuss how the framework supports student outcomes as well as the Suspension/Expulsion Law (Public Act 100-0105), and explain the role of leadership in implementation.

SESSION #8

Residential Placements by Districts, Agencies, and Courts

Barbara Moore (ISBE), Molly Uhe-Edmonds (Deputy Director, Department of Children and Family Services), and Debbi Smith (Executive Director, Community and Residential Services Authority)

Whether you are a new or experienced director, navigating the world of residential placements can be challenging. ISBE, DCFS, and CRSA aim to make these processes easier to understand by sharing the differences between placements made by districts, agencies, and courts and sharing steps you need to take to ensure successful transition of students to and from placements.

SESSION #9

Parent and Family Engagement in Special Education: How School Districts Can Create a More Inclusive Environment

Jacob Thornton, Vicki Hodges, and Roslyn Simmons Lindsay (ISBE)

This session will focus on family engagement within special education and the data, resources, tips, and tricks to assist school districts in creating and fostering a more inclusive environment for their special education population.

SESSION #10

Special Education Services for English Learners

Lydia Kvinta (Division of English Learners, ISBE)
This session will start with a brief overview of the existing regulations and federal guidance related to special education services for English learners. It will be followed by a review of the state IEP forms with a focus on sections related to the student's (and parent/guardian’s) language and culture. Presenter will then discuss several interesting cases/scenarios involving students with dual services in Illinois public school districts. Presentation will end with a ten-minute Q & A session.

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS
Thursday, July 25, 2019 ● 1:35 – 2:35 p.m.

SESSION #11  PLAZA I
Overview of the IEP Quality Project Tutorial: Professional Development Resources
Jim Shriner (IEP-Q Principal Investigator) and Susan Carty (IEP-Q Project Coordinator)

The IEP Quality Project Tutorial is a resource available to all Illinois educators in K-12 schools that provides comprehensive educational material covering each required element of the IEP. The Tutorial includes best practice guidance and examples for nearly every section of the Illinois IEP, downloadable reference charts, planning sheets for team members to use in IEP development, and tools to assist in writing quality annual goals and short-term objectives that align with the Illinois Learning Standards. The presentation is best suited for participants who are unfamiliar with the Tutorial and its resources.

SESSION #12  PLAZA H
IDEA Grants and Federal and State Monitoring Overview
Matt Ulmer (ISBE Director of Federal and State Monitoring), Steve Bunch (ISBE Division Supervisor, Federal and State Monitoring) with Zach Allen, Todd Williams, and Mandi Richards (ISBE)

The IDEA Grants Team will partner with the Federal and State Monitoring division to present updated information for the FY20 grant year. A portion of the session will be designated for questions from the participants.

SESSION #13  PLAZA G
Nonpublic Special Education Facilities Overview
Barbara Moore (ISBE Director of Special Education Services); Helen Kossler, Abbey Storey, Christine Wietasch, and Corrinne Williams (ISBE); and Linda Fox (Director of Education, Circle Academy)

Nonpublic special education facilities are an important option on the continuum of special education placements. Learn about ISBE’s process for approving facilities, key changes to the Part 401 regulations, roles and responsibilities of districts and facilities, and the importance of strong partnerships.

SESSION #14  PLAZA F
Every Student Counts, Every Day Matters
Dr. Antoinette Taylor (Special Needs Consultant and Chair, Illinois Attendance Commission)

Student Attendance has become a critical data point for school district recognition, funding, and serving student needs. This interactive session will focus on chronic absence legislation in Illinois from Preschool to Grade 12 as well as accountability under the Every Student Succeeds Act and the Results-driven Accountability Initiative. Additionally, evidenced-based practices such as the Multi-tiered System of Supports (MTSS) and Family Engagement will be discussed as integral parts of addressing attendance and truancy for students with disabilities.

SESSION #15  PLAZA C & D
Assessment and Accountability
Laura Quimby (ISBE Division Supervisor) and Pam Hartwig (ISBE)

The session will provide directors with information regarding state accountability assessments for the 2019-2020 school year. Information will include how to follow the participation guidelines to ensure the students who take the alternate assessment are students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. Information regarding the regular assessment will also be addressed.
SESSION DESCRIPTIONS
Thursday, July 25, 2019 ● 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

SESSION #16
PLAZA I
The RDA Cohort Experience: Reflections on a Model of Supports for Schools and Districts
Titia Kipp (Principal, Thomas J. Waters Elementary School, Chicago #299) and Robert Lynn (Special Education Coordinator and Principal, Charleston CUSD #1)

The Results-driven Accountability (RDA) Cohort has been one model employed by ISBE in its effort to monitor and provide supports for Illinois school districts. This interactive session will include a brief introduction of the RDA Cohort process, and representatives from Charleston CUSD #1 and Waters Elementary School will share their perspectives and experiences with RDA via their participation in the RDA Cohort. Audience members will also have an opportunity to engage with some activities and materials from the RDA Cohort process and consider how these might be applied in their own districts and schools.

SESSION #17
PLAZA H
Forming Joint Agreements and the Withdrawal Process
Sue Taylor (ISBE)

This session will encompass steps to be taken by districts that have opted to withdraw from current special education joint agreements/cooperatives and act as stand-alone special education districts and for those districts that wish to form new joint agreements. The session will concentrate on the necessary components of the comprehensive plan and the steps and timelines necessary for a comprehensive plan to receive full approval.

SESSION #18
PLAZA G
2019 School Health Updates - ISBE
Rebecca Doran, Candace Decker, and Adenike Sosina (ISBE) and Nancy Antonini (Lincoln-Way Area Special Education District 843 and 2018 National Association of School Nurses award recipient for Outstanding School Nurse of the Year for Students with Special Needs)

In alignment with ISBE’s emphasis on the Whole Child, Whole Community model, ISBE’s School Health Services Division seeks to support the whole child and ensure a safe and healthy environment for all children by having qualified personnel available. In keeping with its mission to ensure staff are properly trained to fulfill professional health care roles in school communities across Illinois, ISBE school health staff will present updates on school health requirements and ways to address the needs of students who are medically fragile.

SESSION #19
PLAZA F
Special Education Teacher Shortages in Illinois: Perspectives and Initiatives
Emily Fox (ISBE Director, Educator Effectiveness), Christy Borders (Interim Associate Dean, Illinois State University), and Stacy Jones-Bock (Chairperson and Professor, Illinois State University)

Illinois public schools face a critical shortage of licensed educators, and this shortage is felt no more acutely than in the field of special education. The presenters will speak about teacher shortages from the teacher preparation, teacher recruitment, and teacher retention perspectives. The presentation will also include information on Teach Illinois and other strategies or initiatives to address teacher shortages in Illinois. The session will include an opportunity for questions and answers on this timely topic.

SESSION #20
PLAZA C & D
Themes and Trends in Conflict Resolution
Andy Eulass, Sherry Colegrove, and Mark Conyer (ISBE)

In this session, the presenters will provide an overview of the predominant themes and issues across mediation, due process, and state complaints as evidenced by the data. Presenters will also provide practical strategies for resolving disputes.
USING DATA TO TRANSFORM SPECIAL EDUCATION

Heather Calomese, Executive Director of Special Education – ISBE
Barb Moore, Director of Special Education – ISBE
Scott Norton, Principal Consultant, Part B Data Manager - ISBE
Jodi Fleck, Principal Consultant, SPP/APR - ISBE
Connie Heinz, Principal Consultant, Monitoring - ISBE

Do you know where to locate all the data sources available through ISBE to facilitate the school improvement process? Join us for this session to uncover the location of all the data collected by ISBE and discover meaningful ways to use the data to improve outcomes for students with disabilities. ISBE staff and partners will guide participants through the process of locating, producing reports, and analyzing data for a variety of purposes. You will leave this session with practical resources and increased knowledge regarding all aspects of the data collection process.
EXHIBITOR INFORMATION

Autism Training and Technical Assistance Project (ATTA Project) (Autism - College and Career Ready): The Autism Training and Technical Assistance Project (ATTA) seeks to develop and present resources that assist individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) in their transition from secondary education to postsecondary education or employment. The ATTA also provides training and support to important stakeholders as they work to provide an equitable experience for individuals with ASD. Visit the ATTA website at https://autismcollegeandcareer.com/. (Table 8)

Community and Residential Services Authority (CRSA): Children with severe behavioral or emotional disorders and their families often face challenges locating effective behavioral, educational, and mental health resources. CRSA works with local schools, providers, and state agencies to access critical supports in order to improve positive outcomes for their children. (Table 9)

Division of Rehabilitation Services' Secondary Transitional Experience Program and Fast Track Transition (STEP): The DHS Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) provides transitional services to students with disabilities through contractual relationships with schools (the Secondary Transitional Experience Program or STEP) and community service providers (the Fast Track Transition program). The goal is to help each student make progress toward employment or postsecondary education after leaving school. (Table 18)

Early CHOICES and STAR NET: Early CHOICES and Illinois STAR NET are early childhood training and technical assistance projects funded through ISBE. Early CHOICES focuses on the inclusion of preschoolers with their typical peers. STAR NET provides a range of training and supports around best practices in early childhood. (Table 1)

Educational Surrogate Parent Program: The Educational Surrogate Parent Program is an ISBE-sponsored program with the mission of recruiting and training volunteers to be educational surrogate parents for children eligible for special education who are in care of DCFS or the DOC, unaccompanied homeless youth, or youth whose parents are unavailable and the student resides at a state-approved residential facility. Surrogate parents can also be provided for unaccompanied homeless youth who attend public schools. (Table 5)

Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) - Family Support Program: The Family Support Program is a state-funded program that provides access to intensive mental health services and supports, including care coordination to youth with severe emotional disturbances. It is administered by the HFS Bureau of Behavioral Health. The purpose of this program is to support eligible youths and their families in obtaining the appropriate level of treatment services required to improve the youths’ condition with the goal of strengthening family stability, improving clinical outcomes, and promoting community-based services. (Table 17)

IEP Facilitation: ISBE’s Special Education Services Division has been offering this free service statewide. The state-provided neutral facilitator helps keep team members focused on developing the Individualized Education Program (IEP) document while addressing any disagreements that may arise during the IEP meeting. Stop by for more information! (Table 4)

IEP Quality Project (IEP-Q): The IEP Quality Project Tutorial is a free resource available to all Illinois educators in K-12 schools that provides comprehensive educational material covering each required element of the IEP. The tutorial includes best practice guidance and examples for nearly every section of the Illinois IEP, downloadable reference charts, planning sheets for team members to use in IEP development, and tools to assist in writing quality annual goals and short-term objectives that are aligned to the Illinois Learning Standards. Project staff will be available to demonstrate the Tutorial and assist with user registration. (Table 14)

IL-EMPOWER: IL-EMPOWER is a statewide system of differentiated supports and accountability for the purpose of building a school’s capacity to meet the learning needs of each and every child. School Support Managers provide leadership and support in schools designated for comprehensive supports. They also provide technical assistance for schools designated for targeted support. (Table 16)
Illinois Alliance of Administrators of Special Education (IAASE): The IAASE is a nonprofit special education organization for administrators that promotes educational opportunities for all students with an emphasis on students with disabilities. IAASE’s action-oriented administrative focus leads the special education field in the areas of policy development, finance, and legislation at the local, state, and national levels. The Special Education Administrators’ Political Action Committee (PAC) will also be on hand. (Table 11)

Illinois Assistive Technology Program (IATP): Illinois Assistive Technology Program is a nonprofit agency that promotes the availability of assistive technology services, and programs for people with disabilities. IATP serves all people with disabilities as well as their families, service providers, state agencies, and educators. (Table 6)

Illinois Instructional Materials Center/The Chicago Lighthouse: The Illinois Instructional Materials Center provides large print books, braille books, assistive technology, and educational materials for students in grades K-12 who are blind or visually impaired throughout the state of Illinois with funding by ISBE. Stop by our exhibit for more information on how your students can access instructional materials. (Table 15)

Illinois School for the Deaf Outreach: The mission of Illinois School for the Deaf (ISD) Outreach is to support families, programs, and services for children who are deaf or hard of hearing throughout the state of Illinois. ISD Outreach is a statewide resource for information, training, and technical assistance for community members, families, and programs for children who are deaf or hard of hearing. (Table 12)

Illinois Service Resource Center (ISRC): The Illinois Service Resource Center (ISRC) is funded by ISBE to provide FREE behavior support for families and educators of students who are deaf, hard of hearing, or visually impaired. Services include on-site visits to homes and schools, on-site and online training, library by mail, data collection coaching, home-school team facilitation, PBIS support, and more. (Table 2)

Illinois Special Education Leadership Academy (ISELA): Illinois Special Education Leadership Academy (ISELA) is a committee of special education administrators who plan and provide cost-effective professional development on topics related to special education to all administrators in Illinois. They also provide support for new Directors of Special Education. Funding for this work comes from ISBE through IDEA discretionary money. (Table 13)

Infinitec/United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Chicago: The ISBE Exchange Network (EN) provides refurbished computers/laptops to students with IEPs and 504 plans. It also provides durable medical equipment (DME) such as mobility and therapy equipment for school use. In addition, through the ISBE technical assistance and training grant, Infinitec provides state of art training on assistive technology via seminars, conferences, and webinars. (Table 10)

ISBE Assessment and Accountability: The Assessment and Accountability Division provides information to districts regarding the state accountability assessments. Students in grades 3-11 are required to be assessed through one of the state accountability assessments. (Table 3)

I-STAR / Harrisburg Project: Harrisburg Project provides support, training, and professional development services to special education districts and cooperatives for maintenance and data reporting in I-Star. ISBE’s data reporting system. Services offered include previous year software maintenance, end-user training, phone/email support, and liaison support to I-Star program developers. Visit our website at www.hbug.k12.il.us/istar or contact us at 800-635-5274 or support@hbug.k12.il.us. (Table 7)

Project Reach/Philip J. Rock Center (PRC): PRC has two distinct branches, the Center and the Residential school. The residential school provides a program for deafblind children between 3 and 21 years old, and the Center serves deafblind children throughout Illinois. They provide services at schools, medical settings, early intervention centers, and homes. Project Reach provides technical assistance, information, and training to address the early intervention, education, related service, and transition needs of children with deafblindness. (Table 19)
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