



# Illinois State Board of Education

*Center for Educator Effectiveness*

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James T. Meeks,  
*Chairman*

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*State Superintendent of Education*

## P R E P A R A T I O N P O I N T S

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## Season's Greetings

As the first semester comes to an end and we move further into frigid weather and longer nights, it is easy to lose track of the bright spots coming to Illinois education. After the recent release of the *Teach Illinois* report, we have embarked on actions, which we believe will strengthen our teacher workforce, including a reexamination of basic skills testing, development of new pipeline strategies, and making substantive changes to licensure requirements. Additionally, many of you reading this are involved in our PEP data collection and even our CICP initiatives, projects that we hope will lead to a significant improvement in our teacher preparation systems. We are grateful for all of the work you do in education and look forward to collaborating with you to move the needle of education forward here in Illinois.

Dr. Jason Helfer

## Licensure Officer Support

### Fall Regional Trainings

ISBE preparation liaisons hosted five regional licensure officer trainings during the months of October and November. Participants learned about the entitlement process, entitlement audits and applicable rule changes from the past year. These trainings provided participants with an opportunity to engage in discussion and learn best practices from other institutions. Based on responses collected from the exit survey from each of the trainings, 79% of the

participants prefer the regional trainings to the webinar series, which had been done in the past. A recording of the training and a copy of the presentation may be found [here](#). Please submit additional suggestions for future licensure officer trainings [here](#).

### Teacher Evaluator Training/Teacher Evaluation

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) would like to inform Illinois Educator Stakeholders of the change regarding the initial trainings to replace the Growth Through Learning Modules ending December 31, 2018. Registration for the Growth Through Learning Modules will end on **December 24, 2018**. \* Educators who register on or before this date will have until December 31, 2018 to successfully complete the training.

Effective January 1, 2019, these initial trainings will be completed through a two-day Administrators' Academy. The initial evaluation training, similar to retraining's, will be scheduled through local ROEs, IASA, CPAA, and IPA. The new initial evaluator training will be a face-to-face Administrators' Academy, including but not limited to pre-work and an assessment that complies with the requirements of ILCS 5/24A-3. Cost has not yet been finalized.

There will be a "train the trainer" meeting in Springfield on December 14, 2018 to develop a cadre of statewide trainers of the new initial evaluator training. The participants for this meeting will be identified by the organizations represented on the PEAC training committee (ROEs/ISCs, IASA, IPA, IFT, IEA, CPS). Once trainers have been established, a statewide calendar to locate trainings will be completed and individuals may begin registering for initial evaluator trainings.

## TEACH ILLINOIS

On October 17, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) approved specific recommendations to expand and diversify the state's highly qualified workforce. The recommendations stem from a year of study involving focus groups, data analysis, and a review of state and national research. The year of study culminated in the Teach Illinois report released on Sept. 7. ISBE received more than 150 public comments on the report over a three-week period and took each comment into consideration in developing the agency's next steps and legislative recommendations.

ISBE recommended specific legislative changes to the Illinois School Code to:

- Create three job-embedded routes to licensure for paraprofessionals, substitutes, transitional bilingual educators, and career changers.
- Remove the requirement of a test of basic skills for individuals already possessing a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution in order to receive initial licensure or endorsements on licenses.
- Expand mentoring supports to experienced teachers and principals.

The State Board also approved a set of actions for the agency to take in collaboration with the appropriate stakeholders, including:

- Retain the use of the ACT or SAT and discontinue use of the Test of Academic Proficiency as tests of basic skills.
- Study the relationship between a test of basic skills and effectiveness in teaching.
- Develop criteria for a portfolio assessment that may be used in place of a test of basic skills.
- Develop a multi-step process for approving teacher preparation programs that includes collecting and reviewing program data.
- Identify a college and career pathway endorsement in education that high school students can earn.
- Release grants for teacher leadership and for innovative approaches to teacher preparation fieldwork.
- Allow individuals to receive subsequent endorsements on a professional educator license after either 18 course hours or successful completion of the applicable content test.
- Develop criteria for district-based programs leading to the bilingual endorsement.
- Clarify in administrative rules that teacher candidates may be compensated during student teaching.
- Develop standards and research-based guidance for teacher induction and mentoring.

ISBE will continue to engage lawmakers and stakeholders in the development and implementation of this work. View the full recommendations, statutory references, and timelines at [www.isbe.net/teachillinois](http://www.isbe.net/teachillinois).

**\*SOURCE: ISBE External Press Release dated October 19, 2018**

Prospective evaluators will sign up through the sponsoring organization that is offering the training (local ROE, IASA, IPA, CPS) similar to how every other Administrator Academy is handled.

If you have questions or concerns please contact ISBE, your local ROE, IASA, IPA, IEA, IFT, or CPS.

*\*After further consideration and concerns shared from the field, we have decided to extend the registration deadline for the Growth Through Learning pre-qualification modules through December 24. Educators still must complete any trainings by December 31. If the modules are not successfully completed by 12/31/2018, then evaluators will have to complete the training offered thru the new Administrators' Academy process, including paying any applicable application or registration fees. Administrator Academies are planned to launch January 1, 2019.*

## 2018 Entitlement Audit

Institutions selected (as well as not selected) for the 2018 entitlement audit have been notified via email. Twelve institutions were randomly selected to participate in the audit. ISBE will audit a percentage of completers from each institution who were entitled between September 1, 2017 and August 31, 2018. Institutions selected for the 2018 entitlement audit should plan to attend the informational webinar, details below.

### Entitlement Audit Timeline

- December 5: 2018 Informational Webinar
- January: IHE's notified by engagement letter
- February: Entitlement documentation due to ISBE
- March-April: ISBE sends audit report to IHE
- May-June: Final review by ISBE
- July-August: SEPLB approves remediation plans

# Partnership for Educator Preparation (PEP)

## Statewide Data Collection Year 2 Pilot

On October 29, representatives from IL IHE's convened for an in-person meeting which focused on successes of the year 1 data collection and data indicators that were not collected in year 1. In addition, the group discussed year 2 updates and options for the annual public reporting timeline.

November 1 officially started the second year of the PEP statewide pilot (Fall 2018 – Spring 2019). The year 2 pilot provides an additional year of transition and testing into the new data reporting system for Illinois higher education institutions and their educator preparation programs.

The second and final pilot year of the PEP comes with expansion to include additional educator preparation programs as well as principal preparation programs at higher education institutions statewide. To guide this work, the PEP Steering Committee will gain new members to represent the principal voice and who are experts in principal training in Illinois.

The year 2 resource guide and data templates are available on the [website](#).



# Testing

## Vouchers

Pearson has distributed vouchers for ILTS and edTPA testing to all IHE's. The vouchers for ILTS will expire 1 year from the date of issuance.

## Test of Basic Skills

As identified in the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) [Teach Illinois: Strong Teachers, Strong Classrooms report](#), beginning June 30, 2019 the Test of Academic Proficiency (TAP 400) will be put on hold indefinitely while ISBE conducts a study of alternative basic skills assessments. The last day to register for the TAP is June 27, 2019. TAP tests passed prior to June 30, 2019 will continue to be accepted to meet the Illinois basic skills requirement past June 30, 2019. ISBE will continue to require specific scores on the ACT or SAT as a test of basic skills for the issuance of a Professional Educator License.

Please click [here](#) to view ACT and SAT score requirements.

# Important Dates

## September 1, 2019:

- "Old" B-3 Early Childhood programs must be completed
- Early Childhood programs must be entitled by Gateways to Opportunity IL Professional Development System
- "Old" K-9 program candidates must be entitled
- Superintendent program must be aligned to Part 33

# Legislation/Rules

## HB5754 (PA 100-0780)

Effective January 1, 2019 teaching experience earned in IL Department of Corrections (IDOC), regardless if it is with juveniles or adults can be honored toward the 4 years of teaching experience required for the principal endorsement. A link to the full act can be found [here](#).

## Part 25

The State Educator Preparation Licensure Board (SEPLB) reviewed proposed rules for Part 25 during the December 7 meeting. They will be posted for public comment.

## Proposed Rules and Public Comment

Public comment may be submitted on any item for which the deadline has not yet passed, either via e-mail (addressed to [rules@isbe.net](mailto:rules@isbe.net)) or via standard mail (addressed to Agency Rules Coordinator, ISBE, 100 North First Street - S-493, Springfield, Illinois 62777-0001). To check on the status of any item in which comment period has already ended, send an inquiry to [rules@isbe.net](mailto:rules@isbe.net).

## Formal Rule Change Request

It is important to note that pursuant to Section 5-145 of the Illinois Administrative Procedure Act [5 ILCS 100/5-145], any interested person may request an agency to adopt, amend, or repeal a rule. Interested EPPs shall review Part 5000 of the Illinois Administrative Code for procedures to submit such a request.

# Diverse and Learner-Ready Teachers (DLRT) Initiative

Illinois has been continuing its work with the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) as one of nine states challenged to diversify their teacher pipelines and to ensure that all teachers practice culturally responsive teaching. The DLRT steering team, composed of members representing IHE's, districts, schools, ISBE, and the Illinois General Assembly, has recently solicited nominees to join the DLRT Network and help Illinois operationalize initiatives to achieve those goals. More than 75 people with positions across the Illinois educational landscape applied to be part of the Network. Those applicants are currently being evaluated by the steering committee and the chosen members will be notified.

# Continuous Improvement Communities of Practice (CICP)

The pilot Continuous Improvement Communities of Practice (CICP) cohort will be re-convening December 6-7 in Chicago for a mid-year check in event. The event will be hosted by the Joyce Foundation, and will allow participants to provide updates on their individual CICP goals and progress at both the institutional and district levels, as well as further collaborate on site with support from both ISBE and our external consultant, [BranchEd](#).

2018-2019  
SEPLB MEETINGS

February 8, 2019  
April 5, 2019  
June 7, 2019  
August 2, 2019  
October 4, 2019  
December 6, 2019

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## ISBE Spotlight

Meet Tom Janssen



Tom has been working with ISBE teams since fall 2016 and will be joining the Educator Effectiveness team full-time as a Project Manager in January 2019. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Finance, as well as a Bachelor's degree in Quantitative Information Science from Western Illinois University. As a licensed Illinois Realtor of 26+ years, he also enjoys meeting and assisting families with their real estate needs.

Tom lives in Springfield with his wife Karen. They have 3 grown children, Henry, Benjamin, and Emily. In his spare time, Tom enjoys gardening, swimming, and other outdoor activities. He looks forward to assisting ISBE and the Educator Effectiveness Division in this new Project Management role.

If you would like to be added to the preparation points distribution list, please email Tina Dimmitt-Salinas at [cdimmitt@isbe.net](mailto:cdimmitt@isbe.net) .

#### ISBE OFFICE CLOSINGS

CHRISTMAS DAY- DECEMBER 25, 2018

NEW YEARS DAY- JANUARY 1, 2019

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY- JANUARY 21, 2019