



# Illinois State Board of Education

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www.isbe.net

James T. Meeks  
Chairman

Tony Smith, Ph.D.  
State Superintendent of Education

April 2, 2018

Dear Superintendents and Principals,

The Illinois Bicentennial offers us a unique opportunity to engage Illinois students in learning about our collective history. The Illinois State Board of Education is excited to provide new educational resources to help students, educators, families, and communities identify “homegrown heroes” and learn the rich history of the state from many perspectives. *The Illinois Chronicles*, a historical timeline book that tells the story of Illinois’ first 200 years, is the first of its kind to be produced as a curriculum resource in the United States.

ISBE is facilitating the distribution of two **complimentary** copies of *The Illinois Chronicles* to each public school through the Regional Offices of Education.

ISBE content specialists have created the [Illinois Chronicles Educator’s Guide](#) to assist educators with incorporating Bicentennial lessons into their curricula. We are excited to share this **free, downloadable guide** with educators.

Additionally, our [Bicentennial Education webpage](#) contains suggested classroom activities aligned with stories in the book and with the Illinois Learning Standards by grade level. ISBE content specialists plan to provide additional professional development opportunities for educators that relate to the Bicentennial this spring and fall.

We encourage you to share the innovative ways your schools are using these materials with #IllinoisProud on social media and to submit innovative ideas to [IL200ed@isbe.net](mailto:IL200ed@isbe.net).

ISBE, the Governor’s Office of the Illinois Bicentennial, the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, and What on Earth Publishing worked in partnership to produce *The Illinois Chronicles*, funded entirely by generous donations through the Illinois Bicentennial Commission.

If your school or district has not yet received your free copies of *The Illinois Chronicles*, please contact your ROE to inquire about delivery. Information about acquiring additional books at a reduced price is available on ISBE’s [Bicentennial Education webpage](#).

Together we can empower students to engage with Illinois history and imagine their own roles in shaping the future of our state. Thank you for all you do on behalf of Illinois students!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Smith".

Tony Smith, Ph.D.  
State Superintendent of Education