







A NOTE FROM THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

Thank you for visiting the Illinois State Board of Education's booth at the 2024 Illinois State Fair!

As summer comes to a close, I would like to welcome you back to a new school year. ISBE is providing this 2024-25 school year calendar to help you plan for a successful year, to provide tips and resources for Illinois' educators and families, and to encourage intentional family time. This calendar embraces the theme of the tents at the fair hosted by the governor and lieutenant governor: Celebrating Film and TV in Illinois. Throughout the calendar, you will find fun facts about film and shows based or filmed in Illinois – some in our very own public schools. You will also find helpful tips for engaging with your student's school.

You also can check the calendar for school staff appreciation days. Take the opportunity to say thank you and show your gratitude to those who support our students in their academic advancement. As the year progresses, I ask you to take note of the exceptional teachers, administrators, volunteers, and other school personnel who make a difference in your student's life. Take a moment to nominate them for a Those Who Excel or Teacher of the Year Award on ISBE's Those Who Excel & Teacher of the Year webpage. We would love to celebrate them at the end of the school year.

Lastly, thank you for being a partner in your child's education.

Have a great rest of your summer break and an amazing 2024-25 school year.

All my best,

Dr. Tony Sanders State Superintendent of Education



FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CALENDAR

ALL Families Matter!

At the Illinois State Board of Education, we believe that all families, no matter the size or structure, are a critical component to each student's success and well-being. In that spirit, we present this 2024-25 School Year Family and Community Engagement Calender. Inside, you will find tips, resources, and activities to do as a family throughout the year. We hope you will find this information useful in supporting your student and in engaging with your student's school.

Scan the QR code to visit the ISBE website, access links to each resource included in the calendar, and to find photo credits.

Family Matters

"Family Matters" became the second-longest running live action U.S. sitcom and had a predominantly African-American cast. "Family Matters" was set in Chicago focused on the Winslow family. The show reminds us that families have different structures and complex relationships.



"Family Matters" highlighted a traditional two-parent household that also welcomed in grandma, "Mother Winslow"; Aunt Rachel; and Cousin Richie. The nerdy neighbor, known as Urkel, became family over time, as he was often at the Winslow home.

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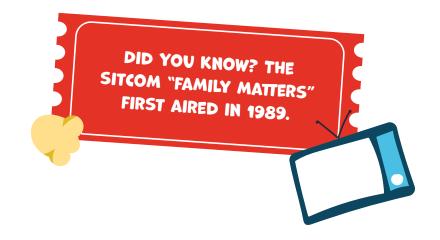


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AUGUST

Welcome Rack to School!

Be prepared for a successful school year. Use the following checklist to ensure a smooth start.

- ☐ If you did not register for the 2024-25 school year, reach out to your school to do so.
- □ Update any changes to your contact information.
- Add school contacts, such as the attendance line, to your phone and email contacts.
- ☐ Make sure you have your bus route schedule or understand the dropoff/pickup procedures for your school.
- ☐ Middle and high school students, make sure you have your class schedules and that you have reviewed them for accuracy. Contact your school if any changes need to be made.
- ☐ Parents/caregivers, make sure to sign up for communications from your school and ensure you have access to any parent portals.
- ☐ Check with your school for a supply list and resources to support the acquisition of those items.

Make sure you have all the resources you need to succeed. At 211 Illinois you will be able to connect with local social service agencies. You may also text 211 from your phone to connect to a live expert.



Don't be a Bueller every day counts!

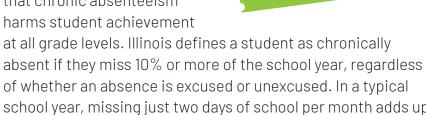
National Truancy Prevention Month Ferris Bueller, a student at Glenbrook

North High School in Northbrook, goes to great lengths to ditch school by faking an illness to enjoy a day out in Chicago with his friends. Noticing Ferris is absent for the ninth time, the dean decides to catch

him in the act.

In real life, when students are not in school, they miss vital instruction needed to succeed academically. Research shows that chronic absenteeism

at all grade levels. Illinois defines a student as chronically absent if they miss 10% or more of the school year, regardless of whether an absence is excused or unexcused. In a typical school year, missing just two days of school per month adds up to chronic absenteeism.



INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

National Immunization Awareness Month

Immunizations protect your student from vaccine-preventable diseases. Ensure that your student has all the required immunizations for school. These should be documented on your Certificate of Child Health Examination. The Illinois Department of Public Health details the minimum immunization requirements for children enrolling in or entering a school in Illinois.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
an Illinois state sy	Learn about the great s ymbol. Take some time ymbol and where in the	e as a family to resear	arch how and why it	1	2	3
				Flower: Violet	Snack: Popcorn	Tree: White oak
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Insect: Monarch butterfly	Amphibian: Eastern tiger salamander	Animal: White-tailed deer	Artifact: Pirogue	First day of the State Fair in Springfield	Dance: Square dance	Exercise: Cycling
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Fossil: Tully monster	Grain and Vegetable: Corn	Fish: Bluegill	Fruit: Goldrush apple	Bird: Northern cardinal	Mineral: Fluorite	Nickname: The Prairie State
18	19	20	21	22	23 mmm	24
Last day of the State Fair in Springfield	Microbe: Penicillium rubens	Pie: Pumpkin pie	Motto: State Sovereignty, National Union	Rock: Dolostone	First day of the State Fair in Du Quoin	Reptile: Painted turtle
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Snake: Eastern milksnake	Illinois Constitution adopted	Pet: Shelter dogs and cats	Soil: Drummer silty clay loam	Theater: The Great American People Show	Wildflower: Milkweed	

SEPTEMBER

Labor Day

Thanks to the efforts of labor unions, American workers are celebrated with a day off on the first Monday of September. Labor unions fought to protect the rights of all workers, including children. In Illinois, child labor law regulates employment of workers ages 16 and under. The law limits working hours, prohibits hazardous occupations, and requires employment certificates. For more details and resources, refer to **Child Labor Law**. For general questions, you may also call the child labor information line at 312-793-5570.

Mid-Quarter

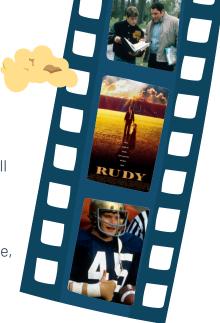
Do not wait for the end of the quarter to inquire about grades. Most schools run on a quarterly calendar that consists of four periods of approximately nine weeks each. Check in with your child's teacher to receive a mid-quarter progress report after the first five weeks of school. This midpoint check will allow time to work with your child to improve their grades, if needed. It will also allow you to celebrate their good work more frequently than just at the end of the quarter. If your child is performing above grade level, you may also want to ask about more challenging material to work on at home.

Hispanic Heritage Month

Hispanic Heritage month is a celebration of the cultural diversity of Hispanic Americans whose heritage is rooted in Latin American countries and territories. This year's theme is "Pioneers of Change: Shaping the Future Together." The theme is decided by the National Council of Hispanic Employment Program Managers annually.

It's Game Day!

The movie "Rudy" (1993) is based on the short but storied college football career of Daniel Eugene Ruettiger, nicknamed "Rudy," who was born in Joliet and attended Joliet Catholic High School. Despite his smaller size, Rudy achieved his dream of playing for the University of Notre Dame's football team.



September kicks off football and Homecoming season for many Illinois high schools — a time when alumni are welcomed home. While you may be busy helping your teen prepare for a pep rally, big game, or dance, do not forget to look for alumni opportunities for yourself. Alumni can play a big part in helping a school community thrive. Often, alumni become donors or volunteers supporting the growth of the school and helping to connect current students to opportunities. Alumni also may have unique historical knowledge that they can share with current staff and students. Give back to your former school during the month of September!

FILMING TOOK PLACE AT ST. RITA OF CASCIA HIGH SCHOOL ON CLAREMONT STREET IN CHICAGO.



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
lleana Ros-Lehtinen - Cuba - U.S. congresswoman	Labor Day Last day of the State Fair in Du Quoin	Xiuhtezcatl Martinez – Mexico and Aztec Nation – Climate justice advocate	Sylvia Rivera - Puerto Rico and Venezuela - LGBT rights activist	Lin-Manuel Miranda - Puerto Rico - Composer, playwright, actor	Carolina Herrera – Venezuela – Fashion designer	Franklin Chang- Diaz - Costa Rica - Astronaut
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Maria Teresa Kumar – Columbia – Voting rights activist and CEO	Meg Medina – Cuba – Author	Casilda Luna - Dominican Republic - Fair housing and care for seniors activist	Mario Jose Molina- Pasquel Henriquez - Mexico - Physical chemist	Anesta Samuel – Panama – Entrepreneur	Teofimo Lopez - Honduras - Professional boxer	Olga E. Custodio - Puerto Rico - U.S. Ai Force pilot
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua Independence Day	Mexican Independence Day		Chile Independence Day	Dr. C. David Molina – Mexico – Doctor and entrepreneur	Judy Baca - Mexico - Community mural artist	Beliz Independence Day
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
First day of fall	The Mendez Family - Mexico & Puerto Rico - Educational equity and civil rights advocates	Milka Duno – Venezuela – NASCAR driver	José Díaz-Balart Caballero - Cuba - Journalist	Ritchie John Torres - Puerto Rico - U.S. representative	Julia Alvarez - Dominican Republic - Author	Frank Rubio - El Salvador - Astronaut
29	30					
Benito Antonio Martinez Ocasio - Puerto Rico - Rapper, singer,	Oscar de la Renta - Dominican Republic	along with the We encourage	y: Learn about Hispanic country of origin of thei families to research the es highlight important d	r family's cultural herit e names and discuss th	age and keywords desc e impact that these ind	ribing their careers.

- Rapper, singer, record producer

- Fashion designer

OCTOBER

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

FAFSA typically opens on Oct. 1 for those applying for college the following school year. Completing the FAFSA or the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid is a high school graduation requirement for all public school students in Illinois. Parents/guardians: Remember your student needs your information to apply.

For assistance completing the FAFSA, connect with the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) at the **Illinois Student Assistance Commission** (ISAC).

Student Report Card and Parent-Teacher Conferences

Many schools host parent-teacher conferences in October to coincide with 1st quarter report cards. Review the number of days absent/tardy, their grades, and any comments. If you find any discrepancies or concerns, discuss them during the conference. Use the following questions to help guide the conversation further. Remember, you may always ask for a follow-up meeting, especially if you notice a change in your child's behavior or academic performance.

- I. What concept is my student struggling with?
- 2. What areas does my student excel in?
- 3. What resources are there to support my student?
- **4.** Can you share the upcoming priority standards or units of study?
- 5. What can we do at home to support learning?



Be Nice, Not Mean!

Set in a fictional school in Evanston, "Mean Girls" reminds us of the peer pressure to fit in and the harmful effects of bullying. National Bullying Prevention Month marks a time to talk to your children about the negative effects of being mean and bullying others and resources they may use if they are being bullied or witness bullying.

Visit ISBE's **bullying prevention** webpage for the definition of bullying and information on bullying prevention.



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	mayout fines!	1	2	3	4	5
• Family Activity: Help October is Fire Preve date highlights a fire (cont. below)	ention Month. Each	Anticipated opening of FAFSA	Start of Rosh Hashanah National Custodian Day	Send a thank you to your local fire department.	End of Rosh Hashanah	Test smoke alarm.
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
First day of Fire Prevention Week	U.S. National Child Health Day	Create a fire exit plan.	Visit your local fire department.	Midwest Great Apple Crunch	Start of Yom Kippur	End of Yom Kippur
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Practice cooking safety.	Indigenous People's Day First day of School Lunch Week	Last day of Hispanic Heritage Month	Put away matches and lighters.	Learn the five rules of fire safety.	Check your fire extinguisher.	Practice Get Out, Stay Out, and Call for Help.
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
•	First day of National Bus Safety Week					
Principal Appreciation Day	National Health Education Week	Practice bus safety.	Test the carbon monoxide alarm.	Practice Stop, Drop, and Roll.	Refill your first aid kit.	Practice using a fire extinguisher.
Wear flame resistant pajamas.	28 Plan a meeting spot.	Inspect your home for hazards.	30 Practice a fire drill.	Halloween Diwali	Review each activi It's important to cr practice an emerg plan with children	eate, review, and ency evacuation

NOVEMBER

National Homelessness Awareness Month

For many families, Thanksgiving is a time to gather around the dining table to enjoy a feast. However, for some, it is a stressful time as they worry about housing insecurity in the upcoming winter months. Approximately 42,700 students qualified as homeless in 2023, which means they lacked "a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence." Living in shelters, motels/ hotels, cars, campgrounds, or substandard housing or "doubling up" with other families are all situations that qualify a student for assistance under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

The movie "Homestretch" follows the stories of three students navigating the pressures of high school while experiencing housing instability.

If you or someone you know is experiencing housing insecurity, contact your school district's homeless liaison.

Salute Active Military and Honor our Veterans

As we celebrate our veterans, we are reminded of not only their sacrifices but also of the sacrifices of their families. Militaryconnected families often are highly mobile, moving from one school district to another. This constant movement may create hardships for children's continuity of education and sense of community. Military-connected families may find programs, such as Keys to Success and Joining Forces, as well as other great resources by visiting the **U.S Department of Education's Veterans** and Military Families webpage.

School Report Cards

Your school's Report Card will be available for your review. You may search by your school, district, city, county, or ZIP code on the **Illinois Report Card Find Your** School webpage. Here, you can access a range of academic performance, demographic, and

school, ISBF creates several resources

in a variety of languages for parents to better understand the **Report Card**.





SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		an meanings of names in g of Illinois cities, rivers,		the influence	All Saints' Day Day of the Dead (Día de los Muertos)	2 Ottawa - "To trade" in Algonquin
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
End of daylight saving time	First day of National School Psychology Week	© General Election Day	Pontiac - Famous chief of Ottawa tribe	Minonk- "A good place" in Ojibwe	Winnetka - "Beautiful place" in Potawatomi	Erie - "Long tail" in Iroquoian
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Kewanee - "Greater prairie chicken" in Winnebago	★☆ Veterans Day	Annawan - A Wampanoag military leader	Chebanse - "The little duck" in Potawatomi	Illinois - "Men" or "warriors" in Illini	School Board Member Day	Michigan - "Large water" or "large lake" in Ojibwe
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Peoria - "Comes carrying a pack on his back" in Illini	Sangamon - "Where there is plenty to eat" in Potawatomi	Macoupin – "American lotus" in Miami	Wabash - "Pure white" in Miami	Aptakisic - "Half day" in Potawatomi	Genesee - "Shining valley" or "Beautiful valley" in Iroquois	Shabbona - Potawatomi chief
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Mackinaw - "Turtle" in Ojibwe	Mahomet - Tribal chief froama Connecticut	Native American Heritage Day	Waukegan - "Fort" or "trading post" in Potawatomi	Thanksgiving 🌌	Chicago - "Striped skunk" or "onion" in Algonquin	Minooka - "High point" in Pottawatomi

DECEMBER

Special Education

Special Education Day on Dec. 2 commemorates the enactment of the first federal special education law, which evolved into the **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act** (IDEA). IDEA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act enumerate rights and protections to support the equitable education of students with disabilities.

If your student has an Individualized Education Program (IEP), use these quick tips and reminders for successful IEP meetings:

- You may bring an advocate.
- As mandated by state law, the school must provide you with a qualified interpreter if you are deaf or hard of hearing or have a native language other than English.
- Ask as many questions as you need to for understanding.
- Take notes.
- Keep all related paperwork in a binder.
- Let your child participate in the planning to the fullest extent possible.
- Read the <u>Parent's Guide: Educational Rights and</u>
 <u>Responsibilities Understanding Special Education</u>
 in Illinois



Plan for a Great Winter Break!

Not all school districts share the same winter break. Remember to check your school's calendar for winter break dates and school district closure dates during this month. If you are planning to travel, ensure that you have planned accordingly to avoid missing class instruction and important assessments. Allow for extra days before and after your vacation in case bad weather disrupts your flights or driving conditions. Most importantly, on travel dates, do not rush.

THE "HOME ALONE" HOUSE IS IN WINNETKA AND INTERIOR SCENES WERE FILMED IN NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL.

The movie "Home Alone" shows us the worst-case consequence of rushing when traveling with youngsters.

Recognize Human Rights Day on Dec. 10

Human Rights Day commemorates the passage of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the U.N. General Assembly in Paris on December 10, 1948, as a result of the Second World War. To learn more about global issues, events, and how you may get involved, visit **United Nations | Peace, dignity and equality on a healthy planet**.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Ask for a practice exam.	Go to bed early.	Illinois' birthday (anniversary of Illinois' statehood)	Eat a healthy breakfast.	Arrive to school on time.	Carefully listen and read all the instructions.	Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Pace yourself.	Answer easy questions first.	Human Rights Day ্র	Leave time to check your work.	Use process of elimination on multiple choice.	Focus on your breathing when stressed.	Take breaks.
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Stay hydrated.	Attend tutoring sessions.	Show all your work in math.	Proofread your essay.	Use flashcards to study.	Do not overthink.	First day of winter
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Do not "cram".	Make sure you complete every section.	Focus on what you know.	First day of Hanukkah Christmas Day	First day of Kwanzaa	Make sure you have your materials.	Learn ways to curb test anxiety.
29	30	31				
			the end of the fi	rst semester for many	s! The end of the calend schools. Ensure your cl ing strategies and prep	hild is prepared for
Form a study group.	Use scratch paper.	New Year's Eve				

JANUARY

School Board Recognition Month

Do you know who your school board members are or what they do? The **Illinois Association of School Boards** provides valuable information on elections, roles and responsibilities, and functions of school boards.

School boards help give families and communities a voice in public education. School boards approve budgets, help formulate local policy, and evaluate the district superintendent. Monthly school board meetings are open to the public and provide a forum for parents and other stakeholders to provide public comment, such as expressing appreciation, sharing concerns, or raising awareness about an event or issue. Visit your school district's local office or website to find more information on your local school board members, contact information, meeting times, agendas, and minutes.

National Mentoring Month.

Consider becoming a mentor! Check with your child's school, local community partners, or **Become a Mentor** for local opportunities.

Save Lives by Donating Blood!

Medical professionals rely on the generosity of blood donors to help keep patients alive. Blood donors help burn victims, heart and organ transplant patients, and even those battling cancer. According to the American Red Cross, someone in the United States is in need of blood every two seconds. January is National Blood Donor Month. Find out if you are eligible to donate or learn how to host a drive in your school at the **American Red Cross Blood Services** website.

ALTHOUGH CHICAGO MED TAKES
PLACES AT RUSH UNIVERSITY CENTER,
MOST SHOTS ARE FILMED IN A
STUDIO WITH EXTERIOR SCENES AT
MCCORMICK CENTER IN CHICAGO.



Get Ready for a New Calendar Year!

Kick off the new year
by creating goals as a
family. Write your three short-term goals
that you can accomplish this month on the following lines.



As the new year begins, remember, a new semester also begins. Check your student's schedule for their new classes. Notify your counselor as soon as possible if any changes need to be made. Keep in mind that a school may not be able to accommodate a schedule change due to logistics.



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Year! Use the activ	Set goals for healthy habi ivities and journal promp and track your progress	pts in the calendar	New Year's Day Last day of Kwanzaa	Last day of Hannukah	Start a goal setting journal. Break each goal down into bitesize steps. How can you make progress each day?	Color in your progress Goal 1 - O O Goal 2 - O O Goal 3 - O O
	6	7	8	9	10	11
hat are the			Color in your progress Goal 1 - O O			Color in your progress Goal 1 - O O
otential obstacles o completing your oals? Identify	Listen to a motivational	Create a vision board and display it where you'll see it	Goal 2 - O O	Law Enforcement	Write a review of yourself. Have you kept on track? Why or	Goal 2 - O O
colutions.	podcast together.	daily.	Goal 3 - O O	Appreciation Day	why not?	Goal 3 - O O
 2	13	14	15	16	17	18
			Color in your progress Goal 1 - O O			Color in your progress Goal 1 - O O
Check in with your why." What are our motivations for achieving your goals?	Where do you want to be at this time next year?	What excites you the most about achieving your goals?	Goal 2 - O O	What supports do you need to achieve our goals?	How can you support a family member toward achieving our goals?	Goal 2 - O O
9	20	21	22	23	24	25
low have you een managing		What does your "average perfect day" look like? What are the	Color in your progress Goal 1 - O O	What have you learned about your strengths? How can	What can you	Color in your progress Goal 1 - O O
our time? Åre you prioritizing what	Martin Luther	individual behaviors in that day that you can	Goal 2 - O O	you use your strengths to keep making	change about your mindset going into the	Goal 2 - O
natters most?	King Jr. Day	act on now?	Goal 3 - O O	progress?	end of the month?	Goal 3 - O O
Evaluate. <i>Did these</i>		20	25	Write new goals for	Color in your progress Goal 1 - O O	
goals align with your values? Were they realistic?	Holocaust Remembrance Day	Celebrate your wins with a family outing together!	Lunar New Year	next month. How can you build on your successes?	Goal 2 - O O O O	

FEBRUARY

Black History Month

Our state has the honor of being part of the origin story of Black History Month. Dr. Carter G. Woodson was a University of Chicago alumnus who formed an organization to promote the scientific study of Black life and history in Chicago, known today as the **Association for the Study of African American Life and History** (ASALH). Through this organization, Dr. Woodson initiated the first Negro History Week in February 1926 - later expanded in 1976 from a weeklong observance to Black History Month. The 2025 theme is "African Americans and Labor," as set by ASALH.

Set aside time in February to discover the "profound ways that work and working of all kinds – free and unfree, skilled, and unskilled, vocational and voluntary – intersect with the collective experiences of Black people." Check in with your student's school for ways to learn and celebrate.

Create Healthy Routines!

"Groundhog Day" tells the story of a weatherman named Phil who gets stuck in a time loop reliving the same day every day. In reality, healthy routines help all of us, especially children, manage expectations and our time.

Check out PBS kids for parents for tips, videos, and planners for creating home routines.



Career and Technical Education Month

Career and Technical Education (CTE) prepares youth and adults for a wide range of high-wage, high-skill, high-demand careers. Learn more about the exciting benefits on **ISBE's CTE page**.

Children's Dental Health Month

In Illinois, students are required to have an oral health exam performed by a dentist in kindergarten and in Grades 6 and 9. The Proof of School Dental Examination Form must be filled out by a dentist and turned into the school. Many counties have resources, such as community colleges, that provide this service for free or at a reduced cost.



"GROUNDHOG DAY"
WAS SET IN PUNXSUTAWNEY,
PA., BUT WAS FILMED
IN WOODSTOCK, IL.

THE MAIN STAR,
BILL MURRAY, WAS BORN IN
EVANSTON AND RAISED
IN WILMETTE.



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
-	Perform random acts of R spread the kindness thr		our family about the imp	ortance of being kind.	Use the suggested	Hold the door open for someone.
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Groundhog Day 🍂	First day of School Counselor Appreciation Week	Compliment a stranger.	Recycle your old clothes.	Send a thank you note to a teacher.	Lend your favorite book.	Volunteer.
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Super Bowl 🥒	Donate to a charity.	Greet a stranger.	Lincoln's Birthday	Share a snack.	Valentine's Day Frederick Douglass' Birthday	School Resource Officer Appreciation Day
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Give a friend a hug.	National Random Acts of Kindness Day Presidents Day/ Washington's Birthday	Leave a good review.	Call a friend or relative you haven't spoken to in a while.	Craft a gift for your family.	Do someone else's chore.	Cook someone a meal or treat.
23	24	25	26	27	28	
Help clean.	Share a joke.	Let someone go first in line.	Plant a flower.	Start a Random Acts of Kindness Club at your school.	First day of Ramadan	

MARCH

Start Your Day with Breakfast!

During National School Breakfast Week March 3-7, we recognize the importance of the National School Breakfast Program to support students' academic success. According to the **School Nutrition Association**, children who eat breakfast are more likely to:

- Reach higher levels of achievement in reading and math.
- Score higher on standardized tests.
- Have better concentration and memory.
- Be more alert and maintain a healthy weight.

Women's History Month

March is dedicated to celebrating the accomplishments of women throughout history and the work still to be done to achieve gender equity in economics, health care, education, political empowerment, and other spheres. **Women's History Month** highlights events, exhibits, audio-visual resources, and fascinating stories of the achievements of women in a variety of fields.

Spring Break

March marks the beginning of spring break vacations in many schools throughout Illinois and the nation. Just as with winter break, check your school's calendar to plan your vacation without interrupting classroom instruction.

National Reading Month

Parents/quardians are students' first teachers and role models. Promote reading in your household by modeling the behavior. Pick up a magazine, book, or newspaper or listen to an audiobook. Let your children "catch you" reading. Create a literacy-rich environment by adding a small library and designating a quiet reading area in your home. Your local library may have free or low-cost books to help you get started. Your neighborhood or community may offer little free libraries that allow you to take books home to keep. The Illinois Comprehensive

Literacy Plan is another great tool for

"The Breakfast Club" and "Ferris Bueller's Day Off" share the same interior scenes at Maine North High School.

you to find more strategies to support reading at home.

Many schools, libraries, and community organizations host events on March 3 to promote reading for children and young adults on what is known as Read Across America Day.



"THE BREAKFAST CLUB"
WAS FILMED AT MAINE
NORTH HIGH SCHOOL IN
DES PLAINES.



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
the calendar to ke (Note: Some books	Read together! Celebrate eep track of the pages y I listed have mature them	ou read. Each day also l	nighlights authors from	Illinois or books set in I	llinois.	1 book pages
student's teacher.)			~~~			Gwendolyn Brooks, 1917-2000
2 book pages	J book pages Casimir Pulaski Day	L—book —pages	5 book pages	6 book pages	7 book pages	8 book pages
Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros	Read Across America Day	Mardi Gras	Ash Wednesday 👍	Black Hawk, 1767-1838	The Jungle by Upton Sinclair	Hello, Beautiful by Ann Napolitano
9 book pages	10 book pages	11 book pages	12 book pages	13 book pages	14 book pages	15 book pages
Start of daylight saving time	Etta Invincible by Reese Eschmann	Forgotten Sisters by Cynthia Pelayo	Last Summer on State Street by Toya Wolfe	Prairie Lotus by Linda Sue Park	Pi Day 🛳	Louis "Studs" Terkel, 1912-2008
16 book pages	17 book pages	18 book pages	19 book pages	20 book pages	21 book pages	22 book pages
The Adventures of Augie March by Saul Bellow	St. Patrick's Day	Edna Ferber, 1887-1968	l Love My Hair! by Natasha Tarpley	First day of spring	Richard Wright, 1908-1960	Ordinary People by Judith Guest
23 book pages	24 book pages	25 book pages	26 book pages	27 book pages	28 book pages	29 book pages
I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter by Erika L. Sánchez Last day of Ramadan	A Long Way from Chicago by Richard Peck First night of Eid al-Fitr	Edgar Lee Masters, 1868-1950	<i>On My Honor</i> by Marion Dane Bauer	Lorraine Hansberry, 1930-1965	Dandelion Wine by Ray Bradbury	Ernest Hemingway, 1899-1961

APRIL

Child Abuse Prevention Month

The Child Welfare Information Gateway provides resources to learn about the "protective factors" or positive conditions in families and communities that promote the well-being of children:

- Nurturing and attachment
- Knowledge of parenting and child and youth development
- Parental resilience
- Social connections
- Concrete supports for parents
- Social and emotional competence of children

If you suspect child abuse or neglect, you may report it to the **Department of Child and Family Services** or call the child abuse hotline.

Earth Day

Make everyday Earth Day by learning how your family can live more sustainably. **Earthday.org** teaches your family how to get involved in efforts to combat climate change, protect biodiversity, and preserve our ecosystems.

National Bilingual/Multilingual Learner Advocacy Month Being multilingual has many benefits, which you can explore

Being multilingual has many benefits, which you can explore through the **U.S. Department of Education's Raise the Bar** initiative. Find out if your district awards the Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy, which earns high school students college credit and recognizes their attainment of a high level of proficiency in English and any other language. If it does, make a plan with your student to earn the Seal. If it doesn't, contact your district to ask about starting the program.

Take me out to the Ball Game!

Major League Baseball kicks off its season every year with Opening Day, typically in the first week of April. During World War II, many male baseball players were unable to play, so several major league executives, including Philip K. Wrigley, created the All-American Girls Professional

Baseball League or the (AAGPBL). Although

the movie "A League of Their Own" is an account of fictional characters during that time, its story of the limitations women have experienced in sports rings true. The Title IX amendment to the Civil Rights Act, signed 20 years after "A League of Their Own" debuted, barred discrimination based on sex in any education program or activity that receives federal assistance. Title IX provided more opportunities for girls to play sports in schools and for female athletes to receive scholarships to support their journeys in higher education.





SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Family Activity: Comultilingualism! Du Bilingual/Multilingual/Munth, (cont. below	ıring National ual Learner Advocacy	1 "Hola" Spanish	Paraprofessional Appreciation Day	3 "مرحبا" (Mrhban) Arabic	National School Librarian Day	"Привет" (Privet) Russian
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
"નમસ્ત" (Namastē) Gujarati	"Kamusta" Filipino	"Привіт" (Pryvit) Ukrainian	"你好" Nǐ hǎo Chinese	"नमस्ते" namaste Hindi	"హలో"Halō Telugu	"Xin chào" Vietnamese
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Palm Sunday 🔥	"Bonjour" French	Plant the soybean seeds you received from ISBE at the 2024 Illinois State Fair!	Urdu "ولى~"	"வணக்கம" Vaṇakkam Tamil	"Buna ziua" Romanian	്ഹലോ halayaa Malayalam
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Easter **	"Pęlę o" Yoruba	Earth Day School Bus Driver Appreciation Day	Administrative Frofessionals Day	Take Your Student to Work Day	Arbor Day	"Olá" Portuguese
27 "Բարև" Barev	28 "こんにちは" Kon'nichiwa	29 "Сайн уу Sain"	30	Illinois. Every week	in one of the many langu , choose a language, and f the country(ies) where i	ages spoken in learn more
Armenian	Japanese	uu Mongolian	"Cześć" Polish			

MAY

Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Month

We honor the many contributions AANHPIs have made to American history and society. Illinois requires all students to learn about the contributions of Asian Americans to the economic, cultural, social, and political development of the United States through the **Teaching Equitable Asian American Community History Act** (TEAACH).

Health Vision Month

The Child Vision and Hearing Test Act requires a vision screening for school-age children in kindergarten, second, and eighth grades. The <u>Illinois Department of Public Health's Vision and Hearing webpage</u> provides more details and resources.

Mental Health Awareness Month

ISBE partnered with the Illinois Department of Public Health and Center for Childhood Resilience at Lurie Children's Hospital to create the **Resilience Education to Advance Community Healing (REACH) Statewide Initiative**. The REACH initiative trains educators, school mental health professionals, and community members to recognize the signs and symptoms of trauma and address students' social-emotional and mental health needs. Educators may earn professional development hours by completing virtual courses through the **Center for Childhood Resilience**.

Happy Mother's Day!

Thank you to all the moms and maternal figures in our students' lives.

THE 2014 MOVIE "DIVERGENT"
WAS SET AND FILMED IN
CHICAGO.

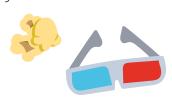
What do you want to be when you grow up? National College Decision Day

on May 1 marks a deadline for many scholars as they plan for the following school year and life beyond graduation.

Much like Tris in the "Divergent" series, our high school seniors make the difficult and exciting choice of what they want to do as they enter adulthood. Will they choose a university, trade school, or the military or will they jump straight into the workforce? Help your student plan and prepare

Veronica Roth, who wrote
the young-adult book
series the movie is based
on, attended schools in
Barrington Community Unit
School District 220
and Northwestern
University.

for a successful future that aligns to their goals using the **Postsecondary and Career Expectations (PaCE) Framework** and the Middle and High School Career Guides on the **ISBE Career and Technical Education page**. Children can begin exploring careers through play as early as pre-k. Continue the exploration through books, field trips, job shadowing, and college visits.



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	nvest in your mental wellne self-care, take a break fro e fun as a family.			1	2	3
			स्टान्न	Start a journal.	School Lunch Hero Day	Take a social media detox.
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Disconnect from devices an hour before bedtime.	First day of Teacher Appreciation Week	Practice gratitude by naming three things you are thankful for.	National School Nurse Day	Do a yoga pose.	School 🎸 Communicators Day	Drink 64 ounces of water.
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Mother's Day	Add a serving of fruit or vegetables to every meal.	Try a craft or creative activity, like drawing, coloring, or making a collage.	Organize one area of your home.	Sing and dance along to a song.	Watch a funny movie with family or friends.	Volunteer in your community.
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
National Speech Pathologist Day	Go for a long walk.	Play a board game together.	Crossing Guard Appreciation Day Listen to a guided meditation.	Read something you enjoy.	Take a hot bath.	Spend time in nature.
25	26	27	28	29	30	26
Practice deep breathing.	★☆ Memorial Day	Express gratitude for someone in your family.	Do something kind for a neighbor.	Spend five minutes in quiet.	Cook a new recipe at home.	Put together a puzzle. (Tip: See if you can rent a puzzle from your local library!)

JUNE

Congratulations, Graduates!

Congratulations to the Class of 2025! We wish you success in your next steps and lifetime of continued learning.

Happy Pride Month!

The origins of LGBTQIA+ Pride Month date back to 1970, when the first Pride marches were held in New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles to commemorate the one-year anniversary of the **Stonewall Uprising** in New York. Parades have become a traditional centerpiece of **Pride Month festivities**, but the spirit of inclusion and resilience carries on year-round. In all Illinois public schools, the teaching of U.S. history must include a study of the roles and contributions of LGBT people. The Illinois Inclusive Curriculum Advisory Council worked in partnership with the Illinois Education Association, Illinois Federation of Teachers, and ISBE to create **Inclusive Curriculum Implementation Guidance**, which includes frameworks, strategies, and resources to aid in inclusive history instruction.

Juneteenth

Juneteenth marks the day in 1865 when Union troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, the westernmost section of the Confederacy, to implement the Emancipation Proclamation, which had already been in effect for two years but had been ignored by slaveowners in Texas. That event marked the end of slavery in the United States. Explore, discuss, and share resources on Juneteenth, such as those from the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

"MY BIG FAT GREEK
WEDDING" WAS FILMED IN
CHICAGO WITH SOME
SCENES SHOT IN TORONTO,
CANADA.

Happy Father's Day

Thank you to all the fathers and paternal figures in our students' lives. Many schools offer groups specifically for

fathers – ask you school if they do! If not, consider starting a group, such as **Watch D.O.G.S: Dads of Great Students**, or creating a program like **Barbershop Books**.

Blending Families & Cultures

With warm temperatures and plenty of sunshine, the start of summer kicks off wedding season in Illinois. "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" is a heartwarming romantic comedy set and filmed in the Greektown neighborhood of Chicago that tells the story of two cultures uniting to become one family. As families combine, new traditions emerge. If you are blending families, remember to take time with your children to review past traditions and talk about new expectations and their rationales, which can help children transition to new customs with less anxiety. Think about new family rituals you can create and celebrate together.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Plant the pumpkin Seeds you received from ISBE at the 2024 Illinois State Fair.	Play with water balloons.	Look up free summer movie or concert series nearby.	Go for a walk in a nature preserve or park.	Explore options for summer camps.	Learn the names of the flowers growing in your neighborhood.	Visit a museum.
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Attend a local theater production.	Watch the sunset.	Volunteer at a food bank.	Make friendship bracelets.	Collect and paint rocks.	Write a letter to a pen pal, such as an older relative.	Go for a bicycle ride. (Wear your helmets!)
Start or join a book club.	16 Father's Day	Draw with chalk on the sidewalk.	18 Visit the library.	19 Juneteenth	20 Blow bubbles.	Play a new board game. (Tip: See if you can rent board games at your local library or host a board game exchange with other families!)
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Tie dye a t-shirt.	Write and produce a play. Dress up as the characters or make a puppet show.	Watch a baseball game.	Have a picnic.	Visit a farm.	Go fishing.	Play a sport with your neighbors.
29	30 Create a comic strip	mentally. This m	nonth provides a list of	As summer rolls in, remer fun family activities to kee d of each week, everyone	ep boredom from setting i	n. For added family
Attend a Pride parade.	or comic book.					

JULY

Keep the Good Times - and Learning - Rolling this Summer!

We have come to the end of our 2024-25 school year calendar. We hope that you have shared plenty of "good times" together as a family. As you enjoy summer break, do not forget to practice the skills learned during the school year. Students stand to lose about a month's worth of learning on average over the summer – a phenomenon called the "summer slide." Keep your child actively reading and reviewing their math skills to stay ready and on track for next school year.

Get Started Early for Next School Year

The school year may have just ended, but the new one is right around the corner. Make sure your students are enrolled for the upcoming school year. Learners as young as three may receive a free public education. High-quality early learning experiences help ensure students start kindergarten with all the skills they need to succeed. Illinois is a strong supporter of early childhood education, providing grants to support the expansion of preschool and early learning centers statewide. Illinois Cares for Kids includes a database with over 10,000 child care and early learning programs throughout Illinois. With one click, you can search for programs to help your little scholar prepare for kindergarten. You may also qualify for the Child Care Assistance Program, which provides funds to assist families in paying for quality child care.

Access Early Intervention Services

The Child Find Project in Illinois provides early intervention or special education services. Infants and toddlers with disabilities beginning from birth to 2 years of age and their families may receive early intervention services. These services may include free screening, home visits, and referrals to service providers such as physical therapists, and speech pathologists. Visit the **Child Find Project website** to learn more.

Happy Birthday, America! On July 4, 2025, we celebrate 249 years independence.



This comedy focuses on the challenges Florida and James Evans faced while raising their three children in a housing project during the late 1970s.



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	mer break, this is the amily road trip.	Shawnee Bluffs	2	3	4	5
		Canopy Tour, Makanda	Sand Ridge State Forest, Forest City	Navy Pier, Chicago	Independence Day ^U	Six Flags Great America, Gurnee
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Hurricane Harbor, Rockford	Lincoln's Home, Springfield	Brookfield Zoo, Brookfield	Berning Acres, Lake Geneva	Skyview Drive In, Belleville	Hoof It - Goat Treks, Galena	Kaskaskia Dragon, Vandalia
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area, Harrisburg	Grafton Sky Tour at Aeries' Resort, Grafton	The Governor's Mansion, Springfield	Mystic Waters, Des Plaines	Starved Rock State Park, LaSalle County	Garfield Park Conservatory, Chicago	Route 66 Hall of Fan Museum, Pontiac
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Shedd Aquarium, Chicago	William M. Staerkel Planetarium, Champaign	Illinois Waterway Visitors Center, Ottawa	Accelerate Indoor Speedway, Mokena	Miller Park Zoo, Bloomington	Morton Arboretum, Lisle	Super Museum, Metropolis
27 World's Largest Rocking Chair and	28 Illinois Holocaust	29	30	31	or counties? Each	neighboring cities day features Illinois ractions that you may your student.
Other Big Things, Casey	Museum & Education Center, Skokie	Allerton Park, Monticello	Cache River Wetlands, Cypress	Cahokia Mounds, Collinsville		



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