



Illinois State Board of Education

100 North First Street • Springfield, Illinois 62777-0001
www.isbe.net

James T. Meeks
Chairman

Tony Smith, Ph.D.
State Superintendent of Education

September 1, 2016

Dear Colleagues,

I am delighted to share with you the development and pilot of a new state teacher preparation program accountability system. The system is a result of input and guidance offered to the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) by the Partnership for Educator Preparation and expert recommendations from Teacher Preparation Analytics, which has helped multiple states create similar accountability systems.

The goals of the new system are twofold:

1. Ensure all novice teachers in Illinois are ready to support student learning upon entering the classroom; and
2. Use data as a tool for continuous improvement to strengthen teacher preparation in Illinois.

I invite you to be part of this exciting work by participating in an initial pilot to help test and refine the system. Multiple incentives for engaging in this work will be provided by ISBE (see the attached application for more details.) Institutions will also reap internal benefits as they will have the opportunity to create or enhance data collection procedures prior to the system being required in all state annual program reports.

To learn more about the system and the pilot process, please join me for an informational webinar on **Tuesday, September 20 from 10-11am** or **Wednesday, September 21 from 2-3pm**. I encourage you to invite your program personnel, institutional research team, and any other interested individuals. A registration link is attached to this letter. Additional regional face-to-face meetings to learn more about the project are being planned for late September/early October. A formal invitation will be forthcoming.

An application for participation in the initial pilot is also attached. If you would like to take part in this exciting opportunity, please return completed applications to me by **Friday, October 7, 2016**. I look forward to piloting the new system with you and working together to continuously improve the preparation of our state's teachers. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions about the pilot process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Emily Fox".

Emily Fox
Division Administrator
Educator Licensure