

# MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

January 15, 2019



Hello,

The State Board will review the agency's recommended investment in public education for fiscal year 2020 at our [first meeting of the new year](/Lists/News/NewsDisplay.aspx?ID=1246) in Springfield tomorrow. After all the conversations we have had statewide and all the feedback we received from educators, families, and community and business leaders, "Funding a Civil Right: Quality Education for All" represents a community-driven budget. This budget request tells multiple stories of Illinois' public schools and the students and families they serve – and reflects their stated needs. The Board memo outlining the budget recommendation, beginning on [page 36 of the Board packet](#) ([/Documents\\_Board\\_Meetings/190116-Packet.pdf](/Documents_Board_Meetings/190116-Packet.pdf)), pulls together all the work we have been doing to create an equitably funded and high-quality public education system for Illinois students.

Across the state we need to acknowledge and confront the institutionalized barriers that continue to limit students' opportunities to succeed. Article X, Section 1 of the Illinois State Constitution states in part, "The State has the primary responsibility for financing the system of public education." And in the opening line of the Evidence-Based Funding for Student Success Act, the state pledges full funding of its school funding formula by 2027. It is the state's fiduciary responsibility to fulfill its commitments.

The funding recommendations for FY 2020, especially the proposed investments in Evidence-Based Funding, early childhood education programs, and alternative education services, recognize that equity means providing all children with the individualized supports they need to meet our common, high expectations. The four funding principles of Equity, Quality, Community, and Educator Recruitment and Recognition undergird the recommendations. The equity values and beliefs, which were adopted by the State Board in October 2018, connect with each of the recommendations.

Collaborating with and learning from each other have significantly strengthened the collective power of our 852 districts. We have to continue to advocate together for what our students and families need. This is a chance for students, families, educators, districts, and communities to ask our General Assembly and new governor to fund a civil right because every one of our students deserves a quality education.

Our teachers across the state deserve all the best supports we can provide. We also have to be thinking about and finding ways to nurture our principals and leaders to take responsibility to improve systems and outcomes for kids. The [Ed Leaders Network \(ELN\)](http://www.edleadersnetwork.org/) (<http://www.edleadersnetwork.org/>) offers a digital professional learning community for teachers to engage with their peers and share resources and promising practices. ELN is provided free to all public school educators through our partnership with Illinois Principals

## Quick Links

- [Career and Technology Education](#)
- [Evidence-Based Funding IL-EMPOWER](#)
- [Those Who Excel Assessment](#)
- [Grant Accountability and Transparency Act \(GATA\)](#)
- [Every Student Succeeds Act](#)
- [College & Career Readiness](#)
- [Finance](#)
- [Nutrition Programs](#)
- [Funding & Disbursement Services](#)
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- [Educator Effectiveness](#)
- [In Brief](#)

Association (IPA). The platform enables school leaders to manage their own user-groups at the district and building level and create their own courses to share with their users. ELN provides courses that support the Illinois Quality Framework Standards, including “An Introduction to School Accountability Under Illinois’ ESSA Plan.” In total, more than 90 courses are currently available on ELN.

Through our partnership, IPA has also recently made the [Ed360-ELN Illinois Community](https://connect.edleadersnetwork.org/illinoiscommunity/home) (<https://connect.edleadersnetwork.org/illinoiscommunity/home>) available for school districts that choose to take advantage of ELN. The site is like Linked-In for ELN members -- educators can share blogs, post resources, and ask each other questions. A school district superintendent must "opt-in" through [Ed360 \(/ed360\)](https://edleadersnetwork.org/subscribe/illinois/) or [provide their district's staff roster directly](https://edleadersnetwork.org/subscribe/illinois/) (<https://edleadersnetwork.org/subscribe/illinois/>) to gain access to the courses and online community. The Ed Leaders Network is very important as we invest in our teachers and work to address the statewide teacher shortage.

I encourage all of you to explore these resources, continue to reach out to each other, and trust that we can build on our strengths to get where we need to go!

Have a great week and take care,

Tony



### UPCOMING ISBE DATES AND DEADLINES

Please note this is not a complete list of events, meetings, and deadlines. For more events and details, visit the [ISBE Meetings page](https://www.isbe.net/Pages/ISBE-Meetings.aspx) (<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/ISBE-Meetings.aspx>) or call the Illinois State Board of Education at (866) 262-6663.

**Jan. 15:** [Deadline for waiver applications to be considered for inclusion in the 2019 Spring Waiver Report](https://www.isbe.net/waiver) (<https://www.isbe.net/waiver>)

**Jan. 16:** [Illinois State Board of Education Meeting](https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Illinois-State-Board-of-Education-Calendar.aspx) (<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Illinois-State-Board-of-Education-Calendar.aspx>)

**Jan. 16-17:** [Learning Technology Center K-12 Data & Security Summit](http://itcillinois.org/datasummit) (<http://itcillinois.org/datasummit>)

**Jan. 18:** Deadline to submit Fall SY 2019 Teacher and Student Course Assignment data in SIS

**Jan. 21:** ISBE Offices closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day

**Jan. 22:** [Deadline to submit FY 2019 Healthy Communities – Non-school Districts grant application](https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Healthy-Community-Investment-Grants.aspx) (<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Healthy-Community-Investment-Grants.aspx>)

**Jan. 25:** [Deadline to submit applications for the FY 2019 E-Rate State Matching Grant](https://www.isbe.net/broadband) (<https://www.isbe.net/broadband>)

**Jan. 25:** [Extended deadline for schools designated as Exemplary or Commendable to submit IL-E Peer Learning Partner Application](https://www.isbe.net/Pages/School-Learning-Partner.aspx) (<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/School-Learning-Partner.aspx>)

**Jan. 25:** [Deadline to register for the 2019 ESSA Conference](http://www.thecenterweb.org/essa/) (<http://www.thecenterweb.org/essa/>)

**Jan. 25:** [Deadline to sign up for Leadership for Equity Micro-Credentials pilot](https://d32dsh9a6dg9hg.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2019/01/07090824/LFE-Micro-Credential-Pilot-Recruitment-Flier.pdf) (<https://d32dsh9a6dg9hg.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2019/01/07090824/LFE-Micro-Credential-Pilot-Recruitment-Flier.pdf>)

**Jan. 31:** Deadline to submit FY 2019 IDEA excess cost worksheet

**Jan. 31:** Deadline to submit Nonpublic School Application for Recognition and Calendar

**Jan. 31:** [Deadline to submit Illinois Assistive Technology Program 2019 Conference presentation proposals](https://www.iltech.org/Content/EOCONTENTMEDIACENTER/documents/Expo%202019%20Documents/IATP%20Statewide%20EXPO%20Call%20for%20Presentations%202019.pdf) (<https://www.iltech.org/Content/EOCONTENTMEDIACENTER/documents/Expo 2019 Documents/IATP Statewide EXPO Call for Presentations 2019.pdf>)

**Feb. 1:** Teacher Salary Study window closes

**Feb. 1:** Non-Certified Staff Salary Study window closes

**Feb. 7:** [Local Wellness Policy Workshop](http://webprod1.isbe.net/cnscalendar/asp/EventDetails.asp?EventId=1222) (<http://webprod1.isbe.net/cnscalendar/asp/EventDetails.asp?EventId=1222>)

**Feb. 8:** [Deadline to complete Steps 1 and 2 of GATA Audit-Related Requirements](https://www.isbe.net/Documents/MEMO-GATA-Annual-Req.pdf) (<https://www.isbe.net/Documents/MEMO-GATA-Annual-Req.pdf>)

**Feb. 11-13:** [2019 ESSA Conference](http://www.thecenterweb.org/essa/) (<http://www.thecenterweb.org/essa/>)


**Feb. 12:** ISBE offices closed for Lincoln's Birthday  
**Feb. 12 - May 12:** [National Board Candidate Fee Subsidy Application Window](https://www.isbe.net/artcontest)  
(<https://nbrc.illinoisstate.edu/firsttime/index.php>)  
**Feb. 18:** ISBE offices closed for Presidents' Day  
**Feb. 20:** [Illinois State Board of Education Meeting](https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Illinois-State-Board-of-Education-Calendar.aspx)  
(<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Illinois-State-Board-of-Education-Calendar.aspx>)  
**March 1:** Deadline to announce intent to change from half-day to full-day Kindergarten (EBF)

**March 11-17:** [Illinois Arts Education Week](https://www.isbe.net/artcontest)  
(<https://www.isbe.net/artcontest>)  
**March 20:** [Illinois State Board of Education Meeting](https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Illinois-State-Board-of-Education-Calendar.aspx)  
(<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Illinois-State-Board-of-Education-Calendar.aspx>)  
**March 29:** [Deadline for submitting School Nutrition Champions nominations](https://www.isbe.net/Pages/School-Nutrition-and-Wellness-Champions.aspx)  
(<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/School-Nutrition-and-Wellness-Champions.aspx>)

## CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

### Celebrate CTE Month in February with a CTE Signing Day!

February is national Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month, and Illinois has a lot to celebrate! ISBE, school districts, higher education, local business and industry partners, lawmakers and, of course, students have worked hard to raise awareness of the importance of CTE. High school CTE enrollment has grown by 3,000 students in the past three years.

This CTE Month, celebrate your graduating students' success in securing a high-skill, high-wage, in-demand career with a CTE Signing Day. Similar to athletic signing days, CTE Signing Day recognizes the culmination of students' hard work and promotes CTE to the community. The Innovative Curriculum Resources Project has [suggestions](https://ilcte.org/images/pdf/ctesigningday.pdf)  (<https://ilcte.org/images/pdf/ctesigningday.pdf>) that can help you organize a successful signing day event.

If you would like an ISBE representative to join your district on CTE Signing Day in the month of February, please email Marci Johnson at [marjohns@isbe.net](mailto:marjohns@isbe.net) (<mailto:marjohns@isbe.net>) with the date and location of your event.

## EVIDENCE-BASED FUNDING

### Deadline to Announce Intent to Change from Half-Day to Full-Day Kindergarten is March 1

The Evidence-Based Funding (EBF) formula creates an Adequacy Target for each district based on total average student enrollment and English Learner and low-income enrollment populations. Kindergarten students are assigned a value of 0.5 if they attend a half day and a value of 1.0 if they attend a full day. Per Public Act 100-0465, a school district may inform the State Board of Education of its intent to change from half-day to full-day kindergarten. Taking this action will convert kindergarten attendance to full day for purposes of calculating EBF in the following year. The deadline to report this information is **March 1**.

Any school district that wishes to make this change for the 2019-20 school year must provide ISBE with a board resolution expressing the intent to make the change for the next school year, as well as the minutes from the meeting when this was approved. School districts may submit these documents to Ethelene Ferdinand at ISBE via email at [eferdina@isbe.net](mailto:eferdina@isbe.net) (<mailto:eferdina@isbe.net>). If you have questions, please call the State Funding and Forecasting Division at (217) 782-0249 or email your questions to [eferdina@isbe.net](mailto:eferdina@isbe.net) (<mailto:eferdina@isbe.net>).

## IL-EMPOWER

### Webinar Available - IL-E Learning Partner Application for Exemplary/Commendable Schools

An [online application](/Pages/School-Learning-Partner.aspx) (/Pages/School-Learning-Partner.aspx) for schools designated as Exemplary or Commendable, based on their Oct. 30, 2018, designation to become IL-EMPOWER Peer Learning Partners, is available. A [recorded webinar](/Pages/IL-Empower.aspx) (/Pages/IL-Empower.aspx) to assist with application questions is now available. An FAQ will be available soon.

**Amendments to already-submitted applications will be allowed** if you feel that your application needs to be modified based on information provided in the webinar or FAQ.

The new deadline for schools to submit the first round of applications is **5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 25.**

Submitted applications will be reviewed by ISBE and IL-EMPOWER staff. Schools will be selected to be approved vendors based on several criteria. Schools will be asked to provide evidence of sustained improvement over time in the areas they are wishing to partner with. Schools selected to be Peer Learning Partners will be contacted shortly after.

Multiple application periods will run throughout the school year in order to provide opportunities for new providers to be placed in the field at times that make the most sense for schools. Updates and information regarding the next round of applications will be made available via the [IL-EMPOWER webpage](#) (/il-empower) and the Superintendent's Weekly Message.

## THOSE WHO EXCEL

### 2019 Illinois Teacher of the Year Available for Speaking Engagements



The 2019 Illinois Teacher of the Year, Susan Converse, currently teaches high school special education in Edwardsville Community Unit School District 7. Susan has an attitude and enthusiasm toward teaching that is contagious and is ready to share that enthusiasm for teaching with you!

Susan is dedicated to her students and after serving in an administrative role, she seized the opportunity to return to the classroom in order to more directly influence student lives. Susan has dedicated her life to helping students reach their highest potential regardless of ability. One parent described Susan's teaching with these words, "It is not an overstatement to say that the trajectory of my child's life has forever been positively impacted by this woman. Mrs.

Converse's unwavering commitment to honoring and believing in all students, regardless of typicality and because of each one's unique strengths and challenges, is witnessed by anyone who observes her."

Susan has inspired many of her students and had a profound impact on their development as they transition out of high school. She implemented a student-run coffee shop that allowed her students an opportunity to experience and develop important functioning life skills. These students learn to create a product, sell it, and maintain the shop right alongside general education students on a day-to-day basis.

If you would like Susan to share her insights, strategies, and ideas with your staff, please email her at [2019ilttoy@gmail.com](mailto:2019ilttoy@gmail.com) (mailto:2019ilttoy@gmail.com) or contact her via [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/conversesusan/) (https://www.facebook.com/conversesusan/).

## ASSESSMENT

### Seeking Participants for ISA Steering Committee – Limited Seats Available


Illinois science educators are invited to provide input to shape a recommendation to ISBE regarding the next generation of the Illinois Science Assessment (ISA). Your expertise in science curriculum, instruction, and assessment will help shape the future of science education in Illinois.


Steering committee meetings will take place from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. on Jan. 28, Feb. 15, and March 8 at the Illinois State Board of Education Springfield office, 100 N. 1<sup>st</sup> St., Springfield.

If you are interested in participating or want additional information, please contact Dr. Harvey Henson at [henson@siu.edu](mailto:henson@siu.edu) no later than **Jan. 23**.

## GRANT ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY ACT (GATA)

### Instructional Webinar Now Available for New GATA Annual Audit-Related Requirements

ISBE acting Chief Education Officer Ralph Grimm recently provided a [new GATA audit-related requirements memo](#)  (/Documents/MEMO-GATA-Annual-Req.pdf) to all district superintendents with detailed instructions regarding the necessary steps for completion. The memo and instructions are also available at [www.isbe.net/gata](http://www.isbe.net/gata) (<http://www.isbe.net/gata>) under “What’s New.”

A [recorded webinar](#)  (<https://register.gotowebinar.com/recording/2241425218118802947>) is now available to assist districts with any questions regarding the new requirements and process. The deadline to complete Steps 1 and 2 in the memo should be no later than **Feb. 8**. ISBE continues to be in dialogue with the Governor’s Office of Management and Budget (GOMB) to determine if any additional actions are required regarding Steps 3 and 4 at this time. We will continue to provide updates to districts.

For additional assistance regarding the process described in the memo, please contact ISBE Director of GATA Marc Gibbs at (217) 782-5630 or [gata@isbe.net](mailto:gata@isbe.net) (<mailto:gata@isbe.net>).


## EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT

### Register Now for the 2019 Statewide ESSA Conference!

Join us for the 2019 Statewide ESSA Conference on **Feb. 11-13** at the Sheraton Grand Hotel in Chicago! This annual event brings together hundreds of Illinois education leaders, school administrators, classroom teachers, and other practitioners who are committed to improving our schools and ensuring the college and career readiness of our students. Choose from almost 200 concurrent sessions sharing innovative and effective instructional practices. This year, the conference theme is “Whole Child, Whole School, and Whole Community,” acknowledging that our students come from a wide variety of diverse communities, locales, and socio-economic backgrounds, and it is always important to remember that our classroom and school strategies must keep the entire child’s experience in mind.

Conference attendees will hear from excellent keynote speakers and participate in practical workshops and various organizational meetings. The conference focuses on solid, research-based teaching strategies, successful parent and community engagement activities, promising and creative educational initiatives, and effective district and school leadership.

Please mark your calendar and plan to be a part of this exciting event. If you have any questions regarding this event, please contact Title Grants Administration at (217) 785-1969.

Check out conference highlights, confirmed speakers and session topics, and travel details and find the paper registration form in the [ESSA Conference Brochure](#)  (<http://thecenterweb.org/files/ESSABrochure.pdf>).

Register at <http://www.thecenterweb.org/essa> (<http://www.thecenterweb.org/essa/>). Registration is accepted through **Jan. 25**.

## COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS

## Seeking Feedback on Illinois Postsecondary Workforce Readiness Act College and Career Pathways Endorsement Competencies

The [Postsecondary & Workforce Readiness Act \(PWR\)](http://www.pwract.org/) (<http://www.pwract.org/>), enacted by Illinois in 2016, established a voluntary system for school districts to award College and Career Pathways Endorsements to high school graduates. Endorsements signify that a student is ready to pursue postsecondary education or enter a career related to a selected interest area. They also incentivize career exploration and development.

Public-private steering committees consisting of industry experts from the Arts/Communications and Education sectors have reviewed national research and data from Illinois Human Resources professionals since June of 2018 to draft core technical and essential employability competencies for students graduating with a College and Career Pathways Endorsement. More information and results from Phase One of this work can be found at [www.pwract.org](http://www.pwract.org) (<http://www.pwract.org>).

We are now collecting information through an [online survey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PWRActEndorsementCompetencies) (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PWRActEndorsementCompetencies>) on the drafted competencies from stakeholders. This survey should be completed by individuals who are engaged in the following industries in Illinois: **Arts/Communications and Education (including Human and Public Service professionals)**. We seek to collect a diverse set of voices including those of **employers, human resource professionals, educators at all levels, experienced industry professionals, and community-based organizations working within the identified industry**. The survey will close **Jan. 18**.

Feedback collected via this survey will be incorporated into edits and evaluation of the drafted statements. This survey is designed to support the PWR Act public-private steering committees by collecting diverse perspectives regarding the relevance and accuracy of the competency statements drafted to align with College and Career Pathways Endorsements.

Should an individual need assistance or accommodations to successfully complete the survey, please contact Leah Moschella at [lmoschella@jff.org](mailto:lmoschella@jff.org) (<mailto:lmoschella@jff.org>).

## FINANCE

### New Site-Based Expenditure Reporting Resource

All districts are responsible for reporting their site-based expenditures for the first time at the end of this fiscal year. For districts seeking to understand more about the details of this reporting and how to prepare, ISBE has released a [webinar](#) (/site-based) explaining which expenditures districts can *exclude* from reporting. The majority of district expenditures will be shown in site-based expenditure reporting, but there are some exceptions. These exceptions are laid out in the webinar and the accompanying slides. All ISBE resources for site-based expenditure reporting are available at [www.isbe.net/site-based](http://www.isbe.net/site-based) (<http://www.isbe.net/site-based>) and are updated frequently.

Please contact Sara R. Shaw at [sshaw@isbe.net](mailto:sshaw@isbe.net) or (217) 782-0249 for questions related to site-based expenditure reporting.

## NUTRITION PROGRAMS

### Summer Food Service Program Sponsor Trainings Scheduled

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) needs additional sponsors and sites to help fill gaps in access to healthy meals. School districts, local government entities, and nonprofits are encouraged to become a Summer Meals sponsor and/or site to provide free, healthy meals, and snacks to low-income children. ISBE administers the federally funded program.

SFSP sponsors manage and develop their own sites and receive federal reimbursement via ISBE to cover the administrative and operating costs of preparing and serving meals. School districts, local governments, and nonprofits can become sponsors and set up serving sites at schools, parks, recreation centers, resource centers, churches, summer camps, libraries, and other community locations.



Those interested in becoming an SFSP sponsor and/or site should contact ISBE's Nutrition Division at (800) 545-7892.

Participation in one training session is required to become a new SFSP sponsor. Registration is available at <http://webprod1.isbe.net/cnscaledar/asp/eventlist.asp> (<http://webprod1.isbe.net/cnscaledar/asp/eventlist.asp>). The new sponsor training workshops are scheduled 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. with registration beginning at 8 a.m. for the following dates and locations:

- Feb. 27 in Marion
- March 13 in Alsip
- March 27 in Fairview Heights
- April 3 in Schaumburg
- April 4 in Rockford
- April 16 in Galesburg
- May 16 in Springfield

There are also [two trainings scheduled](http://webprod1.isbe.net/cnscaledar/asp/eventlist.asp) (<http://webprod1.isbe.net/cnscaledar/asp/eventlist.asp>) for current sponsors who have participated in the program for more than two years. These meet the annual training requirement.

- March 14 in Alsip
- March 28 in Fairview Heights

### Local Wellness Policy Workshop Set for Feb. 7 in O'Fallon

ISBE's Nutrition Division is teaming up with Action for Healthy Kids to provide another free Local Wellness Policy workshop for schools participating in the National School Lunch and/or School Breakfast Program.

This training will provide attendees with information on regulatory requirements, best practices, resources, and more to make the most of their school's Local Wellness Policy.

The workshop will take place Feb. 7 at the Regency Conference Center in O'Fallon from 9 a.m. to noon with registration beginning at 8:30 a.m. Districts should bring a copy of their Local Wellness Policy to the workshop.

For more information and to register, visit the [Event Details webpage](http://webprod1.isbe.net/cnscaledar/asp/EventDetails.asp?EventId=1222) (<http://webprod1.isbe.net/cnscaledar/asp/EventDetails.asp?EventId=1222>).

Whether you can make it or not, check out our updated [Local School Wellness Policy Information webpage](/Pages/Local-School-Nutrition-Wellness-Policy.aspx) (</Pages/Local-School-Nutrition-Wellness-Policy.aspx>). There are some new resources, including a Local Wellness Policy template.

The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (HHFKA) requires all Local education Agencies participating in federal child nutrition programs to establish and implement, for all schools under their jurisdiction, local school wellness policies that meet minimum standards designed to promote sound nutrition and student health, reduce childhood obesity, and provide transparency to the public on the school nutrition environment.

### Nominate Your School Nutrition Champion


Does your district have a dynamic food service director, a cashier who puts smiles on all the students' faces, a super-creative cook, or an administrative assistant who knows all the ins and outs of the National School Lunch Program regulations? The Illinois State Board of Education Nutrition and Wellness Programs Division wants to hear about them!

We are seeking online nominations for the third annual School Nutrition Champion Award. Anyone can nominate a K-12 school nutrition professional for the award. This includes students, parents, community members, and other district and school staff. Nominate someone today! Visit our [School Nutrition and Wellness Champions page](/Pages/School-Nutrition-and-Wellness-Champions.aspx) (</Pages/School-Nutrition-and-Wellness-Champions.aspx>) and click on the

“School Nutrition Champion Award” tab to find the online nomination form. Tell us who you are, who you are nominating, tell us about the nominee’s career history/qualifications (250 words) and how he or she goes above and beyond (500 words).


The award for one School Nutrition Champion from Illinois will be announced on Friday, May 3, which is [Super Lunch Hero Day](#) (<https://schoolnutrition.org/SLHD/>). The special day will help get us all ready for School Nutrition Employee Week (May 7-11). From now until then, we will be highlighting nominees for the award in [The Outlook](#) (/Pages/Nutrition-and-Wellness-Newsletters.aspx), our monthly newsletter for school nutrition programs in Illinois. The deadline for nominations is **5 p.m., Friday, March 29**.

Last year’s School Nutrition Champion was Sandy Voss, Director of Food and Nutrition Services for Marquardt School District 15. Voss also directs the nutrition programs in Glen Ellyn District 41, Queen Bee District 16, and St. Matthew School. The first recipient of ISBE’s School Nutrition Champion Award was Sandra Duniphan, the cafeteria manager for Pontiac-William Holliday School District 105 in Fairview Heights.

- [2018 School Nutrition Champion Nominees](#)  (/Documents/2018-School-Nutrition-Champ-Nominees.pdf)

## FUNDING & DISBURSEMENT SERVICES

### New Census Estimates for FY 2020 Title I Low Income

The U.S. Department of Education has released the Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) for income year 2017. These estimates will be used to calculate fiscal year 2020 Title I allocations. [A file of 2017 Poverty Data by Local Education Agency \(LEA\)](#)  (/Documents/fy20preliminary-eligibility.pdf) is provided in an alphabetical listing of LEAs, Poverty Count, 5-17 Population, and Poverty Percentage.

With this data, LEAs can determine their potential eligibility for Basic, Concentration, Targeted and Education Finance Incentive grants (EFIG).

- Basic Grant eligibility: An LEA must have at least 10 children in poverty and the number of children in poverty must be greater than 2 percent of the LEA population of children ages 5-17.
- Concentration Grant eligibility: An LEA must have at least 6,500 children in poverty or the number of those children exceeds 15 percent of the total 5-17 population.
- Targeted Grant and EFIG qualifications: An LEA must have at least 10 children in poverty and that number must be at least 5 percent of the 5-17 population.

The Census Bureau provides various aspects of the [SAIPE count](#) (<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/saipe/about.html>), including the data sources and methodology used to prepare these data. We will be using the 2017 data to calculate school year 2019-20 Title I, Part A allocations because they are the most recent available data.

Superintendents, business managers, and Title I directors should carefully examine the data for their LEA, as this will be the first indication as to whether your LEA may be gaining or losing in eligibility for Title I funds in FY 2020. ISBE neither controls nor generates the data.


The [challenge period](#) (<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/saipe/about/contact/challenges.html>) for the 2017 estimates ends March 4, 2019.

Note that this preliminary data does not include other non-census information, such as foster, neglected, or delinquent counts that may be used to calculate Title I allocations.

If you have questions, please contact Beth Minder in the Division of Funding and Disbursements at [eminder@isbe.net](mailto:eminder@isbe.net) (<mailto:eminder@isbe.net>) or (217) 782-5256.

### Final 2017-18 School Year Mandated Categorical Prorations Now Calculated



Final prorations and payments have been calculated for all 2017-18 school year categorical programs. A [narrative of each program and the statutory formula for computing payments](#)  (/Documents/mcat-narrative.pdf) is now available.

If you have questions regarding this information, contact ISBE's Division of Funding and Disbursements at (217) 782-5256.

2017-18 school year programs reimbursed in fiscal year 2019:

- Special Education Private Facility – 80 percent
- Special Education Transportation – 86 percent
- Regular/Vocational Transportation – 82 percent

2017-18 school year programs reimbursed in fiscal year 2018:

- Special Education Orphanage – 100 percent
- Regular Orphanage – 100 percent
- Illinois Free Lunch/Breakfast – 30 percent

## ISBE UPDATES

### ISBE Updates New Data Strategies & Analytics Division Phone Number

ISBE's Division of Data Strategies & Analytics (DSA) is changing its current phone number ((217) 782-3950). Starting **Jan. 28**, the phone number for DSA will be **(312) 814-9192**. After Feb. 1, the previous number will play a recording advising you to call the new number.

The [DSA division webpage](#) (/Pages/Data-Analysis.aspx) remains the same, as well as the email addresses for the Illinois Report Card ([reportcard@isbe.net](mailto:reportcard@isbe.net) (mailto:reportcard@isbe.net)) and other data-related questions ([datahelp@isbe.net](mailto:datahelp@isbe.net) (mailto:datahelp@isbe.net)).

## SPECIAL EDUCATION

### 2019 Statewide Conference and Expo – Call for Presentations

The Illinois Assistive Technology Program is pleased to announce a call for presentations for our upcoming *2019 Statewide Conference and Expo – Discover the Possibilities* at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield Sept. 13-14.

We are seeking session presentations that demonstrate how assistive technology devices or services can be used across primary purpose areas of Education, Employment, and Community Living. Presentations should focus on innovative, evidence-based approaches that develop and improve inclusion, productivity, and independence. Each session will be one hour in length.

#### Proposals

(<https://www.iltech.org/Content/EOCONTENTMEDIACENTER/documents/Expo%202019%20Documents/IATP%20Statewide%20EXPO%20Call%20for%20Presentations%202019.pdf>) must be emailed to [expo@iltech.org](mailto:expo@iltech.org) (mailto:expo@iltech.org) by **Jan. 31**. Presenters will be notified of acceptance by Feb. 15.

## SCHOOL BUSINESS SERVICE

### Now Accepting Agreements for FY 2019 School District Reorganization Feasibility Studies

ISBE is now accepting agreements for the fiscal year 2019 School District Reorganization Feasibility Studies. Feasibility studies are a tool to be used by school districts wanting to investigate the advantages and/or disadvantages of reorganization options. The school board of each district involved in a feasibility study must approve, by board resolution, the initiation of the study. The districts involved will submit a

proposed agreement with an independent contractor(s) to their Regional Office of Education (ROE) or Intermediate Service Center (ISC) in Cook County. The ROE or ISC, as applicable, will submit the agreement to ISBE for approval.

The state allotment amount for FY 2019 studies will be the cost of the study, up to a maximum of \$12,500. Any study cost above the state funding will be the responsibility of the participating districts. Studies are funded on a first-come, first-served basis. Agreements must be approved by the ROE or ISC and ISBE in order to receive reorganization feasibility study funds in FY 2019. In addition, studies must be completed, approved for payment by the ROE or ISC, and submitted to ISBE no later than **June 30**.

Procedures and sample forms can be found on the [ISBE School District Reorganization Feasibility Studies page](#) (/Pages/School-District-Reorganization-Feasibility-Studies.aspx).



If you have questions, please contact Michelle Heninger in the School Business Services Division, at (217) 785-8779 or [mheninge@isbe.net](mailto:mheninge@isbe.net) (<mailto:mheninge@isbe.net>).

## EDUCATOR EFFECTIVENESS

### National Board Candidate Fee Subsidy Application Window Opens Feb. 12

The Illinois State Board of Education is pleased to announce the \$1,900 [National Board Candidate Fee Subsidy Application](#) (<https://nbrc.illinoisstate.edu/firsttime/index.php>) is now available for Illinois teachers and counselors wishing to begin during the 2019-20 school year. Funding has been made available for 500 candidates. The application window opens at 10 a.m. on Feb. 12 closes at midnight on May 12.

### Leadership for Equity Micro-Credential Pilot

For the past year, the Center for the Study of Education Policy (CSEP) at Illinois State University has been working with a design team, including the Tennessee Department of Education, to turn the Tennessee Leadership for Equity Playbook  (<https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/education/reports/Tennessee-Leaders-for-Equity-Playbook.pdf>) into a cluster of four Micro-Credentials called [the Leadership for Equity \(LFE\) Micro-Credentials](#)  (<https://d32dsh9a6dg9hg.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2019/01/07090824/LFE-Micro-Credential-Pilot-Recruitment-Flier.pdf>). CSEP is now recruiting a **total of 240 principals and assistant principals nationally** who would be willing to complete one of the four Leadership for Equity (LFE) Micro-Credentials between Feb. 1 and June 30 (60 principals/assistant principals for each of the four MCs). This number is needed in order to have a strong enough sample to validate the assessments. Participants in the pilot will also be asked to complete a survey at the end regarding their experience with the MC.

The LFE MCs are aligned with Professional Standards for Educational Leaders standards and the equity standards in Illinois' Quality Standards Framework and will be housed on BloomBoard's online platform. The cut-off date for signing up to be part of the pilot is Friday, Jan. 25. Please can contact Dr. Erika Hunt at [elhunt@ilstu.edu](mailto:elhunt@ilstu.edu) [to participate in the LFE MC pilot](#). (<mailto:elhunt@ilstu.edu>)

## IN BRIEF

### Educator Recognition

- Congratulations to **Superintendent Todd Dugan of Bunker Hill CUSD 8** for winning the American Association of School Administrators (AASA) "Leaders Matter" essay contest! Superintendent Dugan was one of seven finalists and the only finalist from Illinois. He will be recognized Feb. 14 at the AASA National Conference in Los Angeles.

## Student Recognition

- **Congratulations to Illinois' high school seniors!** The National College Access Network's FAFSA Tracker ranks Illinois #1 in the country for the highest percentage of Free Applications for Student Aid (FAFSAs) completed by high school seniors! ISBE and the Illinois Student Assistance Commission congratulate all of the high school counselors, administrators, parents and families, mentors, coaches, the ISACorps who work every day to ensure all Illinois students have the opportunity to pursue a postsecondary education. [Check out the FAFSA Tracker](https://formyourfuture.org/fafsa-tracker/) (https://formyourfuture.org/fafsa-tracker/).

## Upcoming Events

- The **33rd annual National Child Nutrition Conference** is coming to Chicago in April, and the National CACFP Sponsors Association is offering scholarships to attend. The application deadline is **Jan. 17**. [Apply today!](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/36GQVMH) (https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/36GQVMH)
- ISBE announces an invitation for all Illinois teachers to participate in the **17th annual Teach to Lead Summit in Philadelphia March 29-31**. Teach to Lead is a national organization whose mission is to help teachers transform great ideas into action. Some nationwide exemplars include Strengthening Partnerships: Forming a Teacher Action Committee in Maryland, "Grow your Own" Teacher Prep Program in rural Wisconsin, and Let the Librarians Lead in New Hampshire. ISBE encourages Illinois teachers to submit their ideas to build the capacity of Illinois teacher leadership and be recognized. [Submit your ideas now](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TTLPhilly?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term) (https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TTLPhilly?utm\_content=&utm\_medium=email&utm\_name=&utm\_source=govdelivery&utm\_term).
- **National School Breakfast Week** will be celebrated **March 4-8**. The theme is "Start Your Engines With School Breakfast." Get started planning today with [School Nutrition Association resources available online](https://schoolnutrition.org/Meetings/Events/NSBW/2019/) (https://schoolnutrition.org/Meetings/Events/NSBW/2019/).

## Program Recognition

- Summer Food Service Program participant **Harrisburg Free Summer Lunch Program** received an [Honorable Mention in the Governor's Hometown Awards Program](https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/serve/Pages/GHTA.aspx) (https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/serve/Pages/GHTA.aspx). Congratulations!

## ISBE Employment Opportunities

Watch for ISBE career opportunities and find instructions for applying at [Careers at ISBE](http://www.isbe.net/Pages/Careers-at-ISBE.aspx) (http://www.isbe.net/Pages/Careers-at-ISBE.aspx).