WHAT'S INSIDE

- 2020 Census: Everyone Counts
- Career & Technical Education
- Curriculum & Instruction
- Educator Effectiveness
- . Safe & Healthy Climate

- School Business
- School Nutrition
- School Wellness
- Special Education
- In Brief



Hello.

As part of our new Strategic Plan, we are refocusing on elevating our educators. The Strategic Plan feedback each of you is providing is helping us refine strategies and metrics to ensure we are working toward achieving our goal -- Illinois' diverse student population will have educators who are prepared through multiple pathways and are supported in and recognized for their efforts to provide each and every child an education that meets their needs. We intend to invest in and improve current systems,

so every child has effective educators in every subject, every day.

One of our current draft strategies to achieve this goal is to support a comprehensive teacher preparation approach that expands the teacher pipeline by emphasizing collaboration and coordination across agencies and stakeholders. To begin moving forward with this work, we are convening a workgroup to examine Illinois' teacher candidate pedagogy assessment. This workgroup will collaborate to evaluate the possible options for assessing teacher candidates and eliminating obstacles, while still ensuring our educators are prepared to enter the classroom on day one and serve each of their students with the academic and social-emotional supports to help them thrive. We will keep you updated as this work progresses.

Having well-prepared and supported teachers in the classroom from the very beginning of our children's young lives is vital for their long-term success. It's important to examine how educational leaders can weave early learning and K-12 systems together. With support from the Robert R. McCormick Foundation, ISBE is delighted to provide free access to the new documentary film *No Small Matter*. The documentary features two of our very own Illinois teachers, Rachel Giannini and Tracy Sohn, and was filmed at Highland Park Community Nursery School.

No Small Matter (http://www.nosmallmatter.com/) is described as the first feature documentary to explore the most overlooked, underestimated, and powerful force for change in America today -- early childhood education. The film uses poignant stories and surprising humor to lay out the overwhelming evidence for the importance of the first five years of a child's life. You can view the film for free online (https://indee.tv/screener/view/6w5ulunZ8Fk6EQMVhfxXlr2UE0AGX17j/) using the password NSM_ISBE. I encourage you to watch, reflect on the role early learning plays in your district using the discussion guide (/Documents/Educational-Leaders-Discussion-Guide.pdf), and consider sharing the film with your principals, staff, and communities.

This week's shout-out goes to Southern Illinois University at Carbondale for its incredible and inspiring work to create pathways for professionals already in education to become licensed special education teachers (https://thesouthern.com/news/local/education/siuc-poised-to-grow-special-ed-teacher-training-for-rural/article_b917960c-7771-54f1-864f-6812df21f8f2.html? fbclid=lwAR0kRIJyGhH8BueRHsemxJrQSfrHZksqp-uaMMRI8Kbtun33D7WOJ-AHG5I#tracking-source=home-top-story-1). This is a prime

example of how we can work together to prepare and support our current and future educators. I look forward to seeing the program grow!

Sincerely,

Carmen

DATES AND DEADLINES

Please note this is not a complete list of events, meetings, and deadlines. For more events and details, visit the ISBE Calendar page (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/ISBE-Meetings.aspx).

be.netr ages/10bL it	rectings.uspx).
Feb. 6	ISBE Stategic Plan Stakeholder Meeting (Wheaton) (https://www.isbe.net/Documents/ISBE-Strategic-Plan-Meetings.pdf)
Feb. 7	Deadline to submit Financial Profile Score comments (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Financial-Profile-Score.aspx)
Feb. 7	Deadline to submit Notice of Intent for Virtual Courses survey to ISBE (https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx? id=hv5kA8ZJ9Eq1LDNameV30fS0MloyHPREm5bxN954JphUNExHSU82UkEzVzlxUFJaUDdSMzVS S1E4Uy4u)
Feb. 10-12	2020 ESSA Conference (http://www.thecenterweb.org/essa/)
Feb. 12	ISBE offices closed for Lincoln's Birthday
Feb. 12	2020 Census Get Out the Count convening - Burr Ridge (https://myforefront.org/event/illinois-census-2020-gotc-convening/)
Feb. 13	ISBE Strategic Plan Engagement Session (University Park) (https://www.isbe.net/strategicplansurvey)
Feb. 14	FY 2020 Round 1 School Maintenance Project Grant application period closes (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/School-Maintenance-Project-Grant.aspx)
Feb. 14	Deadline to submit Gifted Education Micro-Credential Pilot Scholarship application (https://www.isbe.net/Documents/Gifted-Microcredential-Flyer.pdf)
Feb. 14	Deadline to complete Perkins V Draft 2 feedback survey (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Perkins-V-Feedback.aspx)
Feb. 15	Deadline to sign up for the Summer Food Service Program training if participating in the SFSP (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Summer-Food-Service-Program.aspx)
Feb. 18	Illinois State Board of Education meeting in Springfield (https://www.isbe.net/Lists/ISBECalendar/DisplayForm.aspx?ID=4485)
Feb. 18	ACCESS for EL's English Language Development Assessment window closes (https://wida.wisc.edu/memberships/consortium/il)
Feb. 19-20	K-5 Next Generation Science Standards Leadership Conference – Marion (https://www.imsa.edu/site_section/next-generation-science-standards/)
Feb. 24-25	ISBE School Wellness Conference (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/School-Wellness.aspx)
Feb. 24	ISBE Stategic Plan Stakeholder Meeting (Springfield) (https://www.isbe.net/Documents/ISBE-Strategic-Plan-Meetings.pdf)

Mar. 2-3	2020 Career Connections Conference – Chicago (http://ilcareerconnections.org/)
Mar. 4-5	2020 Career Connections Conference – Springfield (http://ilcareerconnections.org/)
Mar. 6-7	2020 Illinois Teacher Leadership Summit Powered by Teach to Lead (https://sites.google.com/view/ilteacherleadersummit/home)
Mar. 9-10	2020 Career Connections Conference – Carbondale (http://ilcareerconnections.org/)
Mar. 16	ISBE Strategic Plan Engagement Session (Macomb) (https://www.isbe.net/strategicplansurvey)
Mar. 17-18	Illinois State Board of Education meeting in Macomb (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Illinois-State-Board-of-Education-Calendar.aspx)
Mar. 23	FY 2021 Early Childhood Block Grant proposals due (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/RFPs.aspx)
Mar. 31	Deadline to nominate School Nutrition & Wellness Champion (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/School-Nutrition-and-Wellness-Champions.aspx)
Apr. 15	Illinois State Board of Education meeting in Springfield (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Illinois-State-Board-of-Education-Calendar.aspx)
Apr. 21	Illinois MTSS Network: MTSS for Equity and Excellence Conference (https://ilmtss.net/conference/profile/2020-mtss-for-equity-and-excellence)

MEN

2020 CENSUS: EVERYONE COUNTS

HARD-TO-COUNT POPULATIONS

One of the biggest challenges in ensuring a complete census count is reaching and counting hard-to-count populations. These include young children, immigrants, the homeless, LGBTQ communities, and more. Schools interact with hard-to-reach populations on a daily basis and are essential in ensuring a complete count. ISBE has resources from organizations on how to reach those communities and ways in which the census may affect them. Visit ISBE.net/census (http://www.ISBE.net/census) to learn more.

CENSUS RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS - STATISTICS IN SCHOOLS

Increase your students' awareness about the census by visiting US Census Bureau website (http://www.census.gov/schools), where you can find new census activities for pre-K through 12th grade! Each of the 67 activities includes a teaching guide and focuses on learning skills in content areas such as history, math, geography, and English language arts.



CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

PUBLIC FEEDBACK SURVEY NOW OPEN FOR DRAFT 2 PERKINS V STATE PLAN FOR CTE

The Illinois State Board of Education and Illinois Community College Board request your feedback on Illinois' Perkins Draft State Plan for Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (/Documents/Perkins-V-State-Plan-for-IL-Draft-2.pdf) (Perkins V). Please complete the survey online (/Pages/Perkins-V-Feedback.aspx) or send an email to Perkins@isbe.net (mailto:Perkins@isbe.net) by **Feb.**14. Please contact Perkins@isbe.net (mailto:Perkins@isbe.net) with any questions.

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

VIRTUAL COURSE REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST

ISBE is pleased to announce available funds in fiscal year 2020 to provide partial reimbursements to districts that enroll students into virtual courses that are part of the Illinois Virtual Course Catalog (IVCC).

ISBE will use each district's FY 2020 local capacity percentage and IVCC courses completed between Jan. 1, 2020, and June 30, 2020, to determine the amount of available reimbursement. Districts desiring reimbursements will enroll their students into courses provided through the IVCC and pay the registration fee directly to the course provider. A district can submit evidence of completion of the course and proof of payment, along with a request for partial reimbursement of course enrollment fees, to ISBE for student courses completed by June 30, 2020.

Funding for course enrollment fee reimbursements is limited; interested districts must complete and submit the Notice of Intent for Virtual Courses survey to ISBE no later than Friday, **Feb. 7**. The Notice of Intent survey enables the calculation of the reimbursement to your district based on your enrollment numbers, the course providers selected, and types of courses in which students are enrolled. The Notice of Intent can be accessed at Notice of Intent for Virtual Courses (https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx? id=hv5kA8ZJ9Eq1LDNameV30fS0MloyHPREm5bxN954JphUNExHSU82UkEzVzIxUFJaUDdSMzVSS1E4Uy4u).

Contact Erich Grauke at egrauke@isbe.net (mailto:egrauke@isbe.net) or (217) 782-0354 with any questions.

EDUCATOR EFFECTIVENESS

SEEKING PARTICIPANTS FOR LEADERSHIP FOR EQUITY MICRO-CREDENTIAL PILOT

Participation with the pilot requires the following:

- You must be available to attend a face to face training at the Illinois ESSA Conference from 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. on Feb. 12. Note: You must be available for the full time of the training. The purpose of the training is to introduce you to the content and requirements of the LFE Micro-Credential (MC) #1: Exploring and Deepening an Equity Mindset. You will be guided through the activities of the micro-credential during the training, but you will be responsible for uploading your materials and artifacts on the BloomBoard platform after the training. Illinois Administrators' Academy (IAA) credit (or 30 professional development hours) for the LFE MC and recognition of completion on your Illinois license will be granted after submission and passage of the full micro-credential.
- You must participate in a follow-up Applying a Culturally Responsive Lens to a Data Cycle training via micro-credential and complete the
 micro-credential by Jan. 30, 2021. The participation in this micro-credential will be online and self-paced and will require working with
 school staff to complete the micro-credential activities.

Participants in the pilot will receive the following:

- Registration to Illinois ESSA Conference for Feb. 12. (Note: You do not need to register yourself. We will cover your registration for you.)
- Free access to Feb. 12 face-to-face training and access to Exploring and Deepening an Equity Mindset Micro-Credential.
- Free access to Applying a Culturally Responsive Lens to a Data Cycle Micro-Credential.

You will receive the following if you complete the pilot:

- Professional Development Credit (either one IAA per micro-credential or 30 professional development hours per micro-credential) Note: You could receive two IAA credits or 60 PD hours if you complete both micro-credentials.
- · Recognition of completion of two micro-credentials on Illinois educator license.
- Digital badges for two micro-credentials through BloomBoard.

If you can fulfill the above requirements, please register to participate (https://forms.illinoisstate.edu/forms/lfemc_pilot) with the pilot. Any questions regarding the LFE MC Pilot can be directed to Erika Hunt at elhunt@ilstu.edu (mailto:elhunt@ilstu.edu) or (309) 438-2725 or (309) 310-3941.

More information on Annual Program Reporting can be found on the Annual Program Reporting page (/Pages/Annual-Program-Reporting.aspx)

SAFE & HEALTHY CLIMATE

DEADLINE EXTENDED! COMPLETE THE ILLINOIS SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES SURVEY BY FEB. 14

Healthy Schools Campaign (https://healthyschoolscampaign.org/) is conducting a statewide survey for school districts to assess the current landscape of school health services across Illinois and identify current challenges and opportunities with providing critical health services to students. Completing this survey will provide valuable information regarding how school health services are currently being delivered and funded in Illinois. The results of this survey will inform recommendations to the state supporting policies and programs to expand access to and provide resources for school health services in schools. Your district's participation will help ensure the individual needs of your district are included and addressed in these recommendations.

The deadline to complete the survey has been extended to Feb. 14. Please visit the Illinois School Health Services Survey page (http://www.healthyschoolscampaign.org/illinoisschoolsurvey) to learn more, access the survey, and register for the webinar.



SCHOOL BUSINESS

FINANCIAL PROFILE SCORE REVIEW AND COMMENTS

The Financial Profile score generated from the 2018-19 School District Annual Financial Report (ISBE Form 50-35) is now available through the ISBE Web Application Security System (IWAS) (https://sec2.isbe.net/iwas/asp/login.asp?js=true) website.

Financial Profile Score Review and Comments

Pursuant to Section 1A-8 of the School Code, ISBE is required to monitor finances and identify school districts that are in or moving towards financial difficulty.

ISBE requests that each district superintendent reviews the accuracy of their respective Financial Profile score and designation. It is crucial that the district reviews and understands the score and designation process. If you need budgeting assistance, financial consultants are available. View the School District Financial Profile Information webpage (/Pages/Financial-Profile-Score.aspx) for further details.

The Financial Profile scores will be adjusted and distributed at the State Board meeting in March. The adjustments will reflect any late Mandated Categorical payments or subtract out any that were made the prior year. Upon approval by the State Board, these reports will be posted on the ISBE website at School District Financial Profile (/Pages/School-District-Financial-Profile.aspx).

Districts that wish to include comments for their 2020 Financial Profile Score report may do so in the comment box provided at the IWAS (https://sec2.isbe.net/iwas/asp/login.asp?js=true) link; you are allowed only 500 characters per comment. Your comments regarding your district's finances are an integral part of the profile. The profile is generated from the district's Annual Financial Report but there are often extenuating circumstances outside of the district administration's control that have a financial impact on the district. Districts can publicly convey what happened in their district that may have or will impact their Total Profile Score in the Comments portion of the profile. This will allow for the explanation of significant local financial issues, such as cash versus accrual accounting implications, and timing of revenue receipts versus expenditures incurred for unique circumstances, such as school construction projects. In this capacity, the profile can be

implemented as a communication vehicle for a district's constituents. Any comments regarding the profile must be completed by **Feb. 7**. Please use the instructions (ftp://help.isbe.net/webapps/afrverification/2018/Instructions-PROFILE.pdf) to guide you to the District Financial Report system in IWAS. If you have questions regarding the school profile score, please contact a consultant at (217) 785-8779 or by email at finance1@isbe.net (mailto:finance1@isbe.net).

OEPP/PCTC Verification

The OEPP/PCTC verification will be available later. School districts will be notified through IWAS and ISBE's Weekly Message. Additionally, it will be posted to ISBE's website (/Pages/Financial-Profile-Score.aspx).



SCHOOL NUTRITION

SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR ISBE SCHOOL NUTRITION CHAMPION AWARD

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? ISBE's Nutrition Department wants to hear about them!

We are seeking online nominations for the fourth annual School Nutrition Champion Award. Anyone can nominate a K-12 school nutrition professional for the School Nutrition Champion 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) 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 their career history/qualifications (250 words), and how they go above and beyond (500 words). Nominators can also submit an optional video celebrating the nominee and their school nutrition program(s).

The award for one school nutrition champion from Illinois will be announced on Friday, May 1, which is School Lunch Hero Day (http://www.schoollunchheroday.com/). 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. ISBE will coordinate a presentation for the winner. The deadline for nominations is **5 p.m. March 31**.

Last year's School Nutrition Champion was **Angie Benedict**, the head cook at Highland Elementary School in Meridian Community Unit School District 223.

Previous winners of ISBE's School Nutrition Champion Award are **Sandy Voss**, director of Food and Nutrition Services for Marquardt School District 15 in Glendale Heights, in 2018 and **Sandra Duniphan**, the cafeteria manager for Pontiac-William Holliday School District 105 in Fairview Heights, in 2017.

SAVE THE DATES FOR SNP BACK TO SCHOOL CONFERENCE

ISBE's Nutrition Department is excited to announce two locations for our annual School Nutrition Programs Back to School Conference (SNPB2S). This year's theme is "Mapping the Way."

Attendees can choose either location for free annual training on such topics as meal planning, USDA Foods, procurement and resource management, and more. **SNPB2S South** is set for **July 20-21** at the Wyndham Springfield City Centre in downtown Springfield. **SNPB2S North** is set for **July 28** at the Midwest Conference Center in Northlake.

Watch for registration and more information on ISBE's SNP Back to School Conference webpage (/Pages/SNPB2S.aspx), where you can find 2019 presentations and materials to get an idea of what the conference offers.

SCHOOL WELLNESS

ANNOUNCING ISBE'S SCHOOL WELLNESS CONFERENCE KEYNOTE SPEAKER

ISBE's Nutrition Department staff are excited to announce that Dr. Tami West (https://www.tamiwest.com/), the author of "The Stress Club" and "Life Without the Monsters," will be the keynote speaker at the ISBE School Wellness Conference on Feb. 25.

The free training opportunity includes two pre-conference session options on **Feb. 24** and a full-day conference on **Feb. 25** in Bloomington. Registration for the School Wellness conference (/Pages/School-Wellness-Conference.aspx) is under way, which is presented by ISBE's Wellness and Nutrition departments.

Physical education teachers, school nurses, school social workers, school nutrition professionals, and others dedicated to the well-being of Illinois schoolchildren are encouraged to attend the upcoming ISBE School Wellness Conference.

The conference will feature three session tracks: Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Social Emotional Health. Attendees can receive up to five Continuing Education Units on the Feb. 25 conference day with additional hours available at the Feb. 24 pre-conference. Pre-conference sessions (/Documents/Wellness-Conference-Pre-Conference-Sessions.pdf) include one on "Mental Health Technology Transfer Center National School Mental Health Curriculum: Guidance and Best Practices for School Districts" and a Local Wellness Policy Workshop.

Visit the ISBE School Wellness Conference webpage (/Pages/School-Wellness-Conference.aspx) for the agenda, registration, pre-conference session details, and hotel information.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

ILLINOIS MTSS NETWORK: MTSS FOR FQUITY AND EXCELLENCE CONFERENCE - APRIL 21

Improve your Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) to make a lasting impact on each and every one of your students at the MTSS for Equity and Excellence Conference. Be inspired by keynote speakers Amy McCart, Ph.D., and Dawn Miller, Ph.D., authors of "Leading Equity-Based MTSS for All Students," and by breakout sessions that will support you in:

- Leading Equity-Based MTSS
- · Data Analysis for Children with Disabilities
- · Special Education Supports in MTSS
- · MTSS and the Illinois Quality Framework
- · Early Childhood MTSS
- · Attendance/Chronic Absenteeism
- · Learning Partner Case Studies
- · Family Engagement

Learn how to establish a culture of teaching and learning that demonstrates high achievement of academic, behavioral, and social-emotional outcomes. This conference will take place from **9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. on April 21** at the Bloomington-Normal Marriott Hotel and Conference Center. Lunch will be provided. Register and see full details about the MTSS conference. (https://ilmtss.net/conference/profile/2020-mtss-for-equity-and-excellence)

IN BRIEF

• The **35**th **annual Illinois Conference on Teaching Mathematics** is taking place from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. on Feb. 20 at John A. Logan College in Carterville. View the program and register online (https://conferenceservices.siu.edu/conferences/illinois-conference-onteaching-mathematics.php).

SCHOOL RECOGNITION

• Twenty-three Illinois schools (https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/pdf/ap-cs-female-diversity-award-2019-school.pdf) earned the 2018-19 College Board AP® Computer Science Female Diversity Award (https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/about-ap/awards/ap-computer-science-female-diversity-award) for achieving high female representation in AP Computer Science A and/or AP Computer Science Principles. Schools honored with the AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award have expanded young women's access to AP computer science courses. College Board honors schools with 50 percent or higher female representation in either or both of the two AP computer science courses, or whose percentage of the female examinees meets or exceeds that of the school's female population. Congratulations!

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

- The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is now accepting **Youth Preparedness Council** (https://www.ready.gov/kids) applications. Do you know a teenager interested in disaster preparedness or community service? FEMA is now accepting applications for the Youth Preparedness Council (https://community.fema.gov/applytoYPC). The deadline to apply is March 8.
- TODOS: Mathematics for All will recognize up to six Chicago-area students in grades 5-12 at a ceremony during the 2020 National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Centennial Meeting and Exposition in Chicago. Each student will receive a calculator donated by Texas Instruments and a certificate from TODOS. Nominating teachers of award winners will receive a one-year membership/extension in TODOS and a recognition certificate. To be eligible for TODOS Student Awards, students should be nominated by their mathematics teacher. Teachers may nominate a maximum of two students for the award. To best serve the mission of TODOS, a student nominated for an award must be a member of an underrepresented group in particular, Latina/o and should meet at least ONE of the eligibility criteria listed on the application. All applications for TODOS Student Awards (http://stemed.uchicago.edu/TODOSawardapp/) must be received on or before March 2.
- Applications for the Girls Go CyberStart Challenge are now open to high schoolers. Find more information and test your skills today
 (https://www.girlsgocyberstart.org/). To make sure technology isn't a hurdle, a no-cost cloud-based PC powered by Network Development
 Group is available so every girl has what she needs to participate. Girls have no limits on what they can achieve, and neither does Girls
 Go CyberStart! The Virtual Portal (https://medium.com/girls-go-cyberstart/no-limits-solve-your-tech-hurdles-with-a-cloud-based-pc fcf578af3c96) includes information and a Blog Post with all the details. Girls can register and play Stage 1 Assess until Feb. 14.

ISBE FEATURED CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

- Learn more and apply for the below career opportunities at ISBE!
 - CTE Specialist and Methods of Administration for Civil Rights (/Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=361)
 - Special Education Private Facility Per Diem Rate Setting Funding & Disbursements Department (/Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=360)
 - View all open positions at ISBE (/Pages/Careers-at-ISBE.aspx).
- The Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development is hiring for several new positions to support the work under the Preschool Development Grant Birth to 5 (PDG B-5) Renewal grant. Cover letters and resumes should be sent to GOV.OECD@illinois.gov (mailto:GOV.OECD@illinois.gov)

- Administrative Assistant (https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/OECD/Documents/Job%20Description%20%28PSC%29-Administrative%20Assistant.pdf)
- ExceleRate Pilot Project Coordinator (https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/OECD/Documents/Job%20Description%20%28PSC%29-ExceleRate%20Pilot%20Project%20Coordinator.pdf)