

ISBE'S WEEKLY MESSAGE

February 15, 2023

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Dear Colleagues:

Earlier today, Governor JB Pritzker presented his fiscal year 2024 budget proposal to the Illinois General Assembly. The Pritzker Administration has made incredible progress over the past four years to stabilize the state's finances and lead us through a global pandemic. Now, we're very pleased to see significant investments in several programs that will have real, transformative impacts for Illinois schools, students, and families.

First, the most important investment we can make in our schools is in our teachers. The proposed Teacher Pipeline Grant Program will direct \$70 million per year over the next three years to the 170 school districts with the greatest need to fill teaching positions. While Illinois has bucked national teacher shortage trends – adding more teachers to the profession, increasing teacher retention, and increasing enrollment in educator preparation programs -- the remaining unfilled positions are concentrated in high-need subjects and under-resourced schools. The vacancies in these 170 districts account for 80 percent of all unfilled positions and affect 870,000 students.

These teacher pipeline funds will come with maximum flexibility. Districts can use these funds in innovative, creative, and evidenced-based ways: offering signing bonuses, housing stipends, down-payment assistance, or loan repayments; paying tuition and fees or providing residencies or apprenticeships; and to sustaining current teachers by providing materials, supplies, coaching, and school culture supports.

Gov. Pritzker also plans to eliminate preschool deserts by the end of 2027, as part of a multi-year, four-prong vision called Smart Start Illinois. Investments in high-quality early learning programs have some of highest returns on investment – leading to better long-term academic and social outcomes for students.

Gov. Pritzker's budget proposes to invest \$300 million over the next four years in the Early Childhood Block Grant to ensure that every community has enough publicly funded preschool seats to serve at least 80 percent of all low-income 3- and 4-year-olds. The program will prioritize applicants who have never received Early Childhood Block Grant funding before and applicants planning to serve children in preschool deserts. To support existing programs, we have built a new alternative licensure pathway for early childhood teachers and opened our Virtual Coaching and Mentoring program to help new teachers and clinicians or those in the process of earning licenses.

These teacher pipeline program and early childhood investments follow the proposed investments in Evidence-Based Funding, Career and Technical Education, and computer science equity that Dr. Carmen Ayala outlined in her Jan. 24 column (/Pages/Weekly-Message-Display-Form-V2.aspx?ItemId=332).

All of these visionary investments will pay dividends for Illinoisans for many years to come. I'm grateful for such significant investments in initiatives that can drive meaningful change for children and families across Illinois – more great teachers and more services for our youngest learners so they can enter school ready to succeed. The results will be priceless.

Pictured: Kindergarten students in Joliet School District 86 recently made colorful crowns to celebrate the 100th day of school!

Sincerely,

Krish

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>).

Feb. 15	ISBE Career Connections Conference (https://www.eventbrite.com/e/isbe-career-connections-registration-420820745177)
Feb. 16	ISBE Board meeting
Feb. 18-25	National FFA Week
Feb. 20	ISBE offices closed
Feb. 23	School Partnership Webinar Series: Program Assessment and Evaluation (https://metrofamily.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMtF-2prjksGN0FISGtrA4mGVmRGYzEQ0cB)
Feb. 28	Deadline to apply for the U.S. Department of Energy's Energy CLASS Prize (https://www.herox.com/energy-class)
Mar. 1	Deadline to report the intent to move from half-day to full-day kindergarten instruction to sff@isbe.net (mailto:sff@isbe.net)
Mar. 6	Educators Rising State Conference (https://web.cvent.com/event/532b97c4-490d-40c3-9640-5ef359452b5c)
Mar. 8	Illinois Education and Career Success Network's 10th Annual Conference: Accelerating Equitable Success (https://ilsuccessnetwork.org/2023-conference/)
Mar. 13-17	Illinois Arts Education Week
Mar. 15	ISBE Board meeting
Mar. 17	ESSER Recipient Data Collection – Local Education Agency and Other Entities reports due

Mar. 31	SY 2022-23 5Essentials/School Climate Survey administration window closes
Apr. 19	ISBE Board meeting
Apr. 20	Illinois Postsecondary and Career Expectations Symposium (https://www.isac.org/pace/Illinois-PaCE-Symposium/index)
Apr. 21	Deadline to submit full application for the U.S. Department of Energy's Renew America's Schools grant program (https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/Default.aspx#Foald06985843-f32c-494e-880a-cb5db6d787a4)
Jun. 13-15	Illinois New Teacher Collaborative 2023 Summer Conference Series (https://emails.illinois.edu/newsletter/37/1612142237.html)
Mar. 31	Illinois Council for the Social Studies Annual Conference (https://www.illinoiscss.net/2023-spring-conference.html)

NEW

LEARNING RENEWAL

Each week this section will focus on the learning renewal that is taking place in Illinois schools. We invite you to share (<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=hf5kA8ZJ9Eq1LDNameV30Uf4KgH87ICv6FRRQI8cvIUNTdHWktDS1NJWjJZVDFaQ09RVINCUVdMRi4u>) how you are investing federal relief

funds to help students recover.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP GRANTS SPOTLIGHT: MILFORD AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS DISTRICT 124

Milford Area Public Schools District 124 (<https://www.mpsk12.org/>) received Community Partnership Grant funds to expand social-emotional and physical health programming, support teachers, and grow community partnerships to better meet the needs of students. When surveyed about the challenges brought on by the pandemic, students identified mental health and social-emotional support as being a critical need. The district addressed out-of-school barriers by partnering with a community mental health provider, who comes to school once per week to meet with students who have completed the referral process. Some students were already seeing the counselor so moving appointments to the school building removes a barrier and minimizes missed class time.

Thanks to grant funding, the district expanded its community partnerships and created a wellness team with community members working in the realm of health and wellness. They have hosted five events on different topics, such as body image or diabetes awareness, to teach high school students about various aspects of physical health. Students made healthy charcuterie boards during one of the programs focused on nutrition. The district was also able to add a visual arts teacher to its pre-K—8 grade building to provide students with an outlet to express themselves.

How did they know there was a need? Superintendent Dr. Michele Lindemeyer, shared, “We knew where we were pre-pandemic, so post-pandemic it was unfolding and peeling back the layers of what had happened. Our initiatives were a result of what we were seeing and being in tune with our students and families.”

Milford Area Public Schools District 124 is one of 136 recipients of the Community Partnership Grants, which are funded with federal pandemic relief funds, to support collaboration between school districts and community organizations to address the trauma students experienced during the pandemic. Learn more about the Community Partnership Grants and other initiatives designed to support students' academic and social-emotional recovery on ISBE's website (</learningrenewal>).

AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION WEBINAR

ACT Now is hosting the sixth and final webinar in the School Partnership Webinar Series designed to help districts meet Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief III funding requirements and maximize out-of-school time learning. The Program Assessment and Evaluation webinar will be held at **10 a.m. Feb. 23**. It will cover developing and executing a programmatic assessment to evaluate program success. Attendees will learn how to analyze collected data to adjust implementation strategies for greater future success. The webinar will be co-facilitated by Dr. Emily Shayman of Lewis University. Dr. Shayman, program evaluator for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers for Valley View School District, will provide attendees with various approaches to programmatic evaluation and review.

NEW

ILLINOIS TEACHER OF THE YEAR

ISBE ANNOUNCES 2023 ILLINOIS TEACHER OF THE YEAR FINALISTS

ISBE has announced the 2023 finalists for Illinois Teacher of the Year, as well as the 2022 Outstanding Early Career Educator. The annual Teacher of the Year program honors incredible classroom educators who have made lasting impacts on the students, families, and fellow educators in their school communities. ISBE will showcase several finalists in the Weekly Message each week leading up to the announcement of the 2023 Illinois Teacher of the Year. Congratulations to all this year’s extraordinary awardees!

MARCIA DODDS



Early Childhood Teacher of the Year
Prather Elementary, Granite City Community Unit School District 9

Marcia Dodds found her very specific professional calling when she was still in middle school. One of the families she regularly helped as a babysitter happened to have a son with Down syndrome. That relationship sparked Marcia’s passion for early childhood special education.

At Prather Elementary in Granite City, she became known as the teacher who sought out the children who had “all the letters” – the ones who were receiving physical, occupational, developmental and speech therapies – the children who needed her most. Her educational philosophy is to “teach from the heart and meet all children where they are.”

In Granite City CUSD 9, she has prioritized creating inclusive policies so that students with IEPs are in classrooms with students without IEPs, because she recognizes how much these children learn from each other. And she’s generous about sharing her expertise with colleagues. Paula Hubbard, retired director of special education for the Madison County region, says Ms. Dodds has mentored and trained student teachers and is always “the first one to step forward to share materials and ideas in trainings and seminars.”

ANNE GRAY



Cook County Co-Regional Teacher of the Year
Franklin Fine Arts Center, Chicago Public Schools

Anne Gray teaches music at Franklin Fine Arts Center, a Chicago Public Schools magnet school for Grades K-8. She believes all students have musical ability, and that it’s her job to find what sparks their interest. Years ago, when she realized her students weren’t necessarily inspired by European classics, she expanded her repertoire by taking summer courses in blues,

samba, and jazz, and then rock. Now, her middle-school rock band has been recognized nationally by the Music Will organization, her choir is the biggest middle school ensemble in the city, and high schools recruit students from her program. She has worked to expand opportunities for students across Chicago to participate in solo and ensemble festivals.

Franklin drama teacher Betsy Williams told us: “Every child deserves a teacher like Anne – someone who will teach them the skills to find their own talents and then cheer from the audience while they share that talent with the world.”

DR. SAWSON JABER



***Cook County Co-Regional Teacher of the Year
East Leyden High School, Leyden High School District 212***

The daughter of refugees, Dr. Sawsan Jaber knows the value of education. “People can take your land and your physical belongings, but they can never take your mind,” she says. She teaches English at East Leyden High School in Leyden High School District 212.

Her assigned texts change yearly in response to her students and world events. When school buildings closed due to COVID-19, she created a purely project-based curriculum, allowing students to form collaborative learning groups. It worked so well that she has kept that model. Students tell her it’s their hardest class besides physics, but that they love it.

John Rossi, the English Department chair, says it works. “Her American literature courses are grounded in conversations that need to occur. She seeks out texts that expand students' perspectives and deepen their capacity for empathy. She understands that adolescents are capable of adult conversations but often need support.”

Student Haley Garcia calls Dr. Jaber an inspiration. “Her classroom pushes everyone to grow in ways we would've never thought possible.”

NEW

MULTILINGUAL

REFUGEE SERVICES GRANT OPPORTUNITY FOR DISTRICTS AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

The Jewish Federation, in partnership with the state of Illinois, released the FY 2024 Refugee Services Notice of Funding Opportunity (https://juf-grants.smapply.org/prog/fy24_illinois_refugee_social_services_application/) (NOFO) to provide services to refugee youth from birth through high school graduation in order to promote academic performance and successful integration for children who are eligible for Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) services. And for the first time, services are being expanded to ORR-eligible children ages birth-5 to ensure this population is prepared to succeed in formal schooling.

This is an open, competitive bidding process that seeks a broad range of applicants to deliver services to qualifying populations across Illinois. A recording of the optional bidder’s conference held Feb. 13 will be made available.

Interested organizations are required to submit a nonbinding letter of intent no later than **3 p.m. Friday, Feb. 17**. Applications are due no later than **3 p.m. Monday, March 13**.

Questions should be submitted to Alison Bell at alisonbell@juf.org (<mailto:alisonbell@juf.org>) or Marc Adelman at marcadelman@juf.org (<mailto:marcadelman@juf.org>).

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Throughout Black History Month, ISBE will feature guest posts from Black educators who are leading the Illinois Affinity Groups (<https://teachplus.org/illinois-affinity-groups/>). They will share strategies for celebrating Black History Month with your students, ways to support Black educators, and what it means to be a Black educator in schools today.

JACQUELINE JOHNSON ([HTTPS://TEACHPLUS.ORG/TEACHER/JOHNSON-JACQUELINE/](https://teachplus.org/teacher/johnson-jacqueline/))(SHE/HER) - DIRECTOR OF ARTICULATION AND EQUITY - COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 218

Black History Month is a time to reflect on the joy, history, and contributions of Black people. Black History Month allows educational institutions to spotlight the Black diaspora in a world that continues to realize there is a need to center more experiences. Black educators want to be able to come to the workplace as their authentic selves. Oftentimes, we wear a mask to protect ourselves from the microaggressions and/or invisibility we may feel in the workplace. Many of us Black educators often feel isolated as the only/few staff of color in the schools or districts we serve. As an administrator, it is extremely important to build connections and understanding of those we serve, so they can feel seen and have a sense of belonging. As leaders, we must reflect on our identities, how we show up in the workplace, and how we support each other. We must first seek to understand in order to serve. When we seek to understand who we are and who we serve, we can create more opportunities for Black educators to feel safe to show up authentically.

Actions and learning that will support Black educators

Understand in Order to Serve

- We Want to Do More Than Survive: Abolitionist Teaching and the Pursuit of Educational Freedom - Bettina Love
- A Black Women's History of the United States (Revisioning American History) - Daina Ramey Berry and Kali Nicole Gross

Reflect on Who You Are and How you Show Up

- Culturally Responsive Teaching and The Brain: Promoting Authentic Engagement and Rigor Among Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students - Zaretta Hammond

Bring Joy Into Your School

- Unearthing Joy: A Guide to Culturally and Historically Responsive Teaching and Learning - Gholdy Muhammad
- The Light We Carry: Overcoming in Uncertain Times - Michelle Obama

Finally, these actions need to live in what we do 365 days of the year beyond this month.

CTE & INNOVATION

NATIONAL FFA WEEK 2023

Schools from Chicago to Carbondale will celebrate National FFA Week (<https://www.ffa.org/national-ffa-week/>) **Feb. 18-25**. FFA chapters around the country celebrate National FFA Week each year. It's a time to share what FFA is and the impact it has on members every day. FFA is a Career and Technical Student Organization for students enrolled in agricultural education courses. "FFA" originally was an acronym for Future Farmers of America, but the student-led organization changed its official business name in 1989 to simply the "National FFA Organization" to reflect the growing number of careers in agriculture, food, and natural resources. Students will celebrate in many ways, including community service

programs, school activities, theme-days, and other public-awareness events. What better way to show your support of FFA than to get involved in FFA Week? Whether it's in person, on the phone, or via social media, be sure to share your FFA stories during #FFAweek and tag @ISBEnews on Twitter so we can share!

NEW

FINANCE

HALF-DAY TO FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN CONVERSION SY 2023-24

The Evidence-Based Funding (EBF) formula creates an Adequacy Target for each district based on total average student enrollment, English learner enrollment, and the low-income student count. Kindergarten students are assigned a value of 0.5 in the data if they attend a half day and a value of 1.0 if they attend a full day. Per the EBF statute, a school district may inform the State Board of Education of its intent to convert from half-day to full-day kindergarten. Doing so will prompt conversion of all half-day students to appear as full-day students in the fiscal year 2024 EBF calculation data for both average student enrollment and English learner enrollment. The statutory deadline to report the intent to move to full-day kindergarten instruction is **March 1**.

Any school district that wishes to make this change for the 2023-24 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 the resolution was approved. School district staff are asked to submit these documents to sff@isbe.net (mailto:sff@isbe.net). Please contact sff@isbe.net (mailto:sff@isbe.net) or 217-782-0249 if you have any questions.

NEW

ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

STAY CURRENT ON FINANCIAL AID TOPICS FOR YOUR STUDENTS WITH FREE PD

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) offers comprehensive professional development webinars for school staff to assist you in helping students with the financial aid process and staying current on state and federal programs. All sessions are offered at **no cost**, but registration (<https://www.isac.org/pd/webinars.html>) is required. Continuing education credits and professional development hours are offered to participants. For more information about upcoming webinars, visit the ISAC website (<https://www.isac.org/pd/webinars.html>).

PACE SYMPOSIUM

In addition to the online offerings, mark your calendar for ISAC's second annual Illinois Postsecondary and Career Expectations (PaCE) Symposium taking place **in person on Thursday, April 20**, in Springfield. The PaCE Symposium brings together professionals from across Illinois to share and learn about how schools and districts are collaborating and advancing postsecondary and career readiness efforts through the Illinois PaCE Framework. To learn more about the event, visit the Illinois PaCE Symposium page (<https://www.isac.org/pace/Illinois-PaCE-Symposium/index.html>).

Questions? Contact 847-831-8634 or isac.initiatives@illinois.gov (mailto:isac.initiatives@illinois.gov).

SENATE RESOLUTION 774 UPDATE

Senate Resolution 774 (<https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/fulltext.asp?DocName=&SessionId=110&GA=102&DocTypeId=SR&DocNum=774&GAID=16&LegID=138641&SpecSess=&Session=>) passed in the spring

2022 legislative session. The resolution requests that the Performance Evaluation Advisory Committee (PEAC) initiate and complete a research study to examine the implementation of teacher evaluation in Illinois. Specifically, the study will gather feedback on teacher evaluation systems and structures from stakeholders in Illinois and review best practices from other states. Findings from the study will inform a set of policy recommendations that would address any identified challenges while preserving the core benefits of the current evaluation system. This evaluation constitutes the first statewide look at how districts in Illinois implemented the Performance Evaluation Reform Act enacted in 2010 and how the pandemic impacted approaches to teacher evaluation.

ISBE released a Request for Sealed Proposals (RFSP) in summer 2022. Applicants were required to provide evidence of successfully:

- Carrying out statewide evaluations,
- Developing questions with stakeholders,
- Suggesting a methodological approach,
- Showing ability to securely handle data,
- Presenting research to a variety of audiences, as well as
- Sufficient staff capacity and expertise to complete the research and produce the interim and final reports.

The successful applicant from this competitive procurement is American Institutes for Research (AIR). AIR will facilitate conversations with PEAC over the next two months to clarify and finalize the research questions. In May, ISBE will submit the interim report to the General Assembly, including the finalized research questions and data collection approaches. ISBE will submit the final report to the General Assembly no later than June 30, 2024.

SAFE & HEALTHY CLIMATE

HELP ENSURE YOUR FAMILIES DON'T LOSE THEIR HEALTH INSURANCE

Congress made changes to Medicaid to help people and states deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. One change gave states extra federal funding to keep customers enrolled, even if they might no longer be eligible. This “continuous coverage” made sure customers would not lose coverage during the pandemic unless they moved out of state, requested cancellation, or passed away.

As a result of continuous coverage, Medicaid customers have not been asked to update their information for three years. Now, Congress has set an end to continuous coverage.

To help as many people as possible keep their Medicaid coverage, the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services needs updated addresses to send people their renewal forms.

Please help us share this critical information with your families and communities by utilizing this messaging toolkit (<https://www2.illinois.gov/hfs/Pages/AddressUpdateMessagingToolkit.aspx>).

PUBLIC SCHOOLS CARBON-FREE ASSESSMENT – NEW FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

The Energy CLASS (<http://www.herox.com/energy-class>) (Champions Leading the Advancement of Sustainable Schools) Prize is designed to provide training and cash prizes to school district administration and facilities staff to make energy management a sustainable feature of their communities while positioning them to make meaningful infrastructure improvements that will reduce utility cost, improve indoor air quality, and improve learning environments long term. A total of **\$4.5 million** in awards is available, including **\$3.75 million** in cash prizes.

Energy CLASS Prize Office Hours (https://nrel.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJltc-mvrTgqH_YZ6j6L_WvoxapvLF_3SY) will be held at **5 p.m. Feb. 16** to answer any remaining questions about the \$4.5 million prize, including what is required of a full application, eligibility rules, and upcoming deadlines. Submissions are due on **Feb. 28**.

The Public Schools Carbon-Free Assessment (PSCFA) from ComEd is a great opportunity to prepare your districts for your future infrastructure improvements. The PSCFA is a free guide that maps out energy efficiency measures, EV measures, solar, and more!

The no-cost program is designed to help public schools by assisting in energy cost savings and carbon reduction strategies because of Section 8-402.2 of the Illinois Climate and Equitable Jobs Act.

Request your free assessment online at ComEd.com/PSCFA (<http://www.comed.com/PSCFA>), over the phone at 855-433-2700, or via email at BusinessEE@ComEd.com (<mailto:BusinessEE@ComEd.com>).

While this program applies to ComEd customers only, additional information will be available about Ameren Illinois (<https://www.ameren.com/illinois>) PSCFA for Illinois customers in 2023. Stay tuned for more details.

IN BRIEF

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Ed Leaders Network

Ed Leaders Network is offering the following live webinar. Visit the Ed Leaders course library (<https://edleadersnetwork.org/courses/>) to view the entire selection available.

- **3 p.m. Feb. 28:** Application of Walk-Throughs to Schools Focusing on Explicit Instruction Practices (https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_8MoxwtVORj2wWP5CTHsv9w) – Educators all have the same goal — to help students make the maximum possible academic gains in a positive and respectful environment that promotes success and nurtures their desire to learn. In this fifth webinar of six, the participants will gain valuable knowledge from the research and work of Dr. Anita Archer and Dr. Charles Hughes on explicit instruction. Explicit instruction is a structured, systematic, and effective methodology for teaching academic skills. It is considered an unambiguous and direct approach that includes instructional design and delivery procedures.

Illinois Council for the Social Studies Spring Conference

Join the Illinois Council for the Social Studies for its in-person conference at Eastern Illinois University! Teachers, administrators, and curriculum specialists are invited to the Illinois Council for the Social Studies Annual Conference (<https://www.illinoiscss.net/2023-spring-conference.html>) on **Friday, March 31**, at Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, Illinois. With the theme of “Social Studies in Today’s Landscape,” sessions focus on implementation of the TEAACH Act, inquiry-based approaches to social studies, navigating controversial topics in the classroom, religious literacy in the classroom, and more.

EDUCATOR OPPORTUNITIES

Teach Plus Fellowships

Teach Plus is excited to share **four highly selective leadership opportunities** (<https://teachplus.org/il/>) for outstanding teachers looking to expand their influence without leaving the classroom, all of which are now accepting applications for next school year. All of these programs span the 2023-24 school year and offer selected teachers a generous stipend for their time and work.

- Chicago Change Agent Fellowship (https://teachplus.org/regional_programs/instructional-leadership-programs-illinois/)
- K-12 Teaching Policy Fellowship (https://teachplus.org/regional_programs/policy-fellowship-illinois/)
- Early Childhood Educator Policy Fellowship (https://teachplus.org/regional_programs/illinois-early-childhood-educator-policy-fellowship/)
- Affinity Group Facilitator Fellowship (https://teachplus.org/regional_programs/illinois-affinity-group-facilitators/)

For more information, please contact Kimberly Nguyen at knguyen@teachplus.org.

NEW STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

FEMA Seeks Leaders for Youth Preparedness Council

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is accepting applications for the Youth Preparedness Council, a program that brings teens together from across the nation who are interested and engaged in community preparedness. Council members are selected based on their dedication to public service, their efforts in making a difference in their communities, and their potential to expand their impact as national leaders for emergency preparedness. Students in Grades 8-11 are eligible to apply.

Council members will collaborate virtually with each other during their one-year term to develop projects that promote preparedness on a local and national scale. Members will also attend the council summit in July and engage with top leaders within FEMA, the federal government, and national nonprofit organizations.

Youths interested in applying to the council must submit a completed application form and provide two letters of recommendation. All applications and supporting materials must be submitted no later than **1:59 a.m. March 6**. Visit the FEMA website (<https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/individuals-communities/youth-preparedness-council>) to access the application materials, read about the current council members, and find more information about the Youth Preparedness Council. New council members will be announced in June.

Student Leadership Day for Grades 5-6

The Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center's Student Leadership Day engages students in fifth-sixth grades with captivating, world-class Upstander speakers, interactive programs, and the opportunity to create an action plan to take back to their school. Student Leadership Day inspires the change-makers to build leadership skills, explore their role as citizens, and develop a deeper understanding of civil and human rights issues. Students return to their communities with the tools and drive to promote acceptance and understanding. This year's program will highlight the museum's special exhibition, "The Negro Motorist Green Book."

Virtual

Wednesday, March 8 | 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

In Person

Illinois Holocaust Museum

9603 Woods Drive, Skokie, IL 60077

Thursday, March 9 | 9:30 a.m. -2:30 p.m.

Cost

Free!

Nomination deadline

Schools can nominate a maximum of 10 students to participate in Student Leadership Day. The deadline for nominations (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe_uGy_pQwofkkYi9Er_MGMaGHRJVgJwPcxJWsGzPgX8UpIEg/viewform) is **5 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 15**, or when space fills.

National Center for State Courts Annual Civics Education Essay Contest

Each year, the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) invites elementary, middle, and high school students from around the country to enter our civics education essay contest. The contest is designed to promote civics education and deepen students' understanding of U.S. government.

This year's contest will open on **Wednesday, February 22**. Visit [ncsc.org/contest](https://www.ncsc.org/contest) (<https://www.ncsc.org/education-and-careers/civics-education/contest>) to discover this year's essay questions/prompts, entry guidelines, promotional materials and more. Essays will be accepted online through **11 p.m. Wednesday, March 22**. Winners will be announced on May 1.

Please contact Molly Justice (<mailto:mjustice@ncsc.org>) for additional information.

FEATURED ISBE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

- Program Monitor (</Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=790>)

View all open positions at ISBE. (</Pages/Careers-at-ISBE.aspx>)