

February 21, 2024

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Dear Colleagues:

I hope you will join me for my next fireside chat at **3 p.m. on March 4**, featuring Academy Award-winning actress and founder of MindUP (<https://mindup.org/>), Goldie Hawn. The first question I receive when people see that Goldie will be joining me is “How did you get Goldie Hawn!??” That is a question I will answer in detail during this one-time-only event. I will share now that my friendship with Goldie came about because of her MindUP program, which provides children with the tools and

knowledge they need to manage stress and regulate their emotions. As Goldie began rolling it out in schools, she discovered that MindUP had benefits for the adults in the room too. Its four pillars – neuroscience, SEL, positive psychology, and mindful awareness – explain how the brain affects behavior. The training equips children (and adults) to better understand themselves, empathize with others, and increase optimism and prosocial behavior.

Goldie has been a dancer, an actor, producer, and director, but it’s her program for children that earned her a 2023 Woman of the Year selection from USA Today. She invited a team of experts to create this curriculum for students ages 3 and beyond. Since launching MindUP 20 years ago, the program has reached close to 7 million children and trained 175,000 teachers in 14 countries around the world.

MindUP teaches children how to focus their attention, use brain breaks as a means to manage stress, act with empathy, and build resilience in the face of challenge. I don’t know about you, but those are all skills that I need an occasional refresher course on too.

Now, Illinois school district superintendents, school principals, special education cooperative directors, and lawmakers will get to learn from her like I did. This is a special event just for Illinois school administrators and lawmakers, so check your email for a registration link.

I received so much positive feedback about my last fireside chat with Simon Sinek. I hope you will get just as much out of this conversation with Goldie Hawn. See you there!

Pictured: Career and Technical Education (CTE) students showcased their passion and knowledge as they presented to the Illinois State Board of Education during CTE Month.

All my best,

Tony

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. 23	Deadline to apply for National Board Certified Teacher Intent to Mentor (https://nbrtc.illinoisstate.edu/mentor/)
Feb. 23	Webinar: IPA Power Hour on Public Schools
Feb. 26	FY 2025 CTE State Funding Webinar (https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3119190680286416221)
Feb. 27	2025-28 Perkins CTE State Plan Overview and Performance Measures Webinar (https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5455548435525438040)
Feb. 27	Assessing the Essential Skills in the Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources Pathway (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdrEHafQsDRCIWkSyKYpSgeNFTS6FHCWtEKLLykdgxuumWA/viewform)
Feb. 28	Illinois Comprehensive Literacy Plan Office Hours
Feb. 29	Deadline to submit FY 2025 Early Childhood Regional Community Systems Development for Illinois Request for Proposal (https://www.bidbuy.illinois.gov/bso/external/bidDetail.sdo?docId=24-586SBE-CHFED-B-40066&external=true&parentUrl=close)
Mar. 1	Deadline to report the intent to move from half-day to full-day kindergarten instruction in school year 2024-25 to sff@isbe.net (mailto:sff@isbe.net)
Mar. 1	Deadline to register for free suicide prevention training from Illinois Department of Public Health (https://www.isbe.net/NSDocuments/SP-Trainings-AMSR-QPR-2024.pdf)
Mar. 1-2	Illinois Teacher Leadership Summit (https://sites.google.com/view/ilteacherleadershipsummit/home)
Mar. 3-9	School Social Work Week (https://www.sswaa.org/school-social-work-week)
Mar. 5	ACCESS testing ends (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/AccessforELL.aspx)
Mar. 6	McKinney-Vento Homelessness Liaison Conference
Mar. 6	Discipline Dialogues Webinar Series: Being Better to Make Our Schools Better (https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2385635004034930013)
Mar. 6	Illinois Comprehensive Literacy Plan Office Hours
Mar. 9	Illinois Resource Center Job Fair for ESL, Bilingual, & Dual Language Teachers, Aides, & Administrators (https://irc.thecenterweb.org/events/irc-job-fair)
Mar. 11-15	42nd annual Illinois Arts Education Week (https://www.isbe.net/artcontest)
Mar. 13	Webinar: Out-of-School Time After ESSER: Blending and Braiding Funding
Mar. 14-15	2024 WELL Summit (https://ilprincipals.org/well-summit/)
Mar. 14	Illinois Comprehensive Literacy Plan Office Hours
Mar. 15	Deadline to submit nominations for the INSPIRA Distinguished Service Celebration (https://www.inspra.org/dsc)
Mar. 15	Deadline to apply for the 2024 NLGA Lt. Governors' STEM Scholarship Program (https://nlga.us/strategies/nlga-state-strategies-in-stem/nlga-lt-governors-stem-scholarship-program/)

Mar. 19	Illinois Comprehensive Literacy Plan Office Hours
Mar. 22	Deadline to enter the 2024 National Center for State Courts essay contest (https://www.ncsc.org/education-and-careers/civics/contest)
Mar. 27	Illinois Comprehensive Literacy Plan Office Hours
Mar. 29	Deadline to apply for NBCT incentive grant (https://nbrc.illinoisstate.edu/4k-incentive/)
Mar. 29	2023-24 5Essentials Survey administration window closes (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/5Essentials-Survey.aspx)
Apr. 13	Argonne National Laboratory's Middle School Electric Car Competition (https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDOEANL/bulletins/388d532)
Apr. 22-23	2024 Illinois Association of Title I Directors Conference (https://www.eventbrite.com/e/iatd-spring-2024-conference-tickets-781622091717?aff=oddtcreator)
Apr. 30	Deadline to apply for School Food System Transformation Challenge Grants (https://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/hmi/school-food-system-transformation-challenge)
May 18	Those Who Excel & Teacher of the Year Awards Banquet
May 31	Deadline to apply for the High-Quality CTE for all Students Summer 2024 Cohort (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfkZw0fQlbXlcLo0-f0txG168zfBJ8pifdm_3R2FBZgLZBtUg/viewform)
June 15	Deadline to submit nominations for School Social Worker of the Year and Citizen of the Year
June 18	ISBE Career Connections Conference (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Career-Connections-Conference.aspx)
Sep. 30	ARP ESSER III Grant Programs End

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=hv5kA8ZJ9Eq1LDNameV30Ufi4KgH87ICv6FRRQl8cvlUNTdHWktDS1NJWjJZVDFaQ09RVINCUVdMRi4u>) how you are investing federal relief funds to help students recover.

id=hv5kA8ZJ9Eq1LDNameV30Ufi4KgH87ICv6FRRQl8cvlUNTdHWktDS1NJWjJZVDFaQ09RVINCUVdMRi4u) how you are investing federal relief funds to help students recover.

WEBINAR: OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME (OST) AFTER ESSER: BLENDING AND BRAIDING FUNDING

Join ACT Now for the third installment of its webinar series, OST After ESSER: Blending and Braiding Funds (<https://actnowillinois-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0sdO6gqD0tGtAXrt3afSM4wcdLBJ5lQB8G#/registration>), at **10 a.m.**

March 13 The webinar will address various methods of sustaining programs that were established or expanded using Elementary and Second School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds via blending and braiding strategies, including the importance of diversifying a funding portfolio and how to manage a budget while being mindful of funding restrictions.

UNEARTHING JOY: ILLINOIS AFFINITY GROUP FACILITATORS EXPLORE CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE TEACHING PRACTICES

The Illinois Affinity Group Network Facilitators (<https://teachplus.org/illinois-affinity-groups/>) lead 37 affinity groups across the state to support educators in navigating and improving their school environments.

During the network's last collaborative gathering, facilitators explored the transformative power of culturally responsive teaching practices, which are rooted in five educational pursuits: identity, skills, intellect, criticality, and joy. These pursuits emphasize the importance of centering histories, identities, and liberation in teaching and learning, fostering the genius present in every student.

As the event concluded, participants shared the profound impact of their time together -- feelings of invigoration, inspiration, and warmth, coupled with a renewed sense of purpose and actionable insights to apply in their classrooms and affinity groups. Beyond the pedagogical insights gained, these sessions provide a vital space for finding community and support, contributing to the retention of educators of color.

If you know educators of color who would benefit from joining this supportive community, please share this information with them. The Illinois Affinity Group Facilitators Network provides a space for educators of color to build community, address current issues, and make recommendations for positive change. Interested in learning more or inviting your teachers to sign up to participate in an affinity group? Visit TeachPlus Illinois' Affinity Group website (<https://teachplus.org/illinois-affinity-groups/>).

NEW

2024 ILLINOIS TEACHER OF THE YEAR COHORT

ISBE announced the members of the 2024 Illinois Teacher of the Year Cohort, including the 13 Finalists for 2024 Illinois State Teacher of the Year. 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 cohort members in the Weekly Message each week leading up to the announcement of the 2024 Illinois State Teacher of the Year this spring. Congratulations to all this year's extraordinary awardees!

AMY MOORE

Cook County Co-Regional Teacher of the Year
Township High School, Evanston Township High School District 202

Amy Moore, an enthusiastic filmmaking educator and sponsor of the Filmmakers Club at Evanston Township High School in Evanston Township High School District 202, arrived almost a decade ago to fulfill a request to establish a film production course sequence to give students the opportunity to use their creative voices through film. The program has expanded, and she has guided hundreds of students in the creation of thousands of documentaries, live-action, experimental, and animated films.

At the ETHS Film Fest and other venues, her students' cinematic works have been screened locally and nationally, with her alumni studying at film schools across the country. Prior to joining ETHS, Ms. Moore taught for 15 years at Senn Arts and Lane Tech High Schools in Chicago. During this time, she received the National College Board Award for Excellence and Innovation in the Arts and was awarded Illinois High School Art Educator of the Year. She founded Students Without Borders Clubs at all three high schools, supporting immigrant, undocumented, and refugee students through resources, scholarships, and actively countering anti-immigrant sentiment. Ms. Moore's vision for the future involves collaborating with teachers at ETHS to ensure equitable access to technology, art, and self-expression for students with disabilities. She seeks to cultivate a welcoming environment for Evanston's diverse refugee and multilingual student community and provide platforms for their stories through documentary film, photography, and writing.

Ms. Moore believes that students can use film to amplify their voices and engage the hearts and minds of their communities and the world.

DILLIN RANDOLPH

Cook County Co-Regional Teacher of the Year
Niles West High School, Niles Township High School District 219

Dillin Randolph is an antiracist English teacher currently teaching at Niles West High School in Niles Township High School District 219, where he's known for enthusiasm and empathy. With a passion for dismantling racial inequalities and fostering a genuine love for literature and writing in his students, Mr. Randolph is dedicated to helping students "read the word" and "read the world."

In his role, Mr. Randolph teaches a range of English courses, from freshman and sophomore English to senior-level classes in film analysis. His passion for fostering a genuine love for literature and writing in his students inspired him to create a course called Stories of the African Diaspora, as well as a unit of study that allows students to explore narratives from diverse voices and then write and present essays about their own transformative experiences. With the literary classic Lord of the Flies, Mr. Randolph has students stage a trial to decide whether the boys in the book should be found guilty for their behavior.

His commitment to antiracism in education is further evident through his involvement with the NCTE Committee Against Racism & Bias in the Teaching of English. His goal as a teacher revolves around giving students the space to amplify their voices in an educational system that often stifles them. He encourages his students to explore their own identities, examine history critically, and envision themselves as catalysts for change. By instilling a deep sense of responsibility and curiosity, Dillin believes his students can make meaningful contributions to society and challenge the status quo.

Mr. Randolph also established a girls' wrestling team at his school, coaching with empathy and an understanding of the importance of providing a safe and supportive environment for young women.

NEW

COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS

FY 2025 CTE STATE FUNDING WEBINAR

ISBE is hosting a webinar 🗓️ (<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3119190680286416221>) at **1 p.m. Feb 26** about the new allocation methodology for the distribution of Career and Technical Education (CTE) state funding and information about the next steps for CTE system directors and school and district leaders.

CTE PROFESSIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

February is CTE Month, during which we celebrate the accomplishments of CTE programs and the importance of CTE for all students of all ages. CTE programs provide instruction for careers in high-wage, high-skill, and in-demand occupations. CTE programs continue to strengthen students' technical skills; articulate their transitions to postsecondary programs, employment, or both; help them meet the Illinois Learning Standards; and close achievement gaps.

We hope you will join us **Feb. 27** for Assessing the Essential Skills in the Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources Pathway (<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdrEHafQsDRCIWkSyKYpSgeNFTS6FHCWtEKLLykdgxeemumWA/viewform>), hosted by ISBE and the Northern Illinois University CTE Project.


All sessions are open to all Illinois educators; most of the sessions are free. Participants who complete workshops will earn Illinois professional development hours or, when applicable, Administrator Academy credit (based on the workshop and one's position). Check out the full (and growing!) ISBE CTE professional development calendar (https://docs.google.com/document/d/1g-ZK7AXuktKd3DVe4ka5QM8_vF9QKzpifK85qGE75Gk/edit), including those that are being offered this summer.

HIGH QUALITY CTE FOR ALL STUDENTS COURSE

The NIU Illinois CTE Project team, in collaboration with ISBE, designed an online asynchronous course for CTE educators that is offered three times a year. "High-Quality CTE for all Students" is a course designed to introduce educators to student-centered diversity, equity, and inclusion topics. The course offers CTE educators the opportunity to learn strategies to eliminate barriers, promote inclusion in the classroom, and improve student outcomes so that all students are successful.

The course also offers rich discussions with colleagues to further learn about and understand course topics. Register for the summer 2024 cohort (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfkZw0fQlbXlcLo0-f0txG168zfBJ8pifdm_3R2FBZgLZBTUg/viewform) by **May 31**.

2025-28 PERKINS CTE STATE PLAN OVERVIEW AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES WEBINAR

Join us for the 2025-28 Perkins CTE State Plan Overview and Performance Measures Webinar  (<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5455548435525438040>) at **10:30 a.m. Feb 27** for an overview of revisions to the CTE State Plan (/Pages/perkinsv.aspx) and the new performance measures that will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Education on May 10.




2024 CAREER CONNECTIONS CONFERENCE

ISBE's Career Connections Conference is a premier event that offers collaboration, innovation, and inspiration to educators throughout Illinois. The 2024 conference will be held on **June 18** at Tinley Park Convention Center. At Career Connections, educators come together to exchange ideas, share best practices, and foster meaningful connections with their peers. It is a space where the CTE community can engage in discussions and networking that enhance the quality of education and help to best prepare our students for successful futures.

We hope you will join hundreds of your fellow educators from across Illinois as they engage in a variety of breakout sessions and learn directly from an expert industry panel. Participants at last year's Career Connection Conference stated that the breakout sessions were timely and relevant. Participants appreciated the discussion with colleagues and the opportunity to network. This year will build on last year's success!

Register now for the 2024 Career Connections Conference. Early bird and group rates are available.


ILLINOIS HIGH SCHOOL 2 CAREER NOW AVAILABLE IN ARABIC

ISBE, the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES), and the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) are pleased to announce that the Illinois High School 2 Career (<https://www.ilhighschool2career.com/>) tool and tutorial videos are now available in English  (https://youtu.be/9eTg_Ag_sSA), Spanish  (<https://youtu.be/w07fQMUBm3k>), and Arabic  (<https://youtu.be/GYlehLkOAQo>). Illinois High School 2 Career is an interactive career exploration tool that helps students make informed decisions about life after high school. ISBE developed the tool in partnership with IDES and ISAC. It displays information gathered from actual Illinois students over an eight-year period and provides a snapshot of the education required, compensation, and job stability a student can expect in hundreds of different occupations. It allows students to filter the information by various characteristics to find the pathways most relevant to them. ISBE encourages guidance counselors, educators, and parents to explore the tool with their students.

NEW

SPECIAL EDUCATION

SCHOOL-TO-WORK TRANSITION GUIDE NOW AVAILABLE

The School-to-Work Transition Guide  (<https://ictw.illinois.edu/docs/librariesprovider25/transition-guide/school-to-work-transition-guide---web.pdf>) was recently released for Illinois students with disabilities who are transitioning from school to work. The publication provides up-to-date information that will be highly valuable to students, parents and guardians, teachers, school administrators, guidance and vocational rehabilitation counselors, and other school-based and adult-services providers.

The Illinois-specific information in the guide is geared toward key individuals and their roles and responsibilities. Readers of the guide will discover important steps and stages in the school-to-work transition process, as well as helpful guidelines and resources. The publication also contains helpful legal information and key terms and definitions.

The School-to-Work Transition Guide was created by the Illinois Transition Study group in conjunction with the Illinois Center for Transition and Work at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, ISBE, and the Division of Rehabilitation Services in the Illinois Department of Human Services. This definitive, user-friendly publication was crafted through the expert knowledge of personnel at these organizations and special education teachers and vocational rehabilitation counselors.

NEW

TEACHING & LEARNING

ILLINOIS COMPREHENSIVE LITERACY PLAN OFFICE HOURS

We are thrilled to announce the introduction of Office Hours for the Illinois Comprehensive Literacy Plan. This opportunity aims to provide you with a direct line to the ISBE literacy team, offering a platform for questions or discussions about the literacy plan.

Office Hours will be available on a weekly basis. The time will be freely structured with no planned presentation. Participants are encouraged to join at any time during the hour and stay as long as needed. Whether you have specific inquiries or are looking for further clarification on any part of the plan, the ISBE literacy team is here to assist. We believe this will be a valuable opportunity for you to engage with us more closely and enhance your understanding of the plan. Please consider joining us at our next Literacy Plan Office Hours.

Please note the schedule for upcoming sessions:

- **3-4 p.m. Feb. 28**
- **Noon-1 p.m. March 6**
- **3-4 p.m. March 14**
- **Noon-1 p.m. March 19**
- **3-4 p.m. March 27**

Thank you for your continued commitment to improving literacy. We look forward to engaging with you during these sessions and are excited to support you in any way we can.

FY 2024 DISTRICT TECHNOLOGY SURVEY

The fiscal year 2024 Illinois School District Technology Survey was developed by the Learning Technology Center in collaboration with the Illinois State Board of Education and is administered in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/10-20.74 (<https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/fulltext.asp?DocName=010500050K10-20.74>).

The goal of the survey is to provide a snapshot of the current state of Illinois school districts related to key aspects of technology in K-12 education. Topics include digital learning resources, digital curriculum and instruction, home and district connectivity, devices and network equipment, data privacy and cybersecurity, and professional learning and support.

The superintendent or their designee within each school district should complete the survey. Some questions involve technology infrastructure or instructional practices, and survey participants are encouraged to collaborate with other leadership team members to complete questions accurately.

This year the technology survey is being administered through IWAS. Click "System Listings," "Surveys," then "FY 2024 Technology Survey." If you do not have access to this, you'll need to request access for it in the Signup for Other Systems Menu.

Please contact egrauke@isbe.net (mailto:egrauke@isbe.net) or support@itcillinois.org (mailto:support@itcillinois.org) for questions about the FY 2024 Illinois School District Technology Survey.

NEW

WELLNESS


SY 2024-25 SCHOOL-BASED MENTAL HEALTH PROJECT GRANTS

Schools that are expanding their mental health support services for the 2024-25 school year by hiring a school counselor, social worker, or psychologist may qualify for \$25,000 to offset the cost of such a position. Schools across the state are encouraged to apply. If you meet the poverty threshold for a school in your district (60 percent for elementary and 45 percent for non-elementary), you are invited to complete the application and submit it by March 1. The application takes less than 10 minutes to complete. Additional information can be found on the Stress and Trauma Treatment Center website (<https://stressandtrauma.org/>). Please direct any questions to Dr. Matt Buckman (<mailto:dmattbuckman@stressandtrauma.org>) or Dr. Martha Weld (<mailto:marthaweld@roe40.com>).

2023-24 5ESSENTIALS SURVEY


The 2023-24 5Essentials Survey window is open until **March 29**. Participation in this or an approved alternate survey is required annually. Student participation in the survey is among non-academic indicators used to determine summative designations (</Pages/Summative-Designations.aspx>) for accountability.

A 5Essentials student and teacher report will be generated if a school meets the minimum thresholds of a 50% response rate and at least eight teacher and 10 student respondents. A parent report will be generated if a school meets the minimum thresholds of a 20% response rate and at least eight parent respondents.

Please remember that participation in the survey is voluntary. Neither school nor district personnel should require survey participation or proof of survey completion. Doing so is a violation of the Survey Ethical Code of Conduct  (</Documents/Survey-Admin-Ethical-Code-of-Conduct.pdf>).


Please reach out to 5essentials@isbe.net (<mailto:5essentials@isbe.net>) if you have any additional questions.

DISCIPLINE DIALOGUES WEBINAR SERIES

ISBE's "Discipline Dialogues" webinar series covers a range of topics related to school discipline, such as best discipline practices, resources, implementing plans, etc. Join us for the next session, Being Better to Make Our Schools Better  (<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2385635004034930013>), from **10-11 a.m. March 6**.

NURSES EXPANDING THEIR ROLE ON THE TEAM FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION

Who performs medical reviews for your students? ISBE is sponsoring an online course – "RN's in Schools – Expanding Your Special Education Role" -- for nurses who meet minimum education requirements (bachelor's degree in nursing, education, or a related field).

- Districts and special education cooperatives may request a non-PEL RN to complete this course to comply with special education rule 226.160. To meet compliance with this rule, complete the Non-PEL IEP Designee Administrator Checklist  (</Documents/Non-PEL-IEP-Designee-Admin-Checklist.pdf>) and retain it at the local level.
- Nurses who have worked with a district before October 2023 may coordinate with district administrators or special education cooperatives to request participation in the course, which will run **April 10-May 21**.
- ISBE intends to offer courses each semester next school year.
- A limited number of seats are available for this asynchronous course. Participation is best for individuals who have worked in a school setting for less than a year. Participants in previous courses report allowing 10-12 hours per week to meet all course commitments, with it necessary to be online every day or two.
- Once the request is received, you will get a confirmation email from Rebecca Doran, who is an ISBE school nurse consultant, to provide details for next steps.

Contact ISBE's school nurse consultants at schoolnurse@isbe.net (<mailto:schoolnurse@isbe.net>) if you have questions.

FINANCE

LATE LIQUIDATION EXTENSION REQUEST FOR ARP IDEA PART B FUNDS

The deadline to obligate American Rescue Plan (ARP) Part B Flow-Through (4998 ID), ARP Coordinated Early Intervening Services (4998 CE), or ARP IDEA Preschool (4998 PS) funds was Sept. 30, 2023, and the deadline to liquidate funds was Jan. 28, 2024. If funds were properly obligated by Sept. 30, 2023, the Office of Special Education Programs can approve Phase I Late Liquidation extension requests. Each grantee must submit a written request, in accordance with 2 CFR § 200.344(b), to ISBE based upon specific obligation facts and circumstances.

On behalf of grantees, ISBE may request an extension of up to 14 months beyond the automatic 120-day liquidation period, which would extend the liquidation period through March 31, 2025. Additional information regarding these processes, as well as what documentation that ISBE will require from districts, will be announced in early March.

SY 2024-25 EBF FUNDING: HALF-DAY TO FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN CONVERSION

The Evidence-Based Funding (EBF) formula creates an Adequacy Target for each district based on total average student enrollment, English learner enrollment, and 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 FY 2025 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 2024-25 school year must email ISBE (mailto:sff@isbe.net) 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. If you have questions, contact sff@isbe.net (mailto:sff@isbe.net) or 217-782-0249.

IN BRIEF

EDUCATOR OPPORTUNITIES

2024 NLGA Lt. Governors' STEM Scholarship Program

Lieutenant Governor Juliana Stratton invites Illinois schools (preK – 12th grade public or registered private schools) to apply for the third annual National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA) Lt. Governors' STEM Scholarship Program. NLGA will award up to \$1,000 to 12 schools in 12 states and territories to support STEM-related programming, projects, equipment, curriculum, and other endeavors. Applications for the scholarships (<https://nlga.us/strategies/nlga-state-strategies-in-stem/nlga-lt-governors-stem-scholarship-program/>) should be submitted by a teacher or project supervisor for STEM-related expenses by **March 15**.

Being a Literacy Leader: Understanding the Illinois Comprehensive Literacy Plan (High School)

The state of Illinois has a new comprehensive literacy plan. What does this mean for school leaders? Ed Leaders Network will host a webinar at **3 p.m. Feb. 27** to give administrators the information they need to understand what is in the Illinois Comprehensive Literacy Plan and help them identify the key leadership moves they may need to make to lead the literacy work in their schools. Register for "Being a Literacy Leader: Understanding the Illinois Comprehensive Literacy Plan (High School)" on the Ed Leaders Network website.

Teaching American History & Civics for Empowered Citizenship

Join the Chicago-Kent College of Law Constitutional Democracy Project for an exciting professional development opportunity (**June 10-14 in Chicago and July 22-26 in Springfield**) to empower educators in Illinois, particularly those serving in underserved communities, and prospective teachers with dynamic and inclusive resources on American government, history, and civic engagement. They provide the tools and knowledge to not only meet but exceed Illinois'

inclusive history and civics instruction requirements. Register for Teaching American History & Civics for Empowered Citizenship on the Constitutional Democracy Project webpage (<https://constitutionaldemocracyproject.org/whatwedo/professional-development/teaching-american-history-civics-for-empowered-citizenship.html>).

EDUCATOR RECOGNITION

School Social Work Week is March 3-9

The School Social Work Association of America is sharing resources to help schools celebrate and promote School Social Work Week (<https://www.sswaa.org/school-social-work-week>), **March 3-9!** We hope you and your staff will make some great plans to celebrate your School Social Worker, as well as provide much-deserved recognition for the vital role that they provide your students, administrators, teachers, educators, parents, and school community.

School Social Worker of the Year and Citizen of the Year Nominations

Each year, the Illinois Association of School Social Workers recognizes an outstanding School Social Worker and Citizen who has positively impacted children and the community. Consider nominating that special school social worker who has started new programs, incorporated innovative techniques into their practice, and has gone above and beyond an already overwhelming job description. What about that special parent, community leader, agency worker, volunteer, teacher, or administrator who has enhanced the lives of Illinois school children? Nominations for School Social Worker of the Year and Citizen of the Year

(https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeSDxKyYCvngSQqhqz6hirBcQwixwWqm6GETGhQ_3E8xF5Lzg/viewform?pli=1) are due by **June 15**.

INSPPRA Distinguished Service Celebration

The Illinois Chapter of the National School Public Relations Association (INSPPRA) is accepting nominations for its annual Distinguished Service Celebration. What better way to celebrate National School Communicators Day (May 10) than by recognizing individuals and groups throughout the state who partner with the school communications office and serve as ambassadors for public education and champions of students and staff? Learn more about the nomination categories, criteria, and process on the INSPPRA website (<https://www.inspra.org/dsc>). The deadline for nominations is **March 15**.

FEATURED ISBE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

- Executive Director of Specialized Instruction (Executive Director #1861) (/Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=934)
- CTE Specialist (Principal Consultant #1694) (/Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=931)
- Program Monitor (Principal Consultant #1349) (/Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=932)
- Administrative Support (Program Specialist II #425) (/Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=933)

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