

ISBE'S WEEKLY MESSAGE

March 21, 2023

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Dear Colleagues:

Illinois educators have a lot to be proud of. According to U.S. News & World Report, our state ranks (<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/rankings/education>) #6 in the nation for prek-12 education. Six Illinois districts are among the top 20 public school districts (<https://patch.com/illinois/across-il/2-illinois-school-districts-are-americas-best-niche-rankings-reveal>) in the nation, including claiming the top two spots. Last year, the National Assessment of Educational Progress (aka “The Nation’s Report Card”) showed that our students scored above the national average in both reading and math for Grades 4 and 8, while many other states saw declines. And we rank #11 for youth mental health.

So why does Illinois have an average proficiency rate of 30.1%? What does that mean?

Illinois has the most rigorous standards in the nation. Each state measures “proficiency” differently. It’s like comparing homeruns across ballparks with vastly different outfields or comparing someone’s mile time on a flat track versus mountain terrain.

Being “proficient” in Illinois requires much more than reading on grade level. Our standards include a depth and breadth of higher order language arts skills, including writing, logic, critical thinking, and analysis. Out of five levels, only the top two count as “proficient” in Illinois. These high standards guide us to ensure our students are truly ready for rigorous content at the next grade level.

School context also matters. National research shows that schools’ proficiency rates strongly correlate to the income levels of the families they serve. The schools that serve historically under-resourced communities, students in alternative schools, and high numbers of English Learners (who take these federally required accountability assessments in English, even though they have not yet mastered the language) have a steeper hill to climb to reach “proficiency” but are often achieving incredible things, as measured by graduation rates, the Seal of Biliteracy, participation in Advanced Placement, and other indicators.

That does not mean each school does not have room to grow. And we are growing. During the pandemic, the starting line got moved back significantly, but last school year, Illinois schools experienced accelerated growth, meaning they learned more and faster than in a typical pre-pandemic year. They may not have crossed that “finish line” into proficiency, but they made enormous progress given where they started.

As lawmakers are developing the fiscal year 2024 budget, we are advocating for funding to continue accelerating students’ growth and closing gaps: funding to expand high-quality preschool programs, so all children have access to the opportunities they need to be prepared for kindergarten, investments in Evidence-Based Funding to address historic inequities, and grants for districts with chronic teacher shortages. We are administering high-impact tutoring statewide to get students back on track from the pandemic. And last but not least, we are supporting the educators who show up every day to help our students succeed.

I encourage all schools to take this opportunity to share your story behind the data. The people pushing a narrative of failure are not connected to the reality within our schools. We have the opportunity in sharing our stories to do what we do best – to educate.

Pictured: Ten students from Illinois Valley Central Unit School District 321 recently participated in a career exploration activity at Illinois Central College to gain a variety of hands-on experiences. These young women, who are eager to pursue careers in the health field, will be in the Certified Nursing Assistant program next school year.

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>).

Mar. 22	Deadline to enter the National Center for State Courts Annual Civics Education Essay Contest (https://www.ncsc.org/education-and-careers/civics-education/contest)
Mar. 22	Deadline to enter the National Center for State Courts Annual Civics Education Essay Contest (https://www.ncsc.org/education-and-careers/civics-education/contest)
Mar. 31	SY 2022-23 5Essentials/School Climate Survey administration window closes
Mar. 31	Illinois Council for the Social Studies Annual Conference (https://www.illinoiscss.net/2023-spring-conference.html)
Apr. 11	CTE professional development webinar: ISBE CTE and Equity Promising Practices Series - Equity in Internships & Apprenticeships (https://niu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6XvbJLJ8xSLFcoe)
Apr. 12	Informational webinar: National Board Certification (https://forms.illinoisstate.edu/forms/learn_about_national_board_certification_for_illinois_teachers_spring_2023)
Apr. 13	CTE professional development webinar: Teaching and Assessing the Essential Skills - Entrepreneurial Skills (https://niu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cZ9Bqw1qCvQgerk)
Apr. 18	CTE professional development webinar: Authentic Learning and Problem-Based Learning (https://niu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_24gsL4iZ3dDI7jo)
Apr. 19	ISBE Board meeting
Apr. 19	CTE professional development webinar: Forming Relationships with Community and Business Partners - Administrator Academy (https://niu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_24gsL4iZ3dDI7jo)

Apr. 19	Illinois Association of School Business Officials Lunch and Learn Webinar: Guide to Braiding & Blending Federal Funds (https://my.iasbo.org/event-information?id=a0l4w00000EV9XbAAL)
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#FoalId06985843-f32c-494e-880a-cb5db6d787a4)
Apr. 25	CTE professional development webinar: ISBE CTE and Illinois MTSS Network - Differentiation for All Students (https://niu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_7Pwf5s5c5wqWbNs)
May 4	Informational webinar: National Board Certification (https://forms.illinoisstate.edu/forms/learn_about_national_board_certification_for_illinois_teachers_spring_2023)
May 5	Survey for science educators closes (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSePQ5JUYUy-YMnw2xdJB_21strE8rvrYRNrL4BbRnnpPhljSw/viewform)
May 10	National Board Certification state spring subsidy window closes (https://nbrc.illinoisstate.edu/firsttime/index.php)
Jun. 13-15	Illinois New Teacher Collaborative 2023 Summer Conference Series (https://emails.illinois.edu/newsletter/37/1612142237.html)
Jun. 20-21	IncludED Conference (https://www.ltcillinois.org/included/)

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=hv5kA8ZJ9Eq1LDNameV30Ufi4KgH87ICv6FRRQI8cviUNTdHWktDS1NJWjJZVDFaQ09RVINCUVdMRI4u>) how you are investing federal relief funds to help students recover.

SURVEY FOR SCHOOL LEADERS: UNDERSTANDING LEARNING RENEWAL BEST PRACTICES

The Illinois Workforce and Education Research Collaborative (<https://dpi.uillinois.edu/applied-research/iwerc/>) (IWERC), a research unit at the University of Illinois, invites school and district leaders to fill out a survey (https://uic.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_etbYYGxCQ0oBqPs) to tell us about your strategies for learning renewal in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. We want to highlight your hard work and contribute to the improvement of student learning by showcasing those practices that are most successful in the effort to improve learning recovery. It will take about 20 minutes to complete the survey, and your results will be collected and analyzed by IWERC. Survey responses will be used to inform how we improve student renewal in Illinois. Questions? Email Dr. Marianna Barragan Torres at marianab@uillinois.edu (<mailto:marianab@uillinois.edu>). Fill out the survey here (https://uic.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_etbYYGxCQ0oBqPs).

GUIDE TO BRAIDING AND BLENDING FEDERAL FUNDS

ISBE is pleased to partner with the Region 9 Comprehensive Center and share a new resource to support school districts in delivering cohesive programming through the coordinated use of federal, state, and local funds: *Braiding and Blending Federal Funds: A Step-by-Step Guide for Illinois Schools* 📄 ([/Documents/Illinois-Braid-Blend-Guide-508.pdf](#)). The guide includes an overview of braiding and blending concepts and provides state-specific guidelines, planning tools, and other helpful resources. In addition to scenarios provided by ISBE staff, the guide includes examples from three Illinois school districts. We are grateful to staff at Joliet Township High School District 204, Danville Community Consolidated School District 118, and Harvard Community Unit School District 50 for sharing strong examples that demonstrate the coordination of financial resources to support student programs. This guide can be used as districts prepare to fill out the fiscal year 2024 Consolidated District Plan and consider strategies for sustaining successful programs beyond the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds obligation window.

Additionally, ISBE will lead an IASBO Lunch and Learn webinar (<https://my.iasbo.org/event-information?id=a0l4w00000EV9XbAAL>) from **noon-1 p.m. April 19**. The webinar will begin with an overview of the guide and include a panel discussion with staff from the three districts that provided examples. Please note that you may need to create a free IASBO account to register. You will see a link to create an account, if needed.

ROAD2RECOVERY CAMPAIGN PUTS A SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHER MENTORING

The *Road2Recovery* campaign, marking the second anniversary of the American Rescue Plan, continues to elevate the people participating in the state-led Learning Renewal initiatives. ISBE used federal relief funds to partner with the Illinois Education Association and the Illinois Federation of Teachers on the Illinois Virtual Instructional Coach and Building Mentor Program ([/Pages/Illinois-Virtual-Instructional-Coach-Building-Mentor-Program.aspx](#)). The program is currently pairing 1,365 first-, second-, and third-year teachers and clinicians with mentors in their building and virtual instructional coaches to help guide them through these unique years of teaching. Districts that are interested in participating in the program can fill out a short survey which is available on the ISBE website ([/Pages/Illinois-Virtual-Instructional-Coach-Building-Mentor-Program.aspx](#)).

Hear more from the people that are part of ISBE's Learning Renewal initiatives by following the #Road2Recovery on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/IllinoisStateBoardofEducation>) and Twitter (<https://twitter.com/ISBEnews>). We invite districts to share your stories of recovery by emailing Lindsay Record at lrecord@isbe.net (<mailto:lrecord@isbe.net>).

MINDFULNESS MONDAYS ARE ONE OF MANY WAYS AREA 5 SEL HUB IS SUPPORTING SCHOOLS

Many schools that have completed a trauma needs assessment are identifying the need to strengthen staff self-care. That's where the Area 5 Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) Hub comes in. Matt Weld, the SEL coach for the region, offers Mindfulness Mondays, where educators are invited to learn and practice self-care strategies, including breathwork, meditation, mindfulness, intention, and yoga. The series provides educators with space and time to learn strategies and skills that can help them not only better manage stress but also translate into the classroom as strategies to support students. Mindfulness Mondays are just one of many ways that the hub is supporting educators.

The hub offers frequent professional learning opportunities — over 600 workshops attended by over 6,800 people in just the last six months — on topics covering physical self-care practice, psychological practice, time management, stress management, what SEL is and how to interweave it into lessons at school, and trauma-informed basics. The hub supports the Teachers' Classroom podcast (<https://www.teachillinois.com/podcast>), which has dedicated its third season to conversations pertaining to mental health, equity, and trauma. Last month, the hub brought in some big-name presenters for a conference dubbed PEP Con (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd7PZT-qVgbMn_u_udMf2UXH9-VN94Oc5x-

z1NyySfjIXINmw/viewform), or the Positivity, Energy, Purpose Conference. PEP Con is a good example of the way that the hub is cultivating a supportive and inviting climate and culture. This June the hub is hosting their next SEL-focused conference, Directions 2023: SEL, Trauma, & School (<https://newdirectionseducation.weebly.com/>).

Schools have a helping hand as they continue to navigate the social-emotional needs of students and staff in the wake of the pandemic through seven regional SEL Hubs (<http://isbe.net/selhubs>). Learn more about the Area 5 SEL Hub (<http://www.roe40.com/area-5---sel-hub.html>).


NEW ISBE MAP SHOWS PARTICIPATION IN INITIATIVES DESIGNED TO SUPPORT PANDEMIC RECOVERY

ISBE has published a map showing participation across 11 initiatives designed to support the academic and social-emotional recovery of students. Illinois received nearly \$8 billion in federal relief funding, with 90% of funds flowing directly to districts. Ten percent of funds, totaling \$748.5 million, were allocated to ISBE for state-led initiatives. The map shows district or entity participation rates and can be filtered by program, entity, or geographical region. The demographic data of each district is shown on the second page of the map. Visit ISBE's Learning Renewal webpage to see the map (<https://isbe.net/learningrenewal>).

NEW

CTE & INNOVATION

FUTURE ENERGY JOBS ACT: MULTICULTURAL JOBS PROGRAM GRANT

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) has released a Notice of Funding Opportunity  (https://www.illinoisworknet.com/DownloadPrint/FEJA%20Multi-Cultural%20Jobs%20Program%20NOFO%202023%20-%20NOFO%20ID_2875-2485.pdf) (NOFO) for the Future Energy Jobs Act Multicultural Jobs Program grant.

This program is designed to stimulate job growth in the clean energy economy. The goal of the NOFO is to provide training for clean energy-related occupations for diverse low-income or economically disadvantaged populations, including people who face barriers to employment (such as foster care system graduates or current enrollees, displaced energy workers, residents from Environmental Justice Communities, and people with low educational attainment or a criminal record).

Each grant is \$500,000.

DCEO will prioritize geographic diversity across Economic Development Regions and proximity to a Clean Jobs Workforce Network Program Hub Site. (See 20 ILCS 730/5-20.) Applications received from organizations located in or near the following areas that have been designated as locations for Clean Jobs Workforce Network Program Hub Sites will be prioritized as long as they meet all other eligibility and scoring criteria: Alton/East St. Louis, Carbondale, Champaign/Danville, Decatur, Peoria, and Rockford.

The application due date is **5 p.m. April 23**. The required forms and attachments, along with other useful state workforce resources for completing competitive applications, are posted on the Illinois WorkNet Center website (<https://www.illinoisworknet.com/fejamulticulturaljobsnofo2023>).

An in-person information session will be held in Champaign during the last week of March. Once a date has been confirmed, more information will be added to the NOFO website. If you have any questions, please contact Monica Pruitt at LaMonica.Pruitt@illinois.gov (<mailto:LaMonica.Pruitt@illinois.gov>).

APRIL CTE PROFESSIONAL LEARNING OFFERINGS


We hope you will join us for one or more of the upcoming professional learning offerings being hosted by ISBE and Northern Illinois University CTE Project.

Highlighted sessions for April include:

- April 11: ISBE CTE and Equity Promising Practices Series - Equity in Internships & Apprenticeships (https://niu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6XvbJLJ8xSLFcoe)
- April 13: Teaching and Assessing the Essential Skills - Entrepreneurial Skills (https://niu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cZ9Bqw1qCvQgerk)
- April 18: Authentic Learning and Problem-Based Learning (https://niu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_24gsL4iZ3dDI7jo)
- April 19: Forming Relationships with Community and Business Partners - Administrator Academy (https://niu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_24gsL4iZ3dDI7jo)
- April 25: ISBE CTE and Illinois MTSS Network - Differentiation for All Students (https://niu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_7Pwf5s5c5wqWbNs)

All sessions are free and open to all Illinois educators. 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?_cldee=xXuhRf1qT1XStRcZiQiGyNx7ZQAHckp5gq3XJhJeQgOi4wL7WZ6Byf12rLBFB_Uf&recipientid=contact-72c5ebe4a335eb11a81300224808b78c-7a8116ac8b0a4f80bbdc309286b057ca&esid=b48f7551-e044-ed11-bba1-000d3a3148fb).

SECONDARY PERKINS PERFORMANCE INDICATORS NOW OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

The federal reauthorization of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act (also known as Perkins V) was signed into law on July 31, 2018. The purpose of this Act is to more fully develop the academic knowledge and technical and employability skills of secondary and postsecondary education students who elect to enroll in CTE programs. Perkins V requires secondary, postsecondary, and business/industry to work together to strengthen Career and Technical Education for students. The public comment period is open for the proposed revised State-Determined Level of Performance (SDLP) secondary performance indicators for 2S1, 2S2, 4S1 and 5S3. Section X – Accountability for Results in the approved Illinois Perkins V State Plan  (/Documents/Perkins-Plan.pdf) is being proposed for revision. Subsection a., which pertains to Secondary State-Determined Levels of Performance, runs from pages 84-88.

For more details and to provide feedback, go to the ISBE Perkins V webpage (/Pages/perkinsv.aspx).

NEW

NUTRITION

NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM SURVEY

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has made funding available for schools in the National School Lunch Program to purchase local foods from August 2023 through December 2024. We need to hear from you to help us gauge interest, find out what schools are already doing, and develop resources to assist schools throughout Illinois!

We anticipate the survey could take as few as three to five minutes to complete. If your School Food Authority is already doing a variety of farm-to-school activities, it may take up to 10 minutes. We know your time may be limited but please know that your feedback will help food service programs throughout the state of Illinois and is extremely valuable. Here are a few pieces of information that you may want to look up or have handy when completing the survey:

- Your RCDT (Region County District Type) or Agreement number: This is a 13-digit number (XX-XXX-XXXX-XX) specific to each school district or School Food Authority. It can be found at the top of the screen in the Web-based Illinois Nutrition System (WINS) if you are unsure.
- If you do purchase any local foods currently: What types of foods and where do you get your local foods from (name of farmer, distributor, processor, co-op, etc.)?

- If you do NOT currently purchase any local foods: Provide us with feedback on what resources, training, etc. would assist you in purchasing local foods.
- We would like to know whether you would be interested if funds become available to purchase local foods. This is not a commitment; we are just gathering information to gauge interest.

Click here to access the survey! (<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=hv5kA8ZJ9Eq1LDNameV30aljxflpLiVCuSnG0Gy5xBpUN1RLM1BFUVI3MjJNREFRVUIPMVI2MUg1TS4u>)

Please complete the survey by **March 31** and visit our ISBE Farm to Child Nutrition Programs (</Pages/School-Nutrition-Farm-to-School.aspx>) website for more information on the Local Foods for Schools Cooperative Agreement Program.

Additional resources and trainings are in the planning stages, and we look forward to sharing more information soon. If you have questions, please email us at localfoods@isbe.net (<mailto:localfoods@isbe.net>).

NEW

TEACHING & LEARNING

WHAT DOES THE END OF THE STATE'S PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY MEAN FOR EDUCATORS?

Governor JB Pritzker announced (<https://www.illinois.gov/news/press-release.25998.html/>) that the state's public health emergency will end on May 11, aligning the state with the federal government's decision to end the national public health emergency. ISBE adopted rules (see Sections 25.25, 25.720, and 25.1015 of the Illinois Administrative Code) that waived or reduced professional educator license requirements during the public health emergency. The rules also provided a grace period that would extend beyond the lifting of the disaster proclamation before regular licensure requirements would resume. The governor's announcement has several implications for individuals seeking educator licensure in Illinois.

- The edTPA will be required again starting **Jan. 1, 2024**.
- Licensure content tests will be required prior to student teaching and prior to entering an alternative preparation program starting **Jan. 1, 2024**.
- Candidates must pass any coursework started on or after **May 12, 2023**, and used toward licensure, with at least a C- (or equivalent).
- The application fee for a short-term substitute teaching license will be \$25 beginning **May 12, 2023**. The application was free during the time the disaster proclamation was in effect.
- Short-term substitute teachers assigned to teach in place of a licensed teacher under contract on or after **May 12, 2023**, can only teach for five consecutive days, rather than 15 consecutive days (which was allowed during the time the disaster proclamation was in effect).

Visit the Educator Licensure webpage (</Pages/Educator-Licensure.aspx>) to learn more.

INDEED FOR EDUCATION

Indeed (https://www.indeed.com/?isid=press_us&ikw=press_us_press/releases/indeed-joins-white-house-call-to-action-to-address-current-shortages-in-our-education-system_textlink_https://www.indeed.com/&isid=press_us&ikw=press_us_press/releases/indeed-for-education-launches-as-part-of-white-house-initiative-to-address-education-labor-shortage_textlink_https://www.indeed.com/?isid%3Dpress_us%26ikw%3Dpress_us_press%252Freleases%252Findeed-joins-white-house-call-to-action-to-address-current-shortages-in-our-education-system_textlink_https%253A%252F%252Fwww.indeed.com%252F) launched *Indeed for Education* last year as an initiative to help school districts hire teachers, administrators, counselors, and other school staff. This initiative is part of Indeed's commitments to the White House's call to action (<https://www.indeed.com/press/releases/indeed-joins-white-house-call-to-action-to-address-current-shortages-in-our-education-system?co=US>), aimed at addressing the current shortage of education workers in the United States.

Indeed is offering \$250,000 of career services in the month of March to job seekers looking to find work in the education industry. In addition, Indeed will be consistently refreshing its resource hub for jobseekers in education (https://www.indeed.com/job-search-services/education?isid=press_us&ikw=press_us_press/releases/indeed-for-education-launches-as-part-of-white-house-initiative-to-address-education-labor-shortage_textlink_https://www.indeed.com/job-search-services/education) with resources aimed directly at helping education professionals prepare for their job search.

BEGIN YOUR JOURNEY TO BECOMING NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFIED DURING THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

The state spring subsidy window opened **March 1** and closes on **May 10**. This subsidy pays for component fees for the certification process. Click [here](#) to learn more about the subsidy.

For more information about the subsidy and the certification process, view this narrated presentation 🎥 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FwLuTXbf9vw&feature=youtu.be>) and brief video 🎥 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FwLuTXbf9vw&feature=youtu.be>) from National Board Certified teachers. Informational webinars (https://forms.illinoisstate.edu/forms/learn_about_national_board_certification_for_illinois_teachers_spring_2023) will be held from **7-8 p.m. April 12 and May 4**.

ILLINOIS ARTS EDUCATION WEEK

2023 ILLINOIS ARTS EDUCATION WEEK CONTEST WINNERS

Thank you for all the entries and congratulations to the winners of the poster contest for the 41st Annual Arts Education Week, March 13-17. Illinois Arts Education Week 2023 is sponsored by ISBE and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in cooperation with the Governor's Office.

We are pleased to announce and congratulate the winners of the 2023 Illinois Arts Education Week contest.

High School Division

9-12 Winner (Best in Show)
Lauren Lee | Age: 18 | Grade: 11
Glenbrook North High School, Glenbrook North High School District 225

Middle School Division

6-8 Winner
Anaya Chikhalia | Age: 11 | Grade: 6
Hanover Countryside Elementary School, Elgin Area School District U-46

Elementary School Division

3-5 Winner
Hailey Gainer | Age: 11 | Grade: 5
Three Oaks Elementary School, Cary School District 26

Early Learning School Division

K-2 Winner
Sebastian De Guzman | Age: 7 | Grade: 2

ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

THE ISAC FIRST GENERATION SCHOLARS NETWORK

Please encourage your high school seniors who aspire to be the first person in their family to finish college to join The Illinois Student Assistance Commission's (ISAC) First Generation Scholars Network (https://studentportal.isac.org/web/guest/student/?p_p_id=Student_WAR_Studentportlet&_Student_WAR_Studentportlet__facesViewIdRender=/views/isacorpsFirstGenScholarsNetwork.xhtml) (FGSN). The goal of FGSN is to connect first-generation college students with one another so they can support each other through this network, and for FGSN students to receive additional support year-round from our ISACorps of near-peer mentors. To join FGSN, students can select from the ISAC College Q&A list provided on the FGSN webpage (https://studentportal.isac.org/web/guest/student/?p_p_id=Student_WAR_Studentportlet&_Student_WAR_Studentportlet__facesViewIdRender=/views/isacorpsFirstGenScholarsNetwork.xhtml) to text their name, using the phone number with the area code closest to them.

ISAC COLLEGE Q&A TEXT MESSAGING SERVICE

ISAC College Q&A is a texting service that allows **any** student to submit their financial aid questions and receive a response from an ISAC staff member, all via text. Students also will receive targeted text reminders about financial aid deadlines. Learn more about ISAC College Q&A and other free online tools, checklists, and activities to help students with postsecondary planning by visiting the ISAC Student Portal (<https://studentportal.isac.org/>).

MULTILINGUAL

MIGRANT STUDENT RECORDS EXCHANGE

The Migrant Student Records Exchange Initiative (<https://www2.ed.gov/admins/lead/account/recordstransfer.html>) is a federal database, which was established under Title I, Part C of the Every Student Succeeds Act. The mission of the Migrant Student Records Exchange (MSIX) is to ensure the appropriate enrollment, placement, and accrual of credits for children of migrant agricultural workers nationwide. MSIX allows states to share educational and health information of migrant children who travel from state to state and who, as a result, have student records in multiple states' information systems. It works in concert with the existing migrant student information systems that states use to manage their migrant data.

The ISBE Multilingual Department manages access to MSIX in Illinois. If your district enrolls children of migrant agricultural workers and you would like more information about MSIX, please contact migrant@isbe.net (mailto:migrant@isbe.net).

WE LOVE ILLINOIS SCHOOLS PODCAST

HAVE YOU CHECKED OUT THE ISBE PODCAST?

Our latest episode features Steven Herkert, principal mentor at ROE 8 and Illinois Principals Association. Hear what he got right as a principal, what he got wrong, and how he uses 5Essentials data to discover what's really happening inside a school building. You can find all our episodes on Apple, Spotify, and on the ISBE We Love Illinois School webpage (/podcast).

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. April 11:** (https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZctceGvrTsjHdFJXlqOQj_xFEk-g9raCf05) **Adjust Your Focus to Increase Your Fulfillment** (https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_c_vVOF3mQ_Gar8UXxDhP3Q) - Educators face numerous, daily obstacles, from curriculum changes to challenging students to even more challenging parents. These constantly growing obstacles can cause educators to lose focus on what they can control and can cause them to forget the impact they still have on the next generation. In this webinar, learn to change that momentum as you learn some basic mental tools from a former educator turned coach. Participants will better understand their daily focus and will learn to adjust in a way that leads to more mental toughness and more fulfillment.

CSK5 Illinois Elementary Computer Science Breakout Session

The Learning Technology Center of Illinois invites educators to their special state Breakout Session at CSK5, the National Summit for Elementary Computer Science Education (<https://www.csiselementary.org/s/summit>), from **11 a.m.-1 p.m. March 30**.

The Illinois Breakout Session will feature discussion of the Illinois Computer Science Standards, resources and programs available to get your program started, and a brand new professional development opportunity with Illinois CS PD Week 2023! It's a special online learning opportunity for all elementary administrators, educators, and CS/STEM advocates. This free, two-hour program will be packed with knowledge on how to start or enhance K-5 CS ED at any school. Register to attend CSK5 here (https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_FMWczSuPTvasMSCGAu0asw).

IAGC Virtual Leadership Summit

Join the Illinois Association for Gifted Children Leadership Summit (<https://www.iagcgifted.org/page-18692>) from **9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. May 5**. This event will be expanding on the Promising Practices case study report by providing workshop-style guidance to schools and districts who are working to provide more equitable advanced learning services in compliance with the Accelerated Placement Act.

NEW EDUCATOR OPPORTUNITIES

Teach Plus Policy Fellows are Launching Studies on Equity and School Discipline

Teach Plus is asking educators about school discipline practices to better determine what schools can do to support restorative practices that teach and heal. You can help Teach Plus understand what is (or isn't) working in schools by completing this educator survey (<https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/7255276/Teach-Plus-Illinois-School-Discipline-Survey>), which should take no more than 10 minutes. Your input will help create a fuller picture of how discipline practices can keep students on track for success. Twenty randomly selected respondents will receive a \$25 gift card.

Teach Plus is also conducting a survey to determine how well ISBE's new Equity Journey Continuum tool reflects the lived experiences of educators by joining a live, interactive focus group

(https://docs.google.com/document/d/1u_TmgS96VuM7OOuGF10ujhNFUzqSVLfjx_QmIUQVWIY/edit) with educators across Illinois to share your

experiences. Focus groups will last approximately one hour and will help ensure the state’s equity measures are aligned with educators’ experiences. Your feedback will be used to provide feedback on the new tool, and every focus group participant will also receive a \$10 gift card as a token of our appreciation.

EDUCATOR RECOGNITION

IASSW Seeking Nominations for School Social Worker of the Year, Citizen of the Year

Each year, the Illinois Association of School Social Workers (IASSW) recognizes an outstanding school social worker and citizen who has positively impacted children and the community. Please consider nominating an outstanding school social worker and/or citizen for recognition at the 2023 IASSW Conference. It is not too soon to complete a nomination form and gather letters of support to submit with the nomination.

Consider nominating that special school social worker who has started new programs, incorporated innovative techniques into their practice, and gone above and beyond an already overwhelming job description. We all have an interest in maintaining the highest standards and nominating and recognizing the best among us will celebrate those standards.

Consider that special parent, community leader, agency worker, volunteer, teacher, or administrator who has enhanced the lives of Illinois school children. That person would appreciate your support and acknowledgement.

Nominations are due by **July 1**. Start your nomination at School Social Worker and Citizen of the Year Nomination (<https://iassw.org/page/awards-nominations>).

SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES

Host a High School Exchange Student

The U.S. Departments of State and Education encourage districts and schools to host international students through the U.S. Department of State Exchange Visitor Secondary School Student Program, including Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange, Future Leaders Exchange, and Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange students from countries all around the world.

Each exchange student goes through a rigorous application process for these three fully funded programs and receives support from a nonprofit sponsor organization during their time in the United States. The presence of international students in our classrooms benefits American students and schools in general by promoting cultural curiosity, a global mindset, and mutual understanding.

Visit the Host a High School Student webpage (<https://hosting.state.gov/>) or contact youthprograms@state.gov (<mailto:youthprograms@state.gov>) for more information.

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

Youth Prevention Resource Center seeking students to represent their peers

The Student Advisory Board for the Youth Prevention Resource Center provides a strong platform for youth to play an active, prominent role in developing and implementing tools to address issues that are important to them. The center provides training for Illinois high school students interested in leadership, teen traffic safety, mental health, and prevention of violence and substance abuse. The center seeks applicants of all racial and ethnic backgrounds -- from urban and rural areas, from all socioeconomic groups, and with all types of life experience. Deadline to apply is **April 15**. Access the application here (https://www.cognitofrms.com/YPRC/_202324YPRCStudentAdvisoryBoardSABApplication). Any questions? Contact Robyn Block (<mailto:robyn.block@prevention.org>).

FEATURED ISBE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

- Senior Budget Analyst (Senior Budget Analyst #1295) (</Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=802>)
- FRIS Administrator (Principal Consultant #627) (</Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=803>)
- Special Education Facility Rate Analyst (Principal Consultant #749) (</Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=804>)
- Federal Fund Administrator (Principal Consultant #1729) (</Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=805>)
- Regional Financial Consultant (Principal Consultant #1266) (</Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=806>)
- Nonpublic Special Education Consultant (Principal Consultant #1620) (</Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=800>)
- Grant Reviewer (Principal Consultant #214) (</Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=801>)
- Client-Server/Web Developer (Principal Consultant #838) (</Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=807>)

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