

ISBE'S WEEKLY MESSAGE

April 4, 2023

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Dear Colleagues:

Almost a decade ago, the Illinois State Board of Education adopted the Next Generation Science Standards (<https://www.nextgenscience.org/>) as the Illinois Learning Standards in Science (</Documents/IL-Learning-Standards-Science.pdf>). These standards articulate a transformational shift -- away from the traditional classroom experience that relies on students methodically reading a textbook, taking notes, and studying for an exam, and toward conducting investigations, gathering data, discussing open-ended questions and solving problems, while the teacher acts as their “guide

on the side.” This strategy, designed to help students develop a deeper understanding of science beyond memorizing facts, is based on the Framework for K-12 Science Education developed by the National Research Council, and it has been dubbed “three-dimensional (<https://www.nextgenscience.org/three-dimensional-learning>)” science.

That doesn’t mean making models of the solar system out of various playground balls. It means students learn to integrate three concepts: science and engineering practices (like asking questions, planning investigations, and analyzing data) with disciplinary content and crosscutting concepts. This overview for principals (https://www.nextgenscience.org/sites/default/files/resource/files/NGSS%20Overview%20for%20Principals_0.pdf) helps explain what you will see when you stroll down the science wing in your school.

To support science educators in their efforts to achieve this shift, we have partnered with Southern Illinois University Carbondale (<https://siu.edu/>), the Illinois Science Teaching Association (<https://ilscience.org/>), and the National Science Teaching Association (<https://www.nsta.org/>) to create professional learning opportunities. Customized packages will be tailored for each of the seven ISTA regions. True to the three-dimensional science model, our team has launched this inquiry by asking questions and gathering data in the form of a needs-assessment survey (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSePQ5JUYUy-YMnw2xdJB_21strE8rvrYRNrL4BbRnnpPhljSw/viewform). We’re asking all science teachers and administrators that oversee science curriculum to complete the survey to help design the professional learning package offered for your region.

This shift is important. Data from the Illinois Science Assessment shows that more than half of all Illinois students have not yet met our rigorous learning standards in science, and students of color are disproportionately identified as emerging or developing in proficiency when compared to their white peers. This data, sadly, is not surprising. National research  (https://www.ecs.org/wp-content/uploads/CTE_STEM-Desert-Brief_FINAL.pdf) shows that students who attend the highest-poverty schools are least likely to have access to science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM) resources, experiences, and classes.

However, there's also good news all around us. Last weekend, Rochester 3A hosted a regional STEM Fair that included Springfield District 186's E-Sports League, where one athlete has earned a \$5,000 scholarship; Pleasant Plains CUSD 8, where elementary students learn to design, prototype, and refine tools using CAD, robots and 3D printing; and Rochester students demonstrating drones and robots navigating obstacle courses. In Lockport Township High School District 205, two of the district's Robotics Club teams have qualified for the VEX Robotics World Championship scheduled for Dallas later this month.

Science can be the spark that gets students excited about school and learning. We stand ready to help science educators develop new skills to help ignite curiosity. If you're an administrator or an educator who teaches science, please complete the survey to let us know (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSePQ5JUyUy-YMnw2xdJB_21strE8rvrYRNrL4BbRnnpPhlJSw/viewform) what kind of training would be most useful to you.

Pictured: Robotics Club students from Lockport Township High School District 205 qualified for the Vex Robotics Illinois State Championship and secured their spot at the Robotics Education & Competition Foundation Vex Robotics World Championship on April 25-27 in Dallas, Texas. From left to right, the team includes teacher Kevin Conway, students Colton Witzig, Patricia Jurzyk, Klaudia Babel, Matthew Handzel, Brian Sagon, David Krzysiak, Jack Thies, Victor Cieslak-Kaczmarczyk, and teacher Dan Mostyn.

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>).

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)
Apr. 28	RSVPs due for the May 20 Those Who Excel & Teacher of the Year Banquet
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)
May 20	Those Who Excel & Teacher of the Year Banquet – New date!
May 20	Those Who Excel & Teacher of the Year Banquet – Awardees check your email for an invitation!
May 29	ISBE offices closed for Memorial Day
Jun. 13-15	Illinois New Teacher Collaborative 2023 Summer Conference Series (https://emails.illinois.edu/newsletter/37/1612142237.html)
Jun. 19	ISBE offices closed for Juneteenth
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=hv5kA8ZJ9Eq1LDNameV30Ufi4KgH87ICv6FRRQI8cvlUNTdHWktDS1NJWjJZVDFaQ09RVINCUVdMRI4u>) how you are investing federal relief funds to help students recover.

CPS SEL HUB USES HEALING-CENTERED FRAMEWORK TO ADVANCE SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

The Chicago Public Schools (CPS) Social-Emotional Learning Hub is integrated into the CPS Office of Social-Emotional Learning, enabling the office to expand the breadth of support offered to the more than 600 schools in the city of Chicago.

The district is focused on a healing-centered framework (<https://www.cps.edu/strategic-initiatives/healing-centered/>) that emphasizes a whole child approach. Traumatic experiences can disrupt a student's ability to learn. The framework is designed to develop protective measures that can help mitigate the negative effects of trauma. Protective measures like healthy adult-child relationships, safe and supportive school environments, and targeted resources are all part of a system to invest in the wellness of students.

"We are doing this by making sure every school has tiered systems of support that integrate SEL practices throughout the school community. For example, all schools have access to mindfulness activities and techniques that they can use in the classroom, in small groups, and targeted individual sessions by teachers and counselors," said SEL Hub Director Adam King.

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>). To reach out to the CPS SEL Hub, email OSEL@cps.edu (<mailto:OSEL@cps.edu>).

ROAD2RECOVERY CAMPAIGN FEATURES ILLINOIS AFFINITY GROUPS

The Road2Recovery campaign is wrapping up with a look at the Illinois Affinity Group Network, led in partnership with Teach Plus Illinois. There are 44 affinity groups that bring together educators with common backgrounds to connect, learn, and discuss teacher retention. The data show that Illinois schools retain teachers of color at lower rates than their white counterparts, but those numbers are improving. The affinity groups for teachers of color discuss what can be done to better support and retain them because one of the best ways to meet the high demand for teachers in Illinois is to do a better job of keeping the teachers we already have.

Teach Plus Illinois is looking ahead to the next school year to build upon this network. Please share this video (<https://drive.google.com/file/d/10A6tcira423tgktAfxueFTYQynqfE8TL/view>) with educators who may be interested in learning more about Illinois' affinity groups. The application deadline (https://teachplus.org/regional_programs/illinois-affinity-group-facilitators/) for 2023-24 school year affinity group facilitators is Friday, April 7.

Hear more from the people who 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>).

NEW

2023 ILLINOIS EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR 2023 THOSE WHO EXCEL & TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARDS BANQUET

ISBE will host the annual Those Who Excel & Teacher of the Year Awards Banquet at 6 p.m. on **Saturday, May 20**, at the Bloomington-Normal Marriott Hotel & Conference Center. (Please note the change in date from what was previously announced). Each awardee has been sent an invitation via email and is encouraged to RSVP and register to receive their allotted tickets by **April 28**.

If there are multiple awardees coming from the same school community, we recommend the administration discuss logistics before the awardees register. Email awards@isbe.net (<mailto:awards@isbe.net>) with any questions.

DATA STRATEGIES & ANALYTICS

APRIL 13 DSA Q&A MONTHLY WEBINAR

Please join us for our Monthly Data Strategies and Analytics Q&A Webinar at 10 a.m. on **April 13**. Register here for the Monthly Data Strategies and Analytics Q&A Webinar 📄 (<https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/2174502371330329612>).

The Data Strategies and Analytics Department (DSA) at ISBE continues hosting a monthly webinar on the second Thursday of each month. The purpose of these webinars is to give Illinois school district personnel a chance to ask any questions they have about the following ISBE data collections. We will have staff on hand who will be able to answer questions on any of the data collections listed below:

- Bilingual Education Program Delivery Report Collection
- Employment Information System – including Unfilled Positions Survey
- Entity Profile System
- Non-Certified Staff Salary Study
- Reduction In Force Survey
- Student Health (Dental, Eye, Immunizations and Physical Fitness)
- Student Information System
- Teacher Salary Study
- Title I Comparability
- U.S. Census School District Review Program
- Year End Collection
- IEP-Student Tracking and Reporting System

To facilitate this webinar, ISBE will not have any PowerPoint or predetermined path for the discussions/questions; however, we invite districts to come ready with their questions!

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at 312-814-9192 or datahelp.net (<mailto:datahelp.net>).

FUNDING & DISBURSEMENTS

FINAL FY 2023 STATE AND FEDERAL GRANT AMENDMENTS AND EXTENSIONS

Many state and federal grant projects are approaching a **June 30** end date for obligating fiscal year 2023 grant funds. All state and federal project end date extension requests and final budget amendments must be received by ISBE no later than 30 calendar days prior to the end date of the project.

As a reminder:

- An end date extension past June 30 is not needed for regular term staff salaries paid on a 12-month salary schedule.
- An end date extension past June 30 is not needed to pay obligations (e.g., purchase order for supplies) incurred June 30 or prior.
- An end date extension past June 30 is needed for new activities and obligations incurred July 1 or later (e.g., summer school, professional development).

Final amendments for state and federal grants with a project end date of June 30, 2023, must be received by ISBE no later than **May 31**. Amendments for grants with a project end date of August 31, 2023, must be submitted by **August 1**. However, budget increases for FY 2023 state-funded grant projects must be received by June 30, even if the project end date has been extended. The deadline for grant applications in the electronic Grants Management System is also referenced on the Program Overview page under Amendment Due Date.

Please share this important information with any staff responsible for grant management at your district/entity.

NEW

ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

ONLY TWO WEEKS LEFT TO REGISTER FOR THE ILLINOIS PACE SYMPOSIUM!

ISAC's second annual Illinois Postsecondary and Career Expectations (PaCE) Symposium will be held in-person from 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. Thursday, **April 20**, at the Wyndham Springfield City Centre. Don't miss out!

Registration will close on Thursday, **April 13**. For registration and details, visit the PaCE Symposium page (<https://www.isac.org/pace/Illinois-PaCE-Symposium/>).

Session topics will include:

- Using the PaCE Framework to Expand Support for K-12 Students
- How Community-Based Organization Partners Support Students
- Hands-On Work and Career Readiness Experience
- Leveraging Your Community to Support PaCE Work
- The Important of Identifying a Purpose Pathway
- And more ...

Hotel Rooms are Still Available

The Wyndham Springfield City Centre is providing rooms at a discounted rate of \$85 for symposium attendees arriving on Wednesday, **April 19**. To receive the discounted rate, reserve your room by **April 5**. Overnight and onsite parking is available to attendees at no cost. Attendees may park at the Municipal Parking Garage attached to the Wyndham Springfield City Centre.

For questions about the PaCE Symposium, contact ISAC's PaCE Symposium Planning Team at isac.pace@illinois.gov (<mailto:isac.pace@illinois.gov>).

NEW

NUTRITION

NOMINATE SOMEONE FROM YOUR SCHOOL FOR THE ISBE SCHOOL NUTRITION CHAMPION AWARD

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

We are seeking nominations for the ISBE School Nutrition Champion Award. Anyone can nominate a K-12 school nutrition professional for the School Nutrition Champion Award. This includes students, parents, community members, and other district and school staff.

To nominate someone, visit our School Nutrition and Wellness Champions page (/Pages/School-Nutrition-and-Wellness-Champions.aspx) and see the “School Nutrition Champion Award” section. You’ll need to tell us who you are, who you’re nominating, a bit about that person’s career history and qualifications, and how they go above and beyond in your School Nutrition Program. We encourage nominators to submit photographs or even a video of their School Nutrition Champion.

Only one School Nutrition Champion will be selected, but all nominees will be highlighted in the May issue of The Outlook, our monthly newsletter for School Nutrition Programs in Illinois. The deadline for nominations is **5 p.m. Friday, April 21**.

APPLY TO JOIN OUR SCHOOL NUTRITION ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Illinois State Board of Education’s Nutrition Department is committed to working with school nutrition professionals, industry members, and advocacy groups to gain knowledge about program operations to better administer School Nutrition Programs across Illinois.

We are looking for individuals representing partners in the overall administration and operations of the School Nutrition Programs to become a member of the Illinois School Nutrition Advisory Council (ILSNAC) for school year 2023-24. School nutrition professionals applying must be employees of the School Food Authority (SFA).

Interested persons should complete the ILSNAC SY 23-24 form (<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=hv5kA8ZJ9Eq1LDNameV30eAPnLewqFtEqWGWncgjkDdUREowVzBLMEc1ODBZQzNYOVRYODY5RzIYNS4u>) no later than **April 28**. Selected members will be notified by May 12. We anticipate hosting up to four meetings annually (May 2023 – April 2024) with the first meeting planned via Microsoft Teams on May 18 beginning at 1 p.m.

For questions regarding the Illinois School Nutrition Advisory Council, please contact Roxanne Ramage at rramage@isbe.net (mailto:rramage@isbe.net) or 800-545-7892.

NEW

STANDARDS & INSTRUCTION

ADVANCED PLACEMENT SUMMER INSTITUTE

As a service to the state of Illinois and in alignment with its mission, the University of Illinois system is hosting two Advanced Placement Summer Institutes for teachers at no charge for qualifying Illinois public school districts. Educators at districts with AP exam participation of less than 20 percent will qualify for this amazing opportunity to not only be trained as AP teachers, but also earn 30 hours of professional development for full participation.

The AP® Summer Institute will be held in two locations in the summer of 2023:

- University of Illinois Springfield on June 26-30 - register here (<https://eventreg.collegeboard.org/gnME0G>).
- University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign on July 10-14 - register here (<https://eventreg.collegeboard.org/IEGZQN>).

The AP Sessions will be for new teachers with little AP experience in the following subjects:

- AP U.S. History
- AP American Government
- AP English Composition and Languages
- AP English Composition and Literature

Space is limited so register soon. A \$250 refundable deposit will be required upon registration, but the University of Illinois system will cover registration, instruction, housing costs, and several meals for educators attending the institute. Other Illinois teachers are welcome to attend at the advertised prices. Interested educators can email UllinoisAPSI@uillinois.edu (<mailto:UllinoisAPSI@uillinois.edu>) to see if your school district qualifies. If so, you will receive the discount code for registration.

To register, please use College Board's CVENT system.

The CVENT system has lots of information for review including the profile of the consultants, description of the courses, sample schedule, and FAQs.

Please do not hesitate to reach out at UllinoisAPSI@uillinois.edu (<mailto:UllinoisAPSI@uillinois.edu>) with any questions.

Visit the AP Summer Institutes website (<https://www.vpaa.uillinois.edu/cms/One.aspx?portalId=420456&pageId=1891728>) for more information and resources.

NEW


RESEARCH & EVALUATION


2021-22 KIDS STATE REPORT

The 2021-22 Kindergarten Individual Development Survey (KIDS) state report is now available on the ISBE KIDS: Data & Reports webpage (/Pages/KIDS-Data.aspx). The report highlights results from the fall 2021 survey ratings. This year, the report includes enrollment data for prekindergarten and kindergarten students to provide a more complete picture of how the pandemic impacted kindergarten readiness.

Overall, Illinois saw a 1 percentage point decline in readiness from fall 2019 but still had an overall 4 percentage point increase from fall 2017. We continue to see the strongest readiness rates in social-emotional development, followed by language and literacy, then math. We look forward to continuing to discuss the results and to learning even more upon the release of the fall 2022 data in the coming months.

STATE ASSESSMENT DATES FOR 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR



The Assessment Department is announcing testing dates for the 2023-24 school year. Please visit www.isbe.net/Documents/State-Assessment-Dates-2023-24.pdf  (<http://www.isbe.net/Documents/State-Assessment-Dates-2023-24.pdf>) to review the assessments and dates for public school students. As they become available, more details about the spring 2024 administration of each assessment will be shared on the ISBE Assessment webpage (/Pages/Assessment.aspx).

Information for nonpublic schools testing Illinois Invest in Kids Act scholars is available at www.isbe.net/Documents/IIK-Assessment-Dates-2024.pdf  (<http://www.isbe.net/Documents/IIK-Assessment-Dates-2024.pdf>).


NEW

STUDENT CARE

PHYSICAL RESTRAINT, TIME OUT AND ISOLATED TIME OUT IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

The Student Care Department has updated its template for Physical Restraint, Time Out, and Isolated Time Out (RTO) Reduction Plans for the 2023-24 school year  (/Documents/RTO-Reduction-Template.pdf). Each school board must create an oversight team, which is required to include teachers, paraprofessionals, school service personnel, and administrators. Such a team will develop school-specific plans for reducing and eventually eliminating the use of RTO, in accordance with ISBE goals and benchmarks, and procedures to implement the plan. This updated template includes a section that allows districts to complete the required progress reports for school year 2022-23 RTO Reduction Plans. Both RTO Reduction Plans for SY 2023-24 and progress reports for SY 2022-23 are due by **July 1**. The RTO Reduction Plan directions and checklist 

(/Documents/RTO-Reduction-Plan.pdf) have also been updated. Please note the newly updated goals for SY 2023-24 are included in both the directions and template documents. RTO Reduction Plans and progress reports should be submitted to rtoreductionplan@isbe.net (mailto:rtoreductionplan@isbe.net).

Additionally, an alternative RTO reduction goal application  (/Documents/Alternative-RTO-Reduction-Goal-Application.pdf) has been added. Any district that wishes to apply for an alternative RTO reduction goal must do so by **April 15**.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

IDEA PART B STATE APPLICATION

The federal fiscal year 2023 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B annual state application is posted the ISBE Special Education webpage (/Pages/IDEA-Part-B-Grant-Program-Information.aspx). All states making application for funds under Part B of IDEA are required to make available for public review and comment the application packet for those federal funds. These are the funds that support provision of special education services to children ages 3-21 in Illinois. ISBE has developed the draft application packet for IDEA Part B funds and by this notice is making the application available for review and comment by Local Education Agencies, stakeholders, and the general public.

The application packet, developed by the U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), includes a summary of the assurances, certifications, and IDEA use of fund descriptions that the state will use to implement Part B of IDEA. Upon OSEP's approval of Illinois' Part B application, the state will receive a federal grant award under Part B of the IDEA for the period of July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024.

As you review the application, please note the following:

- The application is in a format required by OSEP.
- Illinois is providing general assurances to OSEP that the state will be implementing the provisions of state and federal regulations for Part B of IDEA 2004.
- The dollar amounts listed in Section III, Use of Funds, are for State-Level Administration and Targeted Initiatives, not the cost of serving students with disabilities or the total cost of special education services in Illinois.
- The amounts for State-Level Administration and Targeted Initiatives are based upon the previous year (FFY 2022) allocation and will be updated when the FFY 2023 allocation is available.

The application is available for review on our website (/Pages/IDEA-Part-B-Grant-Program-Information.aspx) through May 20 for the required 60-day timeline. Written public comments on the draft Part B application packet may be submitted from April 20 until the close of business on May 20 for the required 30-day timeline. Please send comments to PartBapplications@isbe.net (mailto:PartBapplication@isbe.net).

SAFE & HEALTHY CLIMATE

RECEIVE A FREE SOLAR EVALUATION AS PART OF THE COMED PUBLIC SCHOOLS CARBON-FREE ASSESSMENT

The Solar Evaluation portion of the Public Schools Carbon-Free Assessment (PSCFA) includes an impartial overview of your district's solar potential. The solar assessment includes project details that estimate your solar capacity, annual generation, and annual energy use offset. Additionally, you'll receive a financial breakdown of estimated project cost, incentives/grants available, project payback, and the school's lifetime savings. After completing three districts in 2022, the PSCFA identified an average of 85 percent annual energy use offset and an average payback of 5.4 years. Take advantage of this no-cost solar evaluation for your district by enrolling today.

What is the PSCFA?

- KIDS Program (Principal Consultant #421) (/Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=770)
- Early Childhood Block Grant (Principal Consultant #412)
- Senior Policy Specialist - Resource Allocation (Senior Policy Specialist #1795)

[View all open positions at ISBE.](#)