

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

April 17, 2018



Hello,

We have more great news to celebrate coming out of the Illinois Principals Association (IPA). IPA recently granted one of its first micro-credentials in “Collaborative Leadership Coaching” to Cris Edwards, the principal of Richland County Middle School in Olney.

We know learners engage in many different ways. Just as our competency-based education pilot is moving us away from the requirements of seat time for students, micro-credentialing allows educators to individualize their professional learning. Micro-credentialing provides a system of recognition for educators’ demonstrated skills, competencies, or enhanced understanding of a concept or topic. Educators have the freedom to grow through a variety of formats — traditional coursework, job experience, collaboration, workshops and conferences, research, and independent

learning. This self-driven and reflective process also raises the standard of professional learning by requiring evidence of mastery prior to

recognition of a competency.

IPA’s micro-credentialing pilot involves participants representing a cross-section of school leadership positions from across Illinois and Wisconsin. When participants possess the knowledge and skills necessary to show competency in a skill area, they submit evidence or artifacts for scoring by evaluators. If successful, a learner earns a digital badge, which they can add to their portfolio and share easily through social media platforms. IPA contracted with Digital Promise to accredit its micro-credential.

IPA is developing additional micro-credentials to recognize skills in other areas of educational leadership, which will be open to all educators. If you would like to follow up with IPA to learn more, email Dr. Susan Homes, deputy director for Professional Development, at sue@ilprincipals.org (mailto:sue@ilprincipals.org).

We at ISBE are also committed to redesigning the professional educator’s learning experience. ISBE, in partnership with Illinois State University, launched its first of two micro-credentialing pilots designed for teachers in January of 2018. ISBE’s micro-credentialing pilot is gathering insight from educators on the value and validity of earning a micro-credential and guiding further development of a micro-credentialing system. Evaluators currently are reviewing the evidence teachers have submitted to earn micro-credential badges. ISBE is working on a system for recognizing the badge on an educator’s Professional Educator License. Our second pilot is scheduled to begin in May.

At this time, Illinois is among 11 states that allow micro-credentials to count for professional development. We are proud to be at the forefront of these changes in technology and in the education landscape. Together we can continue with this forward momentum in Illinois.

Quick Links

- [English Learners](#)
- [Every Student Succeeds Act](#)
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Illinois is also at the forefront of advancing equitable funding. School districts began receiving FY 2018 Evidence-Based Funding tier funding last week. Our Board goals and the Illinois Every Student Succeeds Act Plan describe our clear and common expectations for all students across the state. Evidence-Based Funding gives us the common data to have honest conversations about capacity to meet expectations across the 852 districts in Illinois.

A district's percent of adequacy – the financial capacity a district has compared to what it needs – cannot be an excuse not to serve kids. We should not expect 46 percent performance from a district at 46 percent capacity. At the same time, we know that expectations can be more easily met in a district already operating at 150 percent capacity. Superintendents across the state relentlessly advocate for their communities, creating partnerships, exploring new opportunities, and truly going above and beyond. But in many districts, educators and leaders must expend even greater time and energy.

This raises the question of fairness. Our job now is to keep teaching and talking about the situated-ness of districts within differently resourced communities. We will have to do different work across the state in order to meet our common expectations.

In response to questions from districts about the recent disbursement of supplemental funding for English Learner education, we have included more information below under “English Learners.”

Have a great week!

Tony



UPCOMING ISBE DATES AND DEADLINES

Please note this is not a complete list of events, meetings, and deadlines. For more events and details, visit the [ISBE Meetings page](https://www.isbe.net/Pages/ISBE-Meetings.aspx) (<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/ISBE-Meetings.aspx>) or call the Illinois State Board of Education at (866) 262-6663.

April 18: [Illinois State Board of Education meeting](https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Illinois-State-Board-of-Education-Calendar.aspx) (<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Illinois-State-Board-of-Education-Calendar.aspx>)

April 19: [Illinois Learning Technology Centers Data Symposium in Springfield](http://ltcillinois.org/datasymposium/) (<http://ltcillinois.org/datasymposium/>)

April 20: 2018 PARCC testing window closes

April 20: [Illinois Learning Technology Centers Data Symposium in Willowbrook](http://ltcillinois.org/datasymposium/) (<http://ltcillinois.org/datasymposium/>)

April 20: [Deadline to submit feedback on WIDA framework](https://www.wida.us/standards/eld.aspx#2019) (<https://www.wida.us/standards/eld.aspx#2019>)

April 24: [2017-18 PSAT Reimbursement Webinar](https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/7445889834815129601) (<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/7445889834815129601>)

April 27: [Deadline to submit Illinois Bicentennial Menu ideas](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/200menu) (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/200menu>)

April 30: 2018 Illinois Science Assessment testing window closes

May 1: Licensure renewal opens for educators who hold a SUB license

May 7-11: Teacher Appreciation Week

May 15 & 16: [The Learning Technology Center Future Ready Workshops](http://ltcillinois.org/frillinois/) (<http://ltcillinois.org/frillinois/>)

May 16: [Illinois State Board of Education meeting](https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Illinois-State-Board-of-Education-Calendar.aspx) (<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Illinois-State-Board-of-Education-Calendar.aspx>)

May 21: [Deadline to submit National Board Candidate Fee Subsidy Application](https://nbc.illinoisstate.edu/firsttime/index.php) (<https://nbc.illinoisstate.edu/firsttime/index.php>)

May 25: [Deadline to submit 2018-19 Student Advisory Council applications](https://www.isbe.net/Documents/Student-Advisory-Council-Application-2018-19.pdf) (<https://www.isbe.net/Documents/Student-Advisory-Council-Application-2018-19.pdf>)

May 28: ISBE offices closed for Memorial Day

June 4 (postmarked); June 7 (if emailed): [Deadline to submit Those Who Excel applications](https://www.isbe.net/Documents/03-10-those-who-excel.pdf) (<https://www.isbe.net/Documents/03-10-those-who-excel.pdf>)

June 30: [Deadline to apply for USDA's HealthierUS School Challenge](https://www.fns.usda.gov/hussc/healthierus-school-challenge-smarter-lunchrooms) (<https://www.fns.usda.gov/hussc/healthierus-school-challenge-smarter-lunchrooms>)

Aug. 6-7: [School Nutrition Programs \(SNP\) Back to School Conference](#)

ENGLISH LEARNERS

Additional Details on Supplemental EL Funding

The first tier funding payments from Evidence-Based Funding were made to districts on April 10. At the same time, supplemental funding for English Learner education was provided to districts. Public Act 100-0021 provides an additional \$29 million for English Learner (EL) education to districts assigned to Tier 1 and Tier 2 in fiscal year 2018. Funding amounts are based on each Tier 1 and Tier 2 district's proportionate share of English Learner funding provided in FY 2017. These funds are being paid through revenue code 3305, which is the former English Learner Education – TPI and TBE line. This code was used to differentiate the \$29 million in supplemental funding from the former English Learner funds that are now a part of each district's Base Funding Minimum and tier funding amounts paid through revenue code 3001. Note that, despite their revenue code, these supplemental funds are not considered TPI and TBE funds. That funding stream is one of the five grant programs integrated into Evidence-Based Funding.

This is one-time FY 2018 supplemental EL funding. It will be included in Base Funding Minimum amounts for FY 2019 and beyond.

A full accounting of funding amounts from all Evidence-Based Funding sources and supplemental appropriations made in this fiscal year for English Learner, low-income, and special education populations will be shared publicly in the weeks ahead.

Seeking Feedback on WIDA Framework

WIDA will introduce a new instructional framework for the English Language Development Standards in 2019. An [informational flyer](https://www.wida.us/standards/eld.aspx#2019) (<https://www.wida.us/standards/eld.aspx#2019>) provides an overview of the framework. WIDA invites all EL educators and stakeholders to submit input on the draft framework during the public input period. The public input period opened March 22 and will close **April 20**. Learn more at [wida.us/standards](https://lists.wisc.edu/t/52360299/146492265/3739118/2008/) (<https://lists.wisc.edu/t/52360299/146492265/3739118/2008/>).

EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT

Site-Based Expenditure Reporting: Suggested District Implementation Timeline


Advisory groups have been guiding ISBE's implementation of the new federal requirement since its inception. At their request, ISBE has compiled a timeline to display *suggested* actions by district leaders between now and the release of the 2018-19 data to support district preparedness. ISBE recognizes that differences in capacity and priorities between districts will lead them to approach the new site-based expenditure reporting requirement in a variety of ways. Amid this diversity, the Suggested Timeline is intended to be a resource for district leaders looking for a broad overview of implementation activities that they might consider, along with a recommended order of implementation. As the name indicates, the content and order of the activities listed are suggestions, NOT mandates. The timeline is available on [ISBE's ESSA webpage](#) (/essa). In the coming weeks, ISBE will be releasing more resources to support districts as they progress along this timeline – stay tuned!

EVIDENCE-BASED FUNDING

FY 2019 EBF Enrollment Verification Opens April 18


ISBE is administering a one-time, supplemental enrollment verification process for school year 2018 fall and spring enrollment counts. This effectively extends the spring enrollment deadline to May 14. The new funding formula funds all districts in relation to each other, so we want to ensure we continue to have accurate enrollment counts statewide.

School Year 2018 Enrollment Verification Timeline

April 18 – ISBE will release an updated EBF Verification tool in the E-Report Card system in IWAS. [View instructions for accessing and using the tool](#)  (/Documents/EBF_Verification_Tool_User_Documentation.pdf).

- Your district's current 2018 fall enrollment count (as of Oct. 2, 2017) and spring enrollment count (as of March 1, 2018) will appear in the tool.
- Compare the enrollment data in the tool to your own counts.
- You may download Student Information System (SIS) IDs from the tool to compare the enrollment data ISBE has to your own.
- Make any corrections directly in SIS.
- The verification tool will reflect any changes made in SIS the following day.


May 14 – Verification and correction window closes at the end of the day. **May 15** – ISBE begins processing the enrollment file. ISBE will use this enrollment data to determine EBF tier funding for FY 2019. **After June 1** – ISBE communicates about FY 2019 EBF tier funding amounts.

If you have questions or experience technical difficulty, please reference the [Verification Tool User Guide](#)  (/Documents/EBF_Verification_Tool_User_Documentation.pdf) and [Enrollment Verification FAQ](#) (/Pages/state-funding-and-forecasting-faqs.aspx), both available on the [EBF Enrollment page](#) (<http://www.isbe.net/Pages/ebfenrollment.aspx>). You can also direct questions to EBFHelp@isbe.net (mailto: EBFHelp@isbe.net) or call the ISBE Data Strategies and Analytics team at (217) 782-3950 or the ISBE SIS team at (217) 558-3600, option 3.

ASSESSMENT & ACCOUNTABILITY

2017-18 PSAT Reimbursement Webinar April 24

ISBE is pleased to announce a reimbursement opportunity for the 2017-18 administration of College Board's assessments. ISBE will reimburse all public districts and/or schools for one administration per student of PSAT 8/9-9th Grade, PSAT/NMSQT -10th Grade or PSAT 10 in grades 9 and 10. Please see the [2017-18 PSAT Reimbursement page](#) (/Pages/PSATreimbursement.aspx) for more information.

ISBE is hosting a webinar from 1:30-3:30 p.m. **April 24** to further explain the 2017-18 PSAT reimbursement opportunity and process. [Registration is now available.](#)  (<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/7445889834815129601>)

Please contact assessment@isbe.net (mailto:assessment@isbe.net) or (866) 317-6034 with any questions.

SCHOOL BUSINESS SERVICES

Capital Needs Assessment Survey

Public Act 93-0489 requires the State Board of Education and the Capital Development Board to file a comprehensive assessment report of the capital needs of all school districts with the General Assembly every two years. January 1, 2019, is the due date of the next report.

We are requesting all districts to complete and submit the Capital Needs Assessment Survey. This is a reminder the survey will be open until **September 7, 2018**. Full participation in the assessment will help ensure an accurate portrayal of the capital needs of all districts throughout the state.

On April 16, all district superintendents and regional superintendents were emailed a copy of the Capital Needs Assessment Survey along with a cover letter. If you did not receive a copy of the email, please let us know.

Additional forms, if needed, can be accessed on either of the following websites: <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Capital-Needs-Assessment-Survey.aspx> (/Pages/Capital-Needs-Assessment-Survey.aspx) or <https://www2.illinois.gov/cdb/Pages/default.aspx> (<https://www2.illinois.gov/cdb/Pages/default.aspx>). Completed forms can be submitted by U.S. Mail to School Business Services, 100 North First Street, Springfield, IL 62777-0001 or by emailing to finance1@isbe.net (<mailto:finance1@isbe.net>).

Further questions can be directed to Christine Kolaz, School Business Services, at (217) 785-8779.

GRANT ACCOUNTABILITY TRANSPARENCY ACT

FY 2019 Fiscal and Administrative Risk Assessment Now Available

The Fiscal and Administrative Risk Assessment (ICQ) for FY 2019 is now available in the [GATA Grantee Portal](https://grants.illinois.gov/portal/) (<https://grants.illinois.gov/portal/>).


All entities seeking or planning to seek FY 2019 funding should complete and submit the 2019 ICQ as soon as possible. ISBE will not approve FY 2019 grant applications, nor will awards be made, without the completed 2019 ICQ.


The ICQ is required once per fiscal year and all state agencies utilize results to assess conditions of risk. The ICQ should be completed by someone with financial or accounting experience. For reference, the portal provides access to prior year ICQ responses.

Please direct any GATA-related questions to GATA@isbe.net or (217) 782-5630.

COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS

Postsecondary Readiness Workforce (PWR) Act: Transitional Math Webinar and Summit

It is estimated nearly half of all high school graduates who enter postsecondary education are recommended for remedial math courses. Statistics indicate students who are placed in remedial math at the postsecondary level are less likely to be successful at completing college in their chosen path. The [PWR Act](http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/99/PDF/099-0674.pdf)  (<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/99/PDF/099-0674.pdf>) deploys a number of strategies that enable, strengthen, and empower Illinois high school districts' instructional leadership capabilities to benefit students in college and career transitions. One of those components is the implementation of fourth-year high school transitional math courses, which have tremendous potential in reducing remediation and developmental education course work for high school students planning to attend Illinois colleges.

ISBE fully supports Illinois high school districts in transitional math course implementation, which by law high schools must implement or officially opt-out of by recommendation of local school board. Therefore, ISBE is hosting an informational webinar from 3-4 p.m. on **Wednesday, May 2**. [Registration is now available](https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6624038977848245762)  (<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6624038977848245762>).

In addition to the webinar, summits will take place around the state to help school districts, community colleges, and universities facilitate, collaborate, and coordinate implementation of transitional math courses.

Implementation Summits:

- Carl Sandburg College, 1-4 p.m. April 20, location TBD
- Southwestern Illinois Community College, 1:30–3:30 p.m. April 21, Liberal Arts Building - Room 2311
- Waubensee Community College, 2:30-4 p.m. April 24, APC 110D
- Kaskaskia College, 1-4 p.m. May 11, location TBD

Please contact your local community college or Kathy Almy, Transitional Math State Coordinator at kalmy@niu.edu (mailto:kalmy@niu.edu) for guidance.

NUTRITION PROGRAMS

Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Application Now Available Online

The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) [application](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FFVP1819) (https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FFVP1819) for school year 2018-19 is now available. Carefully review the application for all of the FFVP program requirements. The deadline to apply is **May 4**.

All elementary schools (grades 8 and below) that participate in the National School Lunch Program and have 100 percent of their students eligible for free and reduced price meals are eligible to apply.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) requires that highest priority be given to schools with the highest percentage of low-income students. This application is being released only to elementary schools with 100 percent free and reduced-price eligibility based upon October 2017 eligibility data. This is due to the number of elementary schools in Illinois at 100 percent free and reduced-price eligibility and that there was not enough funding the prior year to cover all schools that applied at that level.

If it is not possible to fund all schools with 100 percent free and reduced-price eligibility that apply, the enrollment based on October 2017 eligibility data will be the deciding factor, with the smaller enrollment number being awarded. If funds remain after awarding under this application release, an additional application will be released for additional schools to apply.

The purpose of FFVP is to increase fresh fruit and vegetable consumption in elementary schools participating in NSLP. FFVP funds are used to provide fresh fruits and vegetables to children at no cost during the school day outside of the reimbursable meal(s) periods. This program is different from the U.S. Department of Defense Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program, which allocates USDA Foods planned assistance level monies so that schools may acquire fresh fruits and vegetable to use during the service of reimbursable meals to students (breakfast and lunch).

More information is available on [ISBE's FFVP page](/Pages/Fresh-Fruit-and-Vegetable-Program.aspx) (/Pages/Fresh-Fruit-and-Vegetable-Program.aspx). For FFVP application questions, contact Roxanne Ramage at rramage@isbe.net (mailto:rramage@isbe.net) or (800) 545-7892.

Apply to Be a Part of ISBE's School Nutrition Advisory Council

ISBE's Nutrition Division is committed to working with school nutrition professionals, industry members, and advocacy groups to gain knowledge about program operations to better administer the [School Nutrition Programs](/Pages/School-Nutrition-Programs.aspx) (/Pages/School-Nutrition-Programs.aspx) in schools throughout 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 for school year 2018-19.

Interested persons should complete and submit the [online survey application](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ADVCOUNCIL) (https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ADVCOUNCIL) no later than **May 10**. We anticipate hosting up to four meetings annually (May-April) with the first meeting planned for May 22 in Springfield at the Illinois State Board of Education offices at 100 N First Street, Springfield, IL 62777. The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. and conclude no later than 3:30 p.m.

Please contact Roxanne Ramage at rramage@isbe.net (mailto:rramage@isbe.net) or (800) 545-7892 if you have questions regarding the Illinois School Nutrition Advisory Council.

Community Eligibility Provision Application Period Now Open

The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) application period is open for school year 2018-19. To get started, visit [ISBE's CEP webpage \(/Pages/Guidance-for-HHFKA.aspx\)](#) and click the "Application Process" tab. Applications must be based on April 2, 2018, enrollment and SY 2017-18 identified student data and be submitted by June 30, 2018.

It is highly recommended that any school electing CEP for the first time complete [evaluation worksheets available on our CEP website \(/Pages/Guidance-for-HHFKA.aspx\)](#) to ensure that election to CEP is financially feasible for your school/district.

CEP is an alternative to collecting, approving, and verifying Household Eligibility Applications for students who are eligible for free and reduced-price lunch in high-poverty Local Education Agency schools participating in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast programs. NSLP and SBP are funded by the USDA and administered by the Illinois State Board of Education.


Contact our Nutrition Division at (800) 545-7892 or email cnp@isbe.net (mailto:cnp@isbe.net) if you have questions.

Registration Now Open for Annual SNP Back to School Conference Aug. 6-7

Registration is open for ISBE's annual School Nutrition Programs (SNP) Back to School Conference, which is scheduled for Aug. 6 and 7 in Springfield. The theme for this year's conference is "Nutritional Pursuit," and the host hotel for the free two-day conference is the Crowne Plaza, 3000 S. Dirksen Parkway.

Attendees can earn up to 12.5 training hours at the conference, which kicks off at 10 a.m. on Monday, Aug. 6. Registration opens at 9 a.m. with the first day of the conference ending at 5 p.m. Day 2 is set for 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Day 1 will feature a general session culinary demonstration, and Day 2 will feature a general session with special guests and the ISBE School Nutrition Champion Award presentation.

Scheduled sessions include "Accommodation of Special Dietary Needs," "Whole Grain Rich Foods," "Unpaid Meal Guidance," "Claims/FRIS Data," "Making the Best School Breakfast Program," "What to Expect on an SNP Review?" and many more. The [complete agenda is available online](#)  (/Documents/SNPB2S-agenda-2018.pdf).

Visit the [registration site \(https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2018B2S\)](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2018B2S) directly or visit the Nutrition Division's [School Nutrition Programs Back to School webpage \(/Pages/SNPB2S.aspx\)](#) for more information. The website features the 2018 agenda, a flyer, and a document to assist with hotel options, restaurants, and Springfield sites of interest. The site also has resources from last year's conference, including presentations that provide great information year-round.

EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY

Upcoming Future Ready Workshops: Leading District Change

Future Ready Schools® (FRS) and the Learning Technology Center are facilitating two FREE Future Ready Workshops on May 15 (Utica) and May 16 (Carterville). District teams, which can include up to four people, are invited to learn about the FRS planning process, develop an engagement strategy for transforming and modernizing student learning, and collaborate with peers to receive support for their district's journey. Learn more and register at [Future Ready Illinois \(http://lrcillinois.org/frillinois/\)](http://lrcillinois.org/frillinois/).

RULES & WAIVERS

Special Education - Notice of Completed Rulemaking

After engaging in nearly a two-year process, ISBE is announcing that Part 401 Rules: Special Education Facilities under Section 14-7.02 of the School Code were approved by the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules and were published in the [Illinois Register](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/index/register/home.html) (<http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/index/register/home.html>) on April 6. ISBE appreciates the meaningful engagement from all stakeholders. The changes were effective March 21. The rules can be found on [ISBE's Non Public Special Education Programs \(/Pages/Nonpublic-Special-Education-Programs.aspx\)](#) page. Please see below for additional details on the newly adopted rules.

Changes have been posted under [Rules Currently in Effect \(/Pages/Rules.aspx\)](#): Part 401 (Special Education Facilities under Section 14-7.01 of the School Code) - see Sections 401.2, 401.5, 401.10, 401.20, 401.30, 401.110, 401.120, 401.130, 401.140, 401.145, 401.150, 401.210, 401.220, 401.230, 401.240, 401.250, 401.260, 401.270, and 401.280.

ILLINOIS BICENTENNIAL

Seeking Ideas for ISBE's School Meals Bicentennial Menu

ISBE's Nutrition Division is celebrating Illinois' 200th birthday by creating a breakfast and lunch menu for one school week, featuring Illinois-created, Illinois-grown, Illinois-named products that schools can use to highlight the history of Illinois in their school meals programs.

ISBE is asking school nutrition staff to submit menu ideas that can be incorporated into this menu project no later than **April 27**. We plan to highlight the menu-planning work of experts in Illinois schools with kid-friendly selections that make up the healthy, nutritious offerings throughout our schools.

Select up to one lunch menu day and one breakfast menu day to share with ISBE for consideration. [Menu suggestions may be submitted to ISBE via this survey](#) (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/200menu>).

Visit ISBE's [Illinois Bicentennial Education webpage \(/Pages/Bicentennial-Education.aspx\)](#) to read more about plans for the celebration. ISBE is proud to be a partner in the Illinois Bicentennial Celebration, a yearlong series of programs and events that will culminate with Illinois' 200th birthday on Dec. 3, 2018.

If you have any questions, please reach out to ISBE's Nutrition Division staff at cnp@isbe.net (<mailto:cnp@isbe.net>).

IN BRIEF

Student Recognition

- The Serve Illinois Commission recently named the **2018 Governor's Volunteer Service Award recipients** (<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/serve/Pages/GVSA2018.aspx>). Congratulations to the five students honored with the Youth Award!
- Congratulations to **Hannah Young** for winning first prize in the **Illinois Bicentennial Realtor Essay Contest** (<https://www.illinoisrealtors.org/events/bicentennial/bicentennial-essay-contest/>)! Also, congratulations to all second- and third-prize winners!
- Congratulations to seven Illinois students for being named **2018 Coke Scholars** (<http://www.coca-colascholarsfoundation.org/blog/our-2018-coke-scholars/>)!

Educator Recognition

- Congratulations to **Michael Havener, Library Media Specialist at Springfield High School**, for receiving the 2018 American Association of School Librarians' Ruth Toor Grant for Strong Public School Libraries!
- Congratulations to **Jitu Brown, national director for the Journey for Justice Alliance**, for receiving a **2018 Community School Leadership Award** (<http://www.cvent.com/events/community-schools-national-forum-2018/custom-22->

82171a50f2dc46578f8c395ba07b07b6.aspx) from the Coalition for Community Schools!

- Congratulations to **Randy Ellison of Dream Academy U-46** for being the Illinois Coalition for Educating At-Risk Youth 2018 Education in Excellence winner!

Staff Recognition

- Congratulations to **Nancy Antonini**, BSN, RN, PEL-CSN, who has been named the 2018 National Association of Schools Nurses Outstanding Special Needs School Nurse!

School Recognition

- Congratulations to **Elgin and Hampshire High Schools** (<http://www.nwherald.com/2018/04/12/renovated-elgin-high-school-welding-lab-certified-as-accredited-testing-facility/a1pwbwv/>) for receiving national accreditation by the American Welding Society and being awarded the Accredited Test Facility Designation! Great work!

School Grant Opportunities

- The [application](https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/education/Pages/GrantsIBFTG.aspx) (<https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/education/Pages/GrantsIBFTG.aspx>) form for the **2019 Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip Grant** is now available. For more information about the Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip Grant Program, contact the IDNR Division of Education at dnr.teachkids@illinois.gov (<mailto:dnr.teachkids@illinois.gov>) or (217) 524-4126.

Student Opportunities


- (<http://www.latinoartbeat.com/>)

The **American Egg Board** is seeking nominations for the “You’re Incredible Because ...” contest, which will honor a child and their school with a prize package. [The deadline to apply is May 7](https://www.incredibleegg.org/incredible-because-contest/official-rules/) (<https://www.incredibleegg.org/incredible-because-contest/official-rules/>).

Professional Development Opportunities

- **The Brookfield Zoo** will be hosting three Professional Development “Mini-Conferences” on June 2, Aug. 15, and Oct. 6. Join engaging sessions about inquiry-based learning, engineering, NGSS, differentiation, meaningful classroom conversations, accommodations for English Learners, phenomena-based instruction, and more! [Registration now available](https://www.czs.org/Brookfield-ZOO/Learning/School-Group-Teacher-Programs/PDDay) (<https://www.czs.org/Brookfield-ZOO/Learning/School-Group-Teacher-Programs/PDDay>).

Community Resources

- The **Institute for Parents of Preschool Children Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing** is a free one-week program for parents of children ages 5 and under who have a significant hearing loss. It takes place on the campus of the Illinois School for the Deaf in Jacksonville from June 10-15. Participating families receive support and information on topics including child development, types of hearing loss, language development, communication choices, deaf culture, and school programming. See the [institute's brochure](https://dsc.uic.edu/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/PSDI-Information-Brochure-2018.pdf)  (<https://dsc.uic.edu/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/PSDI-Information-Brochure-2018.pdf>) for more details and registration information.

Upcoming Events

- Celebrate **National School Nurse Day** (<https://www.nasn.org/advocacy/school-nurse-day>) on May 9! This year's theme is School Nurses: Advocates for 21st Century Student Health.

ISBE Employment Opportunities

Watch for ISBE career opportunities and find instructions for applying at [Careers at ISBE](http://www.isbe.net/Pages/Careers-at-ISBE.aspx) (<http://www.isbe.net/Pages/Careers-at-ISBE.aspx>).

