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Dear Colleagues:

Happy Teacher Appreciation Day, and Teacher Appreciation Week! I think we all know why it's scheduled for this time of year. Things tend to get hectic in May, when capstone projects are due, finals are looming, and everyone is distracted by spring fever. It's the perfect time to be reminded how much all your hard work matters!

I asked a few of my colleagues here to share stories of teachers who inspire them – in their own education, or the lives of their children.

Dr. Jennifer Kirmes, our executive director for teaching and learning, had an immediate answer, thanks to visiting Lick Creek CCSD #16 last week and dropping in on Kathryn Carter's pre-K class. The students greeted Jen eagerly telling her about what they were learning, and were so enthusiastic about their morning exercise that Jen joined in. "It is clear that Mrs. Carter has cultivated a safe and playful environment where each child is accepted and encouraged," Jen says.

Krish Mohip, our deputy chief of operational education, says he is inspired by Maria Bacur, a third grade teacher who has taught two of his children at Fairview South District 72 in Skokie. When Krish's daughter Riley was sick or on quarantine, Ms. Bacur kept her on track with virtual instruction and even delivered materials to Riley at home. "On a daily basis she challenges her students, sets high expectations while helping them achieve them, and provides a loving classroom environment while doing so," he says. "She is a treasure to the school and to the profession."

Oriana Wilson, our executive director of programs, is inspired by a former colleague, Tania Miranda, an elementary teacher at a dual-language program in Chicago. She cares for the whole child and their family," Oriana says. "She makes her students feel at home, loved and supported. The children excel because it is not forced, it is appreciated."

Joanne Clyde, our director of multilingual services, is inspired by all the bilingual teachers she works with, especially their amazing ability to fulfill so many different roles – teaching multiple grade levels, to students speaking multiple different languages, in different locations (a classroom, the library, the cafetorium stage, the hallway), and translating documents for parents on a moment's notice. Joanne calls bilingual teachers "the unsung heroes!"

Dr. Brenda Dixon, our Research and Evaluation officer, was inspired by Sister Mary Ann Joseph, who was "tough as nails" regarding discipline and lessons, but also prone to singing, dancing, and cheering – tendencies that forged strong connections with students. She also insisted that students had pride in "our African roots and heritage, and that

Dr. Erica Thieman, our director of k-12 curriculum and instruction, has personal and poignant memories of a teacher who stepped in when she needed someone the most. “When I was in the third grade, my mom -- who was a high school chemistry and physics teacher -- passed away after battling cancer for six years,” Erica says. “My teacher that year, Mrs. Wilma Kinder, helped me through that very challenging time. She and every teacher I had through the next few years helped me not only survive but also thrive. They were critical in shaping who I became as an educator.”

And finally, Dr. Ernesto Matias, our Educational Officer at ISBE, says his sixth-grade teacher at Moss Elementary School is responsible for his position today. Donald Fumo “was very strict and tolerated no nonsense,” Ernesto says. When Ernesto returned to Moss to interview for a job, Mr. Fumo was principal, and remembered Ernesto, hiring him on the spot. Then Mr. Fumo began stuffing his mailbox with leadership brochures, nudging Ernesto to become an administrator. He took that advice and rose through the ranks. He and Mr. Fumo still have dinner together every month.

I share these stories to remind you of how important your work is, how far the ripples extend from every small thing you do today. Few professions offer such regular opportunities to shape the future. Thank you for the positive future you inspire!

Pictured: State Superintendent of Education Dr. Carmen Ayala recently visited Berwyn North SD 98, where she had helped plan a STEM lab that has now come to fruition.

As we approach the end of the school year, we'd love to celebrate your graduates! Send us your graduation photos to press@isbe.net (mailto:press@isbe.net).

Sincerely,

Carmen

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) (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/ISBE-Meetings.aspx).

May 1 - May 30	Nomination deadlines for Teach Plus fellowships (https://teachplus.org/il)
May 3	Webinar: FY 2023 Truants' Alternative and Optional Education Program Professional Development (https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/7942400730446398733)
May 3	Webinar: CURE After School Programs (https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/8111300010584856844)
May 4	Workshop: Emergency Connectivity Fund Application (https://ltcillinois.tfaforms.net/3?eid=a031Q00002F87SAQAZ)
May 4	Webinar: SY 2021-22 College and Career Readiness Indicator (https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/8311345156032263179)
May 4	Webinar: Equity Journey Continuum – Elevating Educators (https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/1159316686776774926)
May 5	Webinar: SY 2021-22 College and Career Readiness Indicator (https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/8311345156032263179)

May 6	Alternative Climate Survey Office Hours (https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ZWlxNTk2MWEtYjQ3Ni00MmE5LWEwNDEtMTM3MTRjNTg3NDM1%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%220364fe86-49c6-4af4-b52c-335a99e577d1%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22a6525dbc-df3a-41b8-81e4-2cacd64c703c%22%7d)
May 6	Deadline to Apply for Phillip Jackson Freedom Schools Grant (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Before-and-After-School-Programming.aspx)
May 9	Emergency Connectivity Fund Application Virtual Workshop (https://itcillinois.tfaforms.net/3?eid=a031Q00002F87SKQAZ)
May 10	Webinar: Equity Journey Continuum - How to share the EJC with your administrative team (https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6252716341671093006)
May 13	Round 3 FCC Emergency Connectivity Funding Application Window Closes (https://www.fcc.gov/emergency-connectivity-fund)
May 13	Alternative Climate Survey Office Hours (https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ZWlxNTk2MWEtYjQ3Ni00MmE5LWEwNDEtMTM3MTRjNTg3NDM1%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%220364fe86-49c6-4af4-b52c-335a99e577d1%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22a6525dbc-df3a-41b8-81e4-2cacd64c703c%22%7d)
May 14	ICTM Coaching Mini-Conference (https://ictm.memberclicks.net/coaching-mini-conference)
May 16	Deadline to submit ESSER and Governor's Emergency Education Relief Year 2 Annual Performance Report
May 17	Illinois School Nutrition Advisory Council meeting
May 20	Alternative Climate Survey Office Hours (https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ZWlxNTk2MWEtYjQ3Ni00MmE5LWEwNDEtMTM3MTRjNTg3NDM1%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%220364fe86-49c6-4af4-b52c-335a99e577d1%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22a6525dbc-df3a-41b8-81e4-2cacd64c703c%22%7d)
May 23	Deadline to apply for CURE After School Programs (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/After-School-Programs.aspx)
May 27	Alternative Climate Survey Office Hours (https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ZWlxNTk2MWEtYjQ3Ni00MmE5LWEwNDEtMTM3MTRjNTg3NDM1%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%220364fe86-49c6-4af4-b52c-335a99e577d1%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22a6525dbc-df3a-41b8-81e4-2cacd64c703c%22%7d)
May 31	Deadline to apply for the Team Nutrition School Meals Recipe Development Grant (https://www.isbe.net/Documents/Team-Nutrition-RFP.pdf)
Jun. 1	Deadline to submit FY 2023 Truants' Alternative and Optional Education Program Request for Proposal
Jun. 3	Deadline to apply for 2022-23 Student Advisory Council (https://isbe.submittable.com/submit/9dc1d805-6881-473a-a72d-

Jun.
17

Deadline to submit Supply Chain Assistance Attestation Statement
(<https://www.isbe.net/Documents/030122-SCA-funding.pdf>)

Jun.
30

Deadline to complete Professional Development Provider Registration

NEW

LEARNING RENEWAL

This section will focus each week 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) (<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=hv5kA8ZJ9Eq1LDNameV30Ufi4KgH87ICv6FRRQI8cvIUNTdHWktDS1NJWjJZVDFaQ09RVINCUVdMRi4u>) how you are investing federal relief funds to help students recover.


TUTORS NEEDED: ILLINOIS TUTORING INITIATIVE

The [Illinois Tutoring Initiative](#) (/Pages/ILTutoringInitiative.aspx) is seeking tutors from across the state to support students in Grades 3-8 in literacy and math (in-person) and high school math (online starting in fall 2022) to support learning recovery. Qualified tutors include current teachers, teacher education candidates, higher education students, and community members (must have high school diploma or equivalent). Tutors must be able to meet with students for three sessions per week for 8-14 week sessions. Tutors receive training that will allow them to plan for student success, track progress, and align with district curriculum and resources to support targeted student learning. Interested in becoming a tutor? The first step is to fill out an [interest form](#) (https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=OphfCGkLcEK3HRBpUHa6_qhJpgaRN-JluppKsun1_qJUMFdCVDJBWThaMIVOUK9YTIBNSDhVQ0xaNy4u).

HIGH-IMPACT TUTORING AVAILABLE FOR RECOGNIZED NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS

State-recognized nonpublic schools are now able to register for high-impact tutoring services to support student learning recovery. The Illinois State Board of Education is partnering with Catapult Learning to offer a flexible high-impact tutoring program to help students overcome the impacts of disruption to classroom learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Kikifer's Entrepreneurial Academy (KEA) in Rockford is amongst the initial enrollees in the program. "Kikifer's Entrepreneurial Academy is very excited to have the opportunity to work with Catapult. Individualized small group tutoring is exactly what Kikifer's Academy needs. This is an incredible resource for KEA, giving our school the opportunity to impact many, many students in the community in a positive and productive way," said Keishonda Williamson, school administrator. Nonpublic schools can apply for services on the [Catapult Learning website](#) (<https://catapultlearning.com/illinois-registration/>).

APPLY FOR ONEGOAL POSTSECONDARY SUCCESS PROGRAM BY JUNE 15

ISBE is expanding a partnership with OneGoal, a leading postsecondary success organization, to offer a [systemwide solution](#) (<https://www.onegoalgraduation.org/onegoal-isbe-partnership/>) to increase students' college and career readiness to districts at no-cost. OneGoal's Postsecondary Leadership Series gives districts the opportunity to develop a customized, actionable plan to further elevate district resources and enable more students to reach their greatest college and career aspirations. District and school leaders will assess their current postsecondary readiness, build capacity and community with other leaders, and receive ongoing one-on-one coaching. The deadline for [application to the OneGoal program](#)  (https://www.onegoalgraduation.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/OneGoal_ISBE-SY22-23-

MY DATA DASHBOARD COMING SOON

You asked and we listened! ISBE will soon launch a new tool called My Data Dashboard, accessible via MyIRC, that replaces Ed360. ISBE conducted a survey and consulted focus groups to gather feedback about Ed360. My Data Dashboard will provide the same features with faster loading times and a better user experience. Soon users will be able to access a new feature on My Data Dashboard that allows them to customize their home page and see data that is most pertinent to them. Users can create multiple dashboards and save various configurations of data to quickly view it relevant to their day-to-day work. Stay tuned for more information, including videos, about many new features in the future.

NEW

FINANCE

FISCAL YEAR 2023 MOEQUITY UPDATE

MOEquity specifies that Local Education Agencies (LEAs) receiving Elementary and Secondary School Education Relief (ESSER) funds under the American Rescue Plan Act must protect certain high-poverty schools from disproportionate reductions in state and local funding and staffing in fiscal years 2022 and 2023, as determined by federal guidelines. This requirement is intended to ensure schools serving large proportions of low-income students receive an equitable share of state and local funds.

The Certification of Exception will be available for FY 2023 for LEAs that will not implement an aggregate reduction in combined state and local per-pupil funding (i.e., are not facing overall budget reductions).

MOEquity requirements are waived in FY 2023 for all LEAs submitting this certification. Consistent with FY 2022 guidance, certain LEAs are fully exempt from MOEquity, including those with a single school, those with schools that serve non-overlapping grade-spans, or those with fewer than 1,000 students. LEAs that are neither exempt nor eligible for the Certification of Exception may choose to conduct the required fiscal and staffing equity tests, or they may petition the U.S. Department of Education for unique waivers due to exceptional or uncontrollable circumstances.

LEA leaders are encouraged to consider MOEquity requirements, including eligibility for the Certification of Exception, as they begin planning for their FY 2023 annual budget. LEAs can review an archive of ISBE's FY 2022 guidance, along with the most recent MOEquity [Frequently Asked Questions](#) (/Pages/covid19.aspx) under Federal Funding – ESSER. For more information, please contact ARPMOEquity@ISBE.net (mailto:ARPMOEquity@ISBE.net).

NEW

GRANT ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY ACT

SAM.GOV UPDATE

ISBE is aware of recent delays at SAM.gov, which means that additional time is needed to validate and renew entity registrations. As such, ISBE encourages all grantees to review their SAM ID and account status at [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov) (<https://sam.gov/content/home>) as soon as possible.

Registrations must be renewed annually, and entities should begin the renewal process at least 12 weeks prior to expiration. Expired or invalid SAM accounts will delay the ISBE grant application process as ISBE will not approve FY 2023 grant applications nor will awards be made to grantees with expired SAM accounts. If you need assistance with the renewal process, visit the [Federal Service Desk](https://www.fsd.gov/gsafsd_sp?id=kb_article_view&sys_kb_id=4a26988e1bdf78106397ec21f54bcbf6) (https://www.fsd.gov/gsafsd_sp?id=kb_article_view&sys_kb_id=4a26988e1bdf78106397ec21f54bcbf6) or call 866-606-8220. There is no cost for support services or to use SAM.gov. This [guided tool](https://www.fsd.gov/gsafsd_sp) (https://www.fsd.gov/gsafsd_sp)

For more information, please contact GATA@isbe.net (mailto:GATA@isbe.net).

ISBE OFFERS GUIDANCE FOR FY 2023 STATE AND FEDERAL GRANT APPLICANTS

Prior to full execution of any FY 2023 state or federal grant application, grantees must ensure all Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) requirements are met. Grantees must be fully prequalified in the GATA Grantee Portal and ensure the following are completed prior to submitting FY 2023 grant applications:

1. [FY23 Fiscal and Administrative Risk Assessment](https://grants.illinois.gov/portal/) (https://grants.illinois.gov/portal/)
2. 2022-23 Organizational Risk Assessment - IWAS
3. SAM.gov/Unique Entity Identity - SAM.gov

Additional information and updates are available on the [GATA webpage](#)  (/Documents/GATA-PreQuals.pdf).

Questions may be directed to GATAICQ@isbe.net (mailto:GATAICQ@isbe.net).

NEW

ILLINOIS REPORT CARD



2021 REPORT CARD THIRD RELEASE

On April 27, the below final school, district, and state level data was released to the Illinois Report Card:

- Illinois Assessment of Readiness proficiency and participation
- SAT proficiency and participation
- ACCESS proficiency and participation
- Dynamic Learning Maps Alternate Assessment proficiency and participation
- Illinois Science Assessment participation

EQUITY JOURNEY CONTINUUM PD SESSIONS

Join the Illinois State Board of Education and the Institute for Racial Justice at Loyola University Chicago for the fourth and fifth professional development sessions to help school district administrators and educators understand and use the Equity Journey Continuum to improve outcomes for all students. Each session will help you interpret your continuum in the Data Review and Verification Tool.

- **2:30 p.m. May 4** - Session 4, focusing on the data elements in the Elevating Educators area and feature ISBE Executive Director of Teaching and Learning Dr. Jennifer Kirmes, 2021 Teacher of the Year Justin Johnson from Niles West High School in Niles Township High School District 219, and staff from the Institute for Racial Justice at Loyola University Chicago. [Register for Session 4](https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/1159316686776774926)  (https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/1159316686776774926).
- **2:30 p.m. May 10** - Session 5, focusing on how to share the Equity Journey Continuum with your administrative team and featuring State Superintendent of Education Dr. Carmen I. Ayala, ISBE Officer of Research and Evaluation Dr. Brenda Dixon, Superintendent Dr. Victor Simon from Gower School District 62, and staff from the Institute for Racial Justice at Loyola University Chicago. [Register for Session 5](https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6252716341671093006)  (https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6252716341671093006).

SY 2021-22 COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS INDICATOR WEBINAR

ISBE is hosting a [webinar on the College and Career Readiness Indicator](#) .

(https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/8311345156032263179) for school year 2021-22 on **May 4** and **May 5**. This session is intended for school counselors, high school principals, school and district data personnel, and/or superintendents, and will take a deep dive into the College and Career Readiness Indicator, including all data

CURRICULUM EVALUATION TOOL

Attention administrators, curriculum specialists, and instructional coaches: Looking for an easy tool to help support best practices and continuous quality improvement, the selection of high-quality instructional materials, and the promotion of equity and diversity?

Look no further! ISBE, in partnership with Regional Offices of Education (ROEs), launched its first Capacity Builders on the Curriculum Evaluation Tool (CET) in October 2021. ISBE encourages districts to work with their local ROE or Intermediate Service Center (ISC) to use the tool to help identify areas in which the ROE or ISC can provide additional supports through professional learning. This tool supports curriculum evaluation, fosters meaningful discussions, and aids in the decision-making process about the selection of new materials as appropriate.

Districts or ROEs interested in using the CET are eligible to apply for reimbursement expenses incurred, such as stipends for teachers, substitute pay, costs associated with facilitating professional learning that pertains to the tool, or other consumable materials. To qualify for reimbursements, a district or ROE must:

1. Complete the [Certification of Use Form](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=hv5kA8ZJ9Eq1LDNameV30R5TGA0hz4IOI3TlyQBhU8tUNDEwOFdWQIExRUK0SFIVQU4xRTNMQVhQRi4u) (<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=hv5kA8ZJ9Eq1LDNameV30R5TGA0hz4IOI3TlyQBhU8tUNDEwOFdWQIExRUK0SFIVQU4xRTNMQVhQRi4u>).
2. Complete the [ROE CET Expense Reimbursement Form](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1fixylwaExWSv7eu4d3-JxSTydyBVbxoT/edit#gid=1732469713) (<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1fixylwaExWSv7eu4d3-JxSTydyBVbxoT/edit#gid=1732469713>) and email it and proof of purchases to ROE 35 representative Krissy Darm at kdarm@roe35.org (<mailto:kdarm@roe35.org>).

For specific questions about reimbursements or using the CET, please reach out directly to Caitlyn Walker at cwalker@isbe.net (<mailto:cwalker@isbe.net>).



FY 2022 PHILLIP JACKSON FREEDOM SCHOOLS GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINE EXTENDED

The application deadline for the FY 2022 Phillip Jackson Freedom Schools Grant has been extended to **4:30 p.m. May 6**. The Phillip Jackson Freedom Schools Grant will establish a Freedom School network to supplement the learning taking place in public schools by creating programs with a mission to improve the odds for low-income students. Freedom Schools will provide activities and support using a research-based and multicultural curriculum for disenfranchised communities most affected by the opportunity gap and learning loss caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, and by expanding the teaching of African American history, developing leadership skills, and providing an understanding of the tenets of the civil rights movement. Funds in the amount of \$17 million will be awarded. For more information, visit [ISBE's Out of School Time](/Pages/Before-and-After-School-Programming.aspx) (</Pages/Before-and-After-School-Programming.aspx>) webpage.

CURE AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS RFP NOW AVAILABLE

ISBE has released the [CURE After School Programs RFP](/Pages/After-School-Programs.aspx) (</Pages/After-School-Programs.aspx>) in the amount of \$10 million. The purpose of this funding opportunity is to establish after school programs as a joint effort between not-for-profit community-based organizations and Tier 1 or Tier 2 school districts. After-school programs that are embedded in the local community help students increase academic achievement and develop social and emotional learning skills.

Proposals are due by **4 p.m. May 23**. For more information, visit ISBE's [After School Programs](/Pages/Before-and-After-School-Programming.aspx) (</Pages/Before-and-After-School-Programming.aspx>) webpage or contact afterschool@isbe.net (<mailto:afterschool@isbe.net>) or 217-782-5270.


ISBE is offering open office hours for all districts to administer an alternate survey of learning conditions to answer any questions about the data and reports that are due to ISBE by **May 31**. The office hours will from 2-3 p.m. every Friday in May.

- **2-3 p.m. May 6** (https://teams.microsoft.com/join/19:meeting_ZWlxNTk2MWEtYjQ3Ni00MmE5LWEwNDEtMTM3MTRjNTg3NDM1%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22:%220364fe86-49c6-4af4-b52c-335a99e577d1%22%2c%22Oid%22:%22a6525dbc-df3a-41b8-81e4-2cacd64c703c%22%7d)
- **2-3 p.m. May 13** (https://teams.microsoft.com/join/19:meeting_ZWlxNTk2MWEtYjQ3Ni00MmE5LWEwNDEtMTM3MTRjNTg3NDM1%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22:%220364fe86-49c6-4af4-b52c-335a99e577d1%22%2c%22Oid%22:%22a6525dbc-df3a-41b8-81e4-2cacd64c703c%22%7d)
- **2-3 p.m. May 20** (https://teams.microsoft.com/join/19:meeting_ZWlxNTk2MWEtYjQ3Ni00MmE5LWEwNDEtMTM3MTRjNTg3NDM1%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22:%220364fe86-49c6-4af4-b52c-335a99e577d1%22%2c%22Oid%22:%22a6525dbc-df3a-41b8-81e4-2cacd64c703c%22%7d)
- **2-3 p.m. May 27** (https://teams.microsoft.com/join/19:meeting_ZWlxNTk2MWEtYjQ3Ni00MmE5LWEwNDEtMTM3MTRjNTg3NDM1%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22:%220364fe86-49c6-4af4-b52c-335a99e577d1%22%2c%22Oid%22:%22a6525dbc-df3a-41b8-81e4-2cacd64c703c%22%7d)

For more information, please contact csmall@isbe.net (mailto:csmall@isbe.net) or 5essentials@isbe.net (mailto:5essentials@isbe.net).


EDUCATOR EFFECTIVENESS

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDER REGISTRATION

All entities offering professional development activities for educator licensure renewal must register with ISBE prior to offering PD activities in the upcoming fiscal year. If you are an approved PD provider and have never previously registered with ISBE, please complete this [PD Provider Registration Form](#)  (/Documents/PD-Provider-Registration-Guide.pdf) by **June 30**. PD providers that have already completed this form at any point in time, including last year, **do not** need to complete this registration form.

EQUITY

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION TOOL PILOT

ISBE, along with a team of exceptional educators, created the [Diversity Equity and Inclusion Provider Evaluation Tool \(DEI Tool\)](#)  (/Documents/DEI-Tool-2021-2022.pdf) to guide and inform professional development that focuses on reducing — and hopefully, eradicating — implicit racial bias. The tool provides a rubric and criteria for evaluating and identifying high-quality DEI training that is aligned to the Standards for Professional Learning.

We invite you to help pilot the DEI Tool by incorporating its use in the creation, modification, and evaluation of your implicit bias training. The rubric information you supply to ISBE will enable us to provide resources and workshops that are responsive to your needs.

After using the DEI Tool to evaluate your professional development, we ask that you complete this [survey](#) (<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?>

us identify the most effective DEI trainings by **May 20**. If you have any questions about how to utilize this tool to strengthen your DEI practices and professional development, please contact studentcare@isbe.net (mailto:studentcare@isbe.net).

FAFSA

HOST A FAFSA COMPLETION WORKSHOP

Forty-three percent of Illinois high school seniors have not yet completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Completing the FAFSA or Illinois [alternative application](https://www.isac.org/Alternative-Application) (https://www.isac.org/Alternative-Application) is a graduation requirement for all Illinois public school students. Check your high school's FAFSA [completion rate](https://www.isac.org/home/fafsa/index.html) (https://www.isac.org/home/fafsa/index.html) and reach out to the Illinois Student Assistance Commission to host a [FAFSA completion workshop](https://www.isac.org/counselors/Rock-the-FAFSA/) (https://www.isac.org/counselors/Rock-the-FAFSA/). Illinois currently ranks No. 4 in the nation for our FAFSA completion rate. Help us finish the year in the top three!

SCHOOL NUTRITION

APPLY FOR THE TEAM NUTRITION SCHOOL MEALS RECIPE DEVELOPMENT GRANT

ISBE is seeking proposals for the [Team Nutrition School Meals Recipe Development Grant](/Pages/team-nutrition.aspx) (/Pages/team-nutrition.aspx). Grantees will guide students in recipe development and plan activities, such as field trips and local taste tests. ISBE will host a recipe tasting event for all grant recipients to celebrate the students' efforts and bring participants together to sample recipes created by themselves and their peers.

For more information, view the [Technical Assistance Webinar](https://register.gotowebinar.com/recording/6249999448423786497) 🗣️

(https://register.gotowebinar.com/recording/6249999448423786497) and [Technical Assistance Presentation](/Documents/042722-TN-grant-webinar.pdf) 📄 (/Documents/042722-TN-grant-webinar.pdf). The deadline to apply for the grant RFP is **4 p.m. May 31**.

IN BRIEF

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Ed Leaders Network

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

- **3 p.m. May 17:** [Restorative Justice in Schools](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN__NHYv10OR7SHyiAjN-QzEA) (https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN__NHYv10OR7SHyiAjN-QzEA) -- Restorative justice is a wonderful way of building culture and community, and sustaining relationships within organizations. It offers a way to create a community and how to repair the community when there is conflict. During the one-hour webinar, we will discuss some brief background information on restorative justice and ways to implement it in schools, as well as barriers to overcome.

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

Illinois State Fair STEAM Expo

The Illinois Department of Innovation & Technology will host the Tech Prairie STEAM Expo at the 2022 Illinois State Fair daily from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. August 17-21 in the Orr Building on the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield. The

Free admission to the State Fair may be available for organized student groups. Scheduled tours are available that include exploration of STEAM careers inside the Expo, as well as agriculture tours on the fairgrounds that offer a behind-the-scenes view of Illinois agriculture. Tours are limited, so early registration is encouraged. For more information, visit the [STEAM Expo webpage](http://www.illinois.gov/steamexpo) (<http://www.illinois.gov/steamexpo>) or email doit.steam@illinois.gov (<mailto:doit.steam@illinois.gov>).

EDUCATOR OPPORTUNITIES

ICTM Mini-Conference

Gather with other instructional coaches in-person at one of several host sites located around the state at the [Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics Mini-Conference](https://ictm.memberclicks.net/coaching-mini-conference) (<https://ictm.memberclicks.net/coaching-mini-conference>) from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. May 14. There will be two live-streamed sessions broadcast to all locations with lots of opportunities for discussion/debriefing/sharing at each site.

Field Trip Grants Available

Applications are being accepted for the *Illinois Department of Natural Resources Historic Sites Field Trip Grant*, *Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip Grant* and *Illinois Schoolyard Habitat Action Grant*. You can access the instructions, application forms, and other relevant information for all three grant programs on the [IDNR website](https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/education/Pages/grants.aspx) (<https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/education/Pages/grants.aspx>). Start planning today!

Illinois' Natural Resources Trading Cards

All seven sets of the *Illinois' Natural Resources Trading Cards* (<https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/education/Pages/TradingCards.aspx>) from IDNR are now available to teachers (grades preK-12) in Illinois schools. Make your request in writing on school letterhead and mail to Illinois Department of Natural Resources Division of Education, 1 Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702.

Resources Trunks and Packs are Great Teaching Tools for Summer Camps and Programs

IDNR's trunks and packs are available for loan from locations throughout the state. Trunk topics include wild mammals, trees, prairies, aquatics, invasive species, birds, fossils, pollinators, amphibians and reptiles, state symbols, people and animals from Illinois' past, and nature exploration for early childhood students. Teachers, homeschooling educators, scout and youth group leaders, nature center personnel, librarians, day care center staff, and camp coordinators and families can successfully use these resources. A two-week loan period is suggested. There is no charge to borrow the trunks/packs, although a refundable deposit may be requested. Visit the [IDNR website](https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/education/Pages/ItemsForLoan.aspx) (<https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/education/Pages/ItemsForLoan.aspx>) to find the contact information to make a reservation and view the trunk/pack contents lists.

Professional Development Workshops

Register soon for [Environment and Nature Training Institute for Conservation Education](https://www.enticeworkshops.com) (<https://www.enticeworkshops.com>) (ENTICE) professional development workshops for educators sponsored by IDNR. ENTICE workshops provide background information, networking opportunities, hands-on lessons, supplemental resources on the topic, and the opportunity to work with resources professionals. Professional Development hours are available and correlations to relevant Next Generation Science Standards and/or Illinois Early Learning and Development Standards are provided.

Erickson Institute's Project Connect

Individual Development Survey.

The Project Connect [website](https://www.erikson.edu/professional-development/project-connect/) (https://www.erikson.edu/professional-development/project-connect/) includes a brief description of the program and a list of virtual information sessions. In addition, you can watch a short video to hear from current project participants about what they've gained from their professional development experience.

Food Education Fellowship

Pilot Light is accepting now accepting [applications](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FEF22-23) (https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FEF22-23) for the year-long [Food Education Fellowship](https://pilotlightchefs.org/what-we-do/food-education-fellowship/) (https://pilotlightchefs.org/what-we-do/food-education-fellowship/) for teachers for the 2022-23 school year. The program seeks highly-motivated preK-12th grade teachers across the country with an interest in implementing Pilot Light food education lessons consistently with their students. Fellows will be supported with Pilot Light resources while helping to refine and evaluate food education in classroom. The deadline to apply is **May 23**.

SCHOOL RECOGNITION

2022 Green Ribbon Schools

Last week, the U.S. Department of Education announced the 2022 Green Ribbon Schools. Congratulations to the Illinois schools and districts that were honored for their innovative efforts to reduce environmental impact and utility costs, improve health and wellness, and ensure effective sustainability education.

- Community High School District 99 in Downers Grove
- Northwestern University in Evanston
- Urban Prairie Waldorf School in Chicago

FEATURED ISBE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

- [Budget Analyst](/Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=562) (/Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=562)

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