

ISBE'S WEEKLY MESSAGE

May 9, 2023

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Dear Colleagues:

When I was a student at Springfield High School, my English class was taught by a young teacher named Mark Mittelstaedt. As he introduced us to iconic works of literature – *The Great Gatsby*, *A Catcher in the Rye*, anything by Mark Twain – Mr. Mittelstaedt could barely contain his excitement. His attitude about reading was so contagious, he planted in all of us a curiosity about books. For me, that curiosity bloomed into a love of literature. Mr. Mittelstaedt was always open to conversations about any book. He got to know me as a person and would make recommendations about literature based on that knowledge of me, encouraging me to read works beyond those he assigned for the class, and – without my realizing it -- books that were also beyond my tested reading level. Mark not only helped strengthen my reading abilities; he also exposed me to entirely new worlds.

Mark Mittelstaedt is just one of the many great teachers who shaped me. I know each of you have teachers who shaped you, too. During this Teacher Appreciation Week, you may be getting more donuts in the staff lounge and gift cards tucked into Thank-A-Teacher coffee mugs, but the higher payoff for your efforts will come years or decades in the future when someone thinks about all the ways you strengthened their skills, shored up their self-confidence, recognized their inherent value, and broadened their horizons.

If you follow us on Twitter (<https://twitter.com/ISBEnews>) or Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/IllinoisStateBoardofEducation>), you'll see that we are sharing a template (<https://app.air.inc/a/ceMWMh9No>) with easy prompts for you to honor your favorite teacher. If you tag us on social media, we will share it and let more people know about the educator who helped shape you.

We've already heard from some of our staff members, like Hector Rodriguez, our director of government relations. His favorite was his fourth and fifth grade ESL teacher, Mrs. Straub, at Orchard Place Elementary in Des Plaines. He remembers Mrs. Straub as funny, kind and generous. Jen Saba, our executive director of regional services, has fond memories of her third-grade teacher Mrs. Appleton for teaching through play, with songs and art, and "making it obvious she loved us." Jen says she had been an "anxious second-grader" but turned into a "joy-filled third grader" because of Mrs. Appleton. And Jen Kirmes (yes, another Jen), our executive director of teaching and learning, says her high school field biology teacher was her favorite, because he took his classroom outside, "gave us lots of ways to show how much we were learning," and was the first teacher to tell Jen that she was smart!

I continue to be inspired by educators every day. I'm soaking up everything I can during my listening tour, and I am learning more about what ISBE may be able to do to help you succeed in your work. Happy Teacher Appreciation Week to all Illinois educators.

Pictured: Happy National Teacher Appreciation Week! Students in Hawthorn District 73 dressed up as their favorite teacher. We thank every teacher for making a positive difference in the lives of all students. We love Illinois educators!

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>).

May 8-12	Teacher Appreciation Week
May 8	Webinar: Building Resilient Schools through the REACH Statewide Initiative (https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5287142830112706650)
May 8	Deadline to complete the Survey for Understanding Learning Renewal Best Practices (https://uic.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_etbYYGxCQ0oBqPs)
May 8-12	Teacher Appreciation Week
May 10	National Board Certification state spring subsidy window closes (https://nbrc.illinoisstate.edu/firsttime/index.php)
May 11	Webinar: Sourcing Local Foods Using Illinois Market Maker (https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3540256348153669461)
May 11	Webinar: ISBE Data Collection Q&A (https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/2174502371330329612)
May 11	Illinois Virtual Postsecondary and Career Expectations (PaCE) Symposium (https://www.isac.org/pace/Illinois-PaCE-Symposium/)
May 12	ISBE Career Pathways User Group Meeting (https://niu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bvZKx2J8m2JDtBg)
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 26	Deadline to submit a grant application for Healthy Meals Incentives Initiative (https://healthymealsincentives.org/)
May 29	ISBE offices closed for Memorial Day
Jun. 2	Deadline to submit FY 2024 Truants' Alternative and Optional Education Program Request for Proposal (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Special-Education-Truants-Alternative-and-Optional-Education-Program.aspx)

Jun. 7-8	ISBE/ISELA Statewide Directors' Conference (https://www.isbe.net/NSDocuments/2023-SELA.pdf)
Jun. 9	Webinar: ISBE Career Pathways User Group (https://niu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bvZKx2J8m2JDIBg)
Jun. 12	Administrator Academy: Illinois Career Pathways Overview (https://niu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0cFccWrGjY6xKRg)
Jun. 13-15	Illinois New Teacher Collaborative 2023 Summer Conference Series (https://emails.illinois.edu/newsletter/37/1612142237.html)
Jun. 14	Deadline to submit FY 2024 Early Childhood Block Grant Request for Proposal (https://www.isbe.net/ecbg)
Jun. 19	ISBE offices closed for Juneteenth
Jun. 20-21	IncludED Conference (https://www.ltcillinois.org/included/)
Jun. 30	Deadline to submit SY 2023-24 ISBE Student Advisory Council applications (https://isbe.submittable.com/submit/258537/2023-24-student-advisory-council-application)
Jul. 4	ISBE offices closed for Independence Day
Jul. 25-26	School Nutrition Programs Back to School Conference
Aug. 22	Deadline to apply for U.S. EPA grant to replace existing school buses with clean and Zero Emissions school buses (https://www.epa.gov/grants/2023-clean-school-bus-csb-grant-program)
Sept. 4	ISBE offices closed for Labor Day
Sept. 5	Deadline to apply for Driving a Cleaner Illinois grant to replace old, diesel school buses with new all-electric school buses (https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/air-quality/driving-a-cleaner-illinois.html)

NEW

LEARNING RENEWAL

Each week this section will focus on the learning renewal that is taking place in Illinois schools. We invite you to share (<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=hv5kA8ZJ9Eq1LDNameV30Ufi4KgH87ICv6FRRQI8cviUNTdHWktDS1NJWjJZVDFaQ09RVINCUVdMRI4u>) how you are investing federal relief funds to help students recover.

RECORDING AVAILABLE: ESSER IMPACT SPOTLIGHT ON ILLINOIS: SUPPORTING STUDENT WELL-BEING

The Council of Chief State School Officers featured the REACH Statewide Initiative (<http://isbe.net/reach>) during its spring legislative conference in March with a panel discussion titled "ESSER Impact Spotlight on Illinois: Supporting Student Well-Being (<https://learning.ccsso.org/esser-impact-spotlight-on-illinois-supporting-student-wellbeing>)." Illinois State Superintendent of Education Dr. Tony Sanders led the discussion. He was joined

by REACH Project Director Dr. Mashana Smith and Broadmeadow Elementary School Principal Amy Blomberg as they talked about the impact the REACH initiative is having across the state in addressing students' social-emotional and mental health needs.

NEW

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

ISBE CELEBRATES TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK WITH SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVITY

Happy Teacher Appreciation Week! Please join us by using this template (<https://app.air.inc/a/ceMWMh9No>) to post about your favorite teachers on social media. Tag us on Facebook (@IllinoisStateBoardOfEducation) and Twitter (@ISBNews)!

To edit the template, first create a Canva account. After you have created an account, please edit the text in the blanks. When satisfied, click "Share" in the top right corner and select share on social media to post directly or download the file and upload from your device to post.

NEW

CTE & INNOVATION

ISBE CTE PROFESSIONAL LEARNING OFFERINGS

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

Highlighted sessions for next month include:

- **9-10 a.m. | June 9: ISBE Career Pathways User Group** (https://niu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bvZKx2J8m2JDtBg)
The purpose of the Illinois Career Pathways User Group is to create a community of educators who can learn and lead together by sharing successes with and asking questions of one another.
- **9 a.m.-noon | June 12: Illinois Career Pathways Overview (Administrator Academy)**
(https://niu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0cFccWrGjY6xKRg)
This Administrator Academy will provide an overview of the College and Career Pathway Endorsement framework per the Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act.

In addition, there are numerous online and regional professional development opportunities this summer, including:


- Team-Based Challenge Writing Workshops
- CTE & Equity Promising Practices
- Administrator Academies
 - Illinois Career Pathways Overview
 - Social & Emotional Learning Leads to College & Career Readiness
 - PaCE Framework Overview
- Teaching & Assessing the Essential Skills in CTE
- Problem-Based Learning in CTE

For more information and to register, please visit the ISBE CTE Professional Learning Calendar - Summer 2023 (<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1VnDxNz8z-19vsnOS4Y0viGILQlu1FB6f4Ma8k19Zlvs/edit>).

EARLY CHILDHOOD

GRANTS AVAILABLE TO ELIMINATE PRESCHOOL DESERTS

Illinois has a plan to make this the best state in the nation to raise a family. Step No. 1: Ensure that **ALL** children can attend a high-quality preschool. ISBE is making that possible by offering grants to help existing preschools grow and new programs get up and running.

ISBE encourages entities in preschool deserts  (/_layouts/Download.aspx?SourceUrl=/Documents/prioritylistfy24.xlsx) to apply for the Early Childhood Block Grant (/preschool) (ECBG) by **4 p.m. June 14**. Access to preschool provides an essential foundation for the trajectory of a child's well-being and academic outcomes. We need eligible providers in these preschool deserts to apply for funding and provide free preschool to Illinois' children and the families who need it.

The number of programs awarded will be determined by the number of applications received and the amount of funds available, pending the fiscal year 2024 state budget. Programs that were funded in FY 2019, FY 2020, and FY 2023 **do not need to apply** to maintain current funding and should only apply to seek additional funding to expand their program.

FY 2024 ECBG COMMUNICATIONS TOOLKIT

Help ISBE spread the word about the FY 2024 Early Childhood Block Grants, which are aimed at increasing access to preschool in places with critical access gaps. Our goal is to add 5,000 new seats for low-income children and families in preschool deserts across the state. Use this communications toolkit (<https://isbe.net/Pages/ECBG-Communications-Toolkit.aspx>) for social media, email blasts, newsletters, media interviews, events, and more!

ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

EARLY CHILDHOOD ACCESS CONSORTIUM FOR EQUITY SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SY 2022-23 AND SUMMER 2023

Do you need early childhood teachers to support expanded access to preschool? There's still time to apply for the Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE) Scholarship. ECACE funds undergraduate education at participating Illinois colleges and universities and can cover tuition and fees, plus room and board, books, and supplies. Applications for the 2022-23 school year and summer 2023 are due **May 15**.

Eligible applicants are working or have worked in the early childhood field and are enrolled or accepted in a college or university as an undergraduate student to pursue an early childhood education major or postsecondary credential.

Learn more on the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) website (<https://www.isac.org/ECACEscholarship>).

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO ROCK THE FAFSA

The end of the school year is close at hand, but it's not too late to help your senior students complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) or Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid (Alternative App) to determine their eligibility for financial aid for the 2023-24 academic year. You can see the number of students at your school who have completed a 2023-24 financial aid application by visiting ISAC's Financial Aid Application Completion Performance Metrics webpage (<https://www.isac.org/home/fafsa/index.html>).

ISAC FIRST GENERATION SCHOLARS NETWORK

Encourage your students who will be the first person in their family to earn a college degree to join ISAC's First Generation Scholars Network (https://studentportal.isac.org/web/guest/student/?p_p_id=Student_WAR_Studentportlet.xhtml) (FGSN). FGSN is connecting first generation college students with one another so they can support each other through this network, providing additional support from ISAC's First Generation Scholars Network mentors, combating summer melt, and helping make transition to college a whole lot easier — and successful. Send students to the FGSN webpage (https://studentportal.isac.org/web/guest/student/?p_p_id=Student_WAR_Studentportlet) to join and learn more, and please share information about the FGSN with colleagues at your school and district and with others in your personal and professional networks. And check out ISAC's YouTube page 📺 (<https://www.youtube.com/%40ISACvid/playlists>) for ISAC College Minute™ videos specifically addressing challenges and providing tips for first generation college students. For questions about FGSN, please contact ISAC.FirstGen@illinois.gov (<mailto:ISAC.FirstGen@illinois.gov>).

JOIN ISAC FOR A VIRTUAL PACE SYMPOSIUM

ISAC will host a virtual Illinois Postsecondary and Career Expectations (PaCE) Symposium **from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. May 11**. We hope those who were unable to join in-person can join virtually to learn about the new and exciting updates happening with the Illinois PaCE Framework!

For registration and details, visit the PaCE Symposium page (<https://www.isac.org/pace/Illinois-PaCE-Symposium/>). For questions about the PaCE Symposium, contact sac.pace@illinois.gov (<mailto:sac.pace@illinois.gov>).

NEW

SAFE & HEALTHY CLIMATE

COMPLIANCE WITH THE COAL TAR SEALANT DISCLOSURE ACT

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) issued guidance (<https://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/environmental-health-protection/toxicology/coal-tar-sealant-guidance.html>) to help public schools, public school districts, and day care facilities comply with the provisions of the Coal Tar Sealant Disclosure Act (410 ILCS 170/ (<https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=4181&ChapAct=410>)), which went into effect Jan. 1. These recommendations are designed to help schools, districts, and day care facilities become aware of the potential health effects of the ingredients used on their paved surfaces and what to look for when choosing pavement sealant products to best protect the health and safety of their students, families, and communities.

The Coal Tar Sealant Disclosure Act has two requirements:

1. Schools, districts, and day cares must notify all employees and students' parents/guardians prior to using a pavement sealant product that contains coal tar or a high concentration of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), organic pollutants that are associated with cancer in humans.
2. Schools and districts bidding for pavement projects that include a coal tar-based or high-PAH sealant product must also request bids that include alternative sealant products.

If you need assistance determining whether a particular sealant product contains coal tar or high PAHs, contact the IDPH Division of Environmental Health at 217-782-5830 or DPH.Tox@illinois.gov (<mailto:DPH.Tox@illinois.gov>).

FY 2024 TRUANTS' ALTERNATIVE AND OPTIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAM RFP AVAILABLE IN IWAS

The FY 2024 Truants' Alternative and Optional Education Program (TAOEP) Request for Proposal (RFP) is now available to eligible applicants to ensure that targeted students have equitable access to an education by creating modified instructional programming and services to these students, by planning for truancy prevention and intervention services to students and their parents and offering part-time or full-time options to regular school attendance.

Eligible applicants include public school districts, Regional Offices of Education, community college districts, public university laboratory schools approved by ISBE, state-authorized charter schools, and area vocational centers.

Additional TAOEP application information can be found on the ISBE Funding Opportunities webpage (/Pages/Request-for-Proposals.aspx) and Regional Services Education Options webpage (/Pages/Special-Education-Truants-Alternative-and-Optional-Education-Program.aspx).

The deadline to submit the TAOEP RFP application is **4 p.m. Friday, June 2**. Technical assistance on items not covered by the instructions link in IWAS may be obtained by contacting Brian Houser at bhouser@isbe.net (<mailto:bhouser@isbe.net>).

MAY IS NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

School districts appoint a youth in care/foster care liaison who works in conjunction with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to assist our youth in care during this challenging time to ensure their stability in school. Youth in care experience a multitude of disruptions during their time in care. We must collaborate to minimize disruptions to help youth in care maintain their educational stability.


The Every Student Succeeds Act specifies that a student should only change schools if remaining in the school of origin is not in the student's best interest. If a change in schools is being considered, the district youth in care liaison and the child welfare agency must collaborate to conduct a best interest determination. You can learn more about what the best interest determination entails by reviewing the webinar located under "News and Updates" on the ISBE Youth in Care webpage (/Pages/YouthInCare.aspx).

DCFS is currently offering weekly virtual office hours for youth in care liaisons who work in elementary and secondary education. Please visit the youth in care webpage cited above for login information and times.

Thank you for the continued work you do to ensure our youth in care receive educational stability. Please reach out to youthincare@isbe.net (<mailto:youthincare@isbe.net>) with any questions you have related to youth in care.

REQUEST YOUR MCKINNEY-VENTO INFORMATIONAL BOOKLET

The "Illinois McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Program: Information and Resources for School Administrators and Staff" booklet has been created and is ready to distribute. This new booklet is sturdy, spiral bound, magnetized, and ready to be at your office staff's fingertips.

Have all of your offices received your new McKinney-Vento books? If you have not, please connect with the McKinney-Vento contact  (/Documents/Subgrant-Liaison-Contact-List.pdf) for your area.

LUNG CANCER ACTION WEEK

The American Lung Association invites schools/districts to wear turquoise to raise awareness for lung cancer during the week of **May 8-14**. Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths in the United States. Anyone can get this disease, and everyone can play a part in ending it.

STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2023-24 STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

ISBE is accepting applications (<https://isbe.submittable.com/submit/258537/2023-24-student-advisory-council-application>) from eligible public and charter high school students for the 2023-24 Student Advisory Council (SAC). Students entering the fall semester as a sophomore, junior, or senior are eligible to apply. Candidates interested in serving on the SAC must submit an online application by **Friday, June 30**.

The SAC, which was established in 1975, represents a diverse group of young leaders from across the state who have demonstrated the ability to advocate for educational equity on behalf of all Illinois public school students. SAC members are passionate about creating impactful change through educational legislation, policies, and rules. Each year the SAC identifies areas of focus and collaborates with legislators, educational leaders, and ISBE staff to provide the Board of Education with recommendations on how to rethink and enhance current education initiatives. Please visit the Student Voices webpage (</studentvoices>) for more details on the SAC.

For questions and/or additional information, please contact Dr. Leslie Ward at lward@isbe.net (<mailto:lward@isbe.net>).

DATA STRATEGIES & ANALYTICS

DATA COLLECTION Q&A WEBINAR

ISBE will host a webinar at **10 a.m. May 11** 📅 (<https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/2174502371330329612>) to give school districts a chance to ask any questions they have about the ISBE data collections. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at 312-814-9192 or datahelp@isbe.net (<mailto:datahelp@isbe.net>).

FINANCE


REVIEW THE REVISED FY 2024 EBF SPENDING PLAN

In consultation with an advisory group, ISBE has redesigned the Evidence-Based Funding (EBF) Spending Plan (</ebfspendingplan>). It will appear as a new tab in the annual district budget form beginning in FY 2024. Organizational units that do not submit a budget form to ISBE will complete the spending plan via a standalone Excel template. ISBE is making the template available now so that Organizational Units can get familiar with the new format. It is for review only and is not meant to be submitted to ISBE. Additional resources, including a webinar, guidance document, and finalized templates will be available later this spring.

Many questions in the revised plan are consistent with prior spending plans. Instructions and context are provided throughout. There is also a table at the bottom of the template that allows users to determine if all required questions have been completed. Additionally, the EBF Spending Plan webpage has been updated with new content, including definitions of key EBF terms that appear in the spending plan. Leaders can learn more about the advisory group's work to redesign the plan by reading "Preparing for the Evidence-Based Funding Spending Plan – FY 2024" 📄 (</Documents/Spring-23-UPDATE-p20-23.pdf>), an article that appeared in the Spring 2023 Update Magazine published by the Illinois Association of School Business Officials. Questions can be directed to ebfspendingplan@isbe.net (<mailto:ebfspendingplan@isbe.net>).


RESEARCH & EVALUATION

JUNE COLLEGE BOARD WORKSHOPS

College Board will be offering in-person workshops from **June 13-15** and **June 21-23** to assist educators in understanding how to interpret SAT with Essay, PSAT 10, and PSAT 8/9 score data and share information about the upcoming shift to digital testing in spring 2024. Register for the Data Analysis Workshops and Digital Preview here  (/Documents/June-2023-CB-Data-Digital-Reg.pdf). For your convenience, a recorded version of this workshop will be made available on the ISBE website.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

SAVE THE DATE: ISBE/ISELA STATEWIDE DIRECTORS' CONFERENCE

The exciting return of the Statewide Directors' Conference  (/NSDocuments/2023-SELA.pdf) is set for **June 7-8**. The conference will provide great professional learning and planning opportunities for the 2023-24 school year. State Superintendent of Education Dr. Tony Sanders will give the special keynote and welcome address at **1 p.m. June 7**.

TEACHING & LEARNING

FAMILIES CAN SAVE ON THEIR INTERNET BILLS WITH THE AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM

High-speed internet is a necessity – especially for students. That's why the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law created the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) to lower internet costs for families. ACP provides eligible households:

- Up to \$30/month off their internet bills; and
- A one-time \$100 discount off a laptop, tablet, or computer.

Many internet service providers offer high-speed plans that are fully covered by ACP – meaning millions of families can now get high-speed internet without paying a dime. GetInternet.gov (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/getinternet>) is a one-stop shop to check eligibility and sign up. Families can also call 877-384-2575 for more ways to apply. Help spread the word with the ACP Consumer Outreach Toolkit (<https://www.fcc.gov/acp-consumer-outreach-toolkit>).

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/>) to view the entire selection available.

- **3-4 p.m. May 16:** Autism Professional Learning and Universal Supports Project (A+): Supporting Schools' Implementation of Evidence-Based Practices to Positively Impact Student Outcomes (https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_kyP-oSIfQyGrfDU53uNtuw#/registration) - The Autism Professional Learning and Universal Supports (A+) project at Illinois State University assists ISBE in addressing the significant behavior needs of children and youth with autism spectrum disorder and related behavior and communication disorders. Participants will learn

about the background leading to the development of the project. Online resources are available to support students with autism will be presented, as well as intensive resources provided for identified programs.

EDUCATOR OPPORTUNITIES

Advanced Placement Summer Institute

The University of Illinois System is hosting two Advanced Placement Summer Institutes (<https://www.vpaa.uillinois.edu/cms/One.aspx?portalId=420456&pageId=1891728>) at no charge for qualifying Illinois public teachers/school districts. Those school districts with AP Exam participation of less than 20 percent will qualify for this amazing opportunity to not only be trained as an AP teacher, but also earn 30 hours of professional development for full participation.

Register here:

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

Scholarship Opportunities for CS PD Week

Google is providing scholarships to 25 K-12 educators from Illinois to participate in Computer Science PD Week, free of charge. This program aims to expand opportunities for students in underrepresented communities to learn and excel in computer science.

The scholarships will be awarded to educators that are currently employed at a school serving a majority community of Black and/or Latinx students. This program aims to expand opportunities for students in underrepresented communities to learn and excel in computer science.

Get the details and apply on the Learning Technology Center of Illinois website (<https://www.ltcillinois.org/cspdweek/scholarships/>).

Career Z Challenge

The U.S. Department of Education has expanded the eligibility requirement of the Career Z Challenge (<https://www.challenge.gov/?challenge=careerzchallenge&tab=resources>), as well as changed the submission deadline **to 5 p.m. June 7**. The Career Z Challenge is a \$2.5 million multi-phase prize challenge to create and/or enhance high-quality, work-based learning opportunities in career and technical education programs. Learn more and apply on the Career Z Challenge website (<https://www.challenge.gov/?challenge=careerzchallenge&tab=resources>).

SCHOOL RECOGNITION

Plano Family Resource Center Grand Reopening

The Plano Area Alliance Supporting Student Success (PAASSS) held a grand reopening of its Plano Family Resource Center on April 20. Attendees heard about the work it is doing to provide families with awareness and access to services and support and had an opportunity to tour the facility. PAASSS is an early childhood collaborative composed of stakeholders and professionals working in or on behalf of the community concerned with the issues and interests of young children and the parents/families of young children.

The Plano Family Resource Center hosts weekly playgroups, a lending library, and parent education opportunities. Bilingual staff are available two days a week. The resource center connects families to services like early childhood assessments, referrals, WIC, TANF/SNAP, mental health, playgroups, workshops, doula, immigration information, and child care assistance program. This is a great example of a community coming together to provide resources to support families.

STUDENT RECOGNITION

2023 Prudential Emerging Visionary Grand Prize Winner

Congratulations to Nikita Agrawal for being named a 2023 Prudential Emerging Visionary Grand Prize winner. Nikita, a student Whitney M. Young Magnet School in Chicago Public Schools, was selected for her inspiring commitment to improving the lives of others. She received \$15,000 in funding and participated in the Prudential Emerging Visionaries Summit at Prudential's headquarters in Newark, New Jersey, from April 22-25.

FEATURED ISBE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

- Senior Budget Analyst #1295 (/Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=824)
- Budget Analyst #1148 (/Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=823)

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