

# MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

August 7, 2018



Hello,

This school year, we are focused on connectivity and collaboration. We have the ability to enhance our capacity by cultivating deeper leader-to-leader relationships so we can think through what we are stuck on, solve problems together, and better serve children and families.

Thank you to those who attended the Back to School webinar for administrators this afternoon, which was centered on peer-to-peer learning. We will post an FAQ on our [Back to School webpage](#) (/backtoschool), along with the webinar recording and presentation.

I appreciate the superintendents who shared their experiences and promising practices as part of the webinar. Dr. Alicia Geddis, superintendent of Danville SD 118, spoke about how to reach each student by recognizing challenges and creating strategies. Her district begins the school year by

answering the question “why?” to help staff refocus. Jonathan Tallman, superintendent of Red Bud CSD 132, made suggestions for improving

educator morale, including personalization with staff and students, and maintaining those positive relationships throughout the school year. Dr. David Schuler, superintendent of Township HSD 214, encouraged districts to share their success stories and described his district’s focus on putting the joy back in teaching.

We launched new peer-to-peer learning tools during the webinar. The new Superintendents-Only Support (SOS) Line enables superintendents to contact ISBE executive staff immediately with a question or concern or if they need a thought partner. We encourage superintendents to use this line to share feedback as well, so ISBE can continue growing as a service and support agency. This afternoon, we sent an email to superintendents with the phone number and more information.

The new [Peer Finder](#) (/Pages/peer-finder.aspx) tool allows users to locate similar schools and districts around the state based on certain characteristics. We hope this tool will facilitate connections among districts and schools. In addition, we are introducing an *Advanced* Compare Schools option on the [Illinois Interactive Report Card](#) (<https://www.illinoisreportcard.com/>), which facilitates comparisons between schools utilizing the data available in the Report Card.

These are great examples of our continued development of resources in response to the field, and we plan to continually improve these and other tools based on your feedback. Please let us know what features are most helpful and easiest to use and what other elements you think need to be added. Email your suggestions to [backtoschool@isbe.net](mailto:backtoschool@isbe.net) (mailto:backtoschool@isbe.net).

I encourage you to register for additional upcoming webinars on key topics at [www.isbe.net/backtoschool](http://www.isbe.net/backtoschool) (<http://www.isbe.net/backtoschool>):

- Summative Designations – Aug. 10 from 10 to 11:30 a.m.
- IL-EMPOWER – Aug. 14 from 3 to 4 p.m.
- Assessments Update – Aug. 24 from 10 to 11 a.m.

## Quick Links

[Evidence-Based Funding](#)  
[Site-Based Expenditure Reporting](#)  
[5Essentials Survey](#)  
[School Business Services In Brief](#)

- 2018 Report Card and Beyond! – Aug. 29 from 2 to 3 p.m.

In exciting federal news, the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act was reauthorized on July 31. The Perkins Act provides vital federal support to state and local career and technical education programs and is a critical component of our statewide strategy to increase students' college and career readiness. I have deep appreciation for Representatives Raja Krishnamoorthi of Illinois and Glenn "G.T." Thompson of Pennsylvania, who introduced the bill. The bill, which passed with broad bipartisan support, expands opportunities for our students to discover their passions and receive the rigor and individualized support they need to thrive.

Illinois has long valued career and technical education as an effective strategy to help students develop high-value skills and successfully enter the workforce. I am proud of the cross-agency collaboration that has been supported by the [Governor's Cabinet on Children and Youth](https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/children/Pages/default.aspx) (https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/children/Pages/default.aspx) to address workforce readiness issues, as well as the Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness (PWR) Act. The PWR Act promotes competency-based education, college and career pathway endorsements on high school diplomas, transitional math, and the [Postsecondary and Career Expectations framework](#) (/Documents/PaCE\_Revisions.pdf). [Senate Bill 2838](http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/billstatus.asp?DocNum=2838&GAID=14&GA=100&DocTypeID=SB&LegID=109999&SessionID=91) (http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/billstatus.asp?DocNum=2838&GAID=14&GA=100&DocTypeID=SB&LegID=109999&SessionID=91) offers districts more leverage by making changes to the Dual Credit Quality Act and empowering districts to work with community colleges to offer additional dual credit coursework options. The bill passed the General Assembly, but has not yet been acted upon by the Governor.

The funds from the Perkins Act have provided Illinois with the opportunity to scale these strategies statewide. I am excited for Illinois to continue leading in workforce readiness, in service to all of our students and communities.

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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.

**Aug. 8:** [Illinois State Board of Education meeting](https://www.isbe.net/Documents/2018_Board_Calendar.pdf) (https://www.isbe.net/Documents/2018\_Board\_Calendar.pdf)

**Aug. 10:** [Back to School Deep-Dive Webinar: Summative Designations](https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/720715970821130243) (https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/720715970821130243)

**Aug. 14:** [Back to School Deep-Dive Webinar: IL-EMPOWER](https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4345204374756398850) (https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4345204374756398850)

**Aug. 15:** Deadline to submit 2017-18 Pupil Transportation Reimbursement Claim

**Aug. 15:** Deadline for waiver applications to be postmarked to be part of 2018 Fall Waiver Report

**Aug. 15:** Deadline to submit EIS employment/positions, evaluations, attendance, and salary

**Aug. 16-17:** [2018-19 School Health Update webinars - IDPH Session and ISBE Session](https://www.isbe.net/pages/school-health-issues.aspx) (https://www.isbe.net/pages/school-health-issues.aspx)

**Aug. 20:** Public comment period for Part 227 rules ends

**Aug. 24:** [Back to School Deep-Dive Webinar: Assessments Update](https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/7167545164522275074) (https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/7167545164522275074)

**Aug. 29:** [Back to School Deep-Dive Webinar: 2018 Report Card and Beyond!](https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/7454636452226567169) (https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/7454636452226567169)

**Aug. 31:** District Average Daily Attendance/Prior General State Aid System in IWAS closes

**Aug. 31:** District Average Daily Attendance due in IWAS

**Sept. 3:** ISBE offices closed for Labor Day

**Sept. 7:** [Deadline to submit Capital Needs Assessment Survey](https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Capital-Needs-Survey) (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Capital-Needs-Survey)



Assessment-Survey.aspx)

**Sept. 11-12:** [Illinois State Board of Education Retreat and meeting](https://www.isbe.net/Documents/2018_Board_Calendar.pdf)

([https://www.isbe.net/Documents/2018\\_Board\\_Calendar.pdf](https://www.isbe.net/Documents/2018_Board_Calendar.pdf))

**Sept. 18:** [Evidence-Based Funding Professional Review Panel Meeting](https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Professional-Panel-Meeting) ([https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Professional-](https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Professional-Panel-Meeting)

[Review-Panel.aspx](#))

**Oct. 8:** ISBE offices closed for Columbus Day

**Oct. 17:** [Illinois State Board of Education meeting](https://www.isbe.net/Documents/2018_Board_Calendar.pdf)

([https://www.isbe.net/Documents/2018\\_Board\\_Calendar.pdf](https://www.isbe.net/Documents/2018_Board_Calendar.pdf))

## EVIDENCE-BASED FUNDING

### FY 2019 Evidence-Based Funding Calculations Complete

School districts will receive the first of 22 Evidence-Based Funding (EBF) payments for fiscal year 2019 on Aug. 10. This represents both the Base Funding Minimum (BFM) amount, often referred to as the hold harmless provision, and tier funding amounts newly calculated for FY 2019.

Per statute, the Base Funding Minimum amount grows annually by the amount of tier funding paid in the prior year and the additional English Learner funding from FY 2018. In FY 2019, the BFM consists of three components – the FY 2018 BFM amount, the FY 2018 tier funding amount, and the FY 2018 additional English Learner funding. In addition to the BFM, districts receive an additional \$300 million in funding distributed through the tiers, with the greatest share of funding going to those districts with the greatest need for assistance.

Beginning in FY 2019, there is also \$50 million reserved for a new property tax relief grant program. More details about this grant will be available in the weeks ahead. Any funds not used for tax relief grants will be available as additional tier distribution amounts in the spring.

EBF payments will continue on the 20<sup>th</sup> of August and the 10<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of each month through June. Full FY 2019 calculations are available at the [EBF Distribution page \(/ebfdist\)](#).

## SITE-BASED EXPENDITURE REPORTING

### New ISBE Site-Based Expenditure Reporting Webpage Now Available

ISBE.net has a new webpage specifically dedicated to [Site-Based Expenditure Reporting \(/Pages/site-based-expenditure.aspx\)](#), which is in effect for the first time this year. Head to [www.isbe.net/site-based](http://www.isbe.net/site-based) for all of our resources to help district leaders and others implement site-based expenditure reporting. The page is updated regularly with new resources, such as this week's new release: [Estimating Expenditures for Effective Planning - Webinar for District Leaders](#) 🎧 (<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/442858387494943234>). District leaders should watch this webinar to learn A) how to estimate your site-based expenditures and B) how doing so will make your life easier at the end of FY 2019, when it comes time to report. This information should set you up for strong decision-making now and easier messaging later.

## 5ESSENTIALS SURVEY

### Update of 5Essentials Survey of Learning Conditions

Schools across the state participated in the sixth annual Illinois 5Essentials Survey of Learning Conditions: Organizing Schools for Improvement this past academic year. This survey generates valuable perception data that districts can use to guide their ongoing efforts to improve schools and to offer students an excellent education. The survey is another improvement tool that allows districts and the state

to share data as a means to inform parents and community members about the school's learning environment. The Illinois 5Essentials Survey is administered online by UChicago Impact at the University of Chicago on behalf of the Illinois State Board of Education.

### Accessing the Survey Results

The reports for schools that participated in the 2017-18 survey administration can be accessed by visiting the [5Essentials website](https://5-essentials.org/illinois/5e/2018/) (<https://5-essentials.org/illinois/5e/2018/>) and searching by school name, district name, or ZIP code. Please note: Schools are only required to participate in the 5Essentials or an approved alternative every other year. Therefore, some schools may not have reports or data to view.

### The 5Essentials Indicators

The Illinois 5Essentials Survey identifies five indicators that lead to improved outcomes for all students, including improved attendance and larger test score gains.

The five indicators that positively affect school success are:

- Effective Leaders
- Collaborative Teachers
- Involved Families
- Supportive Environments
- Ambitious Instruction

Research derived from the Five Essentials for School Success has proven that schools strong on at least three of the 5Essentials are 10 times more likely to improve student outcomes.

### Looking Forward

The 2018-19 survey window will go from Nov. 15, 2018, to Jan. 18, 2019. The survey has some exciting enhancements for the coming school year -- it will be possible to disaggregate data by student population group, UChicago has launched a new reporting tool site, the fourth- and fifth-grade survey will be administered statewide, and professional learning/development is being developed to support efforts to utilize the data for school improvement efforts. Furthermore, starting this school year the survey or an approved alternate will be required annually as part of Illinois' Balanced Accountability under the Every Student Succeeds Act.

We will be launching a new application via IWAS on Aug. 1, 2018, to district superintendents. This application will streamline the process for designating a survey coordinator or indicating participation in an approved alternate survey. More details about the coming year's survey administration will be released in the Superintendent's Weekly Message and to school administrators in coming weeks.

If you have any questions, please contact Regulatory Support & Wellness at (217) 782-5270 or email [5Essentials@isbe.net](mailto:5Essentials@isbe.net) (<mailto:5Essentials@isbe.net>).


## SCHOOL BUSINESS SERVICES

### Requirements for School Treasurer Bonds

Section 3-8 and Section 8-2 of the School Code (105 ILCS 5/3-8 and 105 ILCS 5/8-2) require regional superintendents of schools to file a yearly affidavit with ISBE showing which treasurers of school districts in their region are properly bonded. This affidavit must be filed before Sept. 1. Copies of the actual school treasurer bond should not be filed with ISBE.

Section 8-2 of the School Code (105 ILCS 5/8-2) requires each treasurer of a school district to be properly bonded. The penalty of the bond shall be 25 percent of the amount of all bonds, notes, mortgages, moneys, and effects of which the treasurer is to have custody at

any given time. The bond shall be increased or decreased from time to time, as the increase or decrease of the amount of notes, bonds, mortgages, moneys, and effects may require. The bond shall be payable to the township trustees of schools over the district or payable to the school board of the district, whichever is applicable. The bond shall be filed with the regional superintendent of schools. Again, school districts should not file a copy of their bonds with ISBE.

For additional information on ISBE's interpretation of this section, please refer to the School Business section of the [May 2010 Superintendent's Weekly Message](#)  (/Documents\_Superintendent\_Weekly\_Message/message\_050310.pdf).

Section 3-8 of the School Code (105 ILCS 5/3-8) describes the duties of the regional superintendent of schools upon receipt of the treasurer bonds. When the bond of any school treasurer is filed with the regional superintendent of schools, the regional superintendent shall carefully examine it. If the bond is found to be in all respects according to law and the sureties sufficient, the regional superintendent shall endorse his/her approval and file it with the papers of his/her office. If the bond is in any respect defective or if the sureties are insufficient, the bond shall be returned for correction.

In Cook County, the responsibilities and duties of the regional superintendent of schools detailed in Section 3-8 and Section 8-2 of the School Code (105 ILCS 5/3-8 and 105 ILCS 5/8-2) will be assumed by the respective Intermediate Service Center.

An [electronic version of the affidavit and other information](#) (/Pages/School-Treasurer-Bonds.aspx) is available online.

Please contact Michelle Heninger, School Business Services Division, at (217) 785-8779 or [mheninge@isbe.net](mailto:mheninge@isbe.net) with any follow-up questions.

## IN BRIEF

### Educator Recognition

- Congratulations to **Gretchen Brinza of CPS** and **Reginald Duncan of Mascoutah CUD 19** for being honored with Presidential Awards by the [White House Office of Science and Technology, with the National Science Foundation](#) ([https://www.nsf.gov/news/news\\_summ.jsp?cntn\\_id=295842&org=NSF&from=news](https://www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=295842&org=NSF&from=news)), for their excellence in teaching or mentoring in STEM!
- Congratulations to **Tammi Conn**, director of Career and Technical Education at Valley View School District, for receiving an ACTE Region III Award of Merit!
- Congratulations to **Krista Paul**, assistant director of Career and Technical Education for District 214, for receiving the ACTE Region III Career Guidance Award!
- Congratulations to **Elk Grove High School Principal Paul Kelly** for being named one of three National Principal of the Year finalists by the [National Association of Secondary School Principals](#) (<https://www.nassp.org/recognition/principal-of-the-year/national-principal-of-the-year-finalist/>)!

### Educator Resources

- The **Illinois Families and School Success website** (<https://il-fss.org/>) offers resources for families and school staff. Check out the new, inspiring success videos now available!

### Recognition Opportunities

**LifeChanger of the Year** (<https://lifechangeroftheyear.com/>) is a national program that recognizes exemplary K-12 educators who are making a difference in the in their communities and in the lives of students and offers an easy opportunity to shine a light on some of Illinois' best education professionals. The [nomination form](#) (<http://app.lifechangeroftheyear.com/nominate.cfm>) is now available.

## 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>).