

ISBE'S WEEKLY MESSAGE

August 8, 2023

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Dear Colleagues,

With the annual Illinois State Fair (<https://statefair.illinois.gov/>) kicking off in Springfield this week, I am reminded that summer will soon turn into fall as the 2023-24 school year begins for our thousands of schools statewide. To spread some excitement about all things education in Illinois, ISBE will host a booth from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily throughout the fair Aug. 10-20 in the Governor's Tent.

Our booth, which will align to this year's Governor's Tent theme of "Growing a Bright Future in Illinois," aims to engage students, parents, and all school community members by offering resources and summer learning materials that are sure to excite lifelong learners of every age. Some of the materials available at the booth include:

- **Illinois Fair & Festivals Educator's Guide:** The Illinois Fairs & Festivals Educator's Guide (<https://app.air.inc/a/c0xLTav6l>) contains more than 20 lessons that educators or parents/guardians can use to connect fair and festival activities with academic standards and career-related skills. This guide also features a few mindfulness activities that utilize my own original doodle designs to help students achieve calm and focus and prepare for learning.
- **Social-Emotional Resources:** ISBE collaborates with the Center for Childhood Resilience at Ann and Robert Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago on the Resilience Education to Advance Community Healing (REACH (<https://childhoodresilience.org/reach>)) Statewide Initiative, providing evidence-based strategies (<https://childhoodresilience.org/hub>) for nurturing mental health and social-emotional regulation. Visitors can enroll in a virtual training on supporting mental health.
- **Educator Recognition Opportunities:** ISBE recognizes outstanding educators through awards programs that rely on nominations and recommendations. Visitors can nominate (</Pages/teacher-of-the-year.aspx>) their favorite teachers, school leaders, and educational support personnel for awards and subscribe to Soar: ISBE's Educator Recognition Newsletter (</elevatingeducators>) to stay up to date on awards offerings.
- **Career & Technical Education Guides:** Visitors can collect career guides (</cte>) for middle and high school students to help the students in their lives prepare for career options (</Documents/Cred-Running-List.pdf>) in high-wage, high-skill, and in-demand occupations.
- **Nutrition Guides:** Fair visitors may pick up handouts on healthy school lunch (<https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/myplate-guide-school-lunch>) options and the National School Lunch Program (</Pages/National-School-Lunch-Program.aspx>).

Fairgoers stopping by the booth will also have the opportunity to meet some of the agency's dedicated staff and play trivia!

ISBE has provided digital versions of all the display items and handouts here (<https://app.air.inc/a/bU9OMPEuj/b/6315c8eb-7100-476b-9dc1-c5fc20aff5c0>).

Aug. 10	Webinar: Data Collections Q&A (https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/2174502371330329612)
Aug. 14	Learning 2025 Network and Mental Health Cohort Combined Event with State Superintendent of Education Dr. Tony Sanders and actress Goldie Hawn (https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUrdu-vqTkrEtWd_Sj9eM8BQg6hD0E326Lt#/registration)
Aug. 17	FY 2023 Site-Based Expenditure Report due in IWAS
Aug. 17	Webinar: 2023 Report Card Open Forum (https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6447798301584358238)
Aug. 21	Webinar: Summative Designation Deep Dive (https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6764001353256184662)
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)
Aug. 24	Webinar: Summative Designation Deep Dive (https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/426016108522838620)
Aug. 29	Webinar: The English Learner Progress to Proficiency Indicator (https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/1406215331522377566)
Aug. 29	Webinar: The ELA and Math and Science Proficiency Indicator (https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3837577488651372379)
Aug. 30	Webinar: Useful Summative Designation Reports (https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5631348245995857759)

Aug. 30	Webinar: Understanding Student Growth (https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3581165879495910752)
Aug. 31	Power Hour Webinar, Bring Solar to School—Benefits, Challenges, and Opportunities (https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlvcO-pqTsuE9VjgesFJ_eXbUmYfqi_V9fA#/registration)
Sep. 1	Deadline to File School Treasurer Bond Affidavit with local ROE/ISC
Sep. 1	Deadline to submit FY 2024 School Improvement Continuation Grant application in IWAS
Sep. 1	Applications open for 2024 Those Who Excel & Teacher of the Year Awards (https://isbe.net/TWETOY)
Sep. 4	ISBE offices closed for Labor Day
Sep. 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)
Sep. 6	Informational Webinar: 2024 Those Who Excel & Teacher of the Year Awards (https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4420382423160651352)
Sep. 8	Deadline to submit Mental and Behavioral Health Screening Feedback Form – districts take in IWAS under “Surveys”
Sep. 14-15	#DigLitCon, a conference on teaching and understanding digital literacy, hosted by the Learning Technology Center (https://www.ltcillinois.org/diglitcon/)
Sep. 15	Deadline to submit letter of intent and application for approved alternate climate survey to 5essentials@isbe.net (mailto:5essentials@isbe.net)
Sep. 18-20	Illinois Association of Title I Directors Fall Conference (https://www.iatd.net/domain/42)
Sep. 29	Deadline to submit U.S. Presidential Scholars nominations (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/US-Presidential-Scholars.aspx)
Oct. 15	Deadline to submit 2024 Those Who Excel & Teacher of the Year Awards nominations (https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=hv5kA8ZJ9Eq1LDNameV30Qsb_h6l8RNEt5PpPtq9RRxUMERXU1FDUjVOVjhWQUVCSkZIWU9aNEE1TC4u)

NEW

LEARNING RENEWAL

DR. SANDERS TO JOIN GOLDIE HAWN AT AASA'S MENTAL HEALTH EVENT

State Superintendent of Education Dr. Tony Sanders will join actress Goldie Hawn at the upcoming Learning 2025 Network and Mental Health Cohort Combined Event, which is being sponsored by AASA, The School Superintendents Association. The kickoff event (https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUrdu-vqTkrEtWd_Sj9eM8BQg6hD0E326Lt#/registration), scheduled for **3 p.m. Aug. 14**, will feature a keynote address from Hawn, who established MindUP (<https://mindup.org/>) to help children all over the world develop the mental fitness necessary to thrive in school and throughout their lives. Dr. Sanders will participate in a panel discussion with the actress following her keynote. The event will also feature additional resources and a superintendent panel.

The Learning 2025 Network is an AASA initiative calling for holistic redesign of the public school system by 2025. The proposal is grounded in the foundational work of the AASA Learning 2025 National Commission on Student-Centered, Equity-Focused Education. The mission of the Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) Cohort (<https://www.aasa.org/professional-learning/event/2023/08/14/default-calendar/social-and-emotional-learning-cohort>) is to support school district leaders as they develop and scale systemic SEL implementation plans in order to promote culturally responsive, identity-safe, and equitable classroom and school communities that best support students' social and emotional well-being, sense of connection to school, and full engagement in learning. Registration is available online (https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUrdu-vqTkrEtWd_Sj9eM8BQg6hD0E326Lt#/registration).

TARGETING SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING THROUGH THE REACH INITIATIVE AT COWHERD MIDDLE SCHOOL

Cowherd Middle School in Aurora saw an opportunity amid the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic in January 2021 to implement the Resilience Education to Advance Community Healing (REACH) Statewide Initiative. A dedicated team of 16 staff members led by Rachel Jenkins, the school's social worker, took on the task of introducing REACH to the wider Cowherd community, including students and parents.

The Cowherd REACH team began by utilizing the REACH Learning and Resource Hub, engaging with prerecorded webinars at their own pace. They then met regularly as a group to share their experiences and discuss strategies, effectively disseminating valuable insights throughout the school. The team used the Trauma Responsive Schools Implementation Assessment to better understand where to focus their efforts. The results of the assessment highlighted the need for targeted support for students and emphasized the importance of wellness within the school environment.

As a result of their targeted approach and external opportunities, Cowherd Middle School experienced a transformation in its approach to social-emotional learning. The school now emphasizes a common language supported by a mood meter in every classroom and the cafeteria, allowing everyone to address complex emotions effectively. Jenkins and her team knew that there needed to be dedicated spaces for students-- and staff -- to engage in these lessons and conversations. Social-emotional learning time was built into morning schedules during which students have dedicated time for lessons about managing emotions, identifying feelings, and developing strategies to cope. There are also opportunities during various staff meetings for REACH team members to share lessons from REACH materials and help teachers who were experiencing toxic stress.

Jenkins and her team did not have to do this work alone. REACH coaches provided support as well as lessons to the larger school community. As the social worker, Jenkins was grateful to have someone to share the responsibility of bringing others along. "Sometimes, in the school environment you get stuck on the day-to-day things, and it is nice to have someone on the outside who can help reiterate the importance of this work," she said.

Illinois' seven Social-Emotional Hubs are available to support schools to participate in the REACH initiative during the 2023-24 school year.

Contact the SEL Hub director (<http://isbe.net/selhubs>) in your region or enroll online (<https://childhoodresilience.org/participate>).

NEW REACH LEARNING AND RESOURCE HUB SERIES: ADVANCING RACIAL JUSTICE AND EDUCATIONAL EQUITY

A new resource is available to support schools in addressing the trauma, racism, and equity. In June 2023, the Center for Childhood Resilience conducted one-on-one interviews and a panel discussion with leaders from Illinois school districts to gain insights into their perspectives and lived experiences in advancing racial justice and educational equity within schools. As part of this Advancing Racial Justice and Educational Equity in Schools learning series, the Center for Childhood Resilience has launched several online courses to support school or district teams to initiate conversations, assess their environment, and ignite their journey toward equity and racial justice.

The online courses include downloadable guides and resources that can be incorporated into all-school professional development sessions and team meetings. They offer free Professional Educator License credit hours and continuing education credits for licensed social workers, professional counselors, and psychologists in Illinois.

The on-demand courses include:

- Trauma, Racism & Equity: Laying the Foundation for Awareness and Strategies

- Institutional Racism: Awareness & Strategies
- Personally Mediated Racism: Awareness and Strategies
- Internalized Racism: Awareness and Strategies
- Equity in Discipline: A Look at Policing in Schools
- Strategies for Having Difficult Conversations in the Classroom

The REACH Learning and Resource Hub not only emphasizes trauma-responsive practices and policies but also promotes strategies for personal and professional resilience, social-emotional awareness, and self-care. Interested individuals can register on the Learning & Resource Hub at childhoodresilience.org/hub (<https://childhoodresilience.org/hub>) to access these valuable materials and resources.

NEW REACH COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE ON TRAUMA-RESPONSIVE PRACTICES

The REACH Statewide Initiative extends a warm invitation to educators to join Communities of Practice to learn, share, and grow in your school's trauma-responsive practices. Communities of Practice offer a space for educators to come together and exchange experiences, insights, and best practices in addressing trauma within our schools. Educators play a pivotal role in shaping students' lives, so implementing trauma-responsive practices becomes crucial in creating a positive and inclusive learning environment where every student can truly thrive. Interested in participating in the REACH initiative in the 2023-24 school year? Contact the Social-Emotional Learning Hub (<http://isbe.net/SELHubs>) in your area to get started now. Applications to participate (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc7XSJ5YXBZLsdAs7yWBXyf7LKwVOhjKsHEAftN4Q_V5KWSSg/viewform) in the Communities of Practice are due by **5 p.m. Sept. 13**.

NEW

FINANCE


VIEW YOUR DISTRICT'S FY 2024 EBF CALCULATIONS

ISBE has published the FY 2024 EBF calculations, including each district's percentage of adequacy, tier, and tier funding. The first of the 22 EBF payments will be released **Aug. 10**. The following resources are now available at www.isbe.net/ebfdist (<http://www.isbe.net/ebfdist>):

- FY 2024 EBF Quick Facts
- FY 2024 EBF At a Glance
- FY 2024 EBF Full Calculation
- FY 2024 / FY 2023 Comparative Analysis User Tool

Supplemental resources will be available in the coming weeks and will be announced in the ISBE Weekly Message. If you have questions about the calculations, you are welcome to contact 217-782-0249 or sff@isbe.net (<mailto:sff@isbe.net>).

FY 2024 EBF TIER FUNDING AMOUNTS AVAILABLE FOR USE IN EBF SPENDING PLAN

The EBF Spending Plan webpage (</ebfspendingplan>) has been updated to include a file that contains FY 2024 Tier Funding for all Organizational Units  (</Documents/FY24-Tier-EBF-Spending-Plans.xlsx>). These amounts can be used to complete FY 2024 EBF Spending Plan items pertaining to the use of Tier Funding. FY 2024 Student Population Allocation Reports will be available in the coming weeks to use in the preparation of your FY 2024 Spending Plans. This file will be updated with student population allocations when those figures are published. Questions about the EBF Spending Plan can be sent to ebfspendingplan@isbe.net (<mailto:ebfspendingplan@isbe.net>).

break the cycle of unintentional harmful parenting, create a level of comfort with seeking future parenting and caregiving resources and support, and increase students' understanding of empathy. Educators receive six CEUs by offering the ParentABLE curriculum. Watch this documentary (<https://www.parenteach.com/pages/documentary>) or email isabella@parenteach.com (<mailto:isabella@parenteach.com>) for more information.

SY 2023-24 LETTER OF INTENT AND APPLICATION FOR APPROVED ALTERNATE CLIMATE SURVEY

All Illinois public schools, including alternative schools that fall under a district's domain, are required to participate in a school learning conditions survey every year. To fulfill this requirement, ISBE provides the 5Essentials Survey (</Pages/5Essentials-Survey.aspx>) free of charge as a tool to inform all stakeholders about the school's learning environment and to guide improvement.

However, a school district may elect to use an alternate survey of learning conditions. The approved alternate surveys for school year 2023-24 are Cognia and the Comprehensive School Climate Survey. Any district that wishes to administer an approved alternate survey must complete a letter of intent and application and email it to 5essentials@isbe.net (<mailto:5essentials@isbe.net>) by **Sept. 15**. Failure to submit the signed letter of intent and application to ISBE will result in the district being required to use the 5Essentials Survey.

Please contact 217-782-5270 or 5Essentials@isbe.net (<mailto:5Essentials@isbe.net>) if you have questions regarding the survey.

NEW

TEACHING & LEARNING

ILLINOIS JOINS THE EXPANDING COMPUTING EDUCATION PATHWAYS ALLIANCE

We are excited to announce that Illinois is one of the seven new member states accepted into the Expanding Computing Education Pathways (ECEP) Alliance, which increases the ECEP membership to 29 states and the territory of Puerto Rico. Joining this alliance is another step for Illinois to move computer science forward.

The new states will join a network of state leaders working to untangle the complex web of factors that produce inequitable outcomes for marginalized students. States will analyze their data to identify specific student populations that have not been included in computing pathways, explore their state's educational ecosystems and policies to determine the root causes of disparities in access and participation in computer science education, and identify equity-explicit policies to address systemic barriers to broadening participation in computing.

Information about ECEP can be found on the ECEP website (<https://ecepalliance.org/>) or by contacting cfletcher@tacc.utexas.edu (<mailto:cfletcher@tacc.utexas.edu>).


COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS

UPDATED HIGH SCHOOL 2 CAREER DASHBOARD USES MORE THAN A DECADE OF REAL DATA TO HELP STUDENTS NAVIGATE POSTSECONDARY PATHWAYS

Illinois state agencies have released and incorporated new data into the High School 2 Career dashboard tool (<https://www.ilhighschool2career.com/>) to ensure Illinois students have the information they need to make informed decisions about their postsecondary and career options. The tool enables students, parents, and guidance counselors to review a wide range of information on Illinois public high school seniors and their actual pathways after they graduate, including postsecondary education choices by degree type and academic area of study, as well as their career and salary outcomes. The interactive online dashboard is available in both English and Spanish. Video tutorials are also available in both English and Spanish 🇺🇸 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wXPJvcHR-Y8>) to assist users as they navigate the dashboard. Check it out! (<https://www.ilhighschool2career.com/>)


SUMMATIVE DESIGNATION DEEP DIVE WEBINAR

The Summative Designations Deep Dive webinar is scheduled for **8:30 a.m.-noon Aug. 21** 


(<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6764001353256184662>) and **12:30-4 p.m. Aug. 24** 

(<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/426016108522838620>). These sessions will provide a deep dive into everything you could ever need to know about how annual summative designations are calculated. The sessions will begin with a review of new aspects of the system in 2023, including the new Intensive Support designation and new data visualizations on the Illinois Report Card.


THE ENGLISH LEARNER PROGRESS TO PROFICIENCY INDICATOR WEBINAR

Please join us for a webinar from **9-10:30 a.m. Aug. 29** to take a deep dive into the 2023 English Learner Progress to Proficiency (ELPtP) calculation, which is returning to the traditional formula after temporary modifications were implemented in 2022. The session will also highlight recent updates to the ELPtP report in the Student Information System (SIS). A question-and-answer period will conclude the session. Register now  (<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/1406215331522377566>).


THE ELA AND MATH AND SCIENCE PROFICIENCY INDICATOR WEBINAR

Please join us for a webinar from **2-3 p.m. Aug. 29**. A new method of calculating English language arts (ELA), math, and science proficiency indicators was introduced in 2022. Annual targets are now set for pairs of grades at the elementary level (third and fourth, fifth and sixth, seventh and eighth) and for Grade 11 at high school. This session will take a deep dive into the new proficiency interim progress measures and the report designed to support these indicators. Register now for the ELA and Math and Science Proficiency Indicator Webinar  (<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3837577488651372379>).

USEFUL SUMMATIVE DESIGNATION REPORTS WEBINAR

This session, which is scheduled for **9:30-11 a.m. Aug. 30**, will review a variety of reports available in SIS that can help you understand your annual summative designation. Most important is the Summative Designation Scores report, but there are now reports specific to the ELA, Math, and Science Indicators, ELPtP Indicator, and the College and Career Readiness Indicator, components of which will be displayed on the Illinois Report Card in 2023. Register now for the Useful Summative Designation Reports Webinar  (<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5631348245995857759>).

UNDERSTANDING STUDENT GROWTH WEBINAR

The Understanding Student Growth webinar is scheduled for **2-3 p.m. Aug. 30**. This session will focus on understanding Student Growth Percentiles (SGPs) in the accountability system. There are two types of SGPs. The default calculation is a Cohort calculation, comparing students to their peers within the same academic cohort. A Baseline SGP, which uses the same methodology, was added in 2022, but it compares a student to his or her peers from a past baseline year (2019). Register now for the Understanding Student Growth Webinar  (<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3581165879495910752>).

ILLINOIS TEACHER OF THE YEAR

NOMINATE YOUR STAFF FOR THE 2024 THOSE WHO EXCEL & TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Join ISBE in celebrating the accomplishments of stellar educators across the state by nominating your colleagues and community members for the 2024 Those Who Excel & Teacher of the Year Awards (<https://isbe.net/TWETOY>). Anyone may submit nominations, and there is no limit to the number of nominations that can be submitted by a person, school, or district. It takes only five minutes to submit a nomination (https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=hv5kA8ZJ9Eq1LDNameV30Qsb_h6l8RNEt5PpPtq9RRxUMERXU1FDUjVOVjhWQUVCSkZIWU9aNEE1TC4u) that could lead to your staff and schools being recognized with the highest educational honor in the state. Nominations are optional, and only upon successful completion of the subsequent application materials will applicants be eligible for an award. Applications will be accepted from **Sept. 1 through Oct. 15 at 11:59 p.m.**

Nominators, external relations staff, and potential applicants are all encouraged to attend ISBE's Those Who Excel & Teacher of the Year Award's informational webinar 🗣️ (<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4420382423160651352>) at **3 p.m. Sept. 6** to learn more about the agency's awards process and discover how to bring ISBE's awards to your school communities.

IN BRIEF

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Ed Leaders Network

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

- **3 p.m. Sept. 5:** The Synergy of Trust: Transforming School Culture (https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ZCsoRrcCR5WnEHkM1zUAbg?_x_zm_rtaid=9Y1iXi9hQ_aNAJaBvJYwqA.1687552751261.b00438c3e5df6be3608d0083e1a17826&_x_zm_rhtaid=447#/registration) -- Participants will learn about the definitions of trust and gain an understanding of why and how high levels of trust are a vital component of a healthy and positive school that supports the thriving and resilience of employees as well as student learning and achievement. Participants will also consider the damage done in low-trust environments, including the physiological implications of the stress related to working in this type of environment. Finally, participants will be able to identify and hopefully put into practice, in their buildings and/or district, the leadership behaviors that build and engender trust.

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

United States Senate Youth Program Scholarship

The United States Senate Youth Program Scholarship application is now available for qualified students to apply. Qualified high school juniors or seniors must show demonstrated leadership by serving in elected or appointed positions in which they are actively representing a constituency in organizations related to student government, education, public affairs and community service. They must be actively serving in qualified leadership positions, enrolled in high school and living in the state (and for these purposes, the District of Columbia) that they will represent for the entire 2023–24 academic year.

For residency and qualification requirements, visit our website (</Pages/United-States-Senate-Youth-Program-Hearst-Scholarship.aspx>). Applications are due **Oct. 6**.

Illinois Association for Gifted Children Awards & Scholarships

The Illinois Association for Gifted Children (<https://www.iagcgifted.org/Awards-and-Scholarships>) (IAGC) provides a variety of scholarship and recognition opportunities for parents, educators, students, and community members. Earn scholarship funds to develop your own talents, recognize someone who is making a difference in the lives of gifted young people, or support the professional development of someone you admire with an IAGC scholarship or award. All award winners will be recognized at the annual IAGC Conference.

Applications are due **Sept. 8**. Apply for yourself or share information about all of these opportunities with families, colleagues, and students. Visit the IAGC website (<https://www.iagcgifted.org/Awards-and-Scholarships>) for a complete list of available scholarships and awards.

FEATURED ISBE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

- Supervisor #1757 (/Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=854<https://www.isbe.net/Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=854>)
- Student Care Program Monitor (Principal Consultant #1866) (/Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=849)

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