

WHAT'S INSIDE

- **Assessment**
- **Curriculum & Instruction**
- **Data Reporting**
- **Educator Licensure**
- **Evidence-Based Funding**
- **Family Resources**
- **Grant Accountability and Transparency Act**
- **Multilingual**
- **Nutrition**
- **School Business Services**
- **Student Financial Aid**
- **Transportation**
- **In Brief**




Dear Colleagues:

The recent tragic events of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery have led to a national outpouring of protests in support of Black lives. These events and countless other examples of systematic racism towards people of color reverberate even more during this global pandemic. The Black History Curriculum Task Force is reviewing Illinois school districts' curriculum and instructional materials in order to make recommendations to the General Assembly and ISBE regarding the implementation of Black History. We ask that a representative from each school district please take a moment to complete the survey by Oct. 30 at www.isbe.net/Pages/black-history-study-survey.aspx (/Pages/black-history-study-survey.aspx).

As always, I'm inspired by the creative and generous ways districts are preparing for the fall 2020 school term. At Illini Bluffs CUSD 327, near Peoria, Superintendent Roger Alvey worked late Friday evening to help construct Plexiglass barriers to prevent the spread of COVID-19. In Channahon School District 17, just southwest of Joliet, PTO volunteers delivered school supply kits to families' homes. Jersey CUSD 100, in Jerseyville (near St. Louis) purchased face coverings that had clear sections built in, so students can safely see their teachers smile. And Lake Park High School District 108, in the Chicago suburb of Roselle, last week held a "virtual orientation" session online for freshmen and other new students. These are just a few of the many examples I've seen of school leaders creating new back-to-school processes, customized for their communities' resources and needs.

Amidst all of these changes, we want to encourage high school students to keep their futures on track. Almost all of the new jobs created since the 2008 recession require some kind of credential beyond high school. We also know that a significant percentage of students who take gap years never complete college, and that is especially true of low-income students, rural students, and students of color. The bottom line is that students must keep learning. Illinois colleges and universities remain one of the best, most affordable options for many. The [Illinois Student Assistance Commission](https://www.isac.org/) (<https://www.isac.org/>) is ready to answer any questions and address any concerns students may have about Illinois colleges and the upcoming school year. Please help us encourage students to #StaytheCourse toward earning their degree and bettering their chances at a good job and a secure future.

We just released a new episode of our podcast at [isbe.net/podcast](http://www.isbe.net/podcast) (<http://www.isbe.net/podcast>), this time focusing on how the COVID-19 pandemic has transformed Career and Technical Education at one Illinois school district. It's just under 20 minutes, so I hope you can make time to listen.

Another resource I'd like to point you toward is called [Day In The Life Of](#)  (/Documents/CCSSO-DILO-simulation-resources.pdf), and it's from the Council of Chief State School Officers. It's a free, robust toolkit that allows you to plan, plot and publish the outlines of a typical day for students, staff, teachers, and caregivers in the learning environment you have planned for fall.

Today, ISBE published a dashboard showing the results of the fall learning survey that asked how school districts across the state plan to provide instruction this fall.

The survey shows 48 percent of districts plan to provide blended/hybrid learning with a combination of in-person and remote learning; 30 percent of districts plan to provide fully in-person learning, and 22 percent of districts plan to provide fully remote learning.

These figures are a snapshot in time. Plans may change in response to public health conditions. If you are a district superintendent and have not yet completed the Fall Learning Survey, or if your plans have changed since you first responded, please let us know at [isbe.net/learningsurvey](http://www.isbe.net/learningsurvey) (<http://www.isbe.net/learningsurvey>).

No matter how a school district decides to provide instruction this fall, the health and safety of our students and educators remains our number one priority. I applaud our district superintendents across the state for their incredible leadership in ensuring the safety, wellbeing, and academic growth of Illinois students. And I would like to thank the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, which partnered with ISBE to create the public dashboard of the survey results, available at [isbe.net/covid19](http://www.isbe.net/covid19) (<http://www.isbe.net/covid19>).

Lastly, I would like to extend a huge congratulations to [Tanya Katovich](https://www.paemst.org/finalist_profile/5090) (https://www.paemst.org/finalist_profile/5090) of Hoffman Estates High School and [David Sladkey](https://www.paemst.org/finalist_profile/5072) (https://www.paemst.org/finalist_profile/5072) of Naperville Central High School for receiving Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching!

I hope everyone is safe after last night's storm. Thank you for all that you do.

Pictured: PTO volunteers delivering school supply kits to families' homes in Channahon School District 17.

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>).

Aug. 13	Report Card Team Superintendent Signoff Webinar (https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2171042192764842255)
Aug. 14	Site-Based Expenditure Reporting due in IWAS (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/site-based-expenditure.aspx)
Aug. 14	Deadline to submit application for the Digital Equity (GEER & ESSER) RFP
Aug. 17	FY 2021 Evidence-Based Funding (EBF) Spending Plans Informational Webinar (https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/1023451120467656975)
Aug. 19	Illinois State Board of Education meeting (https://www.isbe.net/Lists/ISBECalendar/DisplayForm.aspx?ID=5029)
Aug. 31	EXTENDED: Deadline for families to apply for Pandemic EBT food benefits (http://www.dhs.state.il.us/OneNetLibrary/27897/documents/Brochures/4980.pdf)

Sept. 1	Deadline to submit FY 2021 Title III Language Instruction Educational Program (LIEP) application via IWAS (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Dell-Grant-Resources.aspx)
Sept. 1	Deadline for districts to submit Accelerated Placement Policy URL to EPS (https://www.isbe.net/Documents/Accelerated-Placement-Policy-URL-instructions.pdf)
Sept. 1	Deadline for districts to file yearly affidavit with ISBE of properly bonded school treasurers (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/School-Treasurer-Bonds.aspx)
Sept. 16-17	Illinois State Board of Education Meeting (https://www.isbe.net/Lists/ISBECalendar/DisplayForm.aspx?ID=5029)
Sept. 16	Reduction in Force Survey Data Collection Opens (https://www.isbe.net/Lists/ISBECalendar/DisplayForm.aspx?ID=5036)
Sept. 23	ISBE-Provided Fall 2020 SAT with Essay for Grade 12 Students - Primary Test
Sept. 23 - Oct. 6	ISBE-Provided Fall 2020 SAT with Essay for Grade 12 Students - Accommodations Test Window
Sept. 30	EBF Spending Plan submission window closes (https://www.isbe.net/Lists/ISBECalendar/DisplayForm.aspx?ID=5057)
Oct. 14	ISBE-Provided Fall 2020 SAT with Essay for Grade 12 Students - Primary Test
Oct. 14 - 27	ISBE-Provided Fall 2020 SAT with Essay for Grade 12 Students - Accommodations Test Window
Oct. 15	Deadline to submit Reduction in Force Survey Data Collection (https://www.isbe.net/Lists/ISBECalendar/DisplayForm.aspx?ID=4984)
Oct. 20	Illinois State Board of Education meeting (https://www.isbe.net/Lists/ISBECalendar/DisplayForm.aspx?ID=5038)
Oct. 27	Fall 2020 SAT with Essay makeup test date (http://www.isbe.net/Documents/Fall-SAT-Essay-FAQ.pdf)
Oct. 28	ISBE-Provided Fall 2020 SAT with Essay for Grade 12 Students - Makeup Test
Oct. 28	ISBE-Provided Fall 2020 SAT with Essay for Grade 12 Students - Makeup Test
Oct. 30	Deadline to submit Black History Study Survey (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/black-history-study-survey.aspx)




COVID-19 – IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Each week, this section will contain a list of the resources and information posted to the [COVID-19 webpage](/Pages/covid19.aspx) (/Pages/covid19.aspx) over the past week. Please continue to check the COVID-19 webpage on a daily basis for the newest updates and information.

• Remote Learning & Transition Considerations

- [CCSSO “Day in the Life of” \(DILO\) Simulation Toolkit](/Documents/CCSSO-DILO-simulation-resources.pdf) (/Documents/CCSSO-DILO-simulation-resources.pdf) - **August 5**

The “Day in the Life of” Simulation Toolkit was developed by McKinsey and Co. as part of a partnership with the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) and Chiefs for Change. The toolkit is designed to support districts in simulating a typical day in the life of students, teachers, parents, and staff to help with planning and preparation.

- [Part 3 Transition Guidance: Starting the 2020-21 School Year Frequently Asked Questions](#)  (/Documents/FAQ-Part-3-Transition-Guidance.pdf) - **August 5**
- [Part 3: Starting the 2020-21 School Year - Spanish Version](#)  (/Documents/Part-3-General-Transition-Planning-Phase-4-Spanish.pdf)- **August 4**
- [Transportation FAQ](#)  (/Documents/Transportation-FAQ.pdf)- **August 4**

NEW

ASSESSMENT

IAR SPRING 2020 ELECTRONIC INDIVIDUAL STUDENT REPORTS NOW AVAILABLE

Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) spring 2020 electronic Individual Student Reports (ISRs) are now available in PearsonAccess^{next} to those users with the roles of District or School Test Coordinator and to those with the “Report Access” role.

An ISR is provided (in PDF format) for each student record that has a valid score. A score is considered to be valid if the student record met attemptedness criteria, was not voided, and indicated “complete” or “marked complete” for all non-field test units. The ISR provides information about how the student performed on the assessment relative to meeting the Illinois Learning Standards. ISRs are posted at the school level by grade and content area for English language arts/literacy and mathematics.

To access the ISRs:

1. Log into PearsonAccess^{next}.
2. Confirm the correct administration is set: Illinois > 2019-2020 > IAR Spring 2020.
3. Go to Reports>Published Reports.
4. On the left side of the screen remove any displayed filters that may hinder your report search. For example, you may see the district name listed under “Organization Name,” and this will prevent ISRs from displaying, as they are posted at the school level. Remove this by clicking “clear” or clicking on the “x” to the left of the district name.
5. Download the report either by:
 - Double clicking on the desired report, or
 - Checking the box to the left of the report name for the reports you wish to download. Then click the blue “Download” button in the upper right of the screen.

Score Interpretation Guide

For more information on the Individual Student Reports, download the *2020 IAR Score Interpretation Guide* posted on the [ISBE IAR website](http://www.isbe.net/Pages/IAR.aspx) (<http://www.isbe.net/Pages/IAR.aspx>) under “Test Information and Resources.”


Delivery of Printed ISRs


Pearson will print one copy of the ISR and ship it to the school or district, based on information from PearsonAccess^{next}. Reports will be addressed to the District or School Test Coordinator, respectively, depending on whether reports are identified to be shipped to the district or school level. ISBE intends to direct Pearson to ship the ISRs as soon as there is reasonable likelihood there will be staff present in the district/school to receive the shipment.

Questions

If you need further information or have questions about the ISRs, including how to access them, please contact Pearson's Illinois Customer Support Center at 1-833-213-3879, Monday through Friday, from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. CDT, except holidays.

FALL 2020 ISBE-PROVIDED SAT WITH ESSAY UPDATES

The fall 2020 SAT with Essay makeup test date has been revised to **Tuesday, Oct. 27**. College Board recently announced this revision in order to allow testing on a different day of the week. This revision and additional new questions and answers have been included in the [frequently asked questions document on ISBE's website](#)  (<http://www.isbe.net/Documents/Fall-SAT-Essay-FAQ.pdf>).

College Board has also announced added flexibility for its fall 2020 assessments, which includes the fall 2020 ISBE-provided SAT with Essay. Please review the [Fall 2020 Flexible Testing Options Guide](#)  (<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/pdf/fall-2020-flexible-testing-options-guide-sat-suite.pdf>) for more details.

NEW

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

PLEASE COMPLETE BLACK HISTORY STUDY SURVEY

The recent tragic events involving George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery have led to a national outpouring of protests in support of Black lives. These events and countless other examples of systematic racism toward people of color reverberate even more during this global pandemic.

The Illinois State Board of Education is committed to supporting districts in providing quality education to all students; at the same time, it is apparent that we can do more to provide inclusive, just, and accurate learning standards upon which local districts can base their curriculum. To support this effort, State Representative LaShawn K. Ford sponsored House Resolution 1098, which established the Black History Curriculum Task Force. The purpose of the task force is to review Illinois school districts' curriculum and instructional materials according to the Illinois Black history study mandate (105 ILCS 5/27-20.4). The following survey was designed to gather information from Illinois' districts regarding the efficacy of their curricula to address Black history. This information will be used to make recommendations to the state legislature and ISBE regarding the study of Black history.

We ask that a representative from each school district complete the [Black History survey on ISBE's website](#) (/Pages/black-history-study-survey.aspx).

Additionally, ISBE is convening a workgroup to review and revise the Illinois Learning Standards for social science through a lens of equity and social justice. It is anticipated this work may lead to some additional curriculum supports to ensure districts are meeting the Illinois mandate. These efforts are the beginning of what we feel will continue to be a concerted effort to support a socially responsible and just learning experience for Illinois students.

HR 1098 created the Black History Curriculum Task Force to conduct an audit of every Illinois school district's history curriculum from K-12 to review the following:

1. Does the district's curricular material no matter the format contain a current unit on African American history?
2. At what grade school level does the district begin teaching African American history?
3. Does standardized testing include material on African American history and, if so, at what levels?
4. What is ISBE's position on teaching African American history and what are the penalties if the instructions are not being followed?


The requirements for Black history instruction in Illinois schools are outlined in 105 ILCS 5/27-20.4.

The purpose of this survey is to gather the information required to include in a report to be transmitted to the General Assembly.

NEW


DATA REPORTING

SITE-BASED EXPENDITURE REPORTING DUE AUG. 14

Fiscal year 2020 Site-Based Expenditure Reporting is due in IWAS by Aug. 14, 2020. Submissions may be edited until Aug. 31, 2020. New resources are available at [isbe.net/site-based](http://www.isbe.net/site-based) (<http://www.isbe.net/site-based>), including [this FAQ document](#)  (/Documents/SBER-FAQ.pdf).

District leaders encountered issues not addressed by the resources available may sign up for an office hours slot at <https://calendly.com/site-based> (<https://calendly.com/site-based>). Office hours are available in 15-minute increments from 9 a.m. - noon every Thursday. Questions may also be directed to site-based@isbe.net (<mailto:site-based@isbe.net>).

2020 REPORT CARD SUPERINTENDENT SIGNOFF WEBINAR – AUG. 13


Please join the Report Card Team from **10-11:30 a.m. on Aug. 13** for a webinar about the Superintendent Sign-Off Process. Superintendents (or designee of the superintendent) are required to “sign off” on their Report Card data prior to publication. The ability to sign off will be enabled on Aug. 15 and the process must be completed by Sept. 18. This webinar is directed at district administrators to walk through the sign-off process. Time at the end will be reserved for Q and A. [Registration for the Report Card webinar is now available](https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2171042192764842255)  (<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2171042192764842255>).

EDUCATOR LICENSURE

EMERGENCY RULES FOR BILINGUAL EDUCATION ASSIGNMENTS

ISBE has fielded numerous questions regarding lack of licensed bilingual education teachers for the upcoming school year. Individuals' inability to receive licensure has centered around that fact that many licensure testing centers, which are operating at partial capacity and only offer the target language proficiency tests a few times per year, have no available testing slots for the remainder of this summer and into the fall. This prevents educators from taking the requisite test to receive licensure prior to the start of the school year.


ISBE has enacted emergency rules to enable districts to employ individuals as bilingual educators this fall. Any licensed individual with a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university may serve as a bilingual educator in the 2020-21 school year if the hiring district confirms writing, grammar skills, and speaking proficiency in the target language and English via an interview.

A school district employing an individual who meets these requirements must, no later than 10 days after employing the individual, [file this assurance form](#)  (/Documents/92-82-Bilingual-Ed-Emerg-Assign-Assurance.pdf) with its Regional Office of Education indicating that the individual meets these criteria. An individual who is assigned as a bilingual education teacher under these provisions may continue to serve in that role until the completion of the 2020-21 school year. The individual must receive the proper license or endorsement prior to the start of the 2021-22 school year if the individual will be continuing his or her position that year.

These emergency provisions expire **Dec. 17**. Therefore, any individual assigned under this emergency allowance must be assigned to his or her position before **Dec. 17**. No educators may be assigned to new bilingual education positions after this date unless they are properly licensed.

EVIDENCE-BASED FUNDING

FY 2021 FINAL QUICK FACTS AND STUDENT POPULATION ALLOCATION SUMMARY NOW AVAILABLE

ISBE has completed the review of all FY 2021 Evidence-Based Funding (EBF) data and calculated the Quick Facts for all organizational units. [View the Quick Facts](#)  (/layouts/Download.aspx?SourceUrl=/Documents/FY21-EBF-Quick-Facts.xlsx).

As a reminder, there is no additional tier funding for FY 2021. All organizational units and specially funded units will receive their Base Funding Minimum, which is equal to their FY 2020 EBF distribution.

Because there is no tier funding for FY 2021, there have been no changes made to the Student Population Allocations from FY 2020. However, for ease of administration we have published a summary of allocations by student population type. [View the summary of allocations](#) (/layouts/Download.aspx?SourceUrl=/Documents/FY21-Student-Population-Funding-Allocation-Summary.xlsx). If you require details on the calculation, you can refer to the [FY 2020 Student Population Funding Allocation – Full Calculation](#) (/layouts/Download.aspx?SourceUrl=/Documents/FY2020-Stud-Pop-Fund-Alloc-Full-Calculation.xlsx).

Contact State Funding and Forecasting with any questions at (217) 782-0249.

FY 2021 EBF SPENDING PLAN SUBMISSION WINDOW NOW OPEN

FY 2021 EBF Spending Plans are due in IWAS by Sept. 30, 2020. Per the state EBF for Student Success Act, all "Organizational Units" must report their plans to spend EBF dollars as part of their annual budget process. "Organizational Units" refer to all entities, including all school districts, laboratory schools, Regional Offices of Education, and Intermediate Service Centers, that receive EBF dollars from the state. The FY 2021 spending plan moves the state one step closer to an integrated FY 2023 annual school district budget that will make spending plan content available to the public.

ISBE will host an [overview webinar](#) (https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/1023451120467656975) for the FY 2021 EBF Spending Plan at **1:30 p.m. on Aug. 17**.

Further materials are available at [isbe.net/ebfspendingplan](http://www.isbe.net/ebfspendingplan) (http://www.isbe.net/ebfspendingplan). Questions not addressed by the available resources may be directed to ebfspendingplan@isbe.net (mailto:ebfspendingplan@isbe.net).

NEW

FAMILY RESOURCES

SHARE WITH ILLINOIS FAMILIES TO HELP THEM CLAIM STIMULUS CHECKS

Help Illinois families claim their stimulus checks by sharing this message from Grace B. Hou, secretary of the Illinois Department of Human Services:


The passage of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act authorized the creation of stimulus checks for individuals and families under certain income thresholds. Most Illinoisans are eligible for these stimulus checks, though many did not receive them, leaving millions of dollars unclaimed. [Get My Payment IL Coalition](https://getmypaymentil.org/) (https://getmypaymentil.org/) is available to answer any and all stimulus payment questions. It provides a step-by-step process to follow in order to receive a stimulus check. Individuals may qualify regardless if the individual has filed 2018 and 2019 tax returns, has a bank account, or receives Social Security, veterans, Supplemental Security Income, or Railroad Retirement benefits. Eligible individuals have until **Oct. 15**, to complete any necessary paperwork to process their stimulus payment. If the paperwork is not or cannot be submitted by that date, there is still a process for receiving stimulus checks after filing a 2020 tax return next year.

SHARE WITH ILLINOIS FAMILIES TO HELP THEM APPLY FOR EMERGENCY MORTGAGE AND RENTAL ASSISTANCE

Governor JB Pritzker and the Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) recently announced that applications for rental assistance are now available for renters who have lost a job or income due to the COVID-19 pandemic. IHDA will allocate \$150 million via the Emergency Rental Assistance Program to help income-eligible residents across the state pay their rent during this national emergency. After the application period for rental assistance ends, IHDA will open applications for Emergency Mortgage Assistance, which will provide \$150 million to homeowners impacted by COVID-19. Taken together, these programs are the largest emergency housing assistance programs in the nation and will help approximately 40,000 households before the end of 2020.

Help share this information with Illinois families. Find additional details and the application for emergency rental assistance at era.ihda.org (https://era.ihda.org/). Find additional details and the application for emergency mortgage assistance at ema.ihda.org (https://ema.ihda.org/).

REMINDER: GATA WILL REQUIRE ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE REPORT FOR FY 2021 GRANTS

Public Act 100-0997  (<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/100/PDF/100-0997.pdf>), enacted on Aug. 20, 2018, made significant changes to the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA), including the addition which detail new expenditure reporting requirements. **Section 125** (<http://ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/documents/003007080K125.htm>) of GATA requires grantees to submit a new expenditure report if a state or federal grant is executed more than 30 days after the grant effective date. As a reminder, all state or federal grants in the FY 2021 grant cycle executed (i.e., approved by ISBE) more than 30 days after the grant effective date (i.e., start date) will require the grantee to submit an expenditure report that reflects eligible expenditures from the grant start date through and including the date of execution.

Federal grants administered by ISBE are processed on a reimbursement basis and will require an expenditure report to be submitted through the approval date if the grant is approved more than 30 days after the effective date. State grants administered by ISBE allow grantees to submit monthly payment schedules with their grant application. Previously, ISBE would voucher all scheduled monthly payments through the month the initial application was approved. Under the new law, if a grant is approved more than 30 days after the start date, ISBE will only voucher an amount equal to the initial expenditure report submitted by the grantee. After the initial expenditure report is processed and paid, ISBE will resume normal vouchering of scheduled payments to the grantee.

GATA Requirements:

Applicants must ensure GATA requirements are met before the FY 2021 state or federal grant application is fully executed. Applicants must complete prequalification registration in the GATA portal and complete a Fiscal and Administrative Risk Assessment via an Internal Controls Questionnaire (ICQ). The GATA portal can be accessed at <https://grants.illinois.gov/portal/> (<https://grants.illinois.gov/portal/>).

The steps below are necessary to fully execute the FY 2021 grants.

1. Grantee must register <https://grants.illinois.gov/portal/> (<https://grants.illinois.gov/portal/>) and complete ICQ.
2. Complete and submit the Organizational Risk Assessment via IWAS. Results will apply to all FY 2021 grants.
 - ISBE Grant-Specific Assessments will be included in each FY 2021 grant.
 - A combination of the results of the two risk assessments will generate the Programmatic Risk Conditions in each grant.
3. Submit FY 2021 grant applications to ISBE.
4. The respective ISBE program area will review and approve the application.

Please contact gata@isbe.net (<mailto:gata@isbe.net>) with any questions.

MULTILINGUAL**FY 2021 EL-TITLE III LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM APPLICATION**

The Multilingual Department is pleased to announce the FY 2021 Title III Language Instruction Educational Program (LIEP) application is now available for completion in IWAS. Please note the title of the application changed from ELL-TBE/TPI and Title III to EL-Title III Language Instruction Educational Program. This is a new application, so program directors may have to sign up for authorization to enter and save information on the application.

To create a new application, districts need to select the EL-Title III Language Instruction Educational Program and check “Yes” on the question, “Would you like to create new project for the current year?” Every district with an approved FY 2021 Intent to Apply should have its FY 2021 Title III LIEP applications ready for creation in IWAS.

Please complete and submit your application to ISBE by **Sept. 1** to ensure a Sept. 1 start date. The extended due date is provided as ISBE recognizes the unique challenges all Local Education Agencies are experiencing working remotely and the necessary time needed to prepare a well-defined and complete application. However, ISBE cannot distribute payments until the application is approved and any required expenditure reports are submitted.

This application does not include the Immigrant Education Program. A separate Title III Immigrant Education Program application will be released in November 2020, which is when the districts eligible for the program are determined based on 2020-21 school year data. For additional application information, view the [Title III Grants webpage](#) (/Pages/Dell-Grant-Resources.aspx).



NEW



NUTRITION

PANDEMIC EBT FOOD BENEFITS DEADLINE EXTENDED TO AUG. 31

Thank you to all School Food Authorities that participate in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) for your assistance to date with the [Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer \(P-EBT\) program](#) (<https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=124142>)! We are asking for your help once again to reach out to families. The Illinois Department of Human Services (DHS) has extended the deadline to **Aug. 31** to apply for this one-time special benefit available for March to June 2020. This program has can provide an additional \$340 per child.

Families whose children received free or reduced-price lunch at school last spring might be eligible for additional funding, which is called P-EBT. Families that already receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits will have these funds automatically loaded onto their Link cards. But families do not have to be eligible for SNAP to receive P-EBT. The only requirement is that their child attended a school that participates in the National School Lunch Program and was eligible to receive free or reduced-price meals.

Families can apply for P-EBT at <https://abe.illinois.gov/abe/access/> (<https://abe.illinois.gov/abe/access/>). We do ask for schools to be prepared to print P-EBT applications for families without internet access who request paper copies. Here are the links to the [English application](#)  (<https://www.dhs.state.il.us/OneNetLibrary/12/documents/Forms/IL444-5235.pdf>) and the [Spanish application](#)  (<https://www.dhs.state.il.us/OneNetLibrary/12/documents/Forms/IL444-5235S.pdf>). This program has just been extended through the end of August and can provide an additional \$340 per child.

DHS [created a flyer to help families with the application process](#)  (<http://www.dhs.state.il.us/OneNetLibrary/27897/documents/Brochures/4980.pdf>). A [Spanish version of the DHS flyer](#)  (<http://www.dhs.state.il.us/OneNetLibrary/27897/documents/Brochures/4980S.pdf>) is also available. We are asking NSLP sponsors to share this flyer with their families. You can print them and include with grab-n-go meals, include in email communications, and/or post on your websites.

Please contact us at cnp@isbe.net (<mailto:cnp@isbe.net>) if you have any questions.

NEW

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.

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. The regional superintendent shall carefully examine the bond of any school treasurer after it has been filed. 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) (/Pages/School-Treasurer-Bonds.aspx) are 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.

LIMITATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS – TORT FUND CROSSWALK

A crosswalk has been developed to assist in the completion of the FY 2021 Limitation of Administrative Costs Worksheet. In FY 2020, Tort Fund expenditures were not included within any of the six cost functions statutorily required for inclusion on the Limitation worksheet. Accounting code changes adding all function codes within the Tort Fund starting with FY 2021, so some Tort Fund expenditures could be included within the cost functions on the Limitation worksheet. The Limitation of Administrative Costs - Tort Fund Crosswalk will aid in comparability between the FY 2020 actual and the FY 2021 budgeted administrative costs functions.

On the crosswalk, the actual Tort Fund expenditures per the FY 2020 Annual Financial Report (AFR) will be applied to one of the six administrative costs functions or to non-administrative costs functions, as applicable. A column has been added on the Limitation worksheet to record these applied Tort Fund expenditures within the FY 2020 actual administrative costs, which will be used to apply the statutorily allowable 5% increase for FY 2021 budgeted administrative costs.

If a school district has FY 2020 Tort Fund expenditures, a Limitation of Administrative Costs – Tort Fund Crosswalk must be completed and must be submitted in conjunction with the FY 2021 Limitation of Administrative Costs Worksheet.

A revised Limitation of Administrative Costs Worksheet and Limitation of Administrative Costs – Tort Fund Crosswalk can be found within the newest version of the [FY 2020 AFR](/Pages/Annual-Financial-Report.aspx) (/Pages/Annual-Financial-Report.aspx) under the drop down “Form.” School district auditors with a previous version of the AFR can find a version of the combined worksheet/crosswalk, which can be inserted into the AFR, at the same location. Please follow instructions in the combined worksheet/crosswalk for linking to expenditures within the AFR.

School districts that complete and file the Limitation worksheet themselves can find a stand-alone version of the combined worksheet/crosswalk on the [Limitation of Administrative Costs page](/Pages/Limitation-of-Administrative-Costs.aspx) (/Pages/Limitation-of-Administrative-Costs.aspx). It is recommended that school districts work with their auditors to get the necessary information in order to complete the crosswalk.


The estimated Limitation of Administrative Costs Worksheet within the [FY 2021 School District Budget Form](/Pages/School-District-Joint-Agreement.aspx) (/Pages/School-District-Joint-Agreement.aspx) has also been revised, adding a Tort Fund column within the Estimated Actual Expenditures for FY 2020. School districts with a previous version of the budget form can find a version of the estimated combined worksheet/crosswalk, which can be inserted into the budget form, at the same location. Please follow instructions in the estimated combined worksheet/crosswalk for linking to the budgeted expenditures

within the budget form. Again, districts are advised to work with their auditors to get the necessary information in order to complete the new column. As a reminder, the estimated Limitation of Administrative Costs Worksheet located in the budget form is for school district use only and is not accepted as official submission of the Limitation worksheet.

If you have questions, contact Michelle Heninger, School Business Services Department, at (217) 785-8779 or by email at mheninge@isbe.net (mailto:mheninge@isbe.net).

STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

FAFSA GRADUATION REQUIREMENT REMINDER AND NON-PARTICIPATION FORM


Public Act 101-0180 (<https://ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=101-0180>) requires that, beginning with the 2020-21 school year, the parent or guardian of each student must (1) file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or an application for state financial aid, or (2) file a waiver form with the school district indicating that the parent or guardian understands what FAFSA and application for state financial aid are and has chosen not to file an application. These same requirements also apply to any student who is at least 18 years old or legally emancipated. They are a prerequisite for a student receiving a diploma from a public high school and are in addition to any other graduation requirements. If choosing to file a waiver of this requirement, students and families must file the following form with the school district: [FAFSA Non-Participation Form](#)  (/Documents/FAFSA-Non-Participation-Form.pdf). Should you have questions regarding this requirement, please email FAFSA@isbe.net (mailto:FAFSA@isbe.net).

TRANSPORTATION

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION ALIGNED FOR RETURN TO SCHOOL TASK FORCE GUIDANCE NOW AVAILABLE


The **Student Transportation Aligned for Return to School** (STARTS) Task Force was formed as a partnership of the three leading school transportation industry organizations -- the National School Transportation Association, the National Association for Pupil Transportation, and the National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services. The purpose of the task force was to develop materials that would be useful to the school bus industry as it works to respond to the unprecedented challenges of school reopening in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The report offers guidelines and tasks that are intended to address the circumstances under which school transportation can safely operate. The task force recognized that COVID-19 is a new disease and many of the facts surrounding the virus are still being determined. Several elements mentioned in the report, including testing and the use of personal protective equipment, are subject to further discussion and agreement between the relevant agencies, school districts, bus contractors, and the unions representing school transportation workers. State governments, school boards, or local public health officials may issue new guidance as circumstances change; the guidelines and tasks under which school transportation can safely operate may be adjusted accordingly.

The **STARTS Guidelines, Tactics and Templates**  (<https://www.napt.org/files/STARTS%20Report%20-%20FINAL%281%29.pdf>) address many elements of school transportation, but transportation directors or site managers also must consult with state and local public health orders as well as applicable state and federal agency regulations and guidelines. Additional information can be found at www.startstaskforce.com (http://www.startstaskforce.com/).

IN BRIEF

DISTRICT OPPORTUNITIES

- **ParentTeach** invites high schools to participate in the statewide Parenting Education Pilot in response to HB 4442. The pilot pays for teacher training, student access to online materials, and all data analysis. The 10-lesson unit is locally adoptable and ready to launch. Teachers receive a \$500 stipend. [View the flyer for additional information](#)  (/Documents/ISBE-20-21-Recruitment-flyer.pdf).
- **Northeastern University** has received a grant from the National Science Foundation and is seeking districts to participate in the Practera pilot, which supports structured virtual and hybrid work-based learning experiences. The [Practera pilot interest form for SY 2020-21](#) (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScPjPnpZ-cFWFp3dXCgkl20T7hve2PenlfglYEU3JLB9lutzg/viewform?usp=sf_link) should be submitted by **Aug. 14**. Please don't hesitate to reach out to Heather Penczak at hpenczak@niu.edu (mailto:hpenczak@niu.edu) or Nikki James at ni.james@northeastern.edu (mailto:ni.james@northeastern.edu) if you would like to schedule a conversation to discuss this in detail further before submitting your interest form.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- **Ed Leaders Network** is offering the following courses:

Measuring Student Growth (On-demand course - 3 PD Hrs.) by Dr. Diana Zaleski, Illinois Education Association. The purpose of measuring student's academic growth is to immediately inform the instructional process in order to increase student learning and close achievement gaps. This course helps educators understand the process of using formative assessment to measure student growth and close achievement gaps. [Log into your Ed Leaders Network account to join](https://edleadersnetwork.org/) (https://edleadersnetwork.org/).

Opioid Curriculum for Elementary Educators (On-demand course) - Opioid abuse and deaths among youth have skyrocketed. States and school districts are including drug prevention awareness within the K-12 curriculum. Contained within this course are sample district plans/strategies, educator training, and proactive K-3 elementary curriculum that address the current opioid crisis. [Log into your Ed Leaders Network account to join](https://edleadersnetwork.org/) (https://edleadersnetwork.org/).

FEATURED CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

- Learn more and apply for the below career opportunities at ISBE!
 - [Grant and Financial Reporting Specialist](#) (/Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=441)
 - [Special Education Private Facility Per Diem Rate Setting](#) (/Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=412)
- [View all open positions at ISBE](#) (/Pages/Careers-at-ISBE.aspx).