

ISBE'S WEEKLY MESSAGE

August 22, 2023

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Dear Colleagues,

Welcome back to school! I have loved seeing your photos from your first days all over social media. I cannot wait to see what the new school year brings. This fall, I am focused on bringing the agency's new Strategic Plan into fruition. I met today with the programmatic and instructional teams here at ISBE for our second Instructional Retreat and I look forward to sharing our takeaways with the ISBE Board and you in the coming weeks and months.

It's not only a new school year for our students. (Welcome to our incoming kindergartners, the class of 2036!) It's also the first school year for many new educators who are just starting their careers. Adults also need support to integrate into new environments. Effective mentoring programs are a proven strategy to increase educator retention.

We have three statewide programs available for teachers and school leaders that are up and running and accepting new participants for the 2023-24 school year.

The Illinois Virtual Instructional Coach and Building Mentor Program (</Pages/Illinois-Virtual-Instructional-Coach-Building-Mentor-Program.aspx>), entering its fourth year, is available for first-, second-, and third-year educators and clinicians. This program pairs early career teachers with mentors and virtual instructional coaches, and the feedback has been resoundingly positive — from improved instructional practice to increased confidence. There are options for schools, districts, or individual teachers. Find the interest survey and email contacts on ISBE's website (</Pages/Illinois-Virtual-Instructional-Coach-Building-Mentor-Program.aspx>).

The New Principal Mentoring Program (</Pages/District-School-Leadership.aspx>) provides new principals with access to individualized mentoring that builds leadership capacity and reduces principal turnover, particularly for diverse leaders and in schools serving diverse students. The principalship is a demanding and multifaceted role. A mentor provides a seasoned perspective, helping new principals navigate challenges, make informed decisions, and develop effective leadership strategies. There are currently five providers for principal mentoring listed on the ISBE website (</Pages/District-School-Leadership.aspx>), each with a unique approach and focus.

The Illinois Affinity Group Network (</Pages/LR-Affinity-Groups.aspx>) is launching 38 affinity groups across the state this school year. These affinity groups for educators of color offer spaces where educators can share their experiences pertaining to their racial and cultural identities as well as examine the barriers to retention that educators of color face in Illinois schools. Interested participants can visit the Teach Plus Illinois (<https://teachplus.org/illinois-affinity-groups/>) website and fill out an interest form (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc1O6C2Phx8CUf91O7DLmDHH-tAh6OiUrL3_kNb3O8a4yn_mw/viewform) for more information.

Thank you for sharing these opportunities with the new teachers and new principals in your own districts.

These programs foster a culture of collaboration, where educators share their insights and strategies with each other. This exchange of knowledge not only helps educators and leaders navigate the challenges of their roles but also invigorates the entire educational community with fresh perspectives and innovative ideas. Hear more, in their own words, from program participants below.

Congratulations on a fantastic start to the year!

Pictured: Summer has come to an end, and we are excited for another school year! Eager students at Joliet School District 86 enjoyed their first day back last week. Send us your first day photos to press@isbe.net (<mailto:press@isbe.net>).

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>).

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/join/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. 6	Webinar: Teaching & Assessing the Essential Skills Series - Working with Others (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeBB8qckrIU9IIZAo0oPyGt6qja5O2s0jd16eaxkj3gRoNqBA/vie)

Sep. 8	Deadline to submit Mental and Behavioral Health Screening Feedback Form – districts take in IWAS under “Surveys”
Sep. 8	IDPH Mental Health Grant Applications due (https://idphgrants.com/user/home.aspx)
Sept. 8	Deadline to submit proposals for FAFSA Symposium (https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LDRNLRN)
Sept. 9	Proposals due for breakout sessions at ISBE’s Statewide Equity Symposium (https://isbe.net/equitysymposium)
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. 20	Deadline to apply for the FY 2024 After School Programs Grant (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/After-School-Programs.aspx)
Sep. 20	Webinar: Illinois Postsecondary Profiles Website - Overview and Guidance (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfFmUJW81q57mbCABHAOqwCUFyfRzZRRmZI6pdKz18at41PHA/viewform)
Sep. 29	Deadline to submit U.S. Presidential Scholars nominations (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/US-Presidential-Scholars.aspx)
Oct. 4	Statewide Equity Symposium (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Statewide-Equity-Symposium.aspx)
Oct. 13	Deadline to apply for the Perkins Innovation and Modernization Grant Program for Career-Connected High Schools (https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/08/14/2023-17226/applications-for-new-awards-perkins-innovation-and-modernization-grant-program?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=)
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)
Oct. 20	Deadline for high schools to submit entries in the U.S. Department of Education’s Your Place in Space Challenge
Oct. 31	Deadline to apply for the Perkins Innovation and Modernization Grant Program for Career-Connected High Schools
Mar. 1-2, 2024	Illinois Teacher Leadership Summit (https://sites.google.com/view/ilteacherleadershipsummit/home)
June 18, 2024	ISBE Career Connection Conference

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.

ISBE invested federal pandemic relief funds into programs that help support and elevate Illinois' educators. Earlier this year, we heard from participants in the Illinois Virtual Instructional Coach and Building Mentor Program (/Pages/Illinois-Virtual-Instructional-Coach-Building-Mentor-Program.aspx), the New Principal Mentoring Program (/Pages/District-School-Leadership.aspx), and the Illinois Affinity Group Network (/Pages/LR-Affinity-Groups.aspx). Here's what they had to say:

"As a first-year teacher, I had a wonderful mentor who continues to have a profound impact on me. I do not think I would be in the classroom today without her support and friendship. It is because of her that I wanted to help other early-career educators, but I could not have imagined how much I would also learn from these amazing teachers. Any opportunity to collaborate with other educators is, in my opinion, the best type of professional development, and I am grateful for the chance to connect with teachers in other districts and help them as they continue to grow as educators."

-- Gail Wiercioch, Teacher and Mentor/Virtual Instructional Coach, Lockport Township High School District 205

"As a first-year principal, my mentor has been invaluable! Michele makes sure to check in with me regularly in formal and informal ways. She celebrates with me and problem-solves with me. Perhaps most importantly, my mentor is excited to learn with and from me. It has been so helpful to have someone outside of my school and outside of my district that serves as my own personal cheerleader genuinely invested in my success gently supporting me in meeting my goals."

-- Jori Bowen, New Principal and Mentee, Community High School District 117

"The experience as a facilitator has been very valuable and inspirational. The fellowship and love I feel in leading our Affinity Group has helped me grow as a leader and has given me the courage to speak up more. Being able to connect with others who feel the exact same way that I feel about educating our youth is so invigorating and helps me continue on this journey."

-- Tanika Scott, Behavior Intervention Specialist and Affinity Group Facilitator, East St. Louis School District 189

Learn more about participating in these programs at www.isbe.net/learningrenewal (/learningrenewal).

CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

CAREER-CONNECTED HIGH SCHOOL GRANT

The U. S. Department of Education's Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education (OCTAE) is inviting applications for new awards for fiscal year 2023 for the Perkins Innovation and Modernization Grant Program for Career-Connected High Schools.

The department seeks to use this competition to award over \$24 million in grant funds for projects that will build capacity among secondary education, postsecondary education, and workforce development systems to expand access to career-connected high school programs for more students. As described in the notice inviting applications, career-connected high schools offer systematic postsecondary counseling and career advising, dual or concurrent enrollment, work-based learning, and programs that offer opportunities to earn an industry-recognized credential.

This grant program is the first funding opportunity of Unlocking Career Success (https://cte.ed.gov/unlocking-career-success/home?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=), OCTAE's initiative connected to Secretary Miguel

Cardona's Raise the Bar: Lead the World (https://www.ed.gov/raisethebar/?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=) campaign. The link to the Federal Register notice is

https://www.ed.gov/raisethebar/?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=) campaign. The link to the Federal Register notice is

available here (https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/08/14/2023-17226/applications-for-new-awards-perkins-innovation-and-modernization-grant-program?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=). The application deadline is **Oct. 13**. Please stay tuned to the Perkins Collaborative Resources Network (https://cte.ed.gov/?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=) for more information on the pre-application webinar, as well as answers to frequently asked questions. If you have questions regarding the competition process, please email PIMgrants@ed.gov (<mailto:to%E2%80%AF%PIMgrants@ed.gov.%E2%80%AF>).

U.S DEPT OF ED YOUR PLACE IN SPACE CHALLENGE

The Your Place in Space Challenge is a CTE Momentum challenge to create new solutions for space. The U.S. Department of Education invites high schools to submit entries that demonstrate a product or service that will contribute to space missions and exploration.

To get started, students and teachers can read more about the challenge (<https://www.yourplaceinspacechallenge.com/about-the-challenge/>) and explore the curated resources (<https://www.yourplaceinspacechallenge.com/resource-hub/>). Submissions are due by **5 p.m. on Oct. 30**. Winning teams will each receive at least \$5,000 and may also earn in-kind prizes, such as space-related classroom equipment or supplies, site visits to space company campuses, and interactions with high-profile leaders in the space industry.

CTE PROFESSIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Join one or more of the September professional learning offerings hosted by ISBE and Northern Illinois University CTE Project:

- **Sept. 6:** Teaching & Assessing the Essential Skills Series - Working with Others (<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeBB8qckrIU9IIZAo0oPyGt6qja5O2s0jd16eaxkj3gRoNqBA/viewform>)
- **Sept. 20:** Illinois Postsecondary Profiles Website - Overview and Guidance (<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfFmUJW81q57mbCABHAOqwCUFyfRzZRRmZI6pdKz18at41PHA/viewform>)

All sessions are open to all Illinois educators. Participants who complete workshops will earn professional development hours or, when applicable, Administrator Academy credit (based on the workshop and one’s position). Check out the full (and growing!) ISBE CTE Professional Learning Calendar (https://docs.google.com/document/d/1f6KAIVzm7qO8xmXKD6tU76VYIVwh5VVXRw75jxa_Jhs/edit).

You are also invited to participate in either the asynchronous Work-Based Learning (https://drive.google.com/file/d/1KmeY5Bd0Vs3TISeqQuP_ZKcGsdqSyedi/view) or Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (https://drive.google.com/file/d/1XX3-h7NURRWjIMXxDkaqZjithKRAYq_H/view) courses being offered this fall. These courses are provided at no cost. Participants who successfully complete the course will earn credit hours toward their Professional Educator License.

2024 ISBE CAREER CONNECTION CONFERENCE

Mark your calendars for next year’s ISBE Career Connection Conference **June 18, 2024**, at the Tinley Park Convention Center! Stay tuned for more information.

NEW

EQUITY

STATEWIDE EQUITY SYMPOSIUM


Register now for the first-ever Statewide Equity Symposium (<https://isbe.net/equitysymposium>) on **Oct. 4!** Join State Superintendent of Education Dr. Tony Sanders; school and district administrators; diversity, equity, and inclusion experts; and teacher leaders from across the state for an inspiring and illuminating day of action. This virtual gathering will foster peer-to-peer collaboration and equip attendees with strategies to transform outcomes for all students.

ISBE also invites you to submit a proposal for a breakout session. Learn more, submit a breakout session proposal, and register now on the ISBE website (<https://isbe.net/equitysymposium>).

NEW

FINANCE

FY 2024 EBF STUDENT POPULATION ALLOCATIONS AVAILABLE FOR USE IN EBF SPENDING PLAN

ISBE has published the FY 2024 Student Population Allocation Summary file. This report indicates the total funding provided within the FY 2024 Evidence-Based Funding (EBF) distributions for English learners, low-income students, and special education. The EBF Spending Plan webpage ([/ebfspendingplan](#)) has been updated to include a file that contains FY 2024 Tier Funding and the Student Population allocations  ([/_layouts/Download.aspx?SourceUrl=https://www.isbe.net/Documents/FY24-Tier-EBF-Spending-Plans.xlsx](#)). These amounts can be used to complete EBF Spending Plan items pertaining to the use of FY 2024 state funding. All Organizational Units are encouraged to include these current-year amounts in the EBF Spending Plan prior to transmitting the budget to ISBE. Questions can be directed to ebfspendingplan@isbe.net (<mailto:ebfspendingplan@isbe.net>).

FY 2023 ANNUAL STATEMENT OF AFFAIRS FORM RELEASED

The FY 2023 Annual Statement of Affairs Form is now available on the Finance, Budget & Funding webpage ([/Pages/Annual-Statement-of-Affairs.aspx](#)) under “Forms and Instructions.” If you have any questions, please email finance1@isbe.net (<mailto:finance1@isbe.net>).


FY 2024 ROUND 1 SMPG APPLICATION WINDOW OPENS SEPT. 5

The FY 2024 Round 1 School Maintenance Project Grant application period opens **Sept. 5**.

- All applications must be submitted in IWAS (<https://sec1.isbe.net/iwas/asp/login.asp?js=true>) to the applicable Regional Office of Education (ROE) by **4 p.m. Dec. 1**.
- All applications must then be submitted by the ROE to ISBE by **4 p.m. Dec. 15**.

Approximately \$46.7 million is available for the FY 2024 Round 1 School Maintenance Project Grants. Grants will be approved up to the amount released by the Governor’s Office of Management and Budget. Future application cycles will be open when funds are released.

This program is a dollar-for-dollar state matching grant program that will provide awards up to \$50,000 exclusively for the maintenance or upkeep of buildings or structures for educational purposes. Ongoing operational costs, including in-house labor for projects not contracted out, cannot be included for any School Maintenance Project Grant.

Any school district, cooperative high school, Type 40 area vocational center, or special education cooperative may apply for the grant. Please refer to the list of eligible applicants  ([/Documents/Eligible-List-SMPG-FY24.pdf](#)). Visit the School Maintenance Project Grant webpage ([/Pages/School-Maintenance-Project-Grant.aspx](#)) for more details.

NEW

ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

2023 FAFSA SYMPOSIUM - CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) is excited to announce the fifth annual FAFSA Symposium (<https://www.isac.org/pd/FAFSA-Symposium/>) and has opened the call for proposals. The one-day symposium enables attendees to learn about best practices for supporting students in completing a financial aid application. For more information about the symposium, visit the FAFSA Symposium page (<https://www.isac.org/pd/FAFSA-Symposium/>). Watch for future announcements with specific dates and additional details.


ISAC invites school counselors, college and career staff, financial aid administrators, community-based organizations, and other college-access professionals who support students and families through the financial aid process to *submit a session proposal* to present at one or both locations for the FAFSA Symposium. The online session proposal form (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LDRNLRN>) will close **Sept. 8**. Session guidelines can be found on the FAFSA Symposium page, as well as on the session proposal form (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LDRNLRN>).

Contact isac.outreachtraining@illinois.gov (<mailto:isac.outreachtraining@illinois.gov>) if you have questions.

NEW

IMPROVEMENT & INNOVATION

ILLINOIS INSTRUCTIONAL MANDATES 2023-24

The Illinois Instructional Mandates  ([/Documents/IL-Mandated-Units-of-Study.pdf](#)) document has been updated for the 2023-24 school year. Changes or new additions are highlighted in yellow. Please reach out to ROEISC@isbe.net (<mailto:ROEISC@isbe.net>) if you have any questions.

We are still finalizing the updates for mandated trainings, and we will share it with the field as soon it is ready for release.

SCHOOL AND DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT RESOURCES

School improvement is a continuous, collaborative process through which staff and stakeholders identify strengths and weaknesses of the entire school program and use the information as a basis for making deliberate, positive, cohesive, and observable changes in measurable student outcomes.

Looking for resources to support your K-12 school improvement efforts? Visit our Regional Services & School Improvement webpage ([/Pages/School-Improvement-Plan.aspx](#)).

NEW

NUTRITION

USDA RECOGNITION AWARD OPPORTUNITY

All School Food Authorities (SFAs) are invited to apply for a Healthy Meals Incentives (<https://healthymealsincentives.org/>) Recognition Award. Applications will be accepted through the Recognition Awards application portal (<https://healthymealsincentives.org/recognition-awards/>) on a rolling basis through June 30, 2025.



SFAs that meet Recognition Award criteria will receive benefits, such as national and local recognition, an awardee toolkit that includes digital assets, travel stipends to attend a national Healthy Meals Summit, access to diverse best practices and training activities, and more.

These grants are part of a cooperative agreement to develop and implement the USDA Food and Nutrition Service’s Healthy Meals Incentives Initiative (<https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/healthy-meals-incentives>).

NEW

SAFE & HEALTHY CLIMATE

CHANGES TO PHYSICAL RESTRAINT, TIME OUT, AND ISOLATED TIME OUT ISBE 11-01 FORM

Please be aware of changes to the Physical Restraint and Time Out (RTO) Form, also known as ISBE’s 11-01 Form. The revised form  ([/Documents/11-01-Physical-Restraint-Time-Out-Form.pdf](#)) requires schools to provide additional information regarding the use of a device during the implementation of a physical restraint, time out, or isolated time out that restricts a student’s movements. The revised form  ([/Documents/11-01-Physical-Restraint-Time-Out-Form.pdf](#)) also includes the required notice of a parent or guardian’s right to request a meeting after an RTO incident.

We understand that these modifications may require adjustments to your reporting procedures, but we firmly believe that these changes are essential for the health and safety of students. Schools are now required to use the new form to report a physical restraint, time out, or isolated time out.

Please also remember that reporting the use of physical restraint, time out, and isolated time out applies to all students. We have observed that some schools are currently reporting these interventions solely when used on special education students. Illinois School Code and ISBE administrative rules require that all instances of physical restraint, time out, and isolated time out be reported regardless of the student's classification or background. Please contact studentcare@isbe.net (mailto:studentcare@isbe.net) if you have any questions or concerns.

YOUTH IN CARE STUDENTS

As the new school year begins, we wanted to offer a few reminders about our youth in care. The educational stability of students in foster care is a joint responsibility of Local Education Agencies (LEAs) and child welfare agencies. LEAs are asked to designate a district youth in care liaison (/Pages/YouthInCareContacts.aspx) to support these efforts to assist children in foster care.

Youth in care liaisons advocate for educational stability by ensuring that youth in care students remain in their school of origin, unless a determination is made that attending the school would not be in the best interest of the student. Youth in care liaisons help facilitate enrollment of students in the event of a school transfer, ensure timely transfer of records, advocate for necessary social services in the new school, and plan for on-time graduation so academic progress is not interrupted.

You can find out more information about how best to support youth in care students by viewing the Youth in Care (/Pages/YouthInCare.aspx) webpage and by reviewing this webinar 🎥 (<https://register.gotowebinar.com/recording/8055412940255371521>). Please reach out to youthincare@isbe.net (mailto:youthincare@isbe.net) for any questions you may have.

FY 2024 AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS GRANT RFP RELEASED

ISBE has released the FY 2024 After School Programs Request for Proposals (/Pages/After-School-Programs.aspx). The purpose of the grant is to provide opportunities outside of the school day to improve academic outcomes for students; to provide opportunities for enrichment activities in a safe and healthy environment; and/or to provide opportunities to strengthen public, private, and philanthropic partnerships so that quality support services are more durable for students facing the greatest challenges.

ROEs; Intermediate Service Centers; community-based organizations; or Indian tribes or tribal organizations (as defined in the federal Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act) are eligible to apply. School districts and Local Education Agencies are not eligible to apply.

A technical assistance webinar will be held at **10 a.m. Aug. 22**. Register here. Proposals are due by **4 p.m. Sept. 20**.

\$10 MILLION IN GRANTS AVAILABLE TO STRENGTHEN MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN SCHOOLS

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) is accepting grant applications from schools and agencies that support adolescent health for a share of \$10 million in federal funding intended to strengthen mental health services for students across Illinois. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is making grants available through its COVID-19 Public Health Workforce Supplemental Funding program. It is being offered to help schools and local agencies improve student care in areas such as workforce enhancements, development of frameworks to prevent adverse childhood experiences (ACES), interventions to assist children suffering from trauma, and training for medical and school staff to expand adolescent mental health resources.

The funding is authorized by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. Following are the program areas in which funds will be allocated:

- **\$6.9 million for Enhancing Post-Covid Recovery Efforts for School Based Health Needs:** Up to \$500,000 per school district or qualifying school affiliated organization to expand workforces, purchase mental health training materials, and deploy programs and resources to enhance student mental health. (Up to 25 grants expected.)

- **\$3 million for Preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences Post-COVID-19:** To identify mental health issues within school populations and provide education, resources, care coordination, and/or training that help to develop frameworks to prevent ACEs and to improve the mental health outcomes for children and youth in a post-pandemic world. (Up to 15 grants expected.)

Read the press release (<https://dph.illinois.gov/resource-center/news/2023/august/2023-08-08-pritzker-administration-announces-10-million-dollars-in-grants.html>). Applications, which are due **Sept. 8**, can be found in IDPH's Electronic Grants Administration & Management System (<https://idphgrants.com/user/home.aspx>).

NEW

TEACHING & LEARNING



STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT STUDENTS' WELL-BEING AND SUCCESS

ED is hosting a webinar series to address topics that are foremost in educators' minds. After sharing federal updates, the series features lessons learned and best practices from faculty, staff, schools, districts, institutions of higher education, and other places of educational instruction. The next webinar, "Strategies for School and District Leaders to Support Students' Social, Emotional, Behavioral, and Academic Well-Being and Success," is at **2 p.m. Aug. 23**. Register here.

DR. SANDERS' OPEN INVITATION TO FLORIDA AND TEXAS TEACHERS: COME TO ILLINOIS. WE TRUST YOU.

Here in Illinois, we do not shy away from our complex histories or identities. We encourage dialogue from multiple perspectives. We protect the freedom and professional judgment of educators. Read State Superintendent of Education Dr. Tony Sanders' open letter to teachers (<https://www.the74million.org/article/open-invitation-to-florida-and-texas-teachers-come-to-illinois-we-trust-you/>) in states like Texas and Florida as he invites them to further their careers in Illinois.

ACCELERATED PLACEMENT ACT UPDATES

Public Act 101-0654 (<https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/101/101-0654.htm#:~:text=%C2%A0%C2%A0%C2%A0%28105%20ILCS%205%2F14A-32%2C421%2C%20eff.%207-1-18.%29>) specifies that, by no later than the beginning of the 2023-24 school year, a school district's accelerated placement policy shall allow for the automatic enrollment in the following school term of a student into the next most rigorous level of advanced coursework if the student meets or exceeds state standards in English language arts, mathematics, or science on a state assessment. This amendment applies to Grades 9-12. You can view the fact sheet  (/Documents/Accelerated_Placement_Act_Guidance.pdf) and an updated FAQ  (/Documents/Accelerated-Placement-Act-FAQ.pdf) on the Advanced Learners webpage (/advancedlearners).

IN BRIEF

SCHOOL RECOGNITION

Congratulations to Illinois' Grant Awardees

As part of a cooperative agreement to develop and implement the USDA Food and Nutrition Service's (FNS) Healthy Meals Incentives Initiative (<https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/healthy-meals-incentives>), Action for Healthy Kids has announced that it is awarding nearly \$30 million in grants to 264 School Food Authorities (SFAs) across 44 states and the District of Columbia, reaching students in some of our nation's highest-need schools. These funds are being provided by USDA FNS.

Award-winners in Illinois include:

- Alden-Hebron School District 19
- Bellwood SD 88

- River Trails SD 26
- Thornton Fractional Township HSD 215
- Glenwood Academy
- Paris CUSD 4
- Villa Grove CUSD 302
- Lincoln ESD 27
- Midwest Central CUSD 191
- Irvington CCSD 11
- Herrin CUSD 4
- Vienna HSD 133

Each small and/or rural SFA will receive up to \$150,000 to support them in improving the nutritional quality of their meals and modernizing their operations. Such efforts could include innovative staff training programs, kitchen updates and renovations, redesigning food preparation and service spaces, or other district-led efforts to support school meals and school nutrition professionals.

An online map featuring the selected SFAs and their grant amounts (<https://healthymealsincentives.org/grantees/>) will be updated on a rolling basis as SFAs formalize their grant agreements.

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. 19:** Navigating Advanced Data for Advanced Learners: Making Sense of Assessment, Achievement, Learner Readiness and Growth (https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Fu3LwHyeQXeCtcmDNenm2Q?_x_zm_rtaid=n9fpYZ3GQV6Zr4aPpQhRUw.1692644760582.d9272df8298ad6611a7e068d4e275140&_x_zm_rhtaid=479#/registration) - This webinar will explore best assessment practices for advanced learners with a focus on achievement measures (benefits and limitations); measuring learning readiness (for programming and instruction) as well as growth (in programs and over time).

Illinois Teacher Leadership Summit

Have a “problem of practice” or a new initiative your school or organization is working on? Bring a team of five to the Illinois Teacher Leadership Summit on **March 1-2, 2024**, in Normal. Your team will be partnered with a “critical friend” who is an expert in your problem area, and you will walk away with an action plan. The summit is hosted by Teach to Lead, a partnership of ASCD, Teach Plus, and the U.S. Department of Education.

Learn more and register now here (<https://sites.google.com/view/ilteacherleadershipsummit/home>).

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

U.S. Presidential Scholars

ISBE is accepting nominations for the U.S. Presidential Scholars program for school year 2023-24. The U.S. Department of Education allows for the state superintendent of education to nominate students for the general and career and technical education components. If you have a student who you believe would be an excellent candidate for this program, please complete and submit a nomination form by **5 p.m. Sept. 29**. Please visit the ISBE U.S. Presidential Scholars webpage (</Pages/US-Presidential-Scholars.aspx>) for the nomination forms and more information. Please contact presidentialscholars@isbe.net (mailto:presidentialscholars@isbe.net) or 217-785-5585 if you have questions.

9/11 Day of Service

You can be part of the action! Serve Illinois has teamed up with 911day.org (<https://911day.org/>) for a huge meal pack project at the Great Hall at Union Station in Chicago. This year's event will take place on **Sept. 11**, with a goal to pack 420,000 meals for families in the community. To sign up for a shift and learn more, head to this link (<https://linktr.ee/serveil9.11>).

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

- Special Education Facility Rate Analyst (Principal Consultant #749) (</Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=838>)
- Federal Fund Administrator (Principal Consultant #1729) (</Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=805>)

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