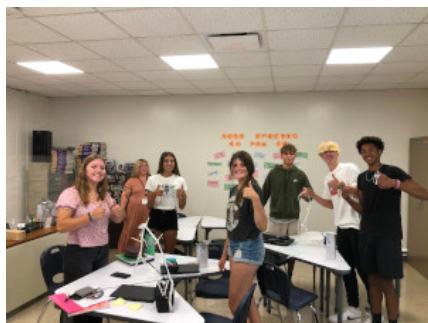


WHAT'S INSIDE

- Learning Renewal
- Finance
- Data Strategies and Analytics
- District and School Leadership
- Educator Effectiveness
- In Brief



Dear Colleagues:

Illinois' new Learning Standards (/sexualhealth) for Comprehensive Personal Health and Safety and Sexual Health Education aim to empower students in all grades with the information they need to recognize abuse, make empowered choices, and form healthy relationships.

While some of these topics may be new for the instructional context, we know they are not new to our students. Even when we were in school, misinformation about these topics was rampant and harmful. Today, with almost universal access to the internet and cell phones at all ages, our students need access to this information from trusted and reliable sources now more than ever.

School districts are **not** required to teach sex education. For districts that choose to teach these topics, Illinois' updated standards provide a guide for age-appropriate, inclusive, and medically accurate instruction in all grades.












The standards are developmentally appropriate. Just like in math, what students learn in kindergarten is very different from what students learn in high school.


Children are most vulnerable to abuse between ages of 7 to 13. In elementary school, the standards set a foundation for safety by teaching about consent, boundaries, and healthy relationships. In middle school, the standards address dating violence prevention, which evidence shows contributes to reduced sexual harassment among peers. In high school, the standards help students gain skills and tools to make the right choices for themselves about relationships, pregnancy, and sexual health. Research demonstrates that comprehensive personal health and safety instruction for students in all grades promotes self-confidence and prevents health problems, unintended pregnancy, and many forms of abuse and violence.

School districts continue to have local control over curriculum, including how much time they spend on different topics and what instructional materials they use. This flexibility allows every district to address these topics in ways that are appropriate for their specific community context, while still being inclusive, age-appropriate and medically accurate. We collaborated with a working group to provide a wealth of resources (/Pages/Sexual-Health-Resources.aspx) on the ISBE website to support school districts in adapting their curriculum to the new standards.

Parents are looped in every step of the way, first and foremost by having the ability to opt their student out of instruction. The law ([https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/fulltext.asp?](https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/fulltext.asp?DocName=&SessionId=110&GA=102&DocTypeId=SB&DocNum=818&GAID=16&LegID=&SpecSess=&Session=)

[DocName=&SessionId=110&GA=102&DocTypeId=SB&DocNum=818&GAID=16&LegID=&SpecSess=&Session=](https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/fulltext.asp?DocName=&SessionId=110&GA=102&DocTypeId=SB&DocNum=818&GAID=16&LegID=&SpecSess=&Session=)) that required ISBE to adopt the new standards also added new layers of transparency for parents, requiring school districts to publish the name of the curricula they're using, notify families of the scope and sequence of instruction, and provide information on how to opt their student out. ISBE has developed a one-pager in multiple languages that districts can distribute to families to help describe the importance of sexual health education:

- English  (/Documents/Sexual-Education-English.pdf)
- Arabic  (/Documents/Sexual-Education-Arabic.pdf)
- Chinese (Simplified)  (/Documents/Sexual-Education-Simplified-Chinese.pdf)
- Chinese (Traditional)  (/Documents/Sexual-Education-Traditional-Chinese.pdf)
- Gujarati  (/Documents/Sexual-Education-Gujarati.pdf)
- Hindi  (/Documents/Sexual-Education-Hindi.pdf)
- Filipino (Tagalog)  (/Documents/Sexual-Education-Tagalog.pdf)
- Polish  (/Documents/Sexual-Education-Polish.pdf)
- Russian  (/Documents/Sexual-Education-Russian.pdf)
- Spanish  (/Documents/Sexual-Education-Spanish.pdf)
- Urdu  (/Documents/Sexual-Education-Urdu.pdf)

Please note that the standards are required for any district that chooses to teach comprehensive sexual health education. For districts that elect not to teach sex education, topics that fall under separate instructional mandates  (/Documents/IL-Mandated-Units-of-Study.pdf) must continue to be taught.

We understand that there will be a transition period as school districts review the standards and engage their local communities. Ultimately, the goal of the standards is to empower all students with the information they need to safeguard their personal health. If you have questions on this topic, please check our FAQ or email sexualhealtheducation@isbe.net (mailto:sexualhealtheducation@isbe.net).

Pictured: Students from Illini Bluffs High School are officially back in school. Their first day back included activities that prioritized relationship-building and fostering a school culture based on trust, unity, and growth. Students built STEM towers to understand the importance of teamwork, community, and communication.

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.	FY 2023 EBF Spending Plan window in IWAS
1-Sept. 30	(https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwvdO6vqjMqHtfpXYN7xqM_JC6Fsdg4qEXP)
Aug. 31	Webinar: Public Service Loan Forgiveness (https://illinois2.webex.com/illinois2/onstage/g.php?MTID=ed7d0fedffc6a0f702fcc9ced16748c0c)
Aug. 31	Learning Renewal Interim Assessments Road Show in Marion (https://web.cvent.com/event/be180899-4178-4105-9b0b-892502ecca29/summary)
Aug. 31	Learning Renewal Interim Assessments Road Show in Edwardsville (https://web.cvent.com/event/be180899-4178-4105-9b0b-892502ecca29/summary)
Aug. 31	Deadline to edit FY 2022 Site-Based Expenditure Reports (https://www.isbe.net/site-based)
Sept. 1	School Treasurer Bond Affidavit Due

Sept. 1	National Board Certification State Fall Subsidy Window opens (https://nbrc.illinoisstate.edu/firsttime/index.php)
Sept. 1	Webinar: REACH Communities of Practice mental health facilitators application (https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwvdO6vqjMqHtfpXYN7xqM_JC6Fsdg4qEXP)
Sept. 6	Accountability 2022 Webinar Series: 2022 Summative Designation Deep Dive (https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6777611100468084491)
Sept. 7	Accountability 2022 Webinar Series: 2022 Summative Designation Deep Dive (https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6612964731766903564)
Sept. 7	Webinar: National Board Certification (https://forms.illinoisstate.edu/forms/learn_about_national_board_certification_for_illinois_teachers_spring_2022_copy_1)
Sept. 8	Accountability 2022 Webinar Series: 2022 English Learner Progress to Proficiency Indicator Deep Dive (https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5882178726412235533)
Sept. 8	Webinar: Data Collections Q&A (https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/2174502371330329612)
Sept. 8	Webinar: REACH Communities of Practice mental health facilitators application (https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEuf-uoqTgsE91YXCo4tnhyxnpDHSduukad)
Sept. 9	Accountability 2022 Webinar Series: 2022 ELA and Math Proficiency Indicator (https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/8506151131471802638)
Sept. 12	Deadline to submit MOEquity Exception Survey (https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=hv5kA8ZJ9Eq1LDNameV30blfu_t844pOqyDiDmgFTUdUQzY5SzVKNk9ONjdMUK1FNEwxVkhXMk5BUC4u)
Sept. 13	Deadline to apply for AmeriCorps Volunteer Generation Grant (https://americorps.gov/funding-opportunity/fy-2023-volunteer-generation-fund)
Sept. 15	Deadline to submit letter of intent to use alternate SY 2022-23 School Climate Survey (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/5Essentials-Survey.aspx)
Sept. 16	Deadline to Submit Capital Needs Assessment Survey (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Capital-Needs-Assessment-Survey.aspx)
Sept. 19-21	2022 Illinois Association of Title I Directors Fall Conference (https://www.eventsquid.com/contestant-reg.cfm?event_id=17530)
Sept. 20	Webinar: National Board Certification (https://forms.illinoisstate.edu/forms/learn_about_national_board_certification_for_illinois_teachers_spring_2022_copy_1)
Sept. 21-23	Bilingual Program Directors meeting (https://www.isbe.net/Documents/FY23-Bilingual-Prog-Dir-Mtg.pdf)
Sept. 27	Webinar: National Board Certification (https://forms.illinoisstate.edu/forms/learn_about_national_board_certification_for_illinois_teachers_spring_2022_copy_1)
Sept. 30	Deadline to submit FY 2023 EBF Spending Plan in IWAS

Oct. 3	Accountability 2022 Webinar Series: How to Interpret & Communicate Your 2022 Summative Designation (https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4898694162669042447)
Oct. 4	Accountability 2022 Webinar Series: How to Interpret & Communicate Your 2022 Summative Designation (https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5843064699765897996)
Oct. 4	FY 2024 agency budget hearing (virtual) (https://www.isbe.net/budget)
Oct. 6	FY 2024 agency budget hearing (in person) (https://www.isbe.net/budget)
Oct. 7	Webinar: National Board Certification (https://forms.illinoisstate.edu/forms/learn_about_national_board_certification_for_illinois_teachers_spring_2022_copy_1)
Oct. 10	Deadline to apply for Early Childhood Construction Grant (https://www2.illinois.gov/cdb/professionalgrowth/grants/Pages/ecgp.aspx)
Oct. 11	Deadline to apply for National Board Certification State Fall Subsidy (https://nbrc.illinoisstate.edu/firsttime/index.php)
Oct. 24	FY 2024 agency budget hearing (virtual) (https://www.isbe.net/budget)
Dec. 1	Deadline to apply for the School Technology Revolving Loan Program (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Educational-Technology.aspx)
Jan.	SY 2022-23 School Climate Survey administration window

23 - Mar. 31, 2023

SAFE AND HEALTHY CLIMATE

UPDATED COVID-19 GUIDANCE AND DECISION TREE

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and ISBE have updated the Joint Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in Schools (<https://dph.illinois.gov/covid19/community-guidance/school-guidance.html>), fully adopting the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Operational Guidance for K-12 Schools and Early Care and Education Programs to Support Safe In-Person Learning ([https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-childcare-guidance.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-childcare-guidance.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html)) (updated as of Aug. 11). This updated guidance supersedes all prior COVID-19 school guidance documents and applies to public and nonpublic schools that serve students in prekindergarten through Grade 12. The Decision Tree Recommendations for Evaluating Symptomatic Individuals from Pre-K, K-12 Schools, and Day Care Programs (<https://dph.illinois.gov/covid19/community-guidance/school-guidance/covid-19-interim-exclusion-guidance-for-schools.html>) has also been updated.

NEW

LEARNING RENEWAL

This section will focus each week 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.

id=hv5kA8ZJ9Eq1LDNameV30Ufi4KgH87ICv6FRRQI8cviUNTdHWktDS1NJWjJZVDFaQ09RVINCUVdMRi4u) how you are investing federal relief funds to help students recover.

CAHOKIA UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 187 STUDENTS RECEIVED A JUMP START HEADING INTO A NEW SCHOOL YEAR

Students at Cahokia Unit School District 187 were not immune to the effects of the pandemic. District staff noted that while all students were academically and socially impacted by the pandemic, their youngest learners experienced the greatest setbacks. That’s where Jump Start, funded with federal pandemic relief funds, came in. The goals of the district’s Jump Start program were to increase academic instruction time to help decrease learning loss and mitigate the typical summer slump; continue to develop the social emotional skills critical to early childhood development; and provide enrichment opportunities for students to apply academic and social skills in an interactive, hands-on setting. The academic focus for the summer program aligned to the district’s kindergarten exit criteria. The participating pre-K students worked hard on writing their names, often a skill mastered by most youngsters in early to mid-year kindergarten. Staff reported that all but one student was able to write his/her first name from memory. In addition, all but three wrote their first and last name from memory. District staff noted that while one may deem this a small success, these students gained a valuable skill that boosted their confidence, self-esteem, and writing skills moving forward to next school year. State Jump Start grants have closed, but school districts can use their federal pandemic relief funds for Jump Start programs to prepare students for a successful kindergarten experience.

REACH STATEWIDE INITIATIVE SEEKING FACILITATORS FOR TRAUMA-RESPONSIVE COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE

As part of the REACH Statewide Initiative (<https://childhoodresilience.org/reach>), the REACH Communities of Practice are seeking mental health professionals and educational consultants to apply as facilitators to support both the live, virtual activities and the management of the online community. The Communities of Practice (<https://childhoodresilience.org/communities-of-practice>), led by Partnership for Resilience in collaboration with Lurie Children’s Center for Childhood Resilience, are groups of school community members from across the state who share a common interest in a topic related to trauma-responsive practices in schools and come together regularly to fulfill individual and group goals related to trauma-responsive practices. Individuals must have previous experience facilitating groups and be invested in trauma-responsive and equity-centered work. Please help spread the word about this exciting opportunity!

Two informational sessions will be offered to provide more information about Communities of Practice facilitation opportunities:

- 9 a.m. Sept. 1 (https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwvdO6vqjMqHtpXYN7xqM_JC6Fsdg4qEXP)
- 7 p.m. Sept. 8 (<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEuf-uoqTgsE91YXCo4tnhyxnpDHSduukad>)

Applications (<https://www.zoomgrants.com/gprop2.asp?donorid=2420&rpid=4218>) are due by **11:59 p.m. Oct. 1**. Please contact REACHCoPInfo@partnership4resilience.org (mailto:REACHCoPInfo@partnership4resilience.org) if you have questions.

NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS OFFER HIGH-IMPACT TUTORING FOR LEARNING RECOVERY

High-impact tutoring is a proven strategy to accelerate student learning. Thanks to federal pandemic relief funds, both public and nonpublic schools can offer high-impact tutoring to help students with academic recovery to address gaps in learning as a result of the pandemic. Catapult Learning (<https://catapultlearning.com/illinois/>) is providing tutoring to nonpublic schools. Nonpublic schools interested in learning more about high-impact tutoring can email ILTutoring@catapultlearning.com (mailto:ILTutoring@catapultlearning.com).

NEW

FINANCE

FY 2024 BUDGET HEARINGS

ISBE invites educators, parents, students, and community organizations to give their input on state funding for public education at three budget hearings, which are scheduled for **Oct. 4, 6, and 24**. The input ISBE receives will inform the Board's advocacy for equitable funding for all students in FY 2024 and provide the basis for ISBE's budget recommendation to Governor JB Pritzker and the General Assembly in January 2023.

Testimony at past hearings has led to increased investments in EBF, parent mentoring, and after-school programs. Now more than ever, ISBE wants our school leaders, classroom teachers, parents, and community advocates to tell us what investments would make the biggest difference for their students.

Please visit isbe.net/budget to fill out a budget request funding form and to register to attend or speak at one of the hearings. Those wishing to participate must submit their testimony in writing by completing the form at isbe.net/budget (/budget). Please note ISBE will give equal consideration to all written and oral testimony.

FY 2023 EBF STUDENT GROUP ALLOCATIONS AVAILABLE IN IWAS EBF SPENDING PLAN

The fiscal year 2023 student group allocations for students from low-income backgrounds, English learners, and students with special education needs are now available in the ISBE Web Application Security (IWAS) Evidence-Based Funding (EBF) Spending Plan and can also be accessed on the EBF Distribution Calculation webpage (/ebfdist) under Reports.

All FY 2023 EBF Spending Plans are due no later than **Sept. 30**. This annual plan provides an opportunity for districts to think through their resource allocation for EBF dollars with fiscal and programmatic team collaboration.

To find additional support in preparing and reporting your EBF Spending Plan, please view the resources on our website (/ebfspendingplan) or email ebfspendingplan@isbe.net (mailto:ebfspendingplan@isbe.net).

NEW

DATA STRATEGIES AND ANALYTICS

EQUITY JOURNEY CONTINUUM DATA UPDATE

ISBE has finalized, updated and approved all Equity Journey Continuum data on the Data Review and Verification Tool as of Aug. 19. Please review your updated Equity Journey Continuum data and email equity@isbe.net (mailto:equity@isbe.net) with any questions.

DATA COLLECTIONS Q&A WEBINARS

ISBE will continue hosting a monthly webinar on the second Thursday of each month to give Illinois school districts a chance to ask any questions they have about the ISBE data collections. The next webinar is 10-11:30 a.m. Sept. 8 🗓️ (<https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/2174502371330329612>). For more information, please contact 312-814-9192 or datahelp.net (mailto:datahelp.net).

NEW

DISTRICT AND SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

NEW PRINCIPAL MENTORING PROGRAM

Did you know all new first-year, first-time principals in Illinois during the 2022-23 school year are entitled to mentoring? Districts and new principals can select from seven approved providers that offer trained mentors to help new principals navigate their first year in the role. Information on the New Principal Mentoring Program and a list of providers with their contact information can be found on the District and School Leadership (/Pages/District-School-Leadership.aspx). For more information, please contact Marty McGreal at mmcgreal@isbe.net (mailto:mmcgreal@isbe.net).



NEW

EDUCATOR EFFECTIVENESS

NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION STATE FALL SUBSIDY WINDOW OPENS SEPT. 1

Would you like to begin your journey to becoming a National Board Certified Teacher? The state fall subsidy (<https://nbc.illinoisstate.edu/firsttime/index.php>) window is open **Sept. 1-Oct. 11**. This subsidy pays for all fees related to the process. There is a \$75 nonrefundable registration fee. This is the only cost a teacher or school counselor will incur.

Free support is available throughout the certification process, and support sessions are anticipated to begin in this fall.

For more information, view this 15-minute presentation  (/NSDocuments/NBPTS-Awareness-Fall22.pdf) and brief video  (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FwLuTXbf9vw>) from National Board Certified Teachers. Informational webinars (https://forms.illinoisstate.edu/forms/learn_about_national_board_certification_for_illinois_teachers_spring_2022_copy_1) will be held from **7-8 p.m. on Sept. 7, 20, 27, and Oct. 6**.

EDUCATOR EVALUATION FLEXIBILITY

Per Public Act 102-0729 (<https://ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=102-0729>) – for the 2022-23 school year only – if the Governor has declared a disaster due to a public health emergency pursuant to Section 7 of the Illinois Emergency Management Act, districts may waive the evaluation requirement of all teachers in contractual continued service whose performances were rated as either “excellent” or “proficient” during the last school year in which the teachers were evaluated. The legislation does not specify when the disaster declaration must be in place to allow for this flexibility, but ISBE has interpreted that it applies as long as a disaster declaration due to a public health emergency is in place at the start of – or issued at any point during – the 2022-23 school year. The most recent disaster proclamation was issued Aug. 19.

To the extent possible, we encourage school districts to continue the practice of summative evaluations as a means of recognizing and improving the performance of educators by identifying areas of strength and support. Teacher evaluations provide an opportunity for administrators to observe teachers and to ensure they are providing high-quality, rigorous instruction and meaningful feedback to their students. These observations inform how administrators support teachers who are struggling with the ongoing challenges of the pandemic.

IN BRIEF

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Ed Leaders Network

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

- **3 p.m. Sept. 20:** Explicit Instruction 101: What it is and why it's important! - In this series of six webinars, participants will gain valuable knowledge from the research and work of Dr. Anita Archer and Dr. Charles Hughes on explicit instruction. Explicit instruction is a structured, systematic, and effective methodology for teaching academic skills. It is considered an unambiguous and direct approach that includes instructional design and delivery procedures.

FEATURED ISBE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

- Network Administrator (/Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=720)
- Enterprise Software Architect (/Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=658)

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