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Dear Colleagues:

I would like to honor the memory of former State Board of Education member and vice chair Dr. Christopher J. Ward. He served as the longtime superintendent of Lockport Township High School District 205 in the southwest suburbs of Chicago. His leadership had a remarkable impact on the school community. He was a friend, mentor, and role model to many. The state of Illinois owes him a debt of gratitude for his service. He will be missed.

Today's message is really a save-the-date: On **Oct. 4, 6, and 24**, ISBE will host hearings to receive input from educators, parents, students, and community organizations on state funding priorities for public education. You are invited to participate. You are the ones who know what your districts and schools need; your information and requests will help guide the Board's advocacy for equitable funding for all students in fiscal year 2024.

Testimony at past hearings has led to increased investments in parent mentoring, after-school programs, the Early Childhood Block Grant, and Evidence-Based Funding. Now more than ever, we want our school leaders, classroom teachers, caregivers, and community advocates to tell us what investments would have the most positive impact in the lives of their students.

If you would like to submit a funding request, your first step is to fill out a budget request funding form ([/budgetrequestform](#)) online. We have simplified this form since last year thanks to your feedback. All requests must be submitted in writing through this form. You do not have to speak at a hearing, and I assure you that we give equal weight to all written and oral testimony. However, if you would like to speak at one of the three hearings, you can register in advance for either of the virtual hearings Oct. 4 and Oct. 24 or attend in-person the hearing in Springfield Oct. 6.

All three hearings are scheduled during "after-school" time, 4-7 p.m. We have detailed instructions for submitting the budget requests available on the ISBE website ([/budget](#)).

It is our responsibility to advocate for every child across the state of Illinois, and we take that duty seriously. Your input can help us make a persuasive argument to lawmakers and state officials about the specific needs of our students and educators. I look forward to reading your requests and seeing you at these hearings.

Pictured: Twenty-six McHenry Community High School students recently were honored in the school's first-ever White Coat ceremony to mark their completion of the Biomedical Science Program. This is the first class to complete all four courses as part of a job-shadowing program at Northwestern Medicine McHenry Hospital.

Sincerely,

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>).

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. 15	Equitable Education in the State of Illinois Virtual Fireside Chat with Dr. Carmen I. Ayala and Dr. Malik S. Henfield (https://luc.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_d9nPHqKITvi7VQsYY2PGmQ)
Sept. 15	Webinar: Public Service Loan Forgiveness (https://www.isac.org/pslf)
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
Sept. 30	Deadline to submit Bullying Prevention Policy 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. 7	Deadline to apply for United States Senate Youth Program Hearst Scholarship (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/United-States-Senate-Youth-Program-Hearst-Scholarship.aspx)

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://nbrtc.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. 23 - Mar. 31, 2023	SY 2022-23 School Climate Survey administration window

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=5v5kA8ZJ9Eq1LDNameV30Ufi4KgH87ICv6FRRQI8cviUNTdHWktDS1NJWjJZVDFaQ09RVINCUVdMRi4u>) how you are investing federal relief funds to help students recover.

id=5v5kA8ZJ9Eq1LDNameV30Ufi4KgH87ICv6FRRQI8cviUNTdHWktDS1NJWjJZVDFaQ09RVINCUVdMRi4u) how you are investing federal relief funds to help students recover.

ESSER FUNDS: STAYING THE COURSE WITH IMPLEMENTING RULER DISTRICTWIDE

Before the COVID-19 pandemic hit, Arlington Heights School District 25 had a plan in place. It intended to implement a new social-emotional learning (SEL) curriculum (<https://www.sd25.org/Page/1622>), RULER, with staff in the fall of 2020, with students in the fall of 2021, and finally with the full community in the fall of 2022.

RULER is an acronym for five skills of emotional intelligence: Recognizing, Understanding, Labeling, Expressing, and Regulating. When the pandemic closed school buildings in March of 2020, district leaders asked themselves, "Should we push it off? Do teachers and staff have too much to worry about right now? Will RULER work remotely?"

"Once the pandemic hit, we knew the community would crave the tools and teachings that RULER has to offer," Assistant Superintendent of Student Learning Dr. Becky FitzPatrick said. "Rather than veer off course, we realized this curriculum was needed now more than ever."

So, the district administration prioritized RULER by creating SEL facilitator positions at each building. Their job was to learn the RULER curriculum and help support its implementation for the next three years. These SEL facilitators were paid a stipend and were filled by a variety of staff from across the buildings.

"In addition to supporting the core subject areas with our ESSER funds, like reading, math, science, and social studies, we wanted to focus on the social-emotional support for our community," FitzPatrick said. "We knew, long term, this would also be a perfect and justified use of some of our ESSER funds."

Last school year, District 25 successfully began rolling out the RULER curriculum to its families on time and with heavy impact. It has been a welcomed exhale in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

All Illinois districts are invited to share their pandemic recovery stories here (<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=5v5kA8ZJ9Eq1LDNameV30Ufi4KgH87ICv6FRRQI8cviUNTdHWktDS1NJWjJZVDFaQ09RVINCUVdMRi4u>).

EQUITY

JOIN STATE SUPERINTENDENT DR. CARMEN AYALA FOR EQUITY IN EDUCATION EVENT

Join Illinois State Superintendent of Education Dr. Carmen I. Ayala and Dr. Malik S. Henfield, founding dean of the Institute for Racial Justice at Loyola University Chicago, from 2-3:30 p.m. Sept. 15 (https://luc.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_d9nPHqKITvi7VQsYY2PGmQ) in a virtual discussion of Illinois' efforts to improve outcomes for all students across the state. Drs. Ayala and Henfield will share details on their partnership centered on preparing the state for the Equity Journey Continuum, a data-informed informational tool designed to help districts view their data through the lens of equity, which will be published on the 2022 Illinois Report Card this fall. They will also share their views on the importance of centering equity in preK-12 education and the impact on students and families across the state.

NEW

ILLINOIS REPORT CARD

GET READY FOR THE 2022 ILLINOIS REPORT CARD

Get ready for the 2022 Illinois Report Card! The Illinois Report Card is released annually by the Illinois State Board of Education and offers a snapshot of school performance in order to inform and empower educators, families, and communities as they support their students.

The Illinois Report Card will be published at www.illinoisreportcard.com 9 a.m. Oct. 27. All public schools will receive a new summative designation on the 2022 Illinois Report Card for the first time since 2019, identifying some schools to start school improvement support through IL-EMPOWER. The 2022 Illinois Report Card will also feature a new informational data element called the Equity Journey Continuum. Stay tuned for more information about the 2022 Illinois Report Card, what's new this year, how to prepare, and opportunities to tell your school's story beyond the data.

- 2022 Illinois Report Card Timeline 📄 (</Documents/2022ReportCard-Timeline.pdf>)

NEW

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

ISBE CTE STANDARDS FEEDBACK WEBINAR

This summer, Career and Technical Education (CTE) educators explored the data from ISBE's CTE Industry Feedback Tour and considered it in light of identified best practices nationally in CTE in order to make recommendations regarding our need for CTE standards and support for professional development in Illinois.

An additional opportunity for educators to provide input will take place from 7:30-9 a.m. (https://niu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6yXOt8LWXfXnM6G) and 3:30-5 p.m. (https://niu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_djnoFYdX2JvJKiW) **Sept. 29.** Participation is open to all educators and administrators who teach or support CTE programs in Illinois.

The goal of this work will be to provided teachers, schools, and school districts with the tools necessary to ensure that there are high-quality and equitable CTE opportunities for all students across Illinois and for the ISBE CTE team and its partners to best support educators in meeting those goals.

FUTURE TEACHER CONFERENCE

The Illinois State University College of Education is excited to offer your students a great opportunity to explore careers in education at the Future Teacher Conference (<https://education.illinoisstate.edu/ftcon/>) on **Oct. 21**. This event is open to all high school students.

Registration (<https://connect.illinoisstate.edu/register/?id=1fa7e929-3e1c-4d38-b271-bb71c9c062d2>) is open through Oct. 7, as space permits. For more information, please email Kelli Appel at ksappel@IllinoisState.edu (<mailto:ksappel@IllinoisState.edu>).



STANDARDS AND INSTRUCTIONS

ISBE RELEASES ACCELERATED PLACEMENT SUPPORTS

Did you know that recent changes to the School Code require districts to update their acceleration policy before the 2023-24 school year? Are you looking for guidance related to that requirement? ISBE has worked with a group of educators, administrators, and the Advisory Council on the Education of Gifted and Talented Children (/Pages/Advisory-Council-Education-Gifted-Talented-Children.aspx) to develop support documents.

Public Act 101-0654 (<https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/101/101-0654.htm>), enacted in spring 2021, amended Article 14A of the School Code (<https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs4.asp?DocName=010500050HArt.+14A&ActID=1005&ChapterID=17&SeqStart=120637500&SeqEnd=123000000>).

It 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 K-12 grade levels.

The newly released Accelerated Placement Guidance  (/Documents/Accelerated_Placement_Act_Guidance.pdf) provides guidance for schools as they update their accelerated placement policy. Additionally, ISBE is hosting an Accelerated Placement Updates webinar  (<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/7925743132997122319>) at **10 a.m. Sept. 26**. For questions, please contact ILTeachTalkLearn@isbe.net (mailto:ILTeachTalkLearn@isbe.net).

ILLINOIS COLLEGE BOARD'S PRE-AP WEBINAR

College Board's Pre-AP program (<https://pre-ap.collegeboard.org/?excmpid=vt-00260>) was designed in collaboration with educators nationwide to address the central curricular challenges they face every day. Please join College Board at 10 a.m.

(https://collegeboard.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_q4hNUjk9R1ahk11-uXDo6A) or 3 p.m

(https://collegeboard.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_jl_WmTMTQGOM-D6d98ZuRA), on **Sept. 28** for an Illinois Pre-AP Informational Webinar to learn more about the program and hear from Illinois administrators who had a role in implementing it in their schools.

ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

PUBLIC SERVICE LOAN FORGIVENESS WEBINARS

Time is running out for federal student loan borrowers to take advantage of the temporary changes to the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Program. These temporary changes end on Oct. 31 – don't miss out! The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) is providing additional webinars regarding the temporary changes, including a limited waiver, to PSLF that may benefit public sector and non-profit employees. If you want to learn more about PSLF or if you have applied for PSLF and been denied, this is the session for you. Some of these changes offer benefits available for a limited time, so you don't want to miss out on this info! Upcoming webinar dates are:

- **8-9 a.m. Sept. 15**
- **5-6 p.m. Sept. 21**
- **1-2 p.m. Sept. 26**

Please share this information with your staff and teachers. Learn more and register at <https://www.isac.org/pslf> (<https://www.isac.org/pslf>).

GET READY FOR FAFSA SEASON WITH FREE ISAC RESOURCES

The 2023-24 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) and the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid (Alternative Application) become available to students beginning **Oct. 1**. College Changes Everything (CCE) Campaign (<https://www.collegechangeseverything.org/ccemonth/>) offers schools and community-based organizations the support and resources needed to host financial aid and college application completion workshops.

Since 2009, the ISACorps, comprised of near peer mentors, have been helping students and families navigate the college and financial aid process. You can learn more about the ISACorps and connect with your local ISACorps member by visiting <https://studentportal.isac.org/isacorps> (<https://studentportal.isac.org/isacorps>).

Another resource for schools is the Financial Aid Application Completion Initiative through which ISAC shares data with schools to identify students who have not filed a financial aid application (the FAFSA or the Alternative Application). ISAC recognizes the efforts of high schools focusing on supporting their students and families through the financial aid process. To learn more about this initiative, please visit ISAC's Financial Aid Application Performance Metrics web page (<https://www.isac.org/home/fafsa/index.html>).

ISAC looks forward to partnering with your school and community in supporting your students with the college and financial aid application process.

EDUCATOR EFFECTIVENESS

WHITE HOUSE RELEASES ACTIONS TO FILL PUBLIC SCHOOL VACANCIES

The White House recently released a fact sheet on public and private sector actions to strengthen teaching profession and help schools fill vacancies. You can find the fact sheet [here](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/08/31/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-announces-public-and-private-sector-actions-to-strengthen-teaching-profession-and-help-schools-fill-vacancies/) (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/08/31/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-announces-public-and-private-sector-actions-to-strengthen-teaching-profession-and-help-schools-fill-vacancies/>).

SAFE AND HEALTHY CLIMATE

SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

September is National Suicide Prevention Month. Suicide is the second leading cause of death among America's youth and young adults. Make sure you can recognize the warning signs (<https://www.nami.org/About-Mental-Illness/Common-with-Mental-Illness/Risk-of-Suicide>) and dial 988 to reach the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline (<https://988lifeline.org/>) for support. ISBE has several resources on our website (</Pages/Suicide-Prevention.aspx>) related to suicide prevention for schools, including model suicide prevention policy and language that can be used on the back of student ID cards about how to get help related to suicide or crisis. If you would like to speak to a member of ISBE's Wellness Department about these resources, please call 217-782-5270.

BULLYING PREVENTION POLICY DUE SEPT. 30

The deadline for Illinois school districts; charter schools; and nonpublic, nonsectarian elementary or secondary schools to submit a bullying prevention policy for the 2022-23 school year is **Sept. 30**. Policies must be submitted to ISBE via the IWAS system and reviewed by ISBE for each required component.

If you have any further questions, please contact bullyingpolicy@isbe.net (<mailto:bullyingpolicy@isbe.net>).

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. Oct. 4:** Celebrating and Honoring Students of All Backgrounds in Difficult Times (https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_7NrIAiWKTYWdfd-HnmXrKQ) – Many educators want to support students of color who have not always been well-served in schools. Yet some parents and community members have misunderstood such efforts. Fortunately, many aspects of equity work are positive for everyone. Valuing identities of students of all backgrounds is central to this work and involves learning in depth about students' backgrounds, understanding our own, and inviting students to explore their histories and issues. Author/educators Tonya Perry, Steve Zemelman, and Katy Smith address ways school leaders can promote this work, drawing on approaches in their new book, "Teaching for Racial Equity."

Illinois Education & Technology Conference

Teachers, administrators, and IT staff are invited to the Illinois Education & Technology Conference (<http://www.ltcillinois.org/ietc>) **Nov. 2-4** in Springfield. Sessions and workshops will focus on technology integration strategies, engaging instructional practices, digital tools and resources, and emerging edtech trends. Early bird registration closes Oct. 7.

Empowering Student Success Through Career Advising and CTE

This virtual workshop, delivered in half-day sessions from **9 a.m.-noon on Sept. 27 and Sept. 28** (<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=hv5kA8ZJ9Eq1LDNameV30YINRT-28INMh3SEonIzeHRUMUpUM1JBOUhRWFFDOVAyUjhLVEIMMFY2Qi4u>), will provide school counselors and other advising professionals with the information and resources they need to connect students with opportunities aligned with their career passions. Participants will emerge with an enhanced knowledge of the full range of education and career options, with a specific focus on Career Technical Education (CTE) and in-demand occupations, to empower students to skillfully navigate their path to career and college success as well as expand their existing strategies for effective career advisement.

EDUCATION RECOGNITION

Congratulations to Samantha Stearns, social studies teacher at Roosevelt Middle School in River Forest School District 90, for being named the 2022 Illinois History Teacher of the Year by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History (<https://www.gilderlehrman.org/programs-and-events/national-history-teacher-year/2022-state-winners>). Stearns has 12 years of classroom experience, including the last eight as chair of Roosevelt's Social Studies Department. She has twice been featured as a guest columnist for the American Historical Association's (<https://www.historians.org/>) "Perspectives on History" to highlight the shifts in social studies education. She has also written for the National Council for the Social Studies' (<https://www.socialstudies.org/>) "Middle Level Learning (<https://www.socialstudies.org/middle-level-learning>)." She earned a graduate degree in history from Indiana State University, where in 2018 she received the Dr. Charles Roll History Award – while teaching. Stearns has led professional development for her colleagues on the topics of inclusive history, social-emotional learning in the social studies classroom, Universal Design for Learning implementation, and curriculum design focused on the College, Career, and Civic Life (C3) Framework, and Illinois State Social Studies Standards. ISBE is partnering with Stearns and the University of Illinois for an upcoming professional development series for about 250 K-12 social studies teachers across the state.

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

U.S. Senate Youth Program Hearst Scholarship Application Available

Illinois high school juniors or seniors are invited to apply for the United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP) Hearst Scholarship. To qualify, juniors and seniors must demonstrate leadership by serving in elected or appointed positions in which they are actively representing a constituency in organizations related to student government, education, public affairs, and community service.

For more information, qualifications, and to access an application, please visit our United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP) Hearst Scholarship webpage (<http://www.isbe.net/Pages/United-States-Senate-Youth-Program-Hearst-Scholarship.aspx>). Applications must be submitted by **4 p.m. Oct. 7**. Electronic submissions must be sent to ussyp@isbe.net (<mailto:ussyp@isbe.net>) with the applicant's first and last name in the subject line and the USSYP application attached.

FEATURED ISBE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

- Budget Analyst (</Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=708>)
(</Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=708>)
- (</Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=708>)Budget Analyst (</Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=707>)

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

(</Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=707>)