

ISBE'S WEEKLY MESSAGE

October 3, 2023

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Dear Colleagues,

We will host our first-ever virtual Statewide Equity Symposium (/equitysymposium) on Wednesday. There's still time to register for the symposium <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/8673872842336522584>, and I sincerely hope you will join us for an exciting and engaging day of learning and connecting. One of the common requests I heard during my 90-day listening tour was for more support and education around equity work. We see the equity gaps in our data, so how can we engage teachers, staff, families, and communities in changing systems and practice to better serve all students?

Log on at 10 a.m. to hear our keynote speaker, Dr. Gloria Ladson-Billings (<https://news.wisc.edu/gloria-ladson-billings-daring-to-dream-in-public/>). I'm very excited for this! She is the former Kellner Family Distinguished Professor of Urban Education at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, as well as a Fellow of the British Academy, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the Hagler Institute of Texas A&M University. But beyond those impressive titles, you may know her as the author of a critically acclaimed book – The Dreamkeepers: Successful Teachers of African American Children (<https://books.google.com/books?id=hhwwRhvsYO0C&printsec=frontcover#v=onepage&q&f=false>) – now in its third printing.

After her address, you can choose your own adventure with 10 different breakout sessions, which you can enter and leave as your schedule allows. Start planning your conference with session descriptions and virtual meeting links here <https://isbe.net/Documents/ISBE-Equity-Symposium-Agenda.pdf>. (No preregistration required for the concurrent sessions, just click the session link to join on Wednesday.)

Beginning at 11:20 a.m., we have five concurrent sessions:

- **EJC Narrative Writing Workshop** – Dr. Eilene Edejer (Loyola University)
- **Moving from Ideas to Intentions: Overcoming Barriers to Equity through a System of Supports, Monitoring and Measurement** – Lori Hendsold, Dr. Regina Redd, Dr. Guadalupe Vander Ploeg, Victoria Egizio, and James Edler (Illinois MTSS Network)
- **Amplifying Student Voice through Student Advocacy** – Dr. Gloria Trejo and Dr. Maurice McDavid
- **Partnerships for Educator Access: Diversifying the Educator Pipeline** – Dr. Joi Patterson (Governors State University)
- **Introducing and Supporting the AP African American Studies Course** – Michael Christensen and Chimille Tillery (New Trier High School)

We will take a lunch break from 12:10 – 1:10 p.m., then reconvene for five concurrent afternoon sessions:

- **Equity Equals Access: Providing Meaningful Educational Opportunities for Students Who Are at Risk of Suspension or Expulsion** – Kristine Argue-Mason and Crissy Mombela (Partnership for Resilience)

- **Supporting Equitable Access for Kindergarten Readiness** –Diane Saelens (Birth to Five Illinois)
- **Walking in Change: Creating Classrooms Communities That Ensure Success for All** – Lisa Harrod (Manteno CUSD 5)
- **The TEAACH Act: Teaching Asian American History and Culture in Our Curriculum** – Samina Hadi-Tabassum, Ed.D. (Elmhurst University)
- **Virtual Tutoring for EL and Spanish Learners** - Alice Trinidad, M.S. Ed., and Barbara O'Donnell, Ed.D. (SIUE)

At 2 p.m., we will close with an hour-long Thought Exchange session led by Dr. Teresa Lance and Dr. Lisa Jackson (both from School District U-46), Silvia Rogel (Illinois Resource Center), and ISBE's equity lead Sergio Hernandez.

This symposium is our first, but not our last. We know equity is not a merit badge we can earn in one day, or even one year. It's a matter of continuous growth and commitment to ongoing improvement. All our students need equitable opportunities. I hope this inaugural event will inspire, equip, and encourage each of us along our equity journeys. Learn more and register for the symposium on the ISBE website ([/equitysymposium](https://equitysymposium.org)). I'll see you Wednesday!

Pictured: State Superintendent of Education Dr. Tony Sanders reads to kindergarten students in Mrs. Frew's class during a recent visit to Prairie Trails School. The school was selected as a 2022-23 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School honoree for its sustainable building renovations, environmentally focused curricula, and community health achievements.

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>).

Oct. 1-31	National Principals Month
Oct. 2	2023 Illinois Report Card Educator Preview opens (https://www.isbe.net/Documents/IL-Report-Card-Timeline.pdf)
Oct. 4	Statewide Equity Symposium (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Statewide-Equity-Symposium.aspx)
Oct. 5	FY 2025 budget hearing (virtual) (https://isbe.net/budget)
Oct. 5	Webinar: 2023 Illinois Report Card Overview (https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/954643708188618839)
Oct. 9	ISBE offices closed
Oct. 11	Deadline to apply for National Board Certification State Fall Subsidy (https://nbrc.illinoisstate.edu/candidates/firsttime/)
Oct. 12	ACT Now Webinar: OST After ESSER (https://actnowillinois-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJclde2uqD8uHNZUuixwJ8aqqJMiZv0ocFQ4#/registration)
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. 13	Illinois Council for the Social Studies Fall Conference (https://www.illinoiscss.net/2023-fall-conference.html)
Oct. 15	Deadline to submit 2024 Those Who Excel & Teacher of the Year Awards nominations (https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=hv5kA8ZJ9Eq1LDNameV30Qsb_h6l8RNEt5PpPtq9RRxUMERXU1FDUjVOVjhWQUVC-SkZIWU9aNEE1TC4u)

Oct. 15-21	Principal Appreciation Week
Oct. 17	Webinar: How to Interpret & Communicate Your Official Summative Designation (https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/818431809876211803)
Oct. 19	Webinar: Report Card Forum #2 (https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/436260259575978336)
Oct. 19-20	Illinois Alliance of Administrators of Special Education Fall Conference (https://www.iaase.org/home)
Oct. 20	Deadline for high schools to submit entries in the U.S. Department of Education's Your Place in Space Challenge (https://www.yourplaceinspacechallenge.com/)
Oct. 20	Deadline to submit nominations for the Thomas Lay Burroughs Award (https://apps.isbe.net/surveybuilder/#/client/thomas_lay_burroughs_award)
Oct. 20	Principal Appreciation Day
Oct. 24	Illinois Veterinary Exploration Day (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScttjnegxW1LAXNerYZcuWA3539oCUi1VFpwEI-I-qUDqNBGQ/viewform)
Oct. 25	Media and all districts receive preliminary 2023 Illinois Report Card data under embargo (cannot be shared publicly) until 9 a.m. Oct. 30
Oct. 30	FY 2025 budget hearing (virtual) (https://isbe.net/budget)
Oct. 30	ISBE publishes 2023 Illinois Report Card at IllinoisReportCard.com (https://www.illinoisreportcard.com/)
Oct. 31	Deadline to submit FY 2025 budget requests (https://isbe.net/budget)
Oct. 31	FY 2024 School District Budget forms due (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/School-District-Joint-Agreement.aspx)
Nov. 6	Webinar: Newly Designated Schools (https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/4444121979713581918)
Nov. 8	Webinar: Newly Designated Schools (https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/4444121979713581918)
Nov. 10	ISBE offices closed
Nov. 15	Annual Financial Reports due (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Annual-Financial-Report.aspx)
Nov. 15	Limitation of Administrative Cost Worksheets due (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Annual-Financial-Report.aspx)
Nov. 23-24	ISBE offices closed
Nov. 28	Webinar: FY 2024 School Improvement Planning Grant Application for schools newly designated Targeted, Comprehensive, or Intensive (https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/5163291644876376156)
Nov. 29	Webinar: FY 2024 School Improvement Planning Grant Application for schools newly designated Targeted, Comprehensive, or Intensive (https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/5163291644876376156)
Dec. 5-7	Multilingual Illinois 2023 Statewide Conference (https://irc.thecenterweb.org/events/essa-conference)
Dec. 8	Seventh Annual Mastering KIDS Summit (Tinley Park) (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdcqdlccTst9c9vXOVivgSRfeyeP4JM5Ga6yOHohRhHPPsfQ/viewform)

Dec. 13	Seventh Annual Mastering KIDS Summit (Carbondale) (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdcqudlccTst9c9vXOVivgSRfeyeP4JM5Ga6yOHohRhHPPsfQ/viewform)
Dec. 15	Annual Statement of Affairs due (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Annual-Statement-of-Affairs.aspx)
Dec. 22	Deadline to apply for the Illinois Green Ribbon Schools Award (https://illinoisgreenalliance.org/green-ribbon-schools/)
Dec. 25	ISBE offices closed
Dec. 26	Certificate of Tax Levy due (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Certificate-of-Tax-Levy.aspx)
Jan. 1, 2024	ISBE offices closed
Jan. 19, 2024	Deadline to apply for Illinois National Board Maintenance of Certification Fee Subsidy (https://nbrc.illinoisstate.edu/renew/)
Jan. 19, 2024	Deadline to apply for Illinois National Board Retake Candidate Fee Subsidy (https://nbrc.illinoisstate.edu/candidates/retake/)
Feb. 20, 2024	Illinois Social Emotional Learning Conference (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfkhFEsukOkHCXPRHOy1EINv0b5t2WBV1p7qKhBYnRnA9M-Bg/viewform)
Feb. 23, 2024	Deadline to apply for National Board Certified Teacher Intent to Mentor (https://nbrc.illinoisstate.edu/mentor/)
Mar. 1-2, 2024	Illinois Teacher Leadership Summit (https://sites.google.com/view/ilteacherleadershipsummit/home)
May 18, 2024	Those Who Excel & Teacher of the Year Awards Banquet
June 18, 2024	ISBE Career Connection Conference

NEW

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.

KEEPING STUDENTS ENGAGED IN LEARNING OVER THE SUMMER THROUGH THE ILLINOIS TUTORING INITIATIVE

Schools across the country continue to leverage pandemic recovery resources to give their students every opportunity to address missed learning during the pandemic. Jonesboro Elementary School did not hesitate at the chance to provide students with a fun and engaging summer learning experience through the Illinois Tutoring Initiative.

"This is the first time that my fellow tutors and I have had the opportunity to tutor our students during the summer," said Susan Ramsey, a classroom teacher at Jonesboro and tutor in the program. "For the past two summers, our district offered summer school to help fill the learning gaps caused during closures throughout the pandemic. With those resources ending, the availability of the Illinois Tutoring Initiative came at the perfect time in our quest to help students continue to achieve their personal best academic achievements."

Ramsey and her colleagues recognized the need to make this summer both enjoyable and educational for their students. In order to achieve this, they incorporated hands-on activities, games, and real-world experiences into their lessons enabled these educators to keep their students actively engaged in learning throughout the summer months. This approach not only reinforced core academic concepts but also allowed students to see the practical applications of what they were learning.

The teacher recalls, "We made math and language arts lessons while making pancakes, playing board games, making science experiments, doing puzzles, hatching sea monkeys (tiny shrimp), peeling mandarin oranges, and the list goes on!"

To learn more, visit the Illinois Tutoring Initiative website (<https://illinoistutoringinitiative.org/>) or view their latest newsletter  (<https://illinoistutoringinitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/September-ITI-Newsletter-1.pdf>).

SUSTAINING PROGRAMMING BEYOND ESSER: ACT NOW'S OST AFTER ESSER WEBINAR SERIES


With the clock ticking on Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds, many school leaders are grappling with the challenge of maintaining the programs that were established or expanded with federal pandemic relief funds. ACT Now's (<https://actnowillinois.org/>) upcoming webinar series, "OST After ESSER," provides a timely solution to this pressing concern.

The first installment of this series, scheduled for **10 a.m. Oct. 12**, promises an insightful panel discussion featuring local education leaders, Regional Offices of Education (ROEs), statewide agencies, and community-based organizations. These experts will share their practical methods and approaches for ensuring the sustainability of after-school and out-of-school time (OST) programs beyond the ESSER funding deadline. This series will offer strategies and insights from those on the front lines to equip school leaders with the knowledge they need to continue providing vital educational programs to their students and communities. Register for the "OST After ESSER" webinar here (<https://actnowillinois.org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJclde2uqD8uHNZUuixwJ8aaggJMiZv0ocFQ4#/registration>).



NEW

DATA, ACCOUNTABILITY, & ASSESSMENT

2023 REPORT CARD TIMELINE: KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT

Did you know Educator Preview opened Oct. 2? All districts can now preview final 2023 Illinois Report Card data, including preliminary annual summative designations, in the Educator Preview portal of MyIRC. Check out the 2023 Illinois Report Card Timeline  (/Documents/IL-Report-Card-Timeline.pdf) to learn about other key dates.

ISBE has created fact sheets and resources to support you in communicating with your school communities about your Report Card data and summative designation.

- Multiple Indicators of Student Success  (<https://isbe.net/Documents/2023-Accountability-Indicators.pdf>) – Learn what indicators contribute to the annual summative designations for 2023.
- Annual Summative Designations  (<https://isbe.net/Documents/2023-Annual-Summative-Designations.pdf>) – Learn about the five summative designations in 2023, including the new Intensive Support designation and updates to the Comprehensive Support designation criteria.

Stay tuned for more resources to come!

NEW

EDUCATOR EFFECTIVENESS

EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHER PREPARATION CONTENT TEST

This information will address issues, concerns, and questions that were raised during public comment at the September Board meeting pertaining to the early childhood teacher preparation content test.

Each content test is developed from a test blueprint that is derived from the content standards for the specific endorsement area. The blueprint guides the development of test framework (subareas and questions within each subarea), which is vetted by Illinois educators and faculty at institutions of higher education. This work occurs in multiple iterations to ensure alignment to the blueprint and minimize bias. Once completed, a recommended cut score is identified. These recommendations are shared with the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board and approved by the State Board of Education.

Candidates may download the test framework (https://www.il.nesinc.com/PageView.aspx?f=GEN_PreparationMaterials.html) and study guides and can purchase practice materials at any time prior to registering or completing a content test. (Note: At this time, a free content test is available to registrants for the early childhood content test.) Upon completion of the test, the candidate is notified as to whether or not they passed. Candidates and institutions of higher education also receive information on their performance in each subarea.


ISBE continues to work with stakeholders to improve and enhance our processes. We appreciate the feedback and will continue to work with stakeholders regarding this matter. We will share any updates with the field as soon as possible.

NEW

FINANCE

DEADLINE REMINDERS FOR FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS

School District Budget – Oct. 31

School districts should have adopted their fiscal year 2024 budget no later than **Sept. 30**. The School District Budget Form (ISBE 50-36), in Excel format, must be submitted to ISBE no later than **Oct. 31** through IWAS (<https://apps.isbe.net/iwas/asp/login.asp?js=true>) - School District Financial Reports found under Reporting - Annual. A training video  (<https://register.gotowebinar.com/recording/3685366595336690435>) is available to assist with this new system. Additional information can be found on the ISBE School District Budget webpage (</Pages/School-District-Joint-Agreement.aspx>).

Annual Financial Report – Nov. 15

School districts and joint agreements must have their Annual Financial Report (AFR) completed, signed, and submitted to the ROE or ISC, as applicable, by **Oct. 15**. The ROE/ISC must sign the AFR (ISBE 50-35/50-60) and remit it to ISBE no later than **Nov. 15**. The school district or joint agreement's auditor must also submit the AFR, in Excel format, no later than **Nov. 15** through IWAS (<https://sec1.isbe.net/iwas/asp/login.asp?js=true>). The ROE/ISC may grant an extension to these deadlines, not to extend past **Dec. 15**. Additional information can be found on the ISBE Annual Financial Report page (</Pages/Annual-Financial-Report.aspx>).

Limitation of Administrative Cost Worksheets – Nov. 15

Section 17-1.5 of the School Code requires school districts to limit the growth of certain administrative expenditures to a maximum of 5 percent from one fiscal year to the next. School districts must file the Limitation of Administrative Costs Worksheet with ISBE's School Business Services Department by **Nov. 15**. A blank Limitation of Administrative Costs Worksheet, quartile rankings for all school districts, and a sample waiver resolution for qualifying districts can be found on the ISBE Limitation of Administrative Costs page (</Pages/Limitation-of-Administrative-Costs.aspx>). The Limitation of Administrative Costs Worksheet is included within AFR, and the worksheet may be submitted to ISBE in conjunction with the AFR. Alternatively, the completed and signed worksheet may be sent as an attachment to finance1@isbe.net (<mailto:finance1@isbe.net>).

Annual Statement of Affairs – Dec. 15

School districts and joint agreements must complete an Annual Statement of Affairs (ASA) and publish an ASA summary in a newspaper of general circulation no later than **Dec. 1**. School districts and joint agreements must also submit the entire Annual Statement of Affairs (ISBE 50-37) electronically to ISBE by **Dec. 15**, annually. The ASA, in Excel format, should be submitted to ISBE through the Attachment Manager (<https://sec1.isbe.net/attachmgr/default.aspx>), choosing "School Financial Reports" as the receiver. Copies of the ASA should be retained in the school district or joint agreement administrative office. The ASA form and instructions, along with additional publishing and submission information, can be found on the ISBE Annual Statement of Affairs page (</Pages/Annual-Statement-of-Affairs.aspx>).

Certificate of Tax Levy – Dec. 26

School districts must submit a certified Certificate of Tax Levy (ISBE 50-02) to their county clerk(s) on or before **the last Tuesday in December**. Do not submit the Certificate of Tax Levy to ISBE. The Certificate of Tax Levy form can be found on the ISBE Certificate of Tax Levy page (</Pages/Certificate-of-Tax-Levy.aspx>). If you have any questions, please contact 217-785-8779 or finance1@isbe.net (<mailto:finance1@isbe.net>).

FY 2025 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. 3, 5, and 30**. The input ISBE receives will inform the Board's advocacy for equitable funding for all students in fiscal year 2025 and provide the basis for ISBE's budget recommendation to Governor JB Pritzker and the General Assembly in January 2024.

Testimony at past hearings has led to increased investments in Evidence-Based Funding, early childhood education, and Career and Technical Education 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 fill out this form ([/budgetrequestform](#)) to register to attend or speak at one of the hearings or make a budget funding request. Funding requests must be submitted by **Oct. 31**. Please note ISBE will give equal consideration to all written and oral testimony.

FY 2024 SCHOOL DISTRICT REORGANIZATION FEASIBILITY STUDIES

ISBE is now accepting agreements for FY 2024 School District Reorganization Feasibility Studies. Feasibility studies can be used to investigate the advantages and/or disadvantages of reorganization options. The school board of each district involved in a feasibility study must approve a resolution to initiate a study. The districts involved should submit a proposed agreement with an independent contractor(s) to their ROE or Intermediate Service Center (ISC). The ROE/ISC will then submit the agreement to ISBE for approval.

The state allotment amount for FY 2024 studies will be the cost of the study, up to a maximum of \$15,125. Any study cost above the state funding will be the responsibility of the participating districts. Studies are funded on a first-come, first-served basis. Studies must be completed and submitted to the ROE/ISC and ISBE no later than **May 31**. ROE/ISC approval or denial of the study must be submitted to ISBE no later than **June 30**. Procedures and sample forms can be found on the ISBE School District Reorganization Feasibility Studies page ([/Pages/School-District-Reorganization-Feasibility-Studies.aspx](#)).

Please contact Christy Morgan at 217-785-8779 or cmorgan@isbe.net (<mailto:cmorgan@isbe.net>) if you have any questions.

NEW

RECOGNITION OPPORTUNITIES

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL PRINCIPALS MONTH

Happy Principals Month! Principals play a crucial role in creating a welcoming environment where both students and educators can thrive. Their leadership sets the tone for academic excellence in schools across our great state! In this video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HupHw5Lzzlo>, State Superintendent of Education Dr. Tony Sanders thanks Illinois principals for their commitment to their students, staff, and community.

NOMINATIONS AND APPLICATIONS FOR 2024 THOSE WHO EXCEL & TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARDS DUE OCT. 15

You have less than two weeks to celebrate the accomplishments of stellar educators across the state by nominating your colleagues and community members for the 2024 Those Who Excel & Teacher of the Year Awards ([/thosewhoexcel](#)). Anyone may submit nominations, and there is no limit to the number of nominations that can be submitted by a person, school, or district. It takes only five minutes to submit a nomination (https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=hv5kA8ZJ9Eq1LDNameV30Qsb_h6l8RNEt5PpPtq9RRxUMERXU1FDUjVOVjhWQUVCSkZIWU9aNEE1TC4u) that could lead to your staff and schools being recognized with the highest educational honor in the state. Nominations are optional and only upon successful completion of the subsequent application materials (<https://isbe.submittable.com/submit/65dbbde2-a7e2-445f-9fce-4c9d338be3bf/2024-those-who-excel-teacher-of-the-year-awards-application>) will applicants be eligible for an award. Applications will be accepted through **11:59 p.m. Oct. 15**.

Nominators, external relations staff, and potential applicants are all encouraged to review the recording of ISBE's TWE & TOY Awards Informational Webinar <https://register.gotowebinar.com/webinarOver> to learn more about the agency's awards process ([/NSDocuments/Infographic-of-Award-Process.pdf](#)) and discover how to integrate ISBE's awards within your school communities.

ISBE SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR OUTSTANDING SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Does your school district have an outstanding school board member – someone who has pushed for equity, overcome challenges, and improved outcomes for students? Nominate them for the Thomas Lay Burroughs Award!

This annual award, named for late ISBE Chairman Tom Burroughs, recognizes extraordinary leadership on a local board of education. ISBE has expanded eligibility in recent years to include school board members who have demonstrated:

- Personal leadership in improving student learning, closing achievement gaps, and supporting educational excellence; and/or
- Personal leadership in expanding educational opportunities for underserved students; and/or
- Personal leadership in resolving a crisis or major difficulty with the result of more equitable outcomes for students.


Submit your nomination (https://apps.isbe.net/surveybuilder/#/client/thomas_lay_burroughs_award) by the close of business

Oct. 20.

NEW

EQUITY

DR. GLORIA LADSON-BILLINGS ANNOUNCED AS STATEWIDE EQUITY SYMPOSIUM KEYNOTE SPEAKER

ISBE has announced that renowned scholar Dr. Gloria Ladson-Billings will be the keynote speaker for the first-ever Statewide Equity Symposium on **Oct. 4!** ISBE has also announced the presenters of the 10 concurrent symposium sessions. Register now to secure your spot (</Pages/Statewide-Equity-Symposium.aspx>). Start planning your symposium by checking out the concurrent session descriptions and full agenda here  (<https://isbe.net/Documents/ISBE-Equity-Symposium-Agenda.pdf>).

Dr. Ladson-Billings is the former Kellner Family Distinguished Professor of Urban Education in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction and faculty affiliate in the Department of Educational Policy Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Dr. Ladson-Billings' research examines the pedagogical practices of teachers who are successful with African American students. She is the author of the critically acclaimed books "The Dreamkeepers: Successful Teachers of African American Children" and "Crossing Over to Canaan: The Journey of New Teachers in Diverse Classrooms," and numerous journal articles and book chapters. Read more about Dr. Ladson-Billings here (<https://news.wisc.edu/gloria-ladson-billings-daring-to-dream-in-public/>).

The symposium will convene school and district administrators; diversity, equity, and inclusion leaders; 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. Register now for the symposium (</Pages/Statewide-Equity-Symposium.aspx>)!

NEW

FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

JOIN FACE TO FACE – A NETWORK FOR FAMILY-FACING PROFESSIONALS

Individuals who work directly to support the families in our schools, districts, and ROES are encouraged to join FACE to FACE with the State – a new network for family-facing professionals in schools. This Family and Community Engagement group will meet virtually on a monthly basis to collaborate, problem-solve, and learn about statewide initiatives and supports to help advance the field. Click here to sign up (<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=hv5kA8ZJ9Eq1LDNameV30ceNzDMaBvdPqi4EWN0CagxUNFVDTTFKWlozVFJVVjhWVEUyVTdEMUIZRS4u>).

For more information, email Carolina Fabian at cfabian@isbe.net (<mailto:cfabian@isbe.net>).

NEW

NUTRITION

CELEBRATE NATIONAL FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH AND THE ILLINOIS GREAT APPLE CRUNCH

National Farm to School Month is a great opportunity to plan a new farm-to-school activity, organize a special celebration of your current efforts, or initiate a new partnership. Visit the National Farm to School Month website (<https://www.farmtoschool.org/our-work/farm-to-school-month>) to get started. Many farm-to-school programs begin with a small activity that generates interest and engages the whole community. Use your Local Food for Schools (LFS) funds to purchase new local foods to serve in your National School Lunch and/or School Breakfast Program meals, invite a local farmer to your school, and/or plan how you will celebrate this year's Illinois Great Apple Crunch on **Oct. 12**. Schools, early child care facilities, and other child education programs across Illinois can participate by serving local apples on the lunch tray or in the classroom, and "crunch"-ing into them together all at the same time. The Illinois Farm to School Network helps

participants locate local orchards and provides promotional tools and educational supplements that teach students all about Illinois apples. Visit the Illinois Farm to School Networks website (<http://illinoisfarmtoschool.org/great-apple-crunch/>) to register and learn more about this fun event!


LOCAL FOOD FOR SCHOOLS FUNDING AVAILABLE NOW

Illinois is participating in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Local Food for Schools Cooperative Agreement Program. This new program will provide \$7.3 million to ISBE to distribute to eligible schools to purchase local unprocessed and minimally processed foods to be served as part of the National School Lunch and/or School Breakfast Programs between August 2023 and January 2025. The application to participate in LFS is available in the Web-based Illinois Nutrition System. Visit ISBE's Farm to Child Nutrition Programs website (</Pages/School-Nutrition-Farm-to-School.aspx>) for more information and resources.

SAFE & HEALTHY CLIMATE

COVID-19 GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and ISBE Joint Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in Schools (<https://dph.illinois.gov/covid19/community-guidance/school-guidance.html>) was updated in June 2023. The major change was discontinuing use of the COVID-19-specific Decision Tree for managing persons with confirmed or suspected COVID-19. Instead, the Communicable Disease School Guidance (<https://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/diseases-and-conditions/infectious-diseases/cd-school-nurse-guidance.html>) was updated to include COVID-19, along with the other communicable diseases schools typically encounter, and includes recommendations for isolation (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/isolation.html>) that have not changed for COVID-19.

Guidance on COVID-19 Outbreak Reporting for Non-High-Risk Settings, including K-12 Schools, Day Cares, Workplaces, Colleges, and Businesses  (</Documents/COVID-19-Surveillance-Outbreak-Reporting.pdf>) was released in December of 2022 to identify shifts in reporting COVID-19 cases and outbreaks in schools. IDPH clarified in this document that COVID-19 cases and outbreaks are no longer reportable unless directed by your local health department or when severe outcomes occur. The document provides guidance for schools to manage varying sizes of outbreaks independently but encourages schools to reach out to their local health departments whenever they have questions about managing communicable diseases in schools or need assistance.

NEW

SPECIALIZED INSTRUCTION

SEVENTH ANNUAL MASTERING KIDS SUMMIT

Join fellow kindergarten teachers, district and school administrators, KIDS coaches, and partners for the Mastering KIDS Summit. Don't miss this opportunity to network, learn from experts and peers across the state, and gain practical insights you can use in your classroom and school.

There are two locations and times available. Please register for the one that works best for you (<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdcqudlccTst9c9vXOVigSRfeyeP4JM5Ga6yOHohRhHPPsfQ/viewform>).

Dec. 8: Tinley Park Convention Center 1, 8451 Convention Center Drive, Tinley Park, IL 60477

Dec. 13: Southern Illinois University, 1255 Lincoln Drive Carbondale, IL 62901

IN BRIEF

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Illinois Education and Technology Conference

The Learning Technology Center's annual Illinois Education and Technology Conference (IETC) (<https://www.ltcillinois.org/ietc/>) is **Nov. 1-3** in Springfield. IETC offers teachers, administrators, instructional coaches, and tech staff a unique chance to explore how technology shapes our schools, classrooms, and students. This year's conference

features an AI in Education Summit (<https://www.ltcillinois.org/sessions/ai-in-education-summit/>), a Technology Leader Summit (<https://www.ltcillinois.org/sessions/tech-leader-summit/>), 60 ed tech vendors, and over 95 highly relevant and hands-on sessions (<https://www.ltcillinois.org/ietc/schedule/#schedule>). For more information and to register, please visit [ietc.ltcillinois.org](https://www.ltcillinois.org/ietc/) (<https://www.ltcillinois.org/ietc/>).

Illinois Council for the Social Studies Fall Conference

Join the Illinois Council for the Social Studies for an in-person conference at Harper College in Palatine! Teachers, administrators, and curriculum specialists are invited to the CSS Annual Conference (<https://www.illinoiscss.net/2023-fall-conference.html>) on **Friday, Oct. 13**, at Harper College. The theme is "The New Social Studies: Expanding Narratives and Technologies." Sessions focus on AI and generative technologies as well as expanding students' experiences with underrepresented voices. Sessions include dialogue regarding navigating controversial topics in the classroom, religious literacy in the classroom, and more. Continuing education credit is offered.

IAASE Fall Conference

Join the Illinois Alliance of Administrators of Special Education (IAASE) for the 24th annual fall conference in Tinley Park **Oct. 19-20**. This outstanding professional learning event features inspiring keynote speakers, some of Illinois' top special education attorneys, and an array of breakout sessions, led by practitioners and specialists with expertise in the education of students with disabilities. Registration is open now on the IAASE website (<https://www.iaase.org/home>).

IPA's LEAD Webinar Series for New School Leaders

The LEAD webinar series (<https://ilprincipals.org/lead/>), presented by the Illinois Principals Association, stands as an educational beacon for aspiring and current educational leaders. This carefully curated series offers a wealth of insights and expertise, providing a platform for principals and school leaders to enhance their skills, exchange ideas, and stay informed about the latest trends and best practices in education. Each webinar offers a unique opportunity for participants to engage with thought leaders, gain valuable knowledge, and foster a community dedicated to empowering schools and shaping the future of education in Illinois. The first webinar in the series is scheduled from **noon-1 p.m. Oct. 6**.

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

ChicTech at UIUC

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign's Women in Computer Science is hosting ChicTech from **9 a.m.-5 p.m. Oct. 7**. Students have an option to participate in-person or virtually.

ChicTech is a full-day event dedicated to introducing high school students to computer science through technical workshops, speaker events, scavenger hunts, and socials throughout the day. ChicTech is open to high school students of all genders, backgrounds, and skill levels. For more information or to register, visit the WCS website (<http://wcs.illinois.edu/chictech/index.html>).

Illinois Veterinary Exploration Day

The Illinois Veterinary Exploration Day (<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScttjnegxW1LAXNerYZcuWA3539oCUi1VFpwEI-I-qUDqNBGQ/viewform>) is a free experience in which high school students can interact and engage with different veterinary professionals from a variety of veterinary career paths. They will have the opportunity to learn about different veterinary careers and get tips from veterinary professionals on how they can be successful in a veterinary career. The event will be held from **8 a.m.-1 p.m. Nov. 4** at the Tinley Park Convention Center (<https://www.tinleyparkconventioncenter.net/>). Space is limited to the first 100 registrants (<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScttjnegxW1LAXNerYZcuWA3539oCUi1VFpwEI-I-qUDqNBGQ/viewform>). Sign up by **Oct. 24**.

FEATURED ISBE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

- Nonpublic Special Education Consultant (Principal Consultant #570) (/Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=878)
- Technical Assistance Team Member (Principal Consultant #112) (/Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=879)
- Program Monitor, School Finance Analysis (Principal Consultant #1332) (/Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=881)

- [Work-Based Learning Coordinator \(Principal Consultant #486\) \(/Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=882\)](/Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=882)
- [Data Analyst \(Consultant #1755, 1874\) \(/Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=880\)](/Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=880)

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