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One year ago, ISBE adopted our [Strategic Plan](#) (/Documents/ISBE-Strategic-Plan.pdf) and included in the plan a new tool to help districts improve equity for all students. I am excited to introduce you to the [Equity Journey Continuum](#) (/Documents/Equity-Journey-Continuum-5Ws.pdf), which will allow you to view your district's data through the lens of equity, revealing any gaps in student achievement or access to opportunities, and mapping a path toward better academic outcomes.

In January, all districts will be able to preview their Equity Journey Continuum data before it appears as a new graphic element on the 2022 Illinois Report Card. You can find more information on this [fact sheet](#) (/Documents/Equity-Journey-Continuum-5Ws.pdf) and watch for more in the weeks ahead.

Equity is not just about race. Even in districts where most students share a common ethnic background, there's still tremendous diversity: of income, learning styles, life goals, religion, gender, and family dynamics. The goal of equity is to ensure that our school system recognizes and values these differences that students bring to the classroom, meets them where they are, and provides them the specific supports they need to succeed.

I want to highlight one incredible example of equity from East St. Louis District 189. You can hear about it firsthand in the latest episode of our [ISBE podcast](#) (/podcast). In the 2019-20 school year, the district lost four middle school students to gun violence. In response, Dr. Tiffany Gholson, director of Parent and Student Support Services, created a team of social workers to respond on-scene, alongside police, to any traumatic incident involving youth, day or night. Her team works in cooperation with state and local law enforcement to intervene with victims, families, friends, witnesses, and perpetrators. This community partnership not only provides supports to students outside of school but also brings a trauma-informed approach inside the classroom. The goal is better academic, social, and life outcomes for students impacted by violence.

Equity will look different in each school community. In one, it may be providing mentors to girls taking STEM classes. In another, it may be adding preschool seats to serve more English Learners. In another, it may be implementing restorative justice to reduce suspensions and expulsions.

Equity Journey Continuum can help inform each district's own unique equity journey, serving as a beacon to illuminate areas where districts may need to increase access, add resources, or seek supports to ensure all students can achieve success. Ultimately, creating a more equitable school culture will benefit all students, all schools, and all communities.

I look forward to sharing more about the Equity Journey Continuum in the weeks to come. If you have any questions, please email equity@isbe.net (mailto:equity@isbe.net).

Pictured: Congratulations to Dr. Michael Ayala (no relation to Dr. Carmen I. Ayala), who was recently honored as the 2021 Illinois World Language Teacher of the Year by the Illinois Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages! Michael teaches world languages at John Hersey High School in Arlington Heights and will represent Illinois in the regional World Language Teacher of the Year selection process in March at the Central States Conference.

We love your images and stories. Keep sharing with us at <mailto:press@isbe.net> (<mailto:press@isbe.net>).

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>).

Nov. 16	Webinar: The Road to Authentic Family Engagement: Understanding and Working Through Barriers (https://web.cvent.com/event/e3a143b9-d396-42a3-801d-60f5b2bd2f08/summary)
Nov. 17-19	2021 Illinois Education and Technology Conference (https://www.il-edtech.org/)
Nov. 17	Webinar: Illinois Risk & Reach Report – Virtual Report – Session II (https://web.cvent.com/event/9e1f0e31-40a3-4e03-ae38-30e9c0de2d80/regProcessStep1)
Nov. 18	Webinar: 2021 Report Card Open Forum #4 (https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5702451449364526607)
Nov. 22	Accountability Open Forum Webinar (https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/888820330047058955)
Nov. 25-26	ISBE Offices Closed for Thanksgiving
Nov. 30	Accountability Open Forum Webinar (https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/888820330047058955)
Dec. 2	KIDS Fireside Chat (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdg5FLySldTvyeNdz1tTefiQtibe9AuQqiDenlBE2yTQGFM0A/viewform)
Dec. 3	Deadline to submit FY 2022 Maintenance of Equity Requirements - Exemption Survey (https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=hv5kA8ZJ9Eq1LDNameV30blfu_t844pOqyDiDmgFTUdUQkdITEs1TzBYOUswWDQ2WUg1OEpRTE5XRC4u)
Dec. 9	Webinar on American Rescue Plan Homeless Children and Youth Part II funds (https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/684469496708204813)
Dec. 14	FACE Monthly Parent Liaison Networking Meeting (English) (https://ltaforms.net/3?eid=a031Q00002BEgA6QAL)
Dec. 16	FACE Monthly Parent Liaison Networking Meeting (Spanish) (https://ltaforms.net/3?eid=a031Q00002BEg9bQAD)
Dec. 17	Deadline to submit artwork for Illinois Arts Week Art Contest (https://www.isbe.net/Documents/2022-Art-Contest.pdf)

Dec. 20	Accountability Open Forum Webinar (https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/888820330047058955)
Dec. 21	Accountability Open Forum Webinar (https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/888820330047058955)
Dec. 24	ISBE Offices Closed for Christmas
Dec. 31	ISBE Offices Closed for New Year's Day
Jan. 10	Deadline to submit Evidence-Based Funding Property Tax Relief Grant application (https://www.isbe.net/proptaxrelief)
Jan. 10	Accountability Open Forum Webinar (https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/888820330047058955)
Jan. 11	Accountability Open Forum Webinar (https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/888820330047058955)
Jan. 17	ISBE Offices Closed – Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Feb. 11	ISBE Offices Closed – Lincoln's Birthday
Feb. 21	ISBE Offices Closed – Presidents Day
Feb. 22-25	2021-22 ESSA and Multilingual Illinois Statewide Conference

COVID-19

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

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


FEDERAL VACCINATION RESOURCES

[School-Located Vaccination Clinics: Best Practices for School Districts](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/planning/school-located-clinics/best-practices.html): (https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/planning/school-located-clinics/best-practices.html) This guide from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides a roadmap for school administrators to work directly with local health departments and other vaccine providers (e.g., pharmacies) to set up vaccination clinics in places that K-12 students and their parents know and trust. The following links provide additional information about pediatric COVID-19 vaccination and school-located vaccination clinics.

- [COVID-19 Vaccination for Children 5-11 Years Old | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/planning/children.html) (https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/planning/children.html)
- [COVID-19 Vaccines for Children and Teens | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/children-teens.html) (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/children-teens.html)
- [Considerations for Planning School-Located Vaccination Clinics | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/planning/school-located-clinics.html) (https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/planning/school-located-clinics.html)
- [Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html) (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html)
- [Guide to On-Site Vaccination Clinics for School | WECANDOTHIS.HHS.GOV](https://wecandothis.hhs.gov/guide-site-vaccination-clinic-schools) (https://wecandothis.hhs.gov/guide-site-vaccination-clinic-schools)

- [Communication Resources for COVID-19 Vaccines | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/resource-center.html#factsheets) (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/resource-center.html#factsheets>)
- [Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19 Vaccination | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html) (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html>)

BACK TO SCHOOL 2021-22

- [School Recognition Status Change Summary](#)  ([/_layouts/Download.aspx?SourceUrl=https://www.isbe.net/Documents/School-Recognition-Status-Change-Summary.xlsx](#))

FEDERAL FUNDING – ESSER

- [ARP ESSER Plans](#)  ([/_layouts/Download.aspx?SourceUrl=https://www.isbe.net/Documents/ARP-ESSER-plans.xlsx](#))


NEW

COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS

ISBE ANNOUNCES NOFO/RFP – FY 2022 ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSE IMPLEMENTATION – COLLEGE AND CAREER SUCCESS FOR ALL STUDENTS PROGRAM – ROUND TWO

This grant is to provide funding to eligible school districts to implement or expand Advanced Placement (AP) programs designed to offer rigorous course work necessary for all students to succeed in postsecondary education or in the workplace. Training for teachers and administrators is necessary to build capacity within schools to offer AP courses.

Eligible applicants include public school districts if they have one or more schools serving any of the Grades 6 through 12 where 40 percent or more of the students are from low-income families (i.e., eligible to receive free or reduced-price meals under the School Breakfast and Lunch Program [105 ILCS 125]). Public university laboratory schools approved by the State Board of Education, area career centers, and charter schools are eligible to apply on the same basis as school districts.


A technical assistance [webinar](#)  (<https://register.gotowebinar.com/recording/2651890520377106434>) can be found on the [Advanced Placement page](#) ([/Pages/Advanced-Placement.aspx](#)). Applications must be submitted electronically through the [ISBE Attachment Manager](#) (<https://apps.isbe.net/attachmgr/default.aspx>), no later than **4 p.m. Jan. 12**. For more information, please visit the [Advanced Placement page](#) ([/Pages/Advanced-Placement.aspx](#)).

COMMON APP NOW AVAILABLE TO ASSIST ILLINOIS STUDENTS APPLYING TO ILLINOIS UNIVERSITIES

All 12 of Illinois' public universities have joined the Common App, so an applicant can choose from any of the listed institutions at one sitting. Learn more at www.commonapp.org (<http://www.commonapp.org>) and check out eligibility requirements for a [Common App fee waiver](#) (<https://appsupport.commonapp.org/applicantsupport/s/article/What-do-I-need-to-know-about-the-Common-App-fee-waiver>).

For help with college planning and with college and financial aid applications, visit the Student Portal of the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) and connect with your [local ISACorps member](#) (https://studentportal.isac.org/web/guest/student/?p_p_id=Student_WAR_Studentportlet&_Student_WAR_Studentportlet__facesViewIdRender=/views/isacorpsMemberSearch.xhtml). Let's help potential students take a major step toward postsecondary success by making the college application process simple and affordable.

NEW PACE FRAMEWORK RESOURCES & TRAININGS NOW AVAILABLE

ISAC's professional development staff are offering free 30-minute Illinois Postsecondary and Career Expectations (PaCE) Framework Update webinars this month. Join a webinar to learn about new and exciting PaCE updates and resources, including the new [PaCE Implementation Guide](#)  (<https://www.isac.org/pace/documents/PaCE-Implement-Guide-Oct2021.pdf>), available to schools and districts to support their college and career readiness efforts with the Illinois PaCE Framework. For more information and to register, visit www.isac.org/pace/webinars

(<http://www.isac.org/pace/webinars>). ISAC offers continuing education credits and professional development hours to participants at a rate of one per contact hour. For additional questions about the Illinois PaCE Framework or webinars, contact the Professional Development staff at isac.pace@illinois.gov (mailto:isac.pace@illinois.gov).

NEW

EARLY CHILDHOOD

KIDS VIRTUAL FIRESIDE CHAT SERIES ANNOUNCED

ISBE and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation are excited to offer the [KIDS Fireside Chat](#) 📄 (/Documents/RMF21-015-KIDS-Fireside-Chat.pdf) on **Dec. 2**. The evening will focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion in kindergarten. This virtual event will use a variety of formats, including time for reflection, small group discussion, two amazing keynotes, classroom giveaways, and more! We are pleased to present two dynamic keynote speakers -- Dr. Patrick Rice, who is clinical assistant professor for the Department of Education Policy, Organization and Leadership at the University of Illinois, and Grace Lin, a Caldecott Honor award-winning children's book author and diversity advocate. Continuing professional development will be offered to every participant.

Registration closes **Nov. 19**.

NEW

ACCOUNTABILITY

OPEN FORUMS TO GATHER FEEDBACK ON ACCOUNTABILITY IN 2022

ISBE is hosting a series of [webinars](#) 📄 (<https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/888820330047058955>) to engage stakeholders regarding accountability in 2022. Much is still unknown about what accountability will look like in 2022. Join an open forum to learn where the conversation is nationally, review Illinois' specific challenges and potential options, and take the opportunity to ask questions or communicate concerns. Audience participation is encouraged through chat and through interactive polling. ISBE will hold two identical sessions each month November through January, but will add and update information each month. Feel free to sign up for multiple sessions. [Register here for your selected date and time](#) 📄 (<https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/888820330047058955>).

ISBE SEEKING PUBLIC COMMENT – 2021-22 ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT 1 PERCENT THRESHOLD PARTICIPATION RATE WAIVER REQUEST

Title 1 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA) [ESEA §111(b)(2)(D) and 34 CFR 200.6(c) and (d)], modifies the provision that students with the most significant cognitive disabilities may participate in alternate assessments based on alternate academic achievement standards (alternate assessments). ESSA places a 1 percent threshold on the number of students who may participate in alternate assessments. States that anticipate exceeding the 1 percent threshold must submit a waiver request to the U.S. Department of Education (ED).

ISBE anticipates exceeding the 1 percent threshold for participation in the alternate assessment for school year 2021-22 and plans to [submit a waiver request to ED](#) 📄 (/Documents/2021-22-1-Percent-Threshold-Waiver-Request.pdf).

ISBE is seeking public comment on the draft waiver request from now to Nov. 29. Members of the public may submit comments to exceptioncap@isbe.net (mailto:exceptioncap@isbe.net).

NEW

SCHOOL FINANCE

REMINDER: FY 2022 SCHOOL DISTRICT/JOINT AGREEMENT BUDGET FORMS DUE

The deadline to submit the fiscal year 2022 budget form has passed, but ISBE is still accepting budgets submitted electronically. If you have not yet submitted the FY 2022 budget form, please send to “School Financial Reports” via the [ISBE Attachment Manager](#) (<https://apps.isbe.net/attachmgr/default.aspx>). ISBE can only accept the [Microsoft Excel version](#) (/_layouts/Download.aspx?SourceUrl=/Documents/SDJAB2022FORM.xlsx). Please do not send the PDF. For more information, visit the [School District/Joint Agreement Budget Form webpage](#) (</Pages/School-District-Joint-Agreement.aspx>) or for any questions, please email FINANCE1@isbe.net (<mailto:FINANCE1@isbe.net>) or call (217) 785-8779.

NEW

STANDARDS AND INSTRUCTION

HIGH-IMPACT TUTORING TO ACCELERATE LEARNING WEBINAR RECORDING NOW AVAILABLE

If you missed the High-Impact Tutoring to Accelerate Learning Webinar on Oct. 28 or just want to refresh what you learned, a [recording](#) (<https://register.gotowebinar.com/recording/7893063441475975170>) is now available. We were joined by the National Student Support Accelerator program from Brown University, which shared research-backed practices you can adopt in your district as well as tools to make it easier to implement high-impact tutoring with fidelity.

If you have any questions about high-impact tutoring, please email fbactor@isbe.net (<mailto:fbactor@isbe.net>).

HOMELESS EDUCATION

FUNDING FOR STUDENTS EXPERIENCING HOUSING INSECURITY

ISBE has announced \$38 million in federal funding to identify and support students experiencing housing insecurity, including \$33 million from the American Rescue Plan Homeless Children and Youth Part II grant. The funding will bolster schools’ efforts to identify students in temporary living situations and provide them with services.

View your Local Education Agency’s [allocation here](#) (/_layouts/Download.aspx?SourceUrl=/Documents/FY22-Homeless-II-Allocations.xlsx). Per federal guidance, LEAs allocated less than \$5,000 in funding as stipulated by the formula are not eligible for the subgrant on their own. To receive a subgrant, an LEA must join a consortium of LEAs in which the sum of its members' allocations meets the \$5,000 threshold. Access the application in the electronic Grants Management System.

ISBE's McKinney-Vento coordinator will provide an overview of how the funding can be used and answer questions about the application at 2 p.m. Dec. 9. [Register here](#) (<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/684469496708204813>).

WE LOVE ILLINOIS SCHOOLS PODCAST

EPISODE 5 - SUPPORT ON SCENE: HOW ONE DISTRICT PARTNERS WITH POLICE TO ADDRESS TRAUMA WHERE IT HAPPENS

In the 2019-2020 school year, East St. Louis School District 189 lost four middle school students to gun violence. In response, Dr. Tiffany Gholson, director of Parent and Student Support Services, created a team of social workers to respond on-scene to any traumatic incident involving youth, day or night.



Check out our latest [podcast](#) ([/weloveilschools](#)) to hear an interview with Dr. Gholson and her State Police partner, Inspector Nick Manns.

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY RESOURCES

FOODFINDER APP AVAILABLE TO ASSIST FOOD INSECURE FAMILIES

As the holiday season approaches, we are not only reminded of the joy this time of year brings to many families but also the stress it can bring to families that are struggling to put food on the table. FoodFinder has partnered with the University of Illinois Extension SNAP-Ed program to create [Find Food IL](https://eat-move-save.extension.illinois.edu/#find-food-il) (<https://eat-move-save.extension.illinois.edu/#find-food-il>), an Illinois-specific food resource tool. Families can use the [Find Food IL map](https://eat-move-save.extension.illinois.edu/#find-food-il) (<https://eat-move-save.extension.illinois.edu/#find-food-il>) to find places in your community offering free food or meals, stores and markets that accept SNAP/LINK or WIC coupons, and the closest Illinois Department of Human Services or WIC office.

REMINDER: INFORMATION ON THE EMERGENCY BROADBAND BENEFIT PROGRAM

On May 12, the U.S. Department of Education released information for school districts regarding the Federal Communication Commission's Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB). The EBB is a temporary federal program to help eligible families pay for internet service during the pandemic. Please use this [Outreach Toolkit](https://tech.ed.gov/files/2021/05/K12-Outreach-Toolkit-FCC-EBBProgram.pdf)  (<https://tech.ed.gov/files/2021/05/K12-Outreach-Toolkit-FCC-EBBProgram.pdf>) to share this opportunity with your students and families. The [U.S. Department of Education's EBB website](https://tech.ed.gov/broadband/ebb/) (<https://tech.ed.gov/broadband/ebb/>) has further information about the program, including an [introductory letter and Frequently Asked Questions document](https://tech.ed.gov/files/2021/05/K12-Letter-FAQs-FCC-EBBProgram.pdf)  (<https://tech.ed.gov/files/2021/05/K12-Letter-FAQs-FCC-EBBProgram.pdf>) to learn more about the program as well as strategies for reaching out to your community about the EBB. For the list of qualifying criteria for the EBB program, please see FAQ B-3 on the [U.S. Department of Education's EBB website](https://tech.ed.gov/broadband/ebb/#collapseaccordioneight) (<https://tech.ed.gov/broadband/ebb/#collapseaccordioneight>).

MULTILINGUAL

IRC ANNOUNCES EDUCATOR DROP-IN NETWORKING MEETINGS

The Illinois Resource Center (IRC) is pleased to announce it will kick off a new series of virtual collaboration opportunities for educators and leaders serving multilingual learners. At these “drop-in” monthly events, you can meet other educators in your role, ask questions, receive feedback, and share feedback and resources.

Educators

- 9 a.m. – First Saturday of the month through June
- 7 p.m. – First Wednesday of the month through June
- 4 p.m. – First Thursday of the month through June

Leaders, Coordinators, Administrators, and Coaches

- 4:30 p.m. – Nov. 18, Dec. 16, Jan. 20, Feb. 17, March 17, April 21, May 19, June 16

No need to register or prepare anything – we know you’re busy enough! Just email Carly Spina at cspina@cntrmail.org (<mailto:cspina@cntrmail.org>) for the Zoom link to the drop-in you wish to attend.

IN BRIEF

EDUCATOR RECOGNITION

Illinois Ag in the Classroom

The Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom program has announced its Teacher of the Year for 2022. Valerie Murbarger, a second-grade teacher at Albion Grade School in Edwards County Community Unit School District 1, will be recognized at the annual Illinois Farm Bureau meeting in Chicago next month. Murbarger will represent Illinois at the 2022 National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., next summer and be the Illinois nominee for the USDA National Excellence in Teaching Agriculture Award. Congratulations, Valerie!

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Ed Leaders Network is offering the following recorded courses and micro-credential stack. Visit the [Ed Leaders course library](#) (<https://edleadersnetwork.org/courses/>) to view the entire selection available at this time.

- [Introduction to Cultural Competency](https://eln.bridgeapp.com/learner/courses/5c6102d6/enroll) (<https://eln.bridgeapp.com/learner/courses/5c6102d6/enroll>) – This course is designed as an introduction to cultural competency. Cultural competency involves learning, communicating, and connecting respectfully with others regardless of differences. Culture can refer to an individual's race, class, gender, sexual orientation, religion, immigration status, or age. All of these factors strongly influence people's lives and experiences. Educators, regardless of background or identity, must bring both cultural understanding and self-awareness to their work.
- [Leadership Coaching](https://edleadersnetwork.org/?s=leadership+coaching) (<https://edleadersnetwork.org/?s=leadership+coaching>)
 - Collaborative Leadership Coaching
 - Reflective Leadership Coaching
 - Directive Leadership Coaching

FEATURED ISBE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

- [Director of Special Education Programmatic Support](/Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=601) (/Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=601)
- [Special Education Supervisor](/Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=602) (/Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=602)
- [Graphic Designer](/Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=604) (/Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=604)
- [Fire, Prevention and Safety](/Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=605) (/Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=605)

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