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Dear Colleagues:

I hope you are all looking forward to spending quality time with your loved ones during the upcoming holidays. As you may have heard, I will soon be spending more time with my own. For the last 40 years, I have been blessed to serve the students in Illinois. If anyone knows me, they know equity is my passion. I've been referred to as an “equity warrior.” I have been fortunate to be the “first” in several leadership opportunities: the first woman, the first Latina, the first modern-day state superintendent to lead through a global pandemic. But now it is time to enjoy and spend time with my family, so last week

at the ISBE Board meeting, I announced my retirement beginning Feb. 1.

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, I want to express my most sincere and heartfelt gratitude to each one of you: to the district superintendents and administrators, to the teachers, to the school support personnel, to the bus drivers, to principals, to the advocates, to the Board members. Over the past four years, you have helped ISBE accomplish great things. Together, we:

- Developed this agency’s first Strategic Plan, laying out a clear roadmap for increasing student learning, improving learning conditions, and elevating educators;
- Adopted Culturally Responsive Teaching and Leading Standards for Illinois educator preparation programs to prepare new teachers to engage with all students;
- Launched affinity groups to help sustain and retain our teachers of color;
- Narrowed gaps in access to computer science, dual credit, Career and Technical Education, and Advanced Placement courses to boost students' readiness for college and career;
- Adopted new learning standards for social science, computer science, and Spanish language arts to further elevate the rigor and inclusiveness of instruction for all students;
- Saved lives during the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Grew the teacher pipeline and added more and more teachers of color every year, bucking national teacher shortage trends;
- Expanded access to trauma-informed practices; and
- Achieved the highest high school graduation rate in over a decade, driven by improved graduation rates for Black and Hispanic students.

Each year, the Simon Wiesenthal Center, a Jewish human rights organization, recognizes three women with their Woman of Valor Award. Last week, I very humbly accepted this award and reflected on the meaning of valor: “strength of mind or spirit that enables a person to encounter danger with firmness; personal bravery.”

Equity works takes courage – it takes valor.

One of my proudest accomplishments is the creation of the Equity Journey Continuum -- a tool that we included in the ISBE Strategic Plan and that launched last month on the Illinois Report Card. It organizes the data that ISBE already collects from school districts to highlight small, moderate, or large gaps between students. I hope the Equity Journey Continuum will support school districts and communities in advancing equity with courage, with valor, for many years to come.

None of these accomplishments would have made it past the drawing board without you – my colleagues across the state who generously shared your expertise on countless advisory committees, surveys, and pilot programs as we crafted and refined our ideas.

We are only and always at our best when we band together to serve the children of Illinois. Thank you for taking this journey with me.

*Pictured: State Superintendent of Education Dr. Carmen Ayala is greeted by students at Jefferson Middle School during a tour of School District 45's Early Childhood Center earlier this month.*

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>).

<b>Nov. 30</b>	Webinar: School Partnerships Series: Sustainability Planning for After ESSER Funding ( <a href="https://metrofamily.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwqc-uvpzgsHdCz75VrPqRj-v7zAVqDuu1Y">https://metrofamily.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwqc-uvpzgsHdCz75VrPqRj-v7zAVqDuu1Y</a> )
<b>Nov. 30</b>	Deadline to submit feedback on first draft of revised exit criteria and state-determined action for Comprehensive schools to <a href="mailto:essa@isbe.net">essa@isbe.net</a> ( <a href="https://www.isbe.net/Documents/Exit-Criteria-State-Determined-Action-Posting.pdf">https://www.isbe.net/Documents/Exit-Criteria-State-Determined-Action-Posting.pdf</a> )
<b>Nov. 30</b>	Deadline to submit feedback on Alternate Assessment 1 Percent Threshold Participation Rate Waiver Request Draft SY 2022-23 to <a href="mailto:altexception@isbe.net">altexception@isbe.net</a> ( <a href="https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Special-Education-Exception-cap.aspx">https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Special-Education-Exception-cap.aspx</a> )
<b>Dec. 1</b>	Deadline to apply for the School Technology Revolving Loan Program ( <a href="https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Educational-Technology.aspx">https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Educational-Technology.aspx</a> )
<b>Dec. 1-2</b>	Sixth Annual Mastering KIDs Summit ( <a href="https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=hv5kA8ZJ9Eq1LDNameV30dZymAvuIEZlon39rYC0SuVURTc5WEJKTIYzWkwyVE5IMzIVOVIWQTZESC4u&amp;wdLOR=c467BF2BF-3D49-4892-B051-5E804F549310">https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=hv5kA8ZJ9Eq1LDNameV30dZymAvuIEZlon39rYC0SuVURTc5WEJKTIYzWkwyVE5IMzIVOVIWQTZESC4u&amp;wdLOR=c467BF2BF-3D49-4892-B051-5E804F549310</a> )
<b>Dec. 2</b>	Deadline to apply for Those Who Excel & Teacher of the Year Awards ( <a href="https://www.isbe.net/Pages/teacher-of-the-year.aspx">https://www.isbe.net/Pages/teacher-of-the-year.aspx</a> )
<b>Dec. 7</b>	Webinar: Learning from Learning Loss in Illinois: What We Know and Where We Go from Here ( <a href="https://illinois.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_WgcU87I2QUWCLghHNrSUNA">https://illinois.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_WgcU87I2QUWCLghHNrSUNA</a> )
<b>Dec. 9</b>	Webinar: ISBE Career Pathway Endorsements Updated Approval Process ( <a href="https://niu-edu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUqdu6rpzMpG9f5ixRhkjo2-uDfWZrQK0gS">https://niu-edu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUqdu6rpzMpG9f5ixRhkjo2-uDfWZrQK0gS</a> )
<b>Dec. 15</b>	Deadline to submit Annual Statement of Affairs ( <a href="https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Annual-Statement-of-Affairs.aspx">https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Annual-Statement-of-Affairs.aspx</a> )

<b>Dec.</b> <b>16</b>	Webinar: My Data Dashboard: Demonstration of Report Card Metric Deep-Dives ( <a href="https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/8978279227537215759">https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/8978279227537215759</a> )
<b>Dec.</b> <b>27</b>	Deadline to submit Certificate of Tax Levy ( <a href="https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Certificate-of-Tax-Levy.aspx">https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Certificate-of-Tax-Levy.aspx</a> )
<b>Jan.</b> <b>9</b>	Deadline to apply for 2023 Illinois Green Ribbon Schools ( <a href="https://illinoisgreenalliance.org/green-ribbon-schools/">https://illinoisgreenalliance.org/green-ribbon-schools/</a> )
<b>Jan.</b> <b>9</b>	Deadline to apply for Evidence-Based Funding Property Tax Relief Grant in IWAS
<b>Jan.</b> <b>12</b>	Postmark deadline for Illinois Arts Education Week student poster contest entries ( <a href="https://www.isbe.net/artcontest">https://www.isbe.net/artcontest</a> )
<b>Jan.</b> <b>20</b>	Webinar: My Data Dashboard: Demonstration of Report Card Metric Deep-Dives ( <a href="https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/8978279227537215759">https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/8978279227537215759</a> )
<b>Jan.</b> <b>23 - Mar. 31</b>	SY 2022-23 School Climate Survey administration window
<b>Feb.</b> <b>15</b>	ISBE Career Connections: Building Community Before the Illinois Association for Career and Technical Education Annual Conference
<b>Feb.</b> <b>15</b>	ISBE Career Connections: Building Community Before the Illinois Association for Career and Technical Education Annual Conference ( <a href="https://www.eventbrite.com/e/isbe-career-connections-registration-420820745177">https://www.eventbrite.com/e/isbe-career-connections-registration-420820745177</a> )
<b>Mar.</b> <b>13-17</b>	Illinois Arts Education Week

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.

### HIGH-IMPACT TUTORING GRANT FUNDS AVAILABLE TO SELECT DISTRICTS

ISBE invites select districts to apply for a funding opportunity to support a district-led high-impact tutoring program during the spring and/or summer of 2023. There are 28 districts currently participating in the program and they are designing and offering a structured, consistent, relationship-based, standards-aligned tutoring opportunity to students. Invited districts must submit an intent to apply, using the form that was emailed to them, **by 6 p.m. Nov. 30** to be considered for this opportunity. Responses will be reviewed, and available funding will be distributed based on need. Programs identified to receive a grant will be required to submit an application to ISBE for approval. If your district was invited to apply and you have questions, please contact Fawzia Boctor at [fboctor@isbe.net](mailto:fboctor@isbe.net) (<mailto:fboctor@isbe.net>).

Participants in the Illinois Tutoring Initiative (</Pages/ILTutoringInitiative.aspx>) will complete a brief training to support effective tutoring. "High-impact tutoring is not what most people think of when they think of tutoring. It is built on research that focuses on a relationship with a consistent tutor, committed time each week, direct connection to the school curriculum, and close monitoring of student knowledge and skills," said Dr. Christy Borders, director of the Illinois Tutoring Initiative. "It is not homework help or 'on the fly' addressing of questions. High-impact tutoring is intentional and needs-driven."

WEBINAR SERIES SUPPORTS SCHOOLS' PLANS FOR SUSTAINABLE USE OF ESSER FUNDS FOR AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMMING

ACT Now is hosting the fourth webinar in the School Partnerships series at **10 a.m. Nov. 30**. The webinar, Sustainability Planning for After ESSER Funding (<https://metrofamily.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwqc-uvpzgsHdCz75VrPqRj-v7zAVqDuu1Y>), will discuss how to plan for the continuation of newly established programs after Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds are no longer available. This webinar will be co-facilitated by Ramona Dixon, director of grants, accountability, and assessments at Rock Island-Milan School District 41, and will outline the most important steps to plan for the sustainable use of grant funds. Additionally, attendees will have access to an established sustainability plan. Rock Island-Milan School District 41 in northwestern Illinois is situated on the Mississippi River and serves over 6,000 students. The school boundaries include economically and culturally diverse communities, with pockets of Rock Island having a significantly high rate of poverty as well as a rapidly increasing English Learner population.

The after-school model at Rock Island-Milan School District stems from the foundational components of 21st Century Community Learning Centers and has been funded primarily through use of these dollars.

“Since receiving ARP funds, we have been able to implement soft pilots of various out-of-school time programs over intersession and during summer,” shared Dixon. “We know sustainability is the key to success; therefore, we are deeply immersed and invested in building a more sustainable model for after school that embraces the building of strong community partnerships.”

LEARNING FROM LEARNING LOSS IN ILLINOIS

The Illinois Workforce and Education Research Collaborative (IWERC) is hosting a webinar to examine what the research tells us about learning during the pandemic and how policymakers and school leaders can leverage the research to support students. Learning from Learning Loss in Illinois: What We Know and Where We Go from Here ([https://illinois.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_WgcU87I2QUWCLghHNrSUNA](https://illinois.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_WgcU87I2QUWCLghHNrSUNA)) will be held at **3 p.m. Dec. 7**. IWERC will be joined by speakers from ISBE and UChicago Consortium to review research conducted in Illinois and share how the state, districts, and schools are leading learning recovery.

NEW

CTE & INNOVATION

CAREER PATHWAY ENDORSEMENTS UPDATED APPROVAL PROCESS

ISBE invites applicants for the College and Career Pathway Endorsement (CCPE), as well as those planning to submit an endorsement application, to learn about important updates to the endorsement submission process. The webinar will be held at **9 a.m. Dec. 9** (<https://niu-edu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUqdu6rpzMpG9f5ixRhkjo2-uDfWZrQK0gS>).

Updates include recommendations regarding specific questions on the application form as well as guidance concerning the depth and breadth of the CCPE components.

Public Act 102-0917 (<https://ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?name=102-0917&GA=102&SessionId=84&DocTypeId=HB&DocNum=3296&GAID=11&SpecSess=&Session=>), which passed this past spring requires districts to offer high school students the opportunity of earning a College and Career Pathway Endorsement no later than July 1, 2025, or to opt out. This new law has dramatically increased the number of school districts working with College and Career Pathways. These factors, coupled with ISBE’s internal work to develop more efficient solutions for data submission and record keeping by school districts, have prompted the need for this webinar, which will provide timely information to all districts currently engaged with the College and Career Pathway Endorsements.

ISBE CAREER CONNECTIONS: BUILDING COMMUNITY BEFORE THE IACTE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Join ISBE for a day of networking and collaboration between Illinois Career and Technical Education (CTE) teachers and administrators before we all attend the annual Illinois Association for Career and Technical Education (IACTE) conference.

Morning sessions will provide timely information and support for specific groups outlined on the event page (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/isbe-career-connections-registration-420820745177>). Following the morning sessions, everyone is invited and encouraged to attend a specialized networking lunch and afternoon breakout sessions related to various CTE topics.

In addition, the ISBE Career Connections Conference (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/isbe-career-connections-registration-420820745177>) is hosting an evening keynote event to help kick off the IACTE conference. Dr. Amanda Bastoni will bring her energetic and highly informed presentation style that will provide significant insights into what schools of all sizes and in all settings across Illinois can do with and through CTE to improve learning and increase student success.

NEW

ELEVATING EDUCATORS

ISBE NAMES EVELYN MEEKS AS ILLINOIS' OUTSTANDING SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER

ISBE presented Evelyn Meeks of Harlem Unit District 122 with the Thomas Lay Burroughs Award recognizing Illinois' outstanding school board member. Meeks has been a member of the District 122 School Board for more than a decade and was the board's first Black member. She currently serves as the leader of the district's Social Justice and Equity Committee.


ISBE created the Burroughs Award in 1991 in memory of late ISBE Chair Thomas Lay Burroughs. The award recognizes extraordinary local leadership, particularly in improving student learning, closing achievement gaps, and supporting educational excellence; expanding educational opportunities for underserved students; and/or resolving a crisis or major difficulty with the result of more equitable outcomes for students. ISBE Board Chair Dr. Steven Isoye presented Meeks with the award on Nov. 20 at the 2022 Joint Annual Conference, also known as Triple I.

Read more about Meeks and her contributions to District 122 in the press release (</Lists/News/NewsDisplay.aspx?ID=1425>).

NEW

EQUITY

EQUITY HEROES NOVEMBER 2022: VOTING RIGHTS

This month's Equity Heroes flyer  (<https://isbe.net/Documents/Equity-Hero-Flyer-Voting-Rights-November-2022.pdf>) focuses on voting rights. The right to vote is one of the most important tenets of American democracy and of equity. Not all citizens have always had access to the right to vote, and certain groups continue to experience barriers to exercising their right. The effort to expand and ensure voter access for all citizens is not just part of our history; it's part of our present and our future.

NEW

ILLINOIS ARTS EDUCATION WEEK

STUDENT POSTER DESIGN CONTEST

The 41st annual Illinois Arts Education Week is **March 13-17, 2023**. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum (ALPLM) and ISBE have collaborated to create more visibility for young Illinois artists and showcase their talent, as well as reinforce the importance of the arts in the growth and development of our students.

The student poster design contest (</artcontest>) theme this year is "Home Is." As students create their art, they are encouraged to consider that home is what they make it and what it means to them.

1. Home is more than a structure.

3. Home is past, present, and future and means different things to different people.

4. Home is where you feel safe and where you find a haven.

The contest is open to all K-12 students and includes four entry levels: K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12. A panel of judges will select a winner and two runners-up in each entry level. All winners and runners-up will have their work displayed by the ALPLM beginning March 13, 2023 (commemorating Illinois Arts Education Week). The student whose work is chosen as "Best in Show" will be featured on a poster to celebrate Illinois Arts Education Week. They will also be recognized at an ISBE Board meeting, and their framed work will be displayed in the boardroom.

Mail entries to:

Arts Contest

Student Care

100 North First Street, E-222

Springfield, IL 62777

Please indicate number of entries sent and include a return address. Also include a self-addressed envelope with postage so that entries can be returned. All entries must be postmarked by **Jan. 12**.

For questions, please contact Abigail Cline (ALPLM) at [Abigail.Cline@illinois.gov](mailto:Abigail.Cline@illinois.gov) (mailto:Abigail.Cline@illinois.gov) or 217-685-9799 or Katrina L. Cunningham (ISBE) at [arts@isbe.net](mailto:arts@isbe.net) (mailto:arts@isbe.net) or 312-814-8872.

NEW

## ACCOUNTABILITY

### DRAFT EXIT CRITERIA AND STATE-DETERMINED ACTION FOR COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOLS THAT DO NOT EXIT STATUS

Earlier, a preliminary draft of the exit criteria and state-determined action for Comprehensive schools that do not exit status was posted for feedback. There was some confusion over the use of the term "public comment" to describe a process of seeking feedback on a preliminary draft. ISBE welcomes feedback at this time but has determined that a series of sessions targeted at the district and school administrators, educators, and stakeholders who have experienced Comprehensive support the past four or five years is a better way to seek feedback on this preliminary draft. A final version of the work will be posted for formal public comment after Board members discuss the topic in December.

The dates and times for these feedback sessions will be posted on the ESSA page (/essa) as they are finalized. Please email [essa@isbe.net](mailto:essa@isbe.net) (mailto:essa@isbe.net) if you have any questions.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD

### SIXTH ANNUAL KIDS SUMMIT

The Sixth Annual Mastering KIDS Summit 📄 (/Documents/KIDS-Summit.pdf) will be held **Dec. 1-2** at the Wyndham Springfield City Centre (<https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/wyndham/springfield-illinois/wyndham-springfield-city-centre/overview>) in Springfield. Don't miss this opportunity to network, learn from experts and peers from across the state, and gain practical insights you can use in your classroom and school. Register for the KIDS Summit now (<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=hv5kA8ZJ9Eq1LDNameV30dZymAvuIEZlon39rYC0SuVURtc5WEJKTIYzWkwyVE5IMzIVOVlWQTZESC4u>).

## FUNDING AND DISBURSEMENTS

### FRIS CODES AND SUBCODES GUIDE

ISBE has published a guide (<https://apps.isbe.net/frisinquiry.net>) that will assist users in understanding the meaning behind various subcodes within the Financial Reimbursement Information System (FRIS). The FRIS subcode guide is for informational purposes only and will be updated as additional grants are released.

NUTRITION

ISBE'S USDA FOODS SHOW RETURNS TO IN-PERSON

Online preregistration (</Pages/USDA-Foods-Show.aspx>) is underway for ISBE's in-person U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Foods Show on **Dec. 8** at the Wyndham Springfield City Centre (<https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/wyndham/springfield-illinois/wyndham-springfield-city-centre/overview>).

The USDA Foods Show provides an opportunity for schools to meet processors, sample food items, and log professional standards training hours. This is a free event, and attendees can earn up to 3.5 hours of continuing education units.

RESEARCH AND EVALUATION

ASSESSMENT LITERACY REGISTRATION FOR SECOND OFFERING OPEN

Registration is open for the second round of Assessment Literacy offerings for the 2022-23 school year.

The next session, "Making a Better Match for PreK-2 Students: Lexile Measures and Beginning Readers," will be held two times on **Dec. 15**.

- Session 1 (10-11:30 a.m.) (<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=hv5kA8ZJ9Eq1LDNameV30WJLJyQVunxMpl84puts73ZUOFNMU1IYNzJKSkw4MIRLNFIKWEwxSTBMQy4u>)
- Session 2 (4-5:30 p.m.) (<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=hv5kA8ZJ9Eq1LDNameV30WJLJyQVunxMpl84puts73ZUMzIBTVo0V05TUIA5NFRQUURQUEFYQjdVWi4u>)

This session will explore the newest research and enhanced utility of the Lexile Framework for beginning readers. This overview details the work completed by MetaMetrics researchers to extend the Lexile scale into the beginning reader space, offer more precise measures for texts in grades preK-2, and offer more specific information about the qualities and characteristics that make those individual texts complex.

SAFE AND HEALTHY CLIMATE

NO-COST PUBLIC SCHOOLS CARBON-FREE ASSESSMENT

ComEd is offering free assessments designed to help make a significant impact on public schools' environments. The Public Schools Carbon-Free Assessment (PSCFA) helps public schools by assisting in energy cost-savings and carbon reduction strategies. This program is a result of Section 8-402.2 of the Illinois Climate and Equitable Jobs Act that states that each electric utility serving over 500,000 retail customers in the state of Illinois shall implement a Public Schools Carbon-Free Assessment program.

Completing the PSCFA can also help with grant qualification. For instance, to qualify for a grant under Section 5-40 of the School Construction Law, a public school district must submit a copy of a PSCFA report (if a PSCFA has been performed) or request the PSCFA and submit a copy as soon as it becomes available. ComEd will file the PSCFA report on your behalf.

Request your free assessment online

(<https://www.comed.com/WaysToSave/ForYourBusiness/Pages/PublicSchoolsCarbonFreeAssessment.aspx>), over the phone at 855-433-2700, or via email at [BusinessEE@ComEd.com](mailto:BusinessEE@ComEd.com) (<mailto:BusinessEE@ComEd.com>). This program applies to ComEd customers only, but additional



### SEEKING PUBLIC COMMENT ON WAIVER REQUEST TO EXCEED 1% OF STUDENTS TAKING ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT

Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015 [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.

ISBE anticipates exceeding the 1 percent threshold for participation in the alternate assessment for school year 2022-23 and plans to submit a waiver request to the U.S. Department of Education. ISBE is seeking public comment on the draft waiver (/Pages/Special-Education-Exception-cap.aspx) request until **Nov. 29**. Members of the public may submit comments to [altexception@isbe.net](mailto:altexception@isbe.net) (<mailto:altexception@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. Dec. 13:** Explicit Instruction in Action ([https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_b0ja6v9oREq0sl37qUsJoQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_b0ja6v9oREq0sl37qUsJoQ)) - Educators all have the same goal — to help students make the maximum possible academic gains in a positive and respectful environment that promotes success and nurtures their desire to learn. In this third webinar in a series of six, the 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.

### EDUCATOR RECOGNITION

#### 2023 Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom Teacher of the Year


Congratulations to Eva Manzke of Walker Elementary School in Summit School District 104 for receiving the 2023 Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom Teacher of the Year Award!

An elementary teacher, Manzke utilizes agriculture across her curriculum with her students. From urban agriculture and hydroponics to livestock and crop production, Manzke finds unique opportunities to integrate agriculture into her classroom. She has received multiple grants to further develop her Body, Agriculture and Mind (BAM) after-school program to further expose her students to all facets of agriculture. Manzke has taken advantage of the local connection to Ingredion, the multi-national ingredient provider located in her neighborhood, to further integrate careers and impact of agriculture on the local economy. Manzke has attended multiple ag-related teacher professional development workshops and also the American Farm Bureau On the Farm Dairy STEM experience.

### EDUCATOR OPPORTUNITIES

#### Sixth Annual Illinois Teacher Leadership Summit



The Illinois Teacher Leadership Summit (<https://sites.google.com/view/ilteacherleadershipsummit/home/>) is a great opportunity for teams to develop an action plan to implement ideas and innovations in their schools, districts, and/or education-focused organization. Participants are guided by the expertise of a network of fellow educators across the state. At this summit, educators work to collaborate, problem-solve, develop, and scale ideas and innovations through action plans, putting their own expertise into action. It is a unique opportunity for teachers to spotlight groundbreaking teacher-led work happening across the state of Illinois. The application deadline is **Jan. 15** so get your team together today. View this short video  (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9NR0F3ZFfs4>) for more information.

### **Multilingual Illinois 2022 Statewide Virtual Conference**

On behalf of our friends at the Illinois Resource Center (IRC) (<https://www.thecenterweb.org/programs/irc-programs-for-the-english-language-learners/>), we encourage you to attend their virtual Multilingual Illinois 2022 Statewide Virtual Conference (<https://irc.thecenterweb.org/events/essa-conference>) **Dec. 6-9**.

There are more than 217,000 multilingual students in Illinois schools and that number growing every year. It is essential that our educators and administrators have the information and resources they need to support emergent bilingual students.

This virtual event is an excellent opportunity to hear from more than 100 experts in the field of education, build connections with peers, and come together to refresh and invigorate our teaching and learning.

Featured speakers include:

- Lorena Mancilla, Hope Chicago (<https://www.hopechicago.org/>)
- Ryan Nelson, University of Louisiana at Lafayette (<https://louisiana.edu/>)
- Marco Torres, classroom technology and digital storytelling expert (<https://www.edutopia.org/marco-torres-empowering-students-through-multimedia>)
- Erika L. Sanchez, best-selling author (<https://www.nationalbook.org/books/i-am-not-your-perfect-mexican-daughter/>), “I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter”

In addition to the many informative sessions, the IRC is collaborating with the Illinois Principals Association (<https://ilprincipals.org/>) to offer two Administrator Academies at no additional cost to conference attendees. These Administrator Academies will cover two very important topics — equity and racial literacy for school leaders and staff, and best practices for teachers working with English learners.

This will be the IRC’s only conference for educators during the 2022-23 school year. Cost is \$325 for access to all 140 live and pre-recorded sessions. Conference attendees will have access to these live featured sessions and to dozens of other live or recorded sessions that can be viewed "on demand" through June 30, 2023.

Please contact Lindsay Eanet at [leanet@cntrmail.org](mailto:leanet@cntrmail.org) (<mailto:leanet@cntrmail.org>) or 224-366-8555 if you have questions.

## **STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Study Abroad Scholarships**

The U.S. Department of State offers several merit-based fully funded internships, career development, and study abroad opportunities for American students. A list of programs and application deadlines can be found online. For high school students, particularly, many program deadlines are swiftly approaching. Please encourage your students to take advantage of these exciting opportunities.

### **Leslie Jackson: A Woman of Admiration Poetry Contest**

High school juniors and seniors (including homeschooled and tutored students) are invited to enter the Leslie Jackson: A Woman of Admiration Poetry Contest. Leslie Jackson was a pioneer for the modern woman of color. A woman of many talents and achievements, she often used her creative skills to succeed in the workplace and on the numerous committees and boards on which she served. Leslie also valued the

importance of education and giving back. This contest is dedicated to her as a lover of the arts, especially music and poetry. Poetry submissions should be about a woman or a group of women whom you admire.

Requirements/Formatting:

- All poems must be typed, with student name, name of school, and page number on the upper right corner of each page.
- All poems must be original. Copyrighted text will be disqualified.

Selection:

- Poems will be judged on originality, creativity, and adherence to theme. Illinois Poet Laureate Angela Jackson will make the final selections.

Deadline:

- Please email submissions to [ilpoetlaureate.contests@gmail.com](mailto:ilpoetlaureate.contests@gmail.com) (mailto:ilpoetlaureate.contests@gmail.com) by **Jan. 31, 2023**. Submission entries are limited to one selection per person. Winners will be announced in March 2023.

Prizes:

- 1<sup>st</sup> place: \$1,000 and future publishing
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place: \$500
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place: \$250

## FEATURED ISBE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

### Featured ISBE Career Opportunities

- Media Coordinator (/Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=728)

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