

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Learning Renewal
- Evidence-Based Funding
- Research & Evaluation
- Standards & Instructions
- CTE & Innovation
- Elevating Educators
- Grant Accountability & Transparency Act
- Safe & Healthy Climate
- In Brief




Dear Colleagues:

This week, Dec. 5-11, is national Computer Science (CS) Education Week (<https://www.csedweek.org/>). The theme of the week is "CS Heroes #CelebratingProgress," which highlights the strides made to advance computer science education over the last decade. I am proud of Illinois' efforts to ensure all students participate in computer science courses and vital opportunities to develop the skills they need to gain access to careers driving today's economy.

Illinois' current class of high school freshmen may not realize it, but they represent a new chapter in the educational landscape of our state. Thanks to legislative efforts

(<https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/101/101-0654.htm>), this year's ninth graders will all take at least one year of a course that includes intensive instruction in computer literacy sometime during their high school careers. Next year's ninth graders will be the first class to universally have the opportunity to take at least one computer science course during high school.

We know that, in the 21st century, computer science is a foundational subject. It engages students academically; fosters critical thinking and problem-solving skills; and offers pathways to in-demand, high-wage careers in every sector. Yet fewer than half of Illinois schools currently offer foundational computer science courses, and the courses that are offered often do not connect with historically underserved student populations. Among young women in high school, only 32 percent participate in computer science; among Black students, participation is just 6 percent. Those numbers reveal a deep inequity that Illinois is taking steps to address and heal.

Here at ISBE, we recently adopted a rigorous K-12 computer science knowledge and skill continuum  ([/Documents/Illinois-Computer-Science-Standards.pdf](#)) to support students in progressively developing computational skills to prepare for success in today's data-rich and interconnected world. The Learning Technology Center of Illinois also created a Computer Science Resource Database (<https://ltcillinois.org/services/csresources/>) to highlight CS resources.

Millions of students across the world will also participate this week in the Hour of Code (<https://hourofcode.com/us>). Hundreds of one-hour activities in over 48 languages for kindergarten and up are available to expose students and adults to basic coding concepts.

We hope that Computer Science Education Week (<https://www.illinois.gov/news/press-release.25760.html>) will inspire students and educators to learn and teach these computer science competencies that hold the keys to a successful future.

Pictured: The 2022-23 Illinois Future Farmers of America (FFA) state officer team visited Kewanee High School recently to launch its year in leadership. Team members received valuable feedback from KHS agriculture teacher Kindra Callahan, who also is an FFA sponsor.

Sincerely,

DATES AND DEADLINES

Please note this is not a complete list of events, meetings, and deadlines. For more events and details, visit the ISBE Calendar page (<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/ISBE-Meetings.aspx>).

Dec. 6	Webinar: U.S. Department of Energy's Renew America's Schools Grant Program (https://doe.webex.com/weblink/register/rdd331a42e0fb00650add9ba39aa7d85c)
Dec. 7	Webinar: Learning from Learning Loss in Illinois: What We Know and Where We Go from Here (https://illinois.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_WgcU87I2QUWCLghHNrSUNA)
Dec. 9	Deadline to apply for Those Who Excel & Teacher of the Year Awards (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/teacher-of-the-year.aspx)
Dec. 9	Webinar: ISBE Career Pathway Endorsements Updated Approval Process (https://niu-edu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUqdu6rpzMpG9f5ixRhkjo2-uDfWZrQK0gS)
Dec. 15	Deadline to submit Annual Statement of Affairs (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Annual-Statement-of-Affairs.aspx)
Dec. 16	Webinar: My Data Dashboard: Demonstration of Report Card Metric Deep-Dives (https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/8978279227537215759)
Dec. 27	Deadline to submit Certificate of Tax Levy (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Certificate-of-Tax-Levy.aspx)
Jan. 9	Deadline to apply for 2023 Illinois Green Ribbon Schools (https://illinoisgreenalliance.org/green-ribbon-schools/)
Jan. 9	Deadline to apply for Evidence-Based Funding Property Tax Relief Grant in IWAS
Jan. 12	Postmark deadline for Illinois Arts Education Week student poster contest entries (https://www.isbe.net/artcontest)
Jan. 20	Webinar: My Data Dashboard: Demonstration of Report Card Metric Deep-Dives (https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/8978279227537215759)
Jan. 23 - Mar. 31	SY 2022-23 School Climate Survey administration window
Jan. 26	Deadline to submit applicant concept papers for the U.S. Department of Energy's Renew America's Schools grant program (https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/Default.aspx#Foald06985843-f32c-494e-880a-cb5db6d787a4)
Feb. 15	ISBE Career Connections: Building Community Before the Illinois Association for Career and Technical Education Annual Conference
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Feb. 28	Deadline to apply for the U.S. Department of Energy's Energy CLASS Prize (https://www.herox.com/energy-class)

Mar. 8	Illinois Education and Career Success Network's 10th Annual Conference: Accelerating Equitable Success (https://ilsuccessnetwork.org/2023-conference/)
Mar. 13-17	Illinois Arts Education Week
Apr. 21	Deadline to submit full application for the U.S. Department of Energy's Renew America's Schools grant program (https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/Default.aspx#Foald06985843-f32c-494e-880a-cb5db6d787a4)

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.

id=hv5kA8ZJ9Eq1LDNameV30Ufi4KgH87ICv6FRRQi8cviUNTdHWktDS1NJWjJZVDFaQ09RVINCUVdMRi4u) how you are investing federal relief funds to help students recover.

PRINCIPAL MENTORING SUPPORTS A DIVERSE LEADERSHIP PIPELINE IN ILLINOIS

Illinois is focusing on building school leader capacity and fostering a robust leadership pipeline. In Illinois, the numbers of people completing all requirements to become a principal dropped more than 75 percent between 2011 and 2020, from 2,637 to 626. The Illinois School Leader Pipeline Program was established through a partnership with the Illinois Principals Association (IPA) to recruit candidates but also to diversify the pool of school leaders. The program is currently supporting 100 aspiring leaders who receive tuition support and mentoring from experienced school leaders. They also can participate in school-based leadership activities and connect to a network of school leaders in the state of Illinois.

"This type of commitment from the state is what's going to get us back to where we need to be with the number of school leaders who are highly prepared and ready to take on the challenges and opportunities of school leadership in our state's schools," said IPA Executive Director Jason Leahy (<https://www.nassp.org/publication/principal-leadership/volume-22-2021-2022/principal-leadership-december-2022/strengthening-and-diversifying-the-pipeline/>).

Read more and hear about a few of the current participants in National Association of Secondary School Principal's article (<https://www.nassp.org/publication/principal-leadership/volume-22-2021-2022/principal-leadership-december-2022/strengthening-and-diversifying-the-pipeline/>).

NEW

EVIDENCE-BASED FUNDING


EBF PROPERTY TAX RELIEF GRANT

The Evidence-Based Funding (EBF) Property Tax Relief Grant (PTRG) application period is open to interested districts. ISBE will provide up to \$49.7 million in property tax relief grants to eligible school districts in fiscal year 2023.

Districts are ranked by their Operating Tax Rate divided by the Average Operating Tax Rate by organization type. Grants will be awarded to applicant districts in the order of that ranking. Eligible districts must agree to abate a portion of taxes, up to a statutory limit, in the coming two tax cycles. In return, qualifying districts will receive a state grant in an amount that is a proportion of the tax relief provided.

The following PTRG resources are available for districts:

- PTRG webinar <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/6774859023907330563> – View this recording to learn more about

- PTRG preliminary FY 2023 results  ([/_layouts/Download.aspx?SourceUrl=/Documents/FY-23-PTRG-Prelim-Calc-file.xlsx](#)) – View this report to determine your district's maximum possible tax relief and possible tax relief grant amount. *Please remember results are not final until all applications are received.*
- PTRG FY 2023 application (<https://sec.isbe.net/iwas/asp/login.asp?js=true>) – If after reviewing the available resources, you determine you would like to apply for the grant, please complete the grant application via the EBF system in IWAS by **Jan 9**.

Please contact sff@isbe.net (mailto:sff@isbe.net) or 217-782-0249 if you have questions.

NEW

RESEARCH & 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=hv5kA8ZJ9Eq1LDNameV30WJLJyQVunxMpl84puts73ZUOFNMU1IYNzJKSkw4MIRLNFIKWExSTBMQy4u>)
- Session 2 (4-5:30 p.m.) (<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=hv5kA8ZJ9Eq1LDNameV30WJLJyQVunxMpl84puts73ZUMzIBTVo0V05TUIA5NFRQUURQUEFYQjdVWi4u>)

NEW

STANDARDS & INSTRUCTIONS

TRANSITIONAL MATH VIRTUAL COURSE PILOT

ISBE is seeking schools to participate in a school year 2023-24 pilot of a Transitional Math virtual course option. This will be a full-year course will be eligible for the ISBE virtual course tuition reimbursement program (</Pages/virtual-course-catalog.aspx>). Please see the informational session recording and presentation on the Virtual QL/Stats Transitional Math course option.

Please complete this interest form

(https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfK9ZwyJtFKNqbFLZDr_HRSMbc3Ah5f9bABphGmo8Nd0z9lew/viewform) if you are interested in participating in the 2023-24 pilot. ISBE will provide district administrators, curriculum leaders, and mathematics teachers with additional information on how to enroll schools in the pilot and enroll students in the course in mid-January.

Please contact Heather Penczak at hpenczak@niu.edu (mailto:hpenczak@niu.edu) or Jennifer Kolar-Burden at jkburden@illinoisvirtual.org (mailto:jkburden@illinoisvirtual.org) if you have any additional questions.

CTE & INNOVATION

SUPPORTING CTE LAW, PUBLIC SAFETY, CORRECTION, AND SECURITY TEACHERS WITH LAPSEN

Illinois has joined the Law and Public Safety Education Network (LAPSEN) (<https://lapsen.org/>), a national nonprofit association representing the Career and Technical Education instructors, administrators, and partnering professionals who focus on the Law, Public Safety, Correction and Security Career Cluster. LAPSEN was founded to help instructors and others make a real difference in students' lives by providing resources, professional development, and connections to help educators be more effective. The membership provides Illinois teachers with free access to LAPSEN courses, standards, lesson plans, and professional development. Check out all the resources available on the LAPSEN website (<https://lapsen.org/illinois/>).

ELEVATING EDUCATORS

DEADLINE EXTENSION FOR 2023 TEACHER OF THE YEAR & THOSE WHO EXCEL AWARDS APPLICATIONS

Apply for a Those Who Excel or Teacher of the Year award! You can apply whether or not you received a nomination. Help us recognize Illinois' outstanding educators. ISBE has extended the deadline for all 2023 Those Who Excel & Teacher of the Year (/teacheroftheyear) applications to Dec. 9. All applications (including supplemental materials like letters of recommendation) must be submitted by **11:59 p.m. on Dec. 9**. Nominations are not required. Applicants will be eligible for an award only after successful submission of application materials.

GRANT ACCOUNTABILITY & TRANSPARENCY ACT

FY 2023 GATA COMPLIANCE

If you have not completed the FY 2023 Fiscal and Administrative Risk Assessment (Internal Control Questionnaire), please log in to the GATA Portal (<https://grants.illinois.gov/portal>) to submit it. For more information, please visit the GATA webpage (<https://isbe.net/gata>) or contact GATA@isbe.net (mailto:GATA@isbe.net).

SAFE & HEALTHY CLIMATE

RENEW AMERICA'S SCHOOLS GRANT PROGRAM

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has announced that applications are open (<https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/Default.aspx#Foald06985843-f32c-494e-880a-cb5db6d787a4>) for the Renew America's Schools grant program (<https://www.energy.gov/clean-energy-infrastructure/grants-energy-improvements-public-school-facilities>). This initial funding round will award up to \$80 million of the \$500 million program and is available to public schools to perform energy improvements in the highest-need K-12 districts across the country. The deadline for applicant concept papers is **Jan. 26**, and full applications are due **April 21**.

ENERGY CLASS PRIZE

In tandem with the Renew America's Schools grant program, DOE launched a \$4.5 million prize program, Energy Champions Leading the Advancement of Sustainable Schools (<https://www.energy.gov/clean-energy-infrastructure/grants-energy-improvements-public-school-facilities>) (Energy CLASS Prize). This competitive program will support up to 25 high-need Local Education Agencies by providing a \$100,000 cash award to winners for the purpose of building the workforce through training and the staffing of energy management positions. Through the Energy CLASS Prize, energy managers will learn to identify, implement, and maintain projects that will improve health and efficiency in their districts. At the conclusion of the first year of the program, participating LEAs can submit a progress report and – based on performance – may qualify for an additional \$50,000. Applications for the Energy CLASS Prize (<https://www.herox.com/energy-class>) are open now through **Feb. 28**.

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. Jan. 31:** Explicit Instruction – Skills & Strategies (https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_-ZkwXZlhTtKuRI539YczZg) - 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 fourth 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 OPPORTUNITIES

Accelerating Equitable Success Conference

Join the Illinois Education and Career Success Network for its 10th annual conference, Accelerating Equitable Success, to be equipped and inspired to advance equitable postsecondary attainment. Amy Loyd, Ed.L.D., assistant secretary for the Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education at the U.S. Department of Education, will give the welcome and the keynote address. View the agenda and register now (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/accelerating-equitable-success-the-2023-success-network-conference-registration-443604070717>).

- **Date:** Wednesday, March 8
- **Cost:** \$35 per attendee
- **Location:** Moraine Valley Community College in Palos Hills
- **Hotel:** Limited rooms are available at the Hilton Chicago/Oak Lawn. Reserve today (<https://group.hilton.com/hy32cs>) (group code ESCNIU).
- **Cocktail Reception:** Celebrate the Success Network's 10th anniversary at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, March 7, at the Hilton Chicago/Oak Lawn. Hors d'oeuvres and cocktails will be served. Reservations are required; there is no additional cost for conference attendees.

AP/Dean Summit South

The Illinois Principals Association (IPA) invites assistant principals and deans to attend the AP/Dean Summit South (<https://ilprincipals.org/ap-summit-south/>) on **Jan. 25-26** in Effingham. This is a great opportunity for networking and professional learning. Get more details and registration information on the IPA website (<https://ilprincipals.org/ap-summit-south/>).

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

Illinois Student Poetry Contest

The Illinois State Poetry Society's annual poetry contest (<https://illinoispoets.org/contest.htm>) for students is open for submissions through **Feb. 28**.

FEATURED ISBE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Featured ISBE Career Opportunities

- (</Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=714>)Program Compliance Monitor (</Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=714>)
- Program Compliance Monitor (</Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=704>)

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