MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Superintendent

Tony Smith, Ph.D

December 11, 2018

Hello.

Our efforts to fully prepare students for college and career is top of mind as the Perkins roadshow continues and we develop our plan for career and technical education in the state. ISBE Executive Director of Innovation and Secondary Transformation Mary Reynolds sat down with Sue Holmes of the Illinois Principals Association to discuss the guidance for the College and Career Readiness Indicator within our support and accountability system. Watch the video here (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6-wnosKmrcQ). The indicator reflects real student experience with multiple options and pathways to prepare for success after high school. ISBE also released a guidance document to support implementation and data collection 4 (/Documents/College-Career-Ready-Indicator.pdf). Maintaining energy around college and career readiness is critical to our

high school design work.

We released new educational materials today at isbe.net/bornbuiltgrown (/bornbuiltgrown) to encourage deeper understanding of Illinois history through the lens of the Governor's Mansion and influential past governors of Illinois (these build on the Illinois Chronicles). The Governor's Mansion's Learning Resources invite students to build their math, science, writing, and art skills while discovering the rich history of our state. The artifacts are connected to grade levels and the Illinois Learning Standards.

History isn't just something that happened before; these resources will help us understand our present by exploring what's happened in the past. Anniversaries are often seen as one-moment celebrations, but these resources are tools for the toolbox. The more tools in the toolbox for teachers, the better. I encourage teachers to explore how they can support students to think critically about the past events that shape our collective present.

I want to express my sympathy and support for two Illinois communities. My condolences to the Normal West High School community after the tragic accident and loss of community volunteer Charlie Crabtree. We honor and celebrate his generosity and amazing volunteer work. We are

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fortunate that none of the children on the bus were terribly injured. Another community, Taylorville, has been hit incredibly hard by tornadoes this month, with more than 500 buildings damaged. I want to recognize the loss the community has seen, as well as how responsive the region has been. Leadership is a community activity. Kids need the support of the entire school community, and these communities have truly rallied around their students and families.

In closing, the Board will review and discuss the community-informed budget tomorrow. The first draft is available in the Board packet 🕌 (/Documents_Board_Meetings/Board-Packet-December-2018.pdf). The first sentence of Public Act 100-0465 (Evidence-Based Funding), includes a commitment "to ensure that, by June 30, 2027 and beyond, this State has a kindergarten through grade 12 public education system with the capacity to ensure the educational development of all persons to the limits of their capacities in accordance with Section 1 of Article X of the Constitution of the State of Illinois." It is our collective responsibility to keep advocating for what it says in the law – the full funding that every student deserves, by 2027. Every community deserves the funding necessary to educate their students. As you all know, fair access to quality education in every Illinois zip code requires raising all of our voices to say the time is now.

Sincerely,

Tony



UPCOMING ISBE DATES AND DEADLINES

Please note this is not a complete list of events, meetings, and deadlines. For more events and details, visit the ISBE Meetings page (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/ISBE-Meetings.aspx) or call the Illinois State Board of Education at (866) 262-6663.

Dec. 11: 5Essentials Survey window opens (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/5Essentials-Survey.aspx)

Dec. 14: Postmark deadline for Illinois Arts Education Week posters (https://www.isbe.net/Documents/2019-ART-CONTEST.pdf)

Dec. 14: Deadline to submit FY 2019 Arts and Foreign Language Implementation Assistance Grant applications (http://www.arts.illinois.gov/AFL)

Dec. 14: Deadline to submit applications for the Advisory Council on the Education of Gifted and Talented Children

Dec. 17: Deadline to submit Fall SY 2019 Teacher and Student Course Assignment data in SIS

Dec. 25: ISBE Offices closed for Christmas Day

Dec. 26: Deadline to submit comments on 1 Percent DLM Participation Wavier Request (https://www.isbe.net/dlm)

Dec. 31: Deadline to apply for FY 2019 National School Lunch Program Equipment Assistance Grants

Jan. 1: ISBE Offices closed for New Year's DayJan. 7: Deadline to submit FY 2019 Property Tax Relief

Grant application (https://www.isbe.net/proptaxrelief)

Jan. 7: Deadline to submit Illinois Green Ribbon Schools Program Applications (https://illinoisgreenalliance.org/now-open-illinois-green-ribbon-schools-application/)

Jan. 15: Deadline for waiver applications to be considered for inclusion in the 2019 Spring Waiver Report

Jan. 16: Illinois State Board of Education Meeting (as needed) (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Illinois-State-Board-of-Education-Calendar.aspx)

Jan. 16-17: Learning Technology Center K-12 Data & Security Summit (http://ltcillinois.org/datasummit)

Jan. 21: ISBE Offices closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Jan. 22: Deadline to submit FY 2019 Healthy Communities
Non-school Districts grant application

(https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Healthy-Community-Investment-Grants.aspx)

Jan. 25: Deadline to submit applications for the FY 2019 E-Rate State Matching Grant

(https://www.isbe.net/broadband)

Jan. 31: Deadline to submit FY 2019 IDEA excess cost worksheet

FUNDING & DISBURSEMENT SERVICES

Public Act 100-1142 New Transportation Safety Hazard Expanded for Criminal Activity

Public Act 100-1142 (http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/100/PDF/100-1142.pdf) effective Nov. 30, 2018, amended Article 29 Transportation, Section 29-3 Transportation in School Districts. The new law provides that each school board may provide free transportation for any student who resides within 1 1/2 miles of the school attended where conditions are such that walking, either to or from the school to which the student is assigned for attendance or to or from a pickup point or bus stop, constitutes a serious hazard to the safety of the pupil due to a course or pattern of criminal activity, as defined in Section 10 of the Illinois Street Gang Terrorism Omnibus Prevention Act.

Section 10 of the Illinois Street Gang Terrorism Omnibus Prevention Act (740 ILCS 147/10) states:

"Course or pattern of criminal activity" means two or more gang-related criminal offenses committed in whole or in part within this State when:

- 1. at least one such offense was committed after the effective date of this Act (see PA 97-1150 effective 1-25-2013);
- 2. both offenses were committed within five years of each other; and
- 3. at least one offense involved the solicitation to commit, conspiracy to commit, attempt to commit, or commission of any offense defined as a felony or forcible felony under the Criminal Code of 1961 or the Criminal Code of 2012.

"Course or pattern of criminal activity" also means one or more acts of criminal defacement of property under Section 21-1.3 of the Criminal Code of 1961 or the Criminal Code of 2012, if the defacement includes a sign or other symbol intended to identify the street gang.

District petitions and procedures remain unchanged for the determination of vehicular hazards that are based on guidelines provided by the Illinois Department of Transportation. However, procedures for district petitions of criminal activity change under the new law, as local school boards will make determinations based on guidelines of criminal activity "as determined by the local law enforcement agency." Petitions made on behalf of school boards or those that are made upon written request by a parent or guardian of a student to the local school board shall be submitted to the State Board of Education. The State Board will approve or disapprove the school board's determination that a hazard exists within 30 days after the school board submits its findings.

Districts are encouraged to share information about the new law with their local law enforcement officials. ISBE will begin consultations with key representatives of local, as well as county, law enforcement officials to set clear guidelines regarding the definition of criminal activity as prescribed under the new law. ISBE will develop an electronic system for districts to submit their petitions and receive electronic approval or disapproval by March 2019. As with vehicular hazards, districts are not required to provide transportation for routes determined as hazardous if a student resides 1 1/2 miles from the school attended; however, districts that elect to begin transportation immediately for students who meet the expanded definition of a safety hazard as of Nov. 30 may be claimed on the 2018-19 Regular Transportation claim due Aug. 15, 2019, with reimbursement provided beginning in fiscal year 2020. Districts are cautioned that if they elect to begin transportation immediately and it is determined later that they are ineligible under this new provision, any additional costs would be non-reimbursable. An update to the claim, instructions, guidelines, and rules will be communicated before the end of the school year.

For more information, please contact Mike Stier, Division of Funding and Disbursements, via email at mstier@isbe.net (mailto:mstier@isbe.net) or by phone at (217) 782-5256.

SAFE & HEALTHY CLIMATE

FY 2019 Healthy Communities Investment Request for Proposals Released

The FY 2019 Healthy Communities – Non-school Districts grant application (/Pages/Healthy-Community-Investment-Grants.aspx) is now open. Proposals are due to ISBE no later than **noon on Jan 22, 2019**.

ISBE is hosting a technical assistance session for the FY 2019 Healthy Communities – Non-school Districts grant at **1 p.m. on Dec. 18**. Registration is now available (https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3252649358711480834). For questions, please contact Connie Denney at cdenney@isbe.net (mailto:cdenney@isbe.net).

New Events Added! Q&As on Flexibility to Define Instructional Days Locally

School districts in Illinois now have maximum flexibility to define instructional days based on what will improve outcomes for students. The Illinois State Board of Education will host a series of public Q&A events (/Documents/ISBE-Instructional-Day.pdf) for educators, parents, families, and school and district leaders to ask questions and share successes and challenges in using this flexibility afforded in state law.

Public Act 100-0465, also known as the Evidence-Based Funding for Student Success Act, made sweeping changes to education funding in Illinois when it became law on Aug. 31, 2017. The law changed the basis of state funding to student enrollment, rather than attendance. The act removed Section 18-8.05 of the School Code, which had defined a day of attendance as a minimum of five instructional hours. Funding schools on enrollment provides school districts the resources and flexibility to support all students, especially the students most in need of support to access educational opportunities.

Students learn in a variety of ways and settings. ISBE encourages districts, school boards, and collective bargaining units to work together to innovate new ways of teaching and learning that center on competencies and mastery of subject matter – anywhere and anytime.

ISBE released guidance (/Documents/Instructional-Day-Memorandum.pdf) on Nov. 9 to assist school districts in using this flexibility.

Join us at one of the following Q&A events to learn more and share your successes and challenges:

All events are 4-6 p.m.

- NEW! Dec. 12 at Springfield Public School District 186 board room, 1900 W. Monroe St., Springfield
- NEW! Dec. 13 at St. Clair Regional Office of Education, 1000 S. Illinois St., Belleville
- NEW! Dec. 13 at Homewood-Flossmoor High School, South Building, Teaching and Learning Center, 999 Kedzie Ave., Flossmoor

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

Seeking Public Comment on 1 Percent DLM-AA Participation Waiver

ESSA requires state education agencies to submit waiver requests (/Documents/1-Percent-Waiver.pdf) to the U.S. Department of Education (ED) in the event they have more than 1 percent of their students participating in the alternate assessment.

ISBE has conducted an extensive review of data from Illinois' statewide alternate assessment, Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM), for school year 2017-18. The purpose of the review was to determine the participation rates of students taking the DLM aligned with alternate academic achievement standards.

The data revealed that just over 1 percent of Illinois students participated in each of the content areas included on DLM in 2017-18. Table 1 of the waiver request displays participation rates by subject for the 2017-18 DLM. Based on this data, the state anticipates exceeding the 1 percent threshold enacted by the ESSA for school year 2018-19. Therefore, ISBE is submitting a waiver request (/Documents/1-Percent-Waiver.pdf) to ED for exceeding the 1 percent threshold.

Please submit any comments to <u>AltException@isbe.net</u> (mailto:AltException@isbe.net) by **Dec. 26**. Please contact ISBE's Division of Special Education Services at (217) 782-5589 with any questions regarding the content of the waiver request.

ASSESSMENT

NEW Spring 2020 Test Dates for State-Sponsored SAT/PSAT

On Nov. 30, College Board announced new test dates for the 2019-20 State-Sponsored SAT/PSAT (/Documents/SAT-PSAT-Dates-2019-20.pdf). By posting these test dates well in advance of spring 2020 testing, ISBE hopes this information will allow all schools to plan their 2019-20 school calendars to be in session for at least the initial and makeup test dates, given that Easter falls on April 12, 2020.

- - Initial Test Date Tuesday, April 14, 2020
 - Make-up Test Date Tuesday, April 28, 2020
 - Accommodated Test Window April 14-28, 2020
- Spring 2020 PSAT™ 10 and PSAT™ 8/9 Test Dates (/Documents/SAT-PSAT-Dates-2019-20.pdf)
 - Initial Test Date April 14, 15, or 16, 2020
 - Make-up Test Date Tuesday, April 28, 2020
 - Accommodated Test Window April 14-28, 2020

Please contact assessment@isbe.net (mailto:assessment@isbe.net) with any questions.

SCHOOL BUSINESS SERVICES

Revisions Necessary for the 2018 Annual Financial Reports and Audits

For districts that use modified accrual, accrual, and (possibly) cash basis of accounting

In the Nov. 5, 2018, Superintendent's Weekly Message, notice was posted that districts may need to revise their Fiscal Year 2018 Annual Financial Report (AFR) and audits. This was due to necessary corrections to the **Department of Central Management Services** - **Teacher Health Insurance Security Fund (THIS)** – **Financial Audit, Schedule of Allocation Report.**

The Office of the Auditor General (OAG) has communicated to districts and auditors that the report is corrected and posted on the Auditor General's website (https://www.auditor.illinois.gov/). View a copy of the OAG's communication (/Documents/Letter-TRIP-Employers.pdf) online.

District auditors should be able to finalize district AFRs and audits with the correct information. If you have already submitted your AFR and audit to ISBE, please contact your auditor to determine if restatement is necessary. If correction is necessary, please submit the restated AFR and audit to ISBE utilizing ISBE's file transfer page (https://sec1.isbe.net/attachmgr/default.aspx). (For the Received Information, select Annual Financial Report from the drop-down box.) Please share this communication with your auditors.

Thank you for your patience as this was being resolved. If you have any questions about the corrected THIS report, please contact the Office of the Auditor General, Audit Manager Sara Metzger, by phone at (217) 785-2982 or email at smetzger@auditor.illinois.gov (mailto:smetzger@auditor.illinois.gov). If you have any questions regarding the AFR and/or audit, please contact School Business Services, Debbie Hemberger or Christine Kolaz, at (217) 785-8779 or email at AFR@isbe.net (mailto:AFR@isbe.net).

EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY

Upcoming K-12 Data & Security Summit Jan. 16-17

The Learning Technology Center is facilitating a one-day K-12 Data and Security Summit on Jan. 16 in Tinley Park and Jan. 17 in Effingham. Participants will hear from national and state experts as they identify current legal requirements and learn best practices for data privacy and security of data and the educational environment. Administrators, curriculum leaders, technology leaders, and staff in K-12 school districts who are responsible for collecting, maintaining, reporting, certifying, and/or protecting and securing student data and the educational environment are encouraged to participate. More information is available at Itcillinois.org/datasummit (http://Itcillinois.org/datasummit).

FY 2019 E-Rate State Matching Grant Program

ISBE is accepting applications for the FY 2019 E-Rate State Matching Grant. The grant is designed to help districts cover the non-discounted portion of E-Rate Special Construction Costs for fiber internet installations. For more information, please see isbe.net/broadband (/broadband) and click on the E-Rate State Matching Grant tab. Applications are due by **4 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 25**.

EDUCATOR EFFECTIVENESS

Fall 2018 Partnership for Educator Preparation Progress Report Now Available

Check out the latest PEP Progress Report for fall 2018 (/Documents/PEP-Fall-2018-Progress-Report.pdf). ISBE's goal is to ensure every student in the state is supported by highly effective teachers. ISBE, in conjunction with the Partnership for Educator Preparation (PEP) Steering Committee, has embarked on a significant program to strengthen data collection, sharing and reporting to continuously improve educator preparation programs and better serve our students.

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

Upcoming Webinar - Inform Five-Year Plan on Career Connected Learning

ISBE and the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) will be hosting a webinar from **9-10:30 a.m. on Dec. 18** to share information on the Perkins Career and Technical Education Reauthorization and to gather feedback on how to strengthen career- connected learning for all students in Illinois for the next five years. ISBE and ICCB invite all stakeholders – educators, business, industry, families, community members — to participate in learning more about the opportunity for Illinois and providing feedback.

Registration is now available (https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/9063893768120285955). Please contact Director of Curriculum & Instruction Marci Johnson via email at marjohns@isbe.net (mailto:marjohns@isbe.net) or by phone at (217) 524-4832.

Illinois Career Pathways Dictionary Now Available

In the State of Illinois, the public and private sector alike are conducting a broad number of efforts pertaining to education, workforce development, and economic development through a lens of career pathways. Common to all this work is a shared philosophy regarding college and career pathways, with the aim of enabling Illinois residents to progressively build toward college and career success through aligned education, training, and employment opportunities over their lifetimes. A wide range of education and training programs and initiatives administered by a variety of private, state, and local entities fall within this system of career pathways. It is critical that they use aligned terminology and language to ensure they are building programs and pathways effectively. For that reason, Illinois approved a statewide definition of career pathways this year and used that definition as a launching pad for a larger suite of definitions, now contained within the new Illinois Career Pathways Dictionary (/Pages/Postsecondary-Workforce-Readiness.aspx).

Though many terms fall under workforce development and education, in this dictionary, you will find terms that fit the following criteria:

- 1. They pertain to—or deeply impact—multiple programs across state agencies; and
- 2. they apply to programming with funding from multiple federal agencies (e.g., programs funded by the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act).

This dictionary will be updated as needed and new terms will be added, should they meet these criteria.

BUDGET & FINANCE

Thank you to the Illinois State Commission on Charter Schools, which hosted a collaborative meeting for Commission-authorized charter schools to learn about this year's new site-based expenditure reporting requirement. Access the presentation online (/Documents/SBER-state-authorized-charters.pdf).

All Local Education Agencies (LEAs) - traditional district LEAs and Commission-authorized charter schools - can find more supports on isbe.net/site-based (/site-based) as everyone prepares for FY 2019 reporting. ISBE encourages LEAs to begin by reading the guidance posted online (/Documents/ISBE-Site-Based-Expenditure-Reporting-Guidance.pdf) and then exploring the other materials available. For questions not addressed online, please contact Sara R. Shaw at sshaw@isbe.net (mailto:sshaw@isbe.net).

NUTRITION PROGRAMS

Know the Summer Meals Requirements for School Districts

Public Act 096-0734 (amends Public Act 095-0155) amends Section 20 of the Childhood Hunger Relief Act (105 ILCS 126/20) to require a school district to implement a summer breakfast and/or lunch program for the duration of the summer school program in all schools where 50 percent or more of the student population is eligible for free or reduced-price meals AND that have a summer school program.

This amendment applies to all schools that meet the above criteria, including those schools not currently participating in any federal Child Nutrition Program. There is an opt-out clause in the legislation, but it must be completed by Jan. 15.

The legislation (http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/96/096-0734.htm) along with Question and Answers (/Documents/sfsp_pa96-0734_qa.pdf) are accessible on the ISBE website (/Pages/Seamless-Summer-Option-Regulations-Policies.aspx). For more information about Summer Meals, visit ISBE's Summer Food Service Program (/Pages/Summer-Food-Service-Program.aspx) and Seamless Summer Option (/Pages/Seamless-Summer-Option.aspx) webpages.

Staff from our Nutrition and Wellness Programs Division is available at (800) 545-7892 or (217) 782-2491 for technical assistance with reimbursement or program operations.

Important Dates to Remember

Jan. 15: Deadline to submit written opt-out request to your regional superintendent of schools.

Feb. 15: Deadline to develop and keep on file the district plan to conduct a summer lunch and/or breakfast program for each school where at least 50 percent of the students are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals AND that have a summer school program.

Sign up for the Summer Food Service Program training if participating in the SFSP. For more information on SFSP, visit ISBE's Summer Food Service Program (/Pages/Summer-Food-Service-Program.aspx) webpage.

Prior to March 1: Regional superintendent of schools must convene a public hearing to hear testimony from the school district and interested community members.

March 1: Deadline for regional superintendent to:

- Inform the school district, in writing, of his or her decision, along with the reasons why the exemption was granted or denied.
- Provide a listing to the Nutrition Programs Division of all districts that applied to opt out, along with the affected schools, whether the
 exemption was granted or denied, and the reasons for the action.

April 1: Deadline for the Illinois State Superintendent of Education to hear appeals on the decisions of regional superintendents of schools.

Upcoming Events

National School Breakfast Week will be celebrated March 4-8 in 2019. The theme is "Start Your Engines With School Breakfast."
 Get started planning today with School Nutrition Association resources available online (https://schoolnutrition.org/Meetings/Events/NSBW/2019/).

Program Recognition

 Summer Food Service Program participant Harrisburg Free Summer Lunch Program received an Honorable Mention in the Governor's Hometown Awards Program (https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/serve/Pages/GHTA.aspx). Congratulations!

Student Opportunities

- Back 2 School Illinois provides \$2,500 college scholarships to Illinois high school seniors to assist in their first year of
 undergraduate studies. Back 2 School will award recipients of their 2019 College Scholarships at their Back 2 School kickoff event on
 May 2, 2019, at Galleria Marchetti. Apply by March 1, 2019 (http://b2si.org/college-sch).
- The U.S. Department of State has announced scholarship opportunities for American high school students to study abroad. For more information, visit Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs Exchange Programs website (https://exchanges.state.gov/).

Educator Recognition

- Congratulations to the **52 P.E. Champions** (http://iphionline.org/2018/11/illinois-p-e-champions/) across Illinois recognized by the Illinois Public Health Institute! These champions are helping to create and implement enhanced physical education programs and policies in schools around the state. To view more Nutrition Champions from around the state, visit ISBE's School Nutrition and Wellness Champions webpage (/Pages/School-Nutrition-and-Wellness-Champions.aspx).
- Congratulations to Jones College Prep counselor Brian Coleman on being named National School Counselor of the Year by the American School Counselor Association. Congratulations to Chicago Public Schools for having the National School Counselor of the Year for the second year in a row!
- Congratulations to this year's educators who renewed their National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification!
 Completing the rigorous renewal process demonstrates an educator's ability to teach to the highest professional standard in the field.
 The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards announced that 4,446 educators across the nation renewed their certification. Illinois' 230 educators who renewed their certification join more than 6,000 Illinois National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs) to rank Illinois as sixth in the nation in the number of NBCTs.
- Congratulations to the **Cooperative Association for Special Education (CASE)!** CASE, which serves seven school districts in DuPage County, was recently ranked No. 1 among small employers on the Chicago Tribune's list of Top Workplaces, as measured by the consultancy Energage in Exton, Pa. Congratulations to the CASE Board of Directors and its 180 employees for supporting students and families in DuPage County.

ISBE Employment Opportunities

Watch for ISBE career opportunities and find instructions for applying at Careers at ISBE (http://www.isbe.net/Pages/Careers-at-ISBE.aspx).