

# MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Hello,

I had the opportunity last week to attend my first Council of Chief State School Officers Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. Each year, state superintendents from around the nation gather to share ideas, meet with congressional leaders, and learn from each other. One of my biggest takeaways from the conference was that we in Illinois are not alone – many of the challenges that we face here also impact other states around the nation. It was an excellent opportunity to talk through those challenges and gain insight into what's working in other states that we can

utilize here in Illinois. The conference also confirmed that we're on the right track. We shared our current strategies, initiatives, and plans with other states; the positive responses we got validated that Illinois is doing great and innovative things to move education forward.

One of the final sessions I attended at the conference focused on assessment literacy. As educators, we understand the need for assessments to gauge how each child is progressing toward goals. But the assessments themselves can also be used as a driver for change, especially when it comes to equity. One of my key areas of focus will be a review of our statewide assessment system to determine what's working and what's not. How and where do we set the bar that we use to determine if our children are meeting goals? And are the Board goals in alignment with what we expect of our students? My hope is for these questions to be answered as we look closer at Illinois assessments.

But it's not just an internal review that's needed – we need your input as well. Part of the assessment review process will include stakeholder engagement to identify gaps in our assessments. I very much look forward to hearing your feedback and gaining insights as we work to change the conversation from accountability to continuous growth and improvement.

ISBE released a Request for Proposals last Friday for the fiscal year 2020 Early Childhood Block Grant. This grant supports funding to increase access to early health and learning services for children from birth to age 5. Programs that propose to serve children in areas with fewer resources will be given priority for funding during this grant cycle. Our goal is to level the playing field for all Illinois children to support math and literacy skills, as well as social-emotional development, before they even begin elementary school. Proposals are due in the ISBE offices no later than 4 p.m. on June 10, 2019. For more information, go to [isbe.net/ECBG](https://isbe.net/ECBG) (/ECBG).

The State Board of Education meets on Wednesday, and the main focus at this month's meeting will be addressing the teacher shortage. Board members will discuss legislative initiatives and ideas to recruit and retain effective teachers. The meeting is being held via video conference in Springfield and Chicago. I look forward to sharing the results of these conversations with you next week.

Sincerely,

Carmen

April 16, 2019

## Quick Links

- [Illinois Report Card](#)
- [Driver's Education](#)
- [Illinois Science Education Week](#)
- [IL-EMPOWER](#)
- [IL ePlan](#)
- [Educator Effectiveness Assessment & Accountability](#)
- [ISBE Communications Curriculum & Instruction Grant Accountability and Transparency Act](#)
- [Title Grants](#)
- [Funding & Disbursements](#)
- [Rules & Waivers](#)
- [In Brief](#)



## 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) (<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/ISBE-Meetings.aspx>) or call the Illinois State Board of Education at (866) 262-6663.

**April 17:** [Illinois State Board of Education meeting](https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Illinois-State-Board-of-Education-Calendar.aspx) (<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Illinois-State-Board-of-Education-Calendar.aspx>)

**April 17:** [2019 School Safety Conference](https://www.feapc.com/2019-school-safety-conference/) (<https://www.feapc.com/2019-school-safety-conference/>)

**April 22-26:** [Illinois Science Education Week](https://www.isbe.net/science) (<https://www.isbe.net/science>)

**April 26:** [Illinois Assessment of Readiness Online/Paper Administration Testing Window closes](https://www.isbe.net/Pages/IAR.aspx) (<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/IAR.aspx>)

**April 29:** [Public comment period ends for proposed amendments to Rules - Part 1 \(Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision\)](https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Proposed-Rules-and-Amendments.aspx) (<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Proposed-Rules-and-Amendments.aspx>)

**April 30:** [2019 Title Grants Technical Assistance Tour - Lisle](https://www.isbe.net/Pages/TitleGrantsTour.aspx) (<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/TitleGrantsTour.aspx>)

**May 1:** [Deadline to submit public comments on FY 2019 IDEA Part B Annual State Application](https://www.isbe.net/Pages/IDEA-Part-B-Annual-State-Application.aspx) (<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/IDEA-Part-B-Annual-State-Application.aspx>)

**May 2:** [2019 Title Grants Technical Assistance Tour – Oak Lawn](https://www.isbe.net/Pages/TitleGrantsTour.aspx) (<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/TitleGrantsTour.aspx>)

**May 6:** [2019-20 Teach Plus Illinois Teaching Policy Fellowship](https://teachplus.org/illinois-teaching-policy-fellowship) (<https://teachplus.org/illinois-teaching-policy-fellowship>)

**May 7:** [2019 Title Grants Technical Assistance Tour – Springfield](https://www.isbe.net/Pages/TitleGrantsTour.aspx) (<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/TitleGrantsTour.aspx>)

**May 8:** [2019 Title Grants Technical Assistance Tour - Effingham](https://www.isbe.net/Pages/TitleGrantsTour.aspx) (<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/TitleGrantsTour.aspx>)

**May 9:** [2019 Title Grants Technical Assistance Tour - Collinsville](https://www.isbe.net/Pages/TitleGrantsTour.aspx) (<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/TitleGrantsTour.aspx>)

**May 11:** [Annual Statewide Summit for Bilingual Parents](http://irc2.thecenterweb.org/site/summit) (<http://irc2.thecenterweb.org/site/summit>)

**May 12:** [Illinois National Board for Professional Teaching Standards First-Time Candidate Fee Subsidy closes](https://nbrc.illinoisstate.edu/firsttime/index.php) (<https://nbrc.illinoisstate.edu/firsttime/index.php>)

**May 14:** [2019 Title Grants Technical Assistance Tour - Rockford](https://www.isbe.net/Pages/TitleGrantsTour.aspx) (<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/TitleGrantsTour.aspx>)

**May 15:** Deadline to submit Letter of Interest and Resume for Illinois Advisory Council on Bilingual Education – May 15

**May 15:** [2019 Title Grants Technical Assistance Tour - Peoria](https://www.isbe.net/Pages/TitleGrantsTour.aspx) (<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/TitleGrantsTour.aspx>)

**May 17:** [Deadline to complete IL ePlan Interactive Dashboard survey](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=hv5kA8ZJ9Eq1LDNameV30UpAoIVJa0pCnoA5pVG05wdUNVFNN1M2N08yOFM4VFdaQkxBRzNINkc2SS4u) (<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=hv5kA8ZJ9Eq1LDNameV30UpAoIVJa0pCnoA5pVG05wdUNVFNN1M2N08yOFM4VFdaQkxBRzNINkc2SS4u>)

**May 17:** [IL-EMPOWER Peer Learning Partners: Round 2 Application](https://www.isbe.net/Pages/IL-Empower.aspx) (<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/IL-Empower.aspx>)

**May 20:** [School Nutrition Program Orientation Training](http://webprod1.isbe.net/cns/calendar/asp/eventlist.asp) (<http://webprod1.isbe.net/cns/calendar/asp/eventlist.asp>)

**May 20:** [2019-20 Teach Plus Early Childhood Educator Policy Fellowship application due](https://teachplus.org/illinois-teaching-policy-fellowship) (<https://teachplus.org/illinois-teaching-policy-fellowship>)


**May 27:** [2019-20 Teach Plus Early Childhood Educator Policy Fellowship application due](https://teachplus.org/illinois-teaching-policy-fellowship) (<https://teachplus.org/illinois-teaching-policy-fellowship>)


**May 31:** Deadline to submit final amendments for state and federal grants with a project end date of June 30, 2019

## ILLINOIS REPORT CARD

### Building the 2019 Illinois Report Card

The Report Card team has already been working diligently to ensure this year's Report Card release goes smoothly. The 2019 Illinois Report Card will include a variety of process improvements, such as a new data verification tool, the Year End Collection (replacing two former data collections), and Site-Based Expenditure Reporting. We will continue providing additional information on all of these improved features in the coming weeks.

The first 2019 issue of the Report Card Rundown is now available  (/Documents/RC-RundownNewsletter-15-4-2019.pdf). Stay up-to-date on all information and communications regarding the 2019 Illinois Report Card by subscribing to the Report Card Rundown – a short monthly newsletter consisting of data system openings/closings, reminders, webinars, and key information regarding the Report Card. In order to subscribe, please send an email to [reportcard@isbe.net](mailto:reportcard@isbe.net) (mailto:reportcard@isbe.net). If you have already subscribed previously, you do not need to re-subscribe. Please note district superintendents, principals, and ROE superintendents will automatically receive the Rundown without subscribing.

Additionally, please [sign up to receive infographic one-pagers](http://www.isbe.net/subscribe) (http://www.isbe.net/subscribe) designed to assist schools and districts with communicating about the Report Card and ISBE's support and accountability system with staff, families, and communities. We also ask that all district and school administrators ensure their contact information in ISBE's Entity Profile System (EPS) is accurate and current, in light of any staff or administration changes occurring in the upcoming months. This will help to ensure all administrators are receiving any direct communications sent by ISBE. Any updates to contact information in EPS can be made via IWAS. For more details on how to update your school/district contact information in EPS, register for the [EPS webinar on May 7](https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/231892897962512898)  (https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/231892897962512898).

### **High-level Report Card Timeline**


- May: Data submissions and data quality checks begin.
- July: Data Verification begins via Data Review & Verification Tool.
- September: District superintendents sign off on their submitted data.
- October: Superintendents and principals preview 2019 Report Card.

**Note:** It is imperative the data verifications be completed in a timely manner to ensure the accuracy and timely completion and distribution of the 2019 Report Card.


Visit [www.isbe.net/ilreportcard](http://www.isbe.net/ilreportcard) (http://www.isbe.net/ilreportcard) for continuous updates and access to all Report Card information. Please contact [reportcard@isbe.net](mailto:reportcard@isbe.net) (mailto:reportcard@isbe.net) with any questions.

## **Upcoming Webinars**


### **SIS End of School Year 2019 and Planning for School Year 2020 – April 25**

Join ISBE for a webinar from 1:30 - 3 p.m. on April 25 to learn more about the End of School Year 2019 SIS tasks and planning for school year 2020 changes. [Register for the SIS webinar now](https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/8927574119142055938)  (https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/8927574119142055938)!

### **Updating District Contact Information in EPS – May 7**

Join ISBE for a webinar from 10 – 11:30 a.m. on May 7 to learn more about the process to ensure district and school contact information remain current in our Entity Profile System. Current information in EPS is vital, as this is the contact information used by ISBE to share important information and updates with all schools and districts. This webinar is intended only for district and ROE program personnel. [Register for the EPS webinar now](https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/231892897962512898)  (https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/231892897962512898)!

### **Year End Collection – May 14**


Join ISBE for a webinar from 10 – 11:30 a.m. on May 14 to learn more about the new Year End Collection (YEC) that opens on May 15. The YEC replaces the e-Report Card Data Collection and the End of Year Report Collection. The YEC will collect Minutes Per Day, Health and Wellness, Truant Minors, and No Pass No Play. This webinar will walk through the new collection system and provide a forum to ask and answer questions. Data submission for the YEC is due July 31, 2019. [Register for the YEC webinar now](https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5675751988453862914)  (https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5675751988453862914)!

## DRIVER'S EDUCATION

### Scott's Law (the Move Over Law) with Teen Drivers and Families

In 2019, too many Illinois State Troopers have been put in danger or lost their lives by drivers not following the law. The Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois State Police are working together to ensure all teen drivers and their parents and families have the information they need to protect those who protect us. Scott's Law, also known as the Move Over Law, was named after Lieutenant Scott Gillen of the Chicago Fire Department. He was struck and killed by an intoxicated driver while assisting at a crash site on the Dan Ryan Expressway. Scott's Law mandates that upon approaching any stationary vehicle with flashing emergency lights, including commercial trucks and cars, all approaching vehicles shall:

- Reduce speed,
- Change lanes if possible, and
- Proceed with caution.

Please [print and post the flyer about Scott's Law](#)  (/Documents/ISBE-MoveOver-Flyer.pdf) in your classrooms and schools, as well as distribute it to individual students. You can also distribute it electronically via school listservs.

Thank you so much for your partnership in raising awareness that "if it's flashing, move over."


## ILLINOIS SCIENCE EDUCATION WEEK

### Prepare for Illinois Science Education Week – April 22-26

Governor JB Pritzker will declare the week of April 22-26 as Illinois Science Education Week. The week celebrates the role of high-quality science education in developing the innovative thinkers and problem-solvers Illinois needs to lead the country and the world. April 22 also marks the 50th anniversary of the first-ever national Earth Day.

Visit [www.isbe.net/science](http://www.isbe.net/science) (<http://www.isbe.net/science>) and follow ISBE's [Facebook](#) ([https://www.facebook.com/IllinoisStateBoardofEducation/?ref=br\\_rs](https://www.facebook.com/IllinoisStateBoardofEducation/?ref=br_rs)) and [Twitter](#) (<https://twitter.com/ISBEnews>) pages for a full week of science education resources. Learn how you can support science instruction that aligns to the Illinois Learning Standards in science. The standards emphasize an engaged, hands-on learning experience, in which teachers act as facilitators for student-led inquiry, discussion, research, and real-world experiments.

Share photos and videos of your students engaging in science in innovative ways with the hashtag #ILScienceWeek. Raise awareness about Illinois Science Education Week by sharing the [graphic](#) (/layouts/Download.aspx?

SourceUrl=<https://www.isbe.net/PublishingImages/Facebook-ILScienceWeek-v2.jpg>) and [flyer](#)  (/Documents/ISBE\_ILScienceWeek.pdf)!

## IL-EMPOWER

### New Story: Parents of Diverse Learners Champion Differentiated Instruction for All Students

The ISBE Storyteller team recently posted a new peer-to-peer learning resource focusing on the phenomenal parent-teacher collaboration for special education at Waters Elementary in City of Chicago SD 299.

[Read the Waters Elementary story](#) (/Pages/Story.aspx?ItemId=24) and view available resources. Please feel free to submit comments or reach out to the Waters team for more information.

Storytellers at ISBE identify, produce, and share stories of effective, replicable practices positively impacting schools across Illinois to inspire educators to engage in statewide peer-to-peer learning with the goal of better serving our students. Does your school or district have a story to share? [Submit your story idea.](#) (/Pages/stories.aspx)

## New IL-EMPOWER Peer Learning Partners

ISBE has approved 13 Exemplary and Commendable schools as IL-EMPOWER Peer Learning Partners. These 13 Peer Learning Partners will join the current network of vendors available to provide services for professional learning and school improvement to schools that received an Underperforming or Lowest-Performing designation in the state's support and accountability system. Peer Learning Partners give schools identified for improvement the opportunity to work alongside educational leaders who personally faced and overcame challenges like theirs.

Each school identified for improvement engages local stakeholders in a collaborative and data-informed needs assessment to identify a priority area of focus. Each school creates a Work Plan for School Improvement and, if applicable, selects an IL-EMPOWER Learning Partner to work with on implementation.

Thirty-five schools applied to become Peer Learning Partners in this first round. The application was open to all schools that received an Exemplary or Commendable designation in the state's support and accountability system. The first round of approved Peer Learning Partners includes:

- Addison Trail High School in DuPage HSD 88
- Carterville Intermediate School in Carterville CSD 5
- Country Meadows Elementary School in Kildeer Countryside CCSD 96
- Gower West Elementary School in Gower SD 62
- Henning Elementary School in Triad CUSD 2
- Ivy Hall Elementary School in Kildeer Countryside CCSD 96
- Jane Addams Middle School in Valley View CUSD 365U
- Kildeer Countryside Elementary School in Kildeer Countryside CCSD 96
- Prairie Elementary School in Kildeer Countryside CCSD 96
- Twin Groves Middle School in Kildeer Countryside CCSD 96
- Unity Point School in Unity Point CCSD 140
- Warrensburg-Latham Elementary School in Warrensburg-Latham CUSD 11
- Woodlawn Middle School in Kildeer Countryside CCSD 96

View the [April 4 press release](#) (/Lists/News/NewsDisplay.aspx?ID=1257) or visit the [IL-EMPOWER webpage](#) (/Pages/IL-Empower.aspx) for more information.

## IL-EMPOWER Peer Learning Partners: Round 2 Application Timeline

- May 1 - Application to be released on [IL-EMPOWER webpage](#) (/Pages/IL-Empower.aspx.).
- May 3 - Webinar to be released providing guidance in application process.
- May 17 - Applications are due by 4 p.m.
- May 31 - Applicants will be notified of approval status.

Please contact IL-EMPOWER at [il-empower@isbe.net](mailto:il-empower@isbe.net) (mailto:il-empower@isbe.net) or (312) 814-1088 with any questions.

## IL EPLAN

### Phase 2: Interactive Dashboard – Seeking Feedback on Dashboard Elements

ISBE developed the [IL ePlan](#) (/ileplan) as a result of more than a year of inquiry into the best systems around the country and the needs of educators, practitioners, and students in Illinois with the goal to provide efficient technology that brings practitioners together for meaningful collaboration. The second phase of the IL ePlan will launch an interactive dashboard for education grantees and ISBE staff to access multiple information resources linking ISBE's existing financial and educational web-based applications. It will become a responsive "one-stop shop" for Illinois school districts and ISBE to assist in planning and budgeting.

ISBE is looking to gather feedback from administrators, grant, and fiscal staff on the most important data elements to include on the interactive dashboard. By completing the survey below by **Friday, May 17**, you will give us valuable information to guide our development. It will take **less than 5 minutes** of your time to complete.

**Complete the IL ePlan Survey now!** (<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=5kA8ZJ9Eq1LDNameV30UpAoIVJa0pCnoA5pVG05wdUNVFNN1M2N08yOFM4VFdaQkxBRzNINkc2SS4u>)

Please contact [ileplan@isbe.net](mailto:ileplan@isbe.net) (mailto:ileplan@isbe.net) with any questions.

## EDUCATOR EFFECTIVENESS

### Teach Plus Fellowship Opportunities

Applications are now open for the 2019-20 Teach Plus [Illinois Teaching Policy Fellowship](#) (<https://teachplus.org/illinois-teaching-policy-fellowship>) (due **May 6**) and the [Early Childhood Educator Policy Fellowship](#) (<https://teachplus.org/Illinois-Early-Childhood-Educator-Fellowship>) (due **May 20**). These highly selective leadership opportunities are for outstanding Illinois teachers looking to deepen their knowledge of education policy and gain a voice in decisions that affect students and the teaching profession. Teachers will expand their influence without leaving the classroom and receive a \$1,600 stipend for their commitment. No prior policy experience required. Please reach out to Sarah Campbell at [scampbell@teachplus.org](mailto:scampbell@teachplus.org) (mailto:scampbell@teachplus.org) if you have additional questions.

## ASSESSMENT & ACCOUNTABILITY

### Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Information Posted

Dates and locations for upcoming Assessment & Accountability Technical Advisory Committee meetings have been posted to the [Accountability Technical Advisory Committee's webpage](#) (/Pages/AccountabilityTechnicalAdvisoryCommittee.aspx). Additional information, including meeting materials and recordings of all meetings, will be added before and after the meetings. For more information, please contact Assessment & Accountability at (217) 782-4823.

## ISBE COMMUNICATIONS

### ISBE Art Display Submissions

Superintendent Ayala is decorating the walls of the Illinois State Board of Education offices in Springfield and Chicago with student artwork! (Read more in her [March 12](#) (/Pages/Weekly-Message-Display-Form.aspx?ItemId=130) Weekly Message.) These framed images will provide a daily reminder of Illinois students' magnificent talents and potential and why we do what we do. Schools across Illinois are invited to submit student artwork.

Please follow the guidelines below for submission:

- Artwork must not be smaller than 8x10 or larger than 24x36.
- Any submissions must be originals, and art will not be returned.

- Only paintings, photographs, drawings, and other flat artwork will be accepted for display. Digitally created artwork will be accepted so long as it is printed.
- Please include the student's name, grade, school name, principal name, and principal email with each submission.
- All art should be mailed or delivered to:  
Illinois State Board of Education  
Attn: Max Weiss  
100 W. Randolph St., Suite 14-300  
Chicago, IL 60601

Please work to submit any artwork to ISBE by **May 1**. Also, feel free to contact Max Weiss at [mweiss@isbe.net](mailto:mweiss@isbe.net) (mailto:mweiss@isbe.net) with any questions. Thank you!

## CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

### Teacher Grant Opportunities

#### **FY 2019 Teacher Quality Partnership Program Grant Competition**

In the coming weeks, the U.S. Department of Education plans to launch the fiscal year 2019 Teacher Quality Partnership (TQP) grant competition to award approximately \$38 million to support high-quality teacher preparation and professional development for prospective teachers.

#### **Who May Apply:**

An applicant must be an “eligible partnership” as defined in Section 200(6) of the Higher Education Act (HEA). The term “eligible partnership” means an entity that, at minimum, includes all of the components listed below:

- A high-need Local Education Agency (LEA) or consortium of LEA(s);
- A high-need school or consortium of high-need schools or a high-need early childhood education program;
- An institution of higher education (IHE);
- A college, school, department, or program of education within the partner IHE; and
- A college, school, or department of arts and sciences within the partner IHE.

#### **FY 2019 Competition Priorities:**

The competition includes one Absolute Priority - Partnership Grants for the Establishment of Effective Teaching Residency Programs. An applicant must meet this priority in order to be eligible for an award.

The competition includes two Competitive Preference Priorities:

1. Competitive Preference Priority 1 - Projects designed to improve student achievement or other educational outcomes in computer science by increasing the number of educators adequately prepared to deliver rigorous instruction in STEM fields, including computer science, through recruitment, evidence-based professional development strategies for current STEM educators or evidence-based retraining strategies for current educators seeking to transition from other subjects to STEM fields.
2. Competitive Preference Priority 2 - Projects submitted by applicants that meet the definition of novice applicant at the time they submit their application.

The competition includes one Invitational Priority - Spurring Investment in Opportunity Zones.

#### **100% Non-Federal Match Requirement:**

The TQP program requires the eligible partnership to provide a 100 percent non-federal match, which may be provided in cash or in kind. Additional information on the match requirement is available in HEA Section 203(c)(1).



Please visit our [TQP program website](https://www2.ed.gov/programs/tqpartnership/index.html) (https://www2.ed.gov/programs/tqpartnership/index.html) for further FY 2019 TQP competition information and program resources. If you have any questions about the program after reviewing the application resources, please contact the TQP program inbox at [TQPartnership@ed.gov](mailto:TQPartnership@ed.gov) (mailto:TQPartnership@ed.gov).

## Upcoming Professional Learning Opportunities

### #ILMathCom Virtual Learning Community - April 25, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Julia Brenson, retired teacher from Lyons Township, will be addressing concerns and frustrations with the high school statistics standards by showcasing the work shared on the [IL Stats Classrooms in Action website](https://ilstats.weebly.com/) (https://ilstats.weebly.com/). [Registration for the Virtual Learning Community seminar is now available](http://www.mathteachersinaction.org/ilmathcom.html) (http://www.mathteachersinaction.org/ilmathcom.html).

### Online Impact

The [latest online workshops are open for registration](https://education.illinoisstate.edu/casei/onlineimpact/) (https://education.illinoisstate.edu/casei/onlineimpact/). Take advantage of this opportunity for a small, online community of colleagues to share your strategies, learn from each other, and earn professional learning hours.

Topics and dates include:

- Organization and Innovation with Google Forms (April 17 - May 28)
- Implementing the Eight Mathematical Practices in the Elementary School Classroom (May 9 - June 25)
- Illinois Civics is Back (May 15 - June 25)
- Planning a Close Reading Lesson Step by Step: Grades 3-6 (May 15 - June 25)
- Using Digital Assessment Tools in the Classroom (May 15 - June 25)
- Vocabulary Instruction in Elementary and Middle School (May 15 - June 25)
- Math Talks: Engaging Students in Daily Discourse K-6 (May 22 - June 25)
- Implementing Illinois Writing Standards in K-8 Classrooms (June 5 - July 16)
- Hack the Classroom with Google Extensions and Add-ons (June 12 - July 23)
- Setting the Stage for Close Reading in Grades K-2 (June 19 - July 30)

### Mathematics in CTE: June 26-27, Normal

This two-day workshop will strengthen instruction in your discipline by incorporating appropriate mathematics. In this workshop, experience will focus on several lessons that address specific CTE content and the related mathematics. Find ways to enhance instruction and student understanding by including relevant math in CTE. Workshop plans to meet from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day, offering 12 CDPUs. There is a \$60 registration fee. Lunch and snacks will be provided. Go to [Math in CTE Registration Link](https://illinoisstate.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9AHrb1GWchnjFyJ) (https://illinoisstate.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\_9AHrb1GWchnjFyJ) to register. Contact Brad Christensen at [bachris@ilstu.edu](mailto:bachris@ilstu.edu) (mailto:bachris@ilstu.edu) for more information.

## GRANT ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY ACT

### FY 2020 Fiscal and Administrative Risk Assessment Now Available

The Fiscal and Administrative Risk Assessment (ICQ) for fiscal year 2020 is now available in the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) [Grantee Portal](https://grants.illinois.gov/portal/) (https://grants.illinois.gov/portal/).

All entities must complete and submit the FY 2020 ICQ as soon as possible. ISBE will not approve FY 2020 grant applications, nor will awards be made, without the completed FY 2020 ICQ.



The ICQ is required once per fiscal year and all state agencies utilize results to assess conditions of risk. The ICQ should be completed by someone with financial or accounting experience. For reference, the portal provides access to prior year ICQ responses.

Please direct any GATA-related questions to [GATA@isbe.net](mailto:GATA@isbe.net) (mailto:GATA@isbe.net) or (217) 782-5630.

## SAM Registration and Renewal

GATA requires all entities to maintain an active DUNS number and active registration with the federal System for Award Management (SAM). SAM registrations expire annually.

### **Expired or invalid SAM accounts will delay the ISBE grant application process.**

All entities creating, renewing, or updating SAM registrations are required to mail an original, signed, notarized letter to SAM confirming the authorized Entity Administrator associated with the entity's DUNS number within 30 days of account activation. Failure to do so within 30 days of activation will result in registration deactivation.

Users are required to utilize a Login.gov user account to access SAM. This account will be associated with the email address on record with SAM.gov.

ISBE encourages all grantees to review their accounts at [www.SAM.gov](http://www.SAM.gov) (<http://www.SAM.gov>) and to renew at least two months prior to expiration.

Further information is available at [www.SAM.gov](http://www.SAM.gov) (<http://www.SAM.gov>) or through the Federal Service Desk at (866) 606-8220. There is no cost for support services or to register in SAM.gov.

## TITLE GRANTS

### 2019 Title Grants Technical Assistance Tour

Join ISBE's Title Grants staff at a Technical Assistance Tour stop near you! ISBE invites all district leaders and federal grants staff to a day of professional learning and personalized technical assistance. ISBE Title Grants staff is visiting communities throughout the state to give presentations on Title Grants planning, applications, and reporting and to provide in-person technical assistance.

Presentations will cover topics from the Consolidated District Plan, Grant Periodic Reporting System, grant application updates, equitable services, and any topics important to you. Please see the agenda below:

- 8:30 - 9 a.m. - Registration/Sign-in
- 9 a.m. - noon - Sessions and Breaks
- Noon - 12:30 p.m. - Working Lunch (*Provided*)
- 12:30 p.m. - 2 p.m. - Sessions, Closing Remarks, & Questions
- 2 - 3 p.m. - Technical Assistance

Please note that while ISBE staff will assist in preparing and filing grant applications, no grants will be approved on the tour.

We have confirmed seven tour stops so far with a few more stops to come. Please note: Each location has a limited capacity and a specific RSVP deadline. The location will no longer appear as an RSVP option once capacity is reached or the deadline is passed. Every attendee should RSVP individually, so please forward this form to the members of your team whom you would like to attend.

We look forward to seeing you! Please RSVP at [ISBE's 2019 Title Grants Technical Assistance Tour webpage](#) (/Pages/TitleGrantsTour.aspx).

2019 Title Grants Technical Assistance Tour dates, locations, and RSVP deadlines:

- **April 30** - Lisle - **RSVP closes at 11:59 p.m. on April 19**
- **May 2** - Oak Lawn - **RSVP closes at 11:59 p.m. on April 19**
- **May 7** - Springfield - **RSVP closes at 11:59 p.m. on April 26**
- **May 8** - Effingham - **RSVP closes at 11:59 p.m. on April 26**
- **May 9** - Collinsville - **RSVP closes at 11:59 p.m. on April 26**
- **May 14** - Rockford - **RSVP closes at 11:59 p.m. on May 3**
- **May 15** - Peoria - **RSVP closes at 11:59 p.m. on May 3**

## FUNDING & DISBURSEMENTS

### Deadline for Final FY 2019 State & Federal Grant Amendments and End Date Extensions

Many state and federal grant projects are approaching a June 30 end date for obligating FY 2019 grant funds. All state and federal project end date extension requests and final budget amendments must be received at ISBE no later than 30 calendar days prior to the end date of the project.

As a reminder, please be advised of the following regarding the need for a project end date extension:

- An end date extension past June 30 is NOT needed for regular term staff salaries paid on a 12-month salary schedule.
- An end date extension past June 30 is NOT needed to pay obligations (e.g., purchase order for supplies) incurred June 30 or prior.
- An end date extension past June 30 IS NEEDED for new activities and obligations incurred July 1 or later (e.g., Summer School, Professional Development).

Final amendments for state and federal grants with a project end date of June 30, 2019, must be received by ISBE no later than May 31, 2019. The last day amendments will be accepted for grants with a project end date of August 31, 2019, is August 1, 2019. However, budget increases for state-funded grant projects must be received by June 30, even if the project end date has been extended. The deadline for grant applications in the electronic Grants Management System is also referenced on the Program Overview page under "Amendment Due Date."

Note to special education and Education for Employment Cooperative administrators: Member district amendments need to be submitted to the cooperative/EFE administrator in a timely fashion to accommodate a final review for accuracy and approvability before acceptance and approval to ISBE on or before the May 31/August 1 deadline.

### Employer's TRS Contribution on Federally Funded Salary for Summer Activities

The Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) requires earnings for summer work to be reported on an accrual basis. Earnings for work performed in June 2018 must be reported on the 2018-19 TRS Annual Report, even if the member is not paid for the June work until July or August. The 2018-19 TRS and THIS contribution rates apply to accrued earnings for work performed in June, regardless of when the June earnings are paid to the teacher.

Earnings for work performed in July and August 2019 must be reported on the 2019-20 TRS Annual Report. The 2019-20 TRS and THIS contribution rates apply to accrued earnings for work performed in July and August, regardless of when the July and August earnings are paid to the teacher.

Several questions from the field regarding what federal TRS rate to use for SUMMER salaries has prompted TRS to instruct LEAs to use the new employer TRS contribution on federally funded salaries that are providing services AFTER the start of the new fiscal year (July 1, 2019). Below are three scenarios and what federal TRS rate to use in each scenario:

1. FY 2019: Federally funded staff/teachers who have completed their assignments by June 30, 2019, but are being paid after July 1: The CURRENT RATE (FY 2019) applies (9.85 percent).

2. FY 2019: Federally funded staff/teachers providing services and being paid after July 1: The NEW RATE (FY 2020) applies (10.66 percent). (Please note that an FY 2019 amendment may be needed in this scenario.)
3. FY 2020: Federally funded staff/teachers: The NEW RATE applies (10.66 percent).

More information is available on the [TRS website](https://www.trsil.org/employers/payments/contribution-rates_earnings-limitations) ([https://www.trsil.org/employers/payments/contribution-rates\\_earnings-limitations](https://www.trsil.org/employers/payments/contribution-rates_earnings-limitations)).

Further questions can be directed to the TRS Employer Services Division at [employers@trsil.org](mailto:employers@trsil.org) (<mailto:employers@trsil.org>) or (877) 927-5877 (877-9 ASK TRS).


## Title I Excess Carryover


Federal regulations for Title I require that states limit the amount of funds carried over to a subsequent fiscal year. LEAs may only carry over 15 percent of the current year allocation, including funds transferred into Title I through the local Transferability Authority, for grants of \$50,000 or more. Carryover exceeding 15 percent is considered excess and will be reduced from total funds available.

Reasons for excess carryover:

- a. The LEA has excess carryover in the current year project based on ACTUAL expenditures over a 15-month period (final expenditure report from current year plus first-quarter expenditure report of next year).
- b. The LEA has potential excess carryover into the next year's project based on unbudgeted funds within the current year application.

There are three options available if you have potential excess carryover:

1. Funds can be relinquished. (These funds are used for reallocation to other LEAs.)
2. [Read more about the Information about an excess carryover waiver](#)  (/Documents/carryover\_waiver.pdf). A waiver request must be submitted prior to the project end date. LEAs may only request a waiver once every three years.
3. An amendment can be submitted for the total funds available and expenditure of these funds can be completed. Amendments must be submitted at least 30 days prior to the project end date.

Maximum 2019 carryover amounts for LEAs with greater than \$50,000 current year allocation, along with information showing whether your LEA has requested a waiver in the last three years, are available in the [maximum carryover and waiver history document](#)  (/Documents/title\_I\_carryover.pdf). If there is an x in any of the last three years, you cannot request a waiver to carry over excess funds into 2020.

It is the LEA's responsibility to be aware of the total funds available and if there is a possibility of excess carryover into the next fiscal year. The LEA should monitor its grant to ensure that all available funds have been budgeted and that funds are being spent so that the maximum carryover amount is not exceeded.

The [Title I Carryover Calculation Worksheet](#) can be found under the [Title I Excess Carryover section](#) (/Pages/General-Grant-Information.aspx). This can help you determine if there could be a potential excess issue.

ISBE has notified the LEAs of unbudgeted funds or if the LEA has exceeded carryover, but the LEA should monitor the grant to ensure that if the potential for excess carryover exists that action is taken before the funds are lost.

Please contact your program consultant for information regarding your Title I program. If you have questions on the Title I excess carryover process, please contact the ISBE Funding and Disbursements Division at (217) 782-5256.

## RULES & WAIVERS

### Invitation to Comment on Rules

A set of proposed amendments recently reviewed by ISBE are now available for public comment. The [proposals and a summary of the issues](#) (/Pages/Proposed-Rules-and-Amendments.aspx) involved have been posted under *Proposed Rules and Amendments - Part 25 (Educator Licensure)*. Please submit any comments or suggestions to [rules@isbe.net](mailto:rules@isbe.net) (mailto:rules@isbe.net). The public comment period ends **May 27**.

## IN BRIEF

### School Recognition

- Congratulations to **Roosevelt Middle School in Belleville School District 88** for representing the state of Illinois as one of four national finalists in the [Math Video Challenge](https://videochallenge.mathcounts.org/videos/going-home) (https://videochallenge.mathcounts.org/videos/going-home) produced by [MATHCOUNTS](https://videochallenge.mathcounts.org/videos/going-home) (https://videochallenge.mathcounts.org/videos/going-home) Competition Series!

### Educator Recognition

- Congratulations to the amazing Illinois teachers who received the [2019 Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching](https://goldenapple.squarespace.com/awards#2019-award-recipients) (https://goldenapple.squarespace.com/awards#2019-award-recipients)!
- Congratulations to the following administrators for receiving the [IPA/Horace Mann Awards for Excellence](https://ilprincipals.org/about/awards-for-excellence/) (https://ilprincipals.org/about/awards-for-excellence/): Elementary Principal of the Year **Michael Merritt of Brentwood Elementary School** in Des Plaines; Middle School/Junior High Principal of the Year **Jared Ellison of Westville Junior High**; High School Principal of the Year **Amy Jo Mascal of Streator Township High School**; and Assistant Principal of the Year **Doug Owens of Tri-C Elementary School in Carterville**!

### Student Opportunities

- **Illinois State University** is offering summer programs for high school students interested in careers in quantitative analytics, actuarial science, and insurance in the summer of 2019. Find links to information about these programs on the [ISU Summer Programs website](http://smarturl.it/SummerPrograms) (http://smarturl.it/SummerPrograms).

### Funding Opportunities

- Schools are eligible to receive **Federal Surplus Property** at a very low cost. Federal Surplus Property includes electronics, instruments, office furniture, kitchen supplies, lawn and garden supplies, heavy equipment, tools and more. Property is available in the program's warehouse in Springfield, as well as from around the country. Visit the [Federal Surplus Property site](http://www.illinois.gov/fedsurplus) (http://www.illinois.gov/fedsurplus) for more information.

### 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) (http://www.isbe.net/Pages/Careers-at-ISBE.aspx).