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Dear Colleagues:

On Friday, Governor JB Pritzker issued [Executive Order 2021-22](#) (/Documents/EO-2021-22.pdf) extending by two weeks the deadline for Illinois school personnel to either be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or undergo at least weekly testing. The new deadline is Sept. 19.

Governor Pritzker and Illinois Department of Public Health Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike came to this decision after deep discussions with the Illinois Education Association, Illinois Federation of Teachers, Illinois Association of School Administrators, and Illinois Principals Association. Read more in the [Governor's press release](#) (<https://www2.illinois.gov/Pages/news-item.aspx?ReleaseID=23858>).

I think this illustrates how critical the partnership of Labor has been throughout the pandemic. It's appropriate that the Governor extended the deadline right around the corner from Labor Day. I want to thank Illinois' teacher's union and management association leaders at the state level and locally both for supporting the vaccination or testing requirement and for advocating on behalf of your members for additional time to implement the requirement. Your partnership and leadership has been essential to implement public health guidance and keep our schools safe. Thank you for all that you do.

I would like to highlight a couple other changes in the executive order issued on Friday. It clarifies that school personnel includes any employees, contractors, or volunteers who are in close contact (fewer than 6 feet) with students of the school or other school personnel for more than 15 minutes at least once a week on a regular basis. This definition includes personnel such as bus drivers and coaches.

Additionally, the executive order does not prohibit any entity from implementing an earlier deadline or implementing a requirement that personnel, contractors, students, or visitors be fully vaccinated without providing the alternative to test on a weekly basis, consistent with applicable law. We encourage local control to exceed the minimum requirement, but all schools and districts must at least require vaccination or testing for all school personnel.

Increasing vaccination rates is the strongest protective measure we have against COVID-19 and, together with masking and regular testing, is vital to protecting students and preserving their access to in-person learning. While testing in lieu of vaccination is an option for all school personnel, vaccination is our safest, most accessible, and most effective defense against COVID-19. I encourage everyone who works with our students to use the extra time provided by the E.O. to get vaccinated.

We know you have additional questions, and ISBE intends to file rules and update our joint guidance with IDPH very soon.

Thank you for your incredible partnership, and Happy Labor Day to all our teachers and union leaders.

*Pictured: Nothing but positive vibes for Ridgewood High School District 234 students as they celebrated the beginning of the 2021-22 school year.*

*Show us how you are addressing the social and emotional needs of your students, educators, and staff. We want to feature you in our Weekly Message and share your ideas! Email your high-resolution pictures to [press@isbe.net](mailto:press@isbe.net) (<mailto:press@isbe.net>).*

Sincerely,

*Carmen*

## DATES AND DEADLINES

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

<b>Sept. 9</b>	<a href="https://forms.illinoisstate.edu/forms/learn_about_national_board_certification_for_illinois_teachers_fall_2021">National Board Certification informational webinar</a> ( <a href="https://forms.illinoisstate.edu/forms/learn_about_national_board_certification_for_illinois_teachers_fall_2021">https://forms.illinoisstate.edu/forms/learn_about_national_board_certification_for_illinois_teachers_fall_2021</a> )
<b>Sept. 13</b>	<a href="https://illinoisgreenalliance.org/initiatives/green-your-school/illinois-green-schools-project/illinois-green-schools-project-school-registration/">Deadline for schools to register for Illinois Green Schools Project</a> ( <a href="https://illinoisgreenalliance.org/initiatives/green-your-school/illinois-green-schools-project/illinois-green-schools-project-school-registration/">https://illinoisgreenalliance.org/initiatives/green-your-school/illinois-green-schools-project/illinois-green-schools-project-school-registration/</a> )
<b>Sept. 14</b>	<a href="https://itcillinois.tfaforms.net/3?eid=a031Q00002BEg9GQAT">FACE Monthly Parent Liaison Networking Meeting (English)</a> ( <a href="https://itcillinois.tfaforms.net/3?eid=a031Q00002BEg9GQAT">https://itcillinois.tfaforms.net/3?eid=a031Q00002BEg9GQAT</a> )
<b>Sept. 16</b>	<a href="https://itcillinois.tfaforms.net/3?eid=a031Q00002BEgDyQAL">FACE Monthly Parent Liaison Networking Meeting (Spanish)</a> ( <a href="https://itcillinois.tfaforms.net/3?eid=a031Q00002BEgDyQAL">https://itcillinois.tfaforms.net/3?eid=a031Q00002BEgDyQAL</a> )
<b>Sept. 17</b>	<a href="http://www.teachag.net/elite-conference.html">2021 Teach Ag Day Elite Conference</a> ( <a href="http://www.teachag.net/elite-conference.html">http://www.teachag.net/elite-conference.html</a> )
<b>Sept. 20-22</b>	<a href="https://www.eventsquid.com/mobileapp.cfm?event_id=12499">IATD Fall Workshop</a> ( <a href="https://www.eventsquid.com/mobileapp.cfm?event_id=12499">https://www.eventsquid.com/mobileapp.cfm?event_id=12499</a> )
<b>Sept. 23-24</b>	<a href="https://icsps.illinoisstate.edu/cte/forum-for-excellence">Forum for Excellence Conference</a> ( <a href="https://icsps.illinoisstate.edu/cte/forum-for-excellence">https://icsps.illinoisstate.edu/cte/forum-for-excellence</a> )
<b>Sept. 24</b>	<a href="https://www.bidbuy.illinois.gov/bso/view/search/external/advancedSearchBid.xhtml?q=20-586SBE-CHFED-B-19003&amp;currentDocType=bids">Deadline for RFSP for Qualified Language Interpreter Training and Registry Project in Illinois BidBuy</a> ( <a href="https://www.bidbuy.illinois.gov/bso/view/search/external/advancedSearchBid.xhtml?q=20-586SBE-CHFED-B-19003&amp;currentDocType=bids">https://www.bidbuy.illinois.gov/bso/view/search/external/advancedSearchBid.xhtml?q=20-586SBE-CHFED-B-19003&amp;currentDocType=bids</a> )
<b>Sept. 29</b>	<a href="http://web.cvent.com/event/1496c2a5-fea5-4e1c-a1d5-14ad649cc353/summary">Deadline to register for Statewide Bilingual Directors Meeting</a> ( <a href="http://web.cvent.com/event/1496c2a5-fea5-4e1c-a1d5-14ad649cc353/summary">http://web.cvent.com/event/1496c2a5-fea5-4e1c-a1d5-14ad649cc353/summary</a> )
<b>Sept. 29</b>	<a href="https://www.isac.org/pd/fafsa-symposium.html">ISAC FAFSA Symposium</a> ( <a href="https://www.isac.org/pd/fafsa-symposium.html">https://www.isac.org/pd/fafsa-symposium.html</a> )
<b>Sept. 30</b>	<a href="https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/education/Pages/GrantsIHSFTG.aspx">Applications Due for IDNR Historic Sites Field Trip Grant</a> ( <a href="https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/education/Pages/GrantsIHSFTG.aspx">https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/education/Pages/GrantsIHSFTG.aspx</a> )
<b>Sept. 30</b>	<a href="https://www.isbe.net/Pages/ebfspendingplan.aspx">Deadline to submit FY 2022 EBF Spending Plan in IWAS</a> ( <a href="https://www.isbe.net/Pages/ebfspendingplan.aspx">https://www.isbe.net/Pages/ebfspendingplan.aspx</a> )
<b>Sept. 30</b>	<a href="https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6722847716753735438">2021 Report Card Overview #1 webinar</a> ( <a href="https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6722847716753735438">https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6722847716753735438</a> )

Sept. 30	<a href="https://idot.click/SRTS">Deadline to submit proposals for Safe Routes to School program (https://idot.click/SRTS)</a>
Oct. 1	<a href="https://sec.isbe.net/iwas/asp/login.asp?js=true">Deadline to submit application for Title III Language Instruction Educational Program grant in IWAS (https://sec.isbe.net/iwas/asp/login.asp?js=true)</a>
Oct. 2	<a href="https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Family-Community-Engagement.aspx">ISBE Statewide Family Engagement Convening (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Family-Community-Engagement.aspx)</a>
Oct. 4	<a href="https://www.illinoisworknet.com/WIOA/Pages/ILWorksPreApprenticeshipNOFO2021.aspx">Deadline to submit Illinois Works Pre-apprenticeship Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (https://www.illinoisworknet.com/WIOA/Pages/ILWorksPreApprenticeshipNOFO2021.aspx)</a>
Oct. 4-6	<a href="http://web.cvent.com/event/1496c2a5-fea5-4e1c-a1d5-14ad649cc353/summary">Statewide Bilingual Directors Meeting (http://web.cvent.com/event/1496c2a5-fea5-4e1c-a1d5-14ad649cc353/summary)</a>
Oct. 4	<a href="https://www.isbe.net/budget">ISBE FY 2023 Budget Hearing (https://www.isbe.net/budget)</a>
Oct. 8	<a href="https://www.isbe.net/Documents/USSYP_42-60.pdf">Deadline to submit application for United States Senate Youth Program Scholarship application (https://www.isbe.net/Documents/USSYP_42-60.pdf)</a>
Oct. 8	<a href="https://www.isbe.net/Pages/School-Maintenance-Project-Grant.aspx">Deadline to submit application FY 2022 Round 1 School Maintenance Project Grant (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/School-Maintenance-Project-Grant.aspx)</a>
Oct. 8	<a href="https://www.isbe.net/NSDocuments/72-27A-B.pdf">Deadline to submit nominations for U.S. Presidential Scholars CTE Program (https://www.isbe.net/NSDocuments/72-27A-B.pdf)</a>
Oct. 8	<a href="https://www.isbe.net/NSDocuments/88-01A-B.pdf">Deadline to submit nominations for U.S. Presidential Scholars General Program (https://www.isbe.net/NSDocuments/88-01A-B.pdf)</a>
Oct. 11	<a href="https://nbrc.illinoisstate.edu/firsttime/index.php">Deadline to apply for fee subsidy for first-time National Board Certification candidates (https://nbrc.illinoisstate.edu/firsttime/index.php)</a>
Oct. 12	<a href="https://ltcillinois.tfaforms.net/3?eid=a031Q00002BEg9aQAD">FACE Monthly Parent Liaison Networking Meeting (English) (https://ltcillinois.tfaforms.net/3?eid=a031Q00002BEg9aQAD)</a>
Oct. 13	<a href="http://isbe.net/Documents/Special-Education-Medical-Review.pdf">Online course for RNs in special education begins (http://isbe.net/Documents/Special-Education-Medical-Review.pdf)</a>
Oct. 14	<a href="https://ltcillinois.tfaforms.net/3?eid=a031Q00002BEgDxQAL">FACE Monthly Parent Liaison Networking Meeting (Spanish) (https://ltcillinois.tfaforms.net/3?eid=a031Q00002BEgDxQAL)</a>
Dec. 14	<a href="https://ltcillinois.tfaforms.net/3?eid=a031Q00002BEgA6QAL">FACE Monthly Parent Liaison Networking Meeting (English) (https://ltcillinois.tfaforms.net/3?eid=a031Q00002BEgA6QAL)</a>
Oct. 14	<a href="https://www.isbe.net/budget">ISBE FY 2023 Budget Hearing (https://www.isbe.net/budget)</a>
Oct. 16	<a href="https://ictm.memberclicks.net/annual-conference">ICTM Annual Conference (https://ictm.memberclicks.net/annual-conference)</a>
Oct. 21	<a href="https://www.isbe.net/budget">ISBE FY 2023 Budget Hearing (https://www.isbe.net/budget)</a>
Oct. 22	<a href="https://education.illinoisstate.edu/ftcon/">ISU Future Teacher Conference (https://education.illinoisstate.edu/ftcon/)</a>
Oct. 27-29	<a href="https://eventreg.collegeboard.org/event/0dfa8653-6c77-4508-9731-9e3a6ef358f1/websitePage:d229ef44-fa36-4d3c-8d49-99617133d556?SFMC_cid=EM565030-&amp;rid=277930863">College Board Forum 2021 Virtual Conference (https://eventreg.collegeboard.org/event/0dfa8653-6c77-4508-9731-9e3a6ef358f1/websitePage:d229ef44-fa36-4d3c-8d49-99617133d556?SFMC_cid=EM565030-&amp;rid=277930863)</a>


<b>Oct. 27</b>	<a href="http://www.iplacement.org/">Transitional Math Portability Panel convenes fall meeting</a> (http://www.iplacement.org/)
<b>Nov. 9</b>	<a href="https://itcillinois.tfaforms.net/3?eid=a031Q00002BEg9pQAD">FACE Monthly Parent Liaison Networking Meeting (English)</a> (https://itcillinois.tfaforms.net/3?eid=a031Q00002BEg9pQAD)
<b>Nov. 11</b>	<a href="https://itcillinois.tfaforms.net/3?eid=a031Q00002BEgDeQAL">FACE Monthly Parent Liaison Networking Meeting (Spanish)</a> (https://itcillinois.tfaforms.net/3?eid=a031Q00002BEgDeQAL)
<b>Dec. 16</b>	<a href="https://itcillinois.tfaforms.net/3?eid=a031Q00002BEg9bQAD">FACE Monthly Parent Liaison Networking Meeting (Spanish)</a> (https://itcillinois.tfaforms.net/3?eid=a031Q00002BEg9bQAD)
<b>Sept. 15</b>	<a href="https://www.isbe.net/Documents/SY21-22-Alternative-Survey-Letter-of-Intent.pdf">Deadline to submit letter of intent to administer alternate to 5essentials Survey</a> (https://www.isbe.net/Documents/SY21-22-Alternative-Survey-Letter-of-Intent.pdf)
<b>Sept. 16</b>	<a href="https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/1124982231865400336">2022 Student Health Physical Fitness Opening Webinar</a> (https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/1124982231865400336)

## COVID-19

### In Case You Missed It

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

### Executive Orders

- [Executive Order 2021-22](/Documents/EO-2021-22.pdf)  (/Documents/EO-2021-22.pdf) - Extends the deadline for school personnel to receive the COVID-19 vaccine or submit to at least weekly testing.

### Back to School

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

### Resources to Address School Bus Driver Shortages

ISBE is offering support and guidance to any school districts experiencing a bus driver shortage.

School districts can use federal pandemic relief funds to help address transportation needs, as they relate to the pandemic. School districts can:

- Use federal funds for bus driver recruitment activities (e.g., job fairs, advertising, etc.).
- Use federal funds for offering one-time sign-on incentives to bus drivers due to pandemic shortages, longevity incentives if they stay so many months, or incentives if they accept certain routes.
- Use federal funding to offer before- and after-school programs and use existing drivers/busses to get students to the programs before and after regular bus routes. this allows for more students to arrive early, especially in cases where parents can't transport because they will be late for their own job.
- Coordinate with local recreation departments, Boys and Girls Clubs, multicultural centers, etc. to transport youth after school to their programs since most usually own busses already.
- Consider alternative transportation options through contractual arrangements paid by federal funding.
  - Contract with local mass transit for transportation for middle and high school students (e.g., Urbana 116 had such an arrangement with its local mass transit district).
  - Contract with specialized medical transport companies for transporting persons with disabilities with medical needs (e.g., Quality Med).

School districts can also provide stipends to parents to transport their children to school and include those payments on their state transportation reimbursement claim, which is reimbursed with state funding.

NEW

## BUDGET AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

### ISBE ANNOUNCES OCTOBER DATES OF FY 2023 BUDGET HEARINGS

ISBE is excited to invite educators, parents, students, and community organizations to give their input on state funding for public education at three budget hearings, which are set for **Oct. 4, 14, and 21**. The input ISBE receives will inform the Board's advocacy for equitable funding for all students in fiscal year 2023 and provide the basis for ISBE's budget recommendation to Governor JB Pritzker and the General Assembly in January 2022.

Testimony at past hearings has led to increased investments in Evidence-Based Funding, parent mentoring, and after-school programs. Now more than ever, ISBE wants our school leaders, classroom teachers, parents, and community advocates to tell us what investments would make the biggest difference for their students. So please visit [ISBE.net/budget \(/budget\)](https://www.isbe.net/budget) to fill out a budget request funding form and to register for one of the hearings. Those wishing to participate must submit their testimony in writing by completing the form at [www.isbe.net/budget](https://www.isbe.net/budget). Please note ISBE will give equal consideration to all written and oral testimony.

All participants will be allowed three minutes each to speak. Only one person from each organization will be able to speak at one of the hearings.

NEW

## ESSER FUNDING

### ISBE SEEKING FEEDBACK ON ESSER SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES

ISBE is partnering with the Illinois Association of School Business Officers and the Regional Comprehensive Center to survey districts to better understand district interest in opportunities to consider how to strategically use Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) and Title funds.

If your district may be interested in additional support in these areas, please complete the [survey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ILESSERFall2021) (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ILESSERFall2021>), which asks districts to indicate preferences for potential session format and topics of interest. If sufficient interest is indicated, sessions will be planned.

If need for further support is identified, sessions will:

- Provide collaborative opportunities for districts to consider fiscal opportunities in relation to COVID-19 and ESSER allocations.
- Identify strategic considerations in mitigating common challenges that may arise in the use of ESSER or other available funding streams.
- Share resources to support successful use of funding to address student learning renewal.

NEW

## ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

### GET READY FOR FAFSA SEASON WITH FREE ISAC RESOURCES

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) is announcing its third annual FAFSA Symposium from **9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Sept. 29**. The event is free of charge and will take place virtually. Additional information is available on the [FAFSA Symposium webpage](https://www.isac.org/pd/fafsa-symposium.html) (<https://www.isac.org/pd/fafsa-symposium.html>), with registration opening on Sept. 15.

As a reminder, all Illinois public high school students are required to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid to receive a high school diploma. This requirement stresses the importance of monitoring financial aid completion data carefully and ensuring that students are aware of the resources available to help them afford education or training after high school. ISAC is supporting these efforts to ensure students across the state have the support they need to complete their college applications and financial aid forms.

- The FAFSA Completion Initiative allows ISAC to share data on a weekly basis via [GAP Access](https://www.isac.org/isac-gift-assistance-programs/gap-access/gift-assistance-program-access.html) (<https://www.isac.org/isac-gift-assistance-programs/gap-access/gift-assistance-program-access.html>) to identify students who have not filed a financial aid application (the FAFSA or the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid). For more information and to see your school's financial aid completion rate, visit our [Financial Aid Application Performance Metrics webpage](https://www.isac.org/home/fafsa/index.html) (<https://www.isac.org/home/fafsa/index.html>).
- ISAC's fall [College Changes Everything Campaign](https://www.collegechangeseverything.org/ccemonth/) (<https://www.collegechangeseverything.org/ccemonth/>) offers schools and community-based organizations the support and resources needed to host financial aid and college application completion workshops. The [ISACorps](https://studentportal.isac.org/isacorps) (<https://studentportal.isac.org/isacorps>) is available to help students and families navigate the college and financial aid process, including virtually via videoconferencing, text, phone, or email.

To learn more and/or talk to an ISAC representative about other ISAC supports and services, visit [www.isac.org/initiatives](https://www.isac.org/initiatives) (<https://www.isac.org/initiatives>).

NEW

## MULTILINGUAL

### FY 2022 EL TITLE III LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM GRANT NOW AVAILABLE IN IWAS

The fiscal year 2022 EL – Title III Language Instruction Educational Program (LIEP) grant is now available in the electronic Grants Management System through the ISBE Web Application Security (IWAS) system.

All eligible applicants must create and submit an application through the IWAS system. Once you are in the system, create your application by selecting "Year: 2022" and choosing "Create Application." Some grants display a "Yes" checkbox that must be selected before the "Create Application" button appears.

**Due Date:** Please complete and submit your application by **Oct. 1** in order to receive a Sept. 1, 2021, start date. Funds will be disbursed according to the payment schedules within approved applications.

**Note to Districts That Are Part of a Consortium:** For best results, a district that is an **administrative agent** of a consortium application for the EL – Title III LIEP grant must create its LIEP application **before** members of the consortium create their applications. Once the administrative agent has created the application, they should inform **consortium members** that members may begin work on their applications. Additionally, once an administrative agent has created their application, districts must remain in the cooperative for the entire life of the grant (September 1, 2021 – August 31, 2022) and may not withdraw at any time during the year.

Please contact the consultant assigned to your district at [Multilingual@isbe.net](mailto:Multilingual@isbe.net) (<mailto:Multilingual@isbe.net>) if you have questions.

### STATEWIDE BILINGUAL DIRECTORS MEETING REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Registration for the annual [Statewide Bilingual Directors meeting](http://https/web.cvent.com/event/1496c2a5-fea5-4e1c-a1d5-14ad649cc353/summary) (<http://https/web.cvent.com/event/1496c2a5-fea5-4e1c-a1d5-14ad649cc353/summary>) is now open! The meeting will be held **Oct. 4-6** at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Rosemont. Registration is free. Title III or EL-EBF funds may be used to pay for travel-related costs of attending the meeting. It is highly recommended that district administrators in charge of English Learner programs register and attend this event. Up to three individuals from a district may participate. The registration deadline is **Sept. 29**.


## NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION

### BEGIN YOUR JOURNEY TO BECOME A NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFIED TEACHER

The state fall subsidy window for Professional Educator License (PEL) holders opened Sept. 1 and will close on Oct. 11. This subsidy pays for all fees related to the process. There is a \$75 nonrefundable registration fee. This is the only cost a PEL holder with a teaching or school counselor endorsement will incur. Visit the [National Board Resource Center website](https://nbrc.illinoisstate.edu/firsttime/index.php) (<https://nbrc.illinoisstate.edu/firsttime/index.php>) to learn more about the subsidy.

Free support is available throughout the certification process and support sessions are anticipated to begin toward the end of September. Please contact the National Board Resource Center at [nbrc@illinoisstate.edu](mailto:nbrc@illinoisstate.edu) (<mailto:nbrc@illinoisstate.edu>) to sign up for support.

For more information, view this [updated 15-minute presentation](https://nbrc.illinoisstate.edu/downloads/NBPTS%20Awareness%20Fall%2021%20Narrated.pptx) 

(<https://nbrc.illinoisstate.edu/downloads/NBPTS%20Awareness%20Fall%2021%20Narrated.pptx>) and brief [video from National Board Certified Teachers](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FwLuTXbf9vw&feature=youtu.be)  (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FwLuTXbf9vw&feature=youtu.be>). An [informational webinar](https://forms.illinoisstate.edu/forms/learn_about_national_board_certification_for_illinois_teachers_fall_2021) ([https://forms.illinoisstate.edu/forms/learn\\_about\\_national\\_board\\_certification\\_for\\_illinois\\_teachers\\_fall\\_2021](https://forms.illinoisstate.edu/forms/learn_about_national_board_certification_for_illinois_teachers_fall_2021)) will be held from **7-8 p.m. Sept. 9.**

## SCHOOL BUSINESS SERVICES

### ISBE NOW ACCEPTING AGREEMENTS FOR FY 2022 REORGANIZATION FEASIBILITY STUDIES

ISBE is now accepting agreements for FY 2022 School District Reorganization Feasibility Studies. Feasibility studies are a tool to be used by school districts that want to investigate the advantages and/or disadvantages of reorganization options. The school board of each district involved in a feasibility study must approve a resolution to initiate a study. The districts involved will submit a proposed agreement with an independent contractor(s) to their Regional Office of Education (ROE) or Intermediate Service Center (ISC). The ROE or ISC, as applicable, will submit the agreement to ISBE for approval.

The state allotment amount for FY 2022 studies will be the cost of the study, up to a maximum of \$13,250. Any study cost above the state funding will be the responsibility of the participating districts. Studies are funded on a “first-come, first-served” basis. Agreements must be approved by the ROE/ISC and ISBE in order to receive reorganization feasibility study funds in FY 2022. In addition, studies must be completed and submitted to the ROE/ISC and ISBE no later than May 31, 2022. ROE/ISC approval or denial of the study must be submitted to ISBE no later than June 30, 2022.

Procedures and sample forms can be found on the [ISBE School District Reorganization Feasibility Studies page](/Pages/School-District-Reorganization-Feasibility-Studies.aspx) (</Pages/School-District-Reorganization-Feasibility-Studies.aspx>).

If you have questions, please contact Michelle Heninger in the School Business Services Department at (217) 785-8779 or [mheninge@isbe.net](mailto:mheninge@isbe.net) (<mailto:mheninge@isbe.net>).

## STANDARDS AND INSTRUCTION

### AG BIOLOGY CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT: PILOT SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS NEEDED

Innovative schools are being sought to pilot a new Agriculture Biology course. The course will use storylining to help students identify phenomena and solve problems. The course will be aligned with the Illinois Science Assessment and explicitly linked to the Next Generation Science Standards. Pilot schools will identify agriculture and/or science educators to collaboratively write, pilot, revise, and support research



with storylines for a course titled Agriculture Biology, which was recently approved by ISBE. Energetic and forward-thinking teachers will engage in a professional learning community to build capacities using storylining to explore biology in the context of agriculture over the three-year experience (2022-24). Year 1 will include professional development, collaboration, and writing. The writing process, including piloting the course, will continue in Year 2. An expansion of implementation with students, continued revision of the curriculum, and pursuit of partnerships with researchers to aid in comparative study will occur during Year 3. If interested or would like to learn more about the project, please complete the [Agriculture Biology Interest form](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfTtZZ6-QP0uv3I3RVpf0BFckkbkzt0E6ZCEv0cuRlaky6jQ/viewform) (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfTtZZ6-QP0uv3I3RVpf0BFckkbkzt0E6ZCEv0cuRlaky6jQ/viewform).

## CELEBRATE NATIONAL TEACH AG DAY 2021

The [National Teach Ag Day](https://www.naae.org/teachag/teachag_day.cfm) (https://www.naae.org/teachag/teachag\_day.cfm) celebration will take place **Sept. 16**. National Teach Ag Day is designed to encourage others to teach school-based agriculture and recognize the important role that agriculture teachers play in our schools and communities. This year the day will include the honoring of an agricultural educator from Illinois! Riley Hintzsche, who works at Streator Township High School, will be recognized as a 2021 Teach Ag Champion for his steadfast commitment to agriculture teacher recruitment and retention in Illinois, our National Association of Agricultural Educators region, and across the nation. Riley will be showcased during a live interview starting at 10:30 a.m. and via video compilation sometime between 12:30-1:30 p.m. Every year the National Teach Ag Campaign hosts a live webcast event somewhere in the country in conjunction with National Teach Ag Day.

The main Teach Ag Day event in Illinois is known as the [Elite Conference](http://www.teachag.net/elite-conference.html) (http://www.teachag.net/elite-conference.html) and will be hosted **Sept. 17** at Heartland Community College. The Elite Conference, which is a student development event for aspiring agricultural educators, allows high school students to learn about career opportunities in agricultural education; explore pathways to licensure; and interact with preservice, early career, and experienced teachers. The [Teach Ag website](https://www.naae.org/teachag/) (https://www.naae.org/teachag/) is a clearinghouse of resources to help teachers and advocates. Free resources found there include a video, suggested teaching activities, games, and giveaway items.

## DATA REPORTING

### 2022 STUDENT HEALTH PHYSICAL FITNESS OPENING WEBINAR

Please join ISBE for a [webinar](https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/1124982231865400336) 🗣️ (https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/1124982231865400336) at **10 a.m. Sept. 16**. This webinar will review the School Year 2022 Physical Fitness student health data collection. We will review the online data system and allow time for questions. All Illinois children in Grades 3-12 (only Grades 4-12 for aerobic capacity) must be tested annually. Districts must report aggregate data to ISBE for Grades 5, 7, and 10 only. The data collection officially opened for SY 2022 on Sept. 1, 2021. Districts are required to have their Physical Fitness data approved and submitted to ISBE by June 30, 2022.

## DISTRICT INFORMATION

### UPDATE EIS INFORMATION TO RECEIVE IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM ISBE

ISBE sends email communications to the field based on the email addresses maintained in the [Employment Information System \(EIS\)](#) (/Pages/Employment-Information-System.aspx). Many employees may have started in new roles as of the new school year. To ensure that superintendents, principals, teachers, and other licensed staff receive important announcements from ISBE -- especially during the COVID-19 pandemic -- each school district should submit its EIS data for the current school year as soon as possible. The EIS administrator for each district can submit and correct EIS records by logging into IWAS > System Listing > EIS > Employment/Position. The batch upload template



and other EIS resources are available on the [ISBE website](#) (/Pages/Employment-Information-System.aspx). The reporting of positions for the 2021-22 school year is not due until **Nov. 1**; however, we encourage all districts to please review the information and update it as soon as possible in order to ensure all staff are properly coded and receiving important information from ISBE.

## SIS ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR RESTRAINT AND TIME OUT OCCURRENCES

School districts are reminded that they must immediately update the Student Information System (SIS) enrollment status of a student who attends a separate facility or any other program outside of the student's residential district. A student must have an active enrollment that was created by the residential district in the event that the separate facilities would have to enter incidents of restraint and/or time out into SIS. Such notification must occur within two days of the incident.

Contact the Student Care Department at (217) 785-5585 or email [restrainttimeout@isbe.net](mailto:restrainttimeout@isbe.net) (mailto:restrainttimeout@isbe.net) if you have any questions regarding entry of restraint and/or time out data. Refer questions regarding SIS data entry to the [guidance document](#) (/Documents/Instruct-Entering-RTO-Data-into-SIS.pdf) or contact the SIS Helpdesk at (217) 5558-3600 or email [help@isbe.net](mailto:help@isbe.net) (mailto:help@isbe.net).

## EDUCATOR OPPORTUNITIES

### COLLEGE BOARD FORUM 2021 VIRTUAL CONFERENCE ANNOUNCED

Join higher education and K-12 colleagues online at this year's [Virtual Forum](https://eventreg.collegeboard.org/event/0dfa8653-6c77-4508-9731-9e3a6ef358f1/summary?SFMC_cid=EM565030-&rid=277930863) (https://eventreg.collegeboard.org/event/0dfa8653-6c77-4508-9731-9e3a6ef358f1/summary?SFMC\_cid=EM565030-&rid=277930863) **Oct. 27-29**. Educators are still navigating challenges due to the coronavirus, and we're here to support you in delivering quality education and keeping students on track for success.

View the [registration page](https://eventreg.collegeboard.org/event/0dfa8653-6c77-4508-9731-9e3a6ef358f1/websitePage:d229ef44-fa36-4d3c-8d49-99617133d556?SFMC_cid=EM565030-&rid=277930863) (https://eventreg.collegeboard.org/event/0dfa8653-6c77-4508-9731-9e3a6ef358f1/websitePage:d229ef44-fa36-4d3c-8d49-99617133d556?SFMC\_cid=EM565030-&rid=277930863) to register and view admission prices for the event.

## FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### FACE MONTHLY PARENT LIAISON NETWORKING MEETINGS

ISBE, the Learning Technology Center, and other Illinois educational advocacy groups will start a virtual monthly networking meeting for parents/caregivers and community support members across the state during the 2021-22 school year. Family and Community Engagement (FACE) meetings will focus on capacity building, networking, sharing best practices, and empowering attendees with the tools and skills they need to be able to make an even greater impact in their communities. Share about the events with the hashtag #facepowermentIL. **English-speaking meetings** will take place from 3:15-4:15 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month. **Spanish-speaking meetings** will take place from 3:15-4:15 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month.

## SPECIAL EDUCATION

### REQUEST FOR SEALED PROPOSALS: QUALIFIED INTERPRETER TRAINING AND REGISTRY PROJECT

ISBE is seeking a vendor to conduct the Qualified Language Interpreter Training and Registry Project. The vendor will be responsible for the development of online modules for training qualified language interpreters about special education processes and terminology, as well as ethics, interpretation standards, and other topics identified in this document to better equip them for effectively interpreting to non-English speaking parents, guardians, and students at Individualized Education Program meetings.

The Request for Sealed Proposals can be found at [Illinois BidBuy Bid Number 20-586SBE-CHFED-B-19003](https://www.bidbuy.illinois.gov/bso/view/search/external/advancedSearchBid.xhtml?q=20-586SBE-CHFED-B-19003&currentDocType=bids) (<https://www.bidbuy.illinois.gov/bso/view/search/external/advancedSearchBid.xhtml?q=20-586SBE-CHFED-B-19003&currentDocType=bids>).

Proposals are due **Sept. 24**. For more information or questions, contact Jason Perry at [jerry@isbe.net](mailto:jerry@isbe.net) (<mailto:jerry@isbe.net>).

## ILLINOIS ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM SURVEY FOR ILLINOIS DISTRICTS RELEASED

The Illinois Assistive Technology Program is reaching out to districts throughout the state to gather information that will allow us to better serve students and staff through our FREE Assistive Technology/Augmentative and Alternative Communication Evaluation program. Please take a moment to complete this four-question [survey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CFB5QHR) (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CFB5QHR>).


Visit the [Illinois Assistive Technology Program website](https://iltech.org/) (<https://iltech.org/>) for more information about free assistive technology services and programs.

## U.S. PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM

### ISBE SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR THE U.S. PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

#### U.S. Presidential Scholars General Nominations


The U.S. Presidential Scholars Program honors students based on outstanding scholarship. Principals and school counselors can nominate high school seniors graduating between January and June of 2022 who might not otherwise be recognized through the SAT/ACT, Arts, or Career and Technical Education recognition process. All high school seniors who are U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents and who attend public, parochial, or independent schools, as well as those who are home-schooled, are eligible. Administrators, counselors, and teachers may nominate **up to 10 students** for consideration.

**Applications**  (/NSDocuments/88-01A-B.pdf) must be submitted to [presidentialscholars@isbe.net](mailto:presidentialscholars@isbe.net) (<mailto:presidentialscholars@isbe.net>) by **4 p.m. Oct. 8**.

#### U.S. Presidential Scholars in Career and Technical Education Nominations

The U.S. Presidential Scholars Program honors students based on outstanding scholarship and demonstrated ability and accomplishment in career and technical education (CTE) fields. Therefore, in addition to the general nominations, ISBE is also asking administrators, counselors, and teachers to nominate **up to five CTE students per school** from their jurisdiction to be included as candidates for recognition for excellence in CTE.

All high school seniors who are participants in a CTE program graduating between January and June of 2022 who are U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents and who attend public, parochial, or independent schools, as well as those who are home-schooled, are eligible.

**Applications**  (/NSDocuments/72-27A-B.pdf) must be submitted to [presidentialscholars@isbe.net](mailto:presidentialscholars@isbe.net) (<mailto:presidentialscholars@isbe.net>) by **4 p.m. Oct. 8**.

For additional information about the program, visit the [U.S. Department of Education U.S. Presidential Scholars Program page](http://www.ed.gov/psp). (<http://www.ed.gov/psp>)

## IN BRIEF

### EDUCATOR RECOGNITION

#### Association for Educational Communications and Technology Hero Awards

The Association for Educational Communications and Technology (AECT) has an exciting new award that will recognize your district's innovative learning design efforts in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and keeping our K-12 learners on paths to success. The Honor Educational Revolutions in Online (HERO) Practice Award will be presented at AECT's annual convention this November in Chicago. Visit the [2021 AECT Convention: HERO Awards website](https://aect.org/heroes.php) (<https://aect.org/heroes.php>) to learn more or [submit a self-nomination](https://forms.gle/hUijW2YkhGUAXaDU7) (<https://forms.gle/hUijW2YkhGUAXaDU7>) by **9:59 p.m. Sept. 15**.

## EDUCATOR RESOURCES

### Illinois Department of Natural Resources

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources' Division of Education offers numerous resources that support teaching about the state's natural heritage. Professional development workshops, lessons, publications, grants, video podcasts and trunks and packs for loan are just some of the options. Visit <https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/education/Pages/default.aspx> (<https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/education/Pages/default.aspx>) to find the details. Looking for resources to support a specific topic? Start with the "A to Z" button.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### IATD Fall Workshop

The Illinois Association of Title I Directors (IATD) is hosting a workshop to assist educators in applying, implementing, and understanding grant requirements. The [annual conference](https://www.eventsquid.com/mobileapp.cfm?event_id=12499) ([https://www.eventsquid.com/mobileapp.cfm?event\\_id=12499](https://www.eventsquid.com/mobileapp.cfm?event_id=12499)) is **Sept. 20-22** at the Crowne Plaza Convention Center in Springfield.

Keynote speaker(s) provide participants with valuable information to take back to their schools. This year's keynote speaker is Steve Constantino, who has worked extensively on family engagement. Steve has developed the "Five Simple Principles to Engage Every Family" as a way to help every school harness the power of family engagement as a direct conduit to student achievement.

ISBE staff provide informational sessions to ensure participants understand the guidelines and requirements of both state and federal Title programs.


Email [events@educationlane.net](mailto:events@educationlane.net) (<mailto:events@educationlane.net>) or call (217) 519-0168 if you have questions about the event.

### Forum for Excellence

The [Forum for Excellence conference](https://icsps.illinoisstate.edu/cte/forum-for-excellence) (<https://icsps.illinoisstate.edu/cte/forum-for-excellence>) will be held **Sept. 23-24**. The conference highlights the continuing partnership of career, technical, and adult Education in Illinois. The forum is sponsored by the Illinois Community College Board and hosted by the Illinois Center for Specialized Professional Support and the Southern Illinois Professional Development Center.

The 2021 conference will be an authentic, engaging, and dynamic virtual conference. Organizers are excited to bring you this amazing content virtually and FREE of charge to support you, your program, and your students.

### Ed Leaders Network

Ed Leaders Network has the following course available now and live webinar coming soon. As a reminder, review this [document](#)  (</Documents/Ed-Leaders-Network.pdf>) for instructions on how professionals can request access to Ed Leaders Network courses.

- [Ensuring a Safe Learning Environment](http://ipa-nfe.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT0xMDE5Njc1MCZwPTEmdT0xMTMyMDE1MjMwJmxpPTg5MjE4Nzcz/index.html) (<http://ipa-nfe.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT0xMDE5Njc1MCZwPTEmdT0xMTMyMDE1MjMwJmxpPTg5MjE4Nzcz/index.html>) (4 PD Hours) – Creating a safe learning environment requires thoughtful and constant attention. This is an environment where its leaders embrace a culture of safety and make it the number one priority.

- **3-4 p.m. Sept. 14** – [Principles for Accelerating Learning: What Educators Need & How Leaders Can Support Them:](#) ([https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_emttY8PfTCGJ\\_-9fQCzWDQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_emttY8PfTCGJ_-9fQCzWDQ)) After a school year like no other, it is critical that educators are empowered to address the needs of each student and prepared to move their learning forward. Join Newsela to learn how high-quality, standards-aligned instructional materials implemented within a collaborative learning process are essential for an effective approach to accelerating learning for ALL students.

## FEATURED ISBE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

- [Technical Assistance Team \(TAT\) Support Agent \(/Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=576\)](#)
- [Student Care Principal Consultant - Special Education \(/Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=577\)](#)
- [Grant Reviewer \(/Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=578\)](#)

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