September 22, 2020

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Dear Colleagues:

As we have settled into this novel new school year, we have all become more acutely aware of the areas where our communities need support. So today I want to focus on financial resources.

As you probably heard, we announced yesterday that we have awarded more than $80 million in Digital Equity Formula Grants. This funding comes from the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, which directs federal funding to governors and State Education Agencies to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. You can view the list of grantees and award amounts at www.isbe.net/Documents/FY21-Digital-Equity-Allocations-WEB.pdf 📄 (http://www.isbe.net/Documents/FY21-Digital-Equity-Allocations-WEB.pdf).

Closing the digital divide has been a priority for the agency since March, when the pandemic forced schools statewide to suddenly shift to remote learning. We saw in the spring that many schools did not have the technology or internet access necessary to connect students and teachers in real-time and to facilitate meaningful remote instruction. We have learned and prepared a lot since the spring, and we are excited to provide our highest-need schools the Digital Equity Formula Grant to strengthen their digital infrastructure this fall and for years to come.

LEAs eligible for the grant – those school districts, state-authorized charter schools, university lab schools, and alternative and SAFE school programs administered by Regional Offices of Education with an Evidence-Based Funding Final Percent of Adequacy of 70 percent or lower in fiscal year 2020 or FY 2021 – must complete and submit an application to ISBE for approval. LEAs that started or submitted an application for the previously competitive process will have their answers transfer into the updated application automatically.

Please note that LEAs may use the grant to purchase additional devices and connectivity or to cover purchases made since March 13, 2020. LEAs will receive reimbursement after submitting an approvable application and at least quarterly expenditure reports.

Even with the federal CARES Act funding, we know your schools and districts have additional needs. Illinois lawmakers will soon begin deciding how to allocate state funds in fiscal year 2022. ISBE advocates in the budget-making process for equitable funding for all Illinois students. We need your input to ensure our advocacy reflects your needs. Your requests will inform ISBE's budget recommendation to Governor Pritzker and the General Assembly in January 2021.

Testimony at past hearings has led to investments in innovative teacher preparation programs and continued funding for 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, especially as the COVID-19 pandemic has widened equity gaps for many children. So please visit ISBE.net/budget to fill out a budget feedback form and to register for the virtual hearings. Anyone who would like to participate should submit written testimony using the form at www.isbe.net/budgetrequestform (http://www.isbe.net/budgetrequestform).

I also wanted to call your attention to a recent update from the U.S. Department of Education. The previous Interim Final Rule (IFR) regarding equitable services for nonpublic schools under the CARES Act is no longer in effect. On September 4, in NAACP v. DeVos, the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia issued an opinion 🔴 (https://oese.ed.gov/files/2020/09/NAACP-v-DeVos-DDC_Opinion-Granting-Partial-Summary-Judgment.pdf) and an order 🔴 (https://oese.ed.gov/files/2020/09/NAACP-v-DeVos-DDC_Order-granting-Partial-SJ-09-04-2020.pdf) vacating the IFR, and although that September 4 order is appealable, the U.S. Department of Education withdrew the rule, saying it "is no longer in effect."

LEAs should proceed with calculating nonpublic school proportionate share by the number of low-income students enrolled in a nonpublic school located in the LEA attendance area. Please find more information below.

I am profoundly aware that educators across the state are providing things money can't buy. You are sharing your time, your energy, and your boundless creativity in even greater measure than before. I'm proud and grateful to be working alongside you.

Pictured: Via Zoom, Mrs. Studer showed her fourth grade students at Elementary South in Hawthorn District 73 how to create a terrarium as part of a science curriculum STEM project.

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).

Date	Event
Sept. 22	Webinar: Pre-Testing: ACCESS for ELLs for New Test Administrators (https://portal.wida.us/GetResource/2345?utm_source=CR-WW082620&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=WIDAWednesday&utm_content=text-WIDA-Q%26A-Webinar-Schedule)
Sept. 23	ISBE-Provided Fall 2020 SAT with Essay for Grade 12 Students - Primary Test
Sept. 23 - Oct. 6	ISBE-Provided Fall 2020 SAT with Essay for Grade 12 Students - Accommodations Test Window
Sept. 24	Webinar: CT Pre-Testing: ACCESS for ELLs for New District Test Coordinators (https://portal.wida.us/GetResource/2345?utm_source=CR-WW082620&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=WIDAWednesday&utm_content=text-WIDA-Q%26A-Webinar-Schedule)
Sept. 25	EXTENDED - Deadline for Completion of Illinois K-12 Title IX Survey (https://forms.microsoft.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=hv5kA8ZJ9Eq1LDNameV30eqY-A6NxhZJuSRgEQHP0eZUQTg4S0gyODZCUFlCV0I3SzFWSTRUNkk4Qi4u)

Sept. 28	Webinar: 2020 Report Card Overview (https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/7880735708083067915)
Sept. 29	ISAC's 2020 Online FAFSA Symposium (https://www.isac.org/2020FAFSAsymposium)
Sept. 29	Webinar: 2020 Report Card Overview – Session #2 (https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5772301215699130639)
Sept. 30	EBF Spending Plan submission window closes (https://www.isbe.net/Lists/ISBECalendar/DisplayForm.aspx?ID=5057)
Sept. 30	Deadline for Self-Response for 2020 Census (https://my2020census.gov/)
Sept. 30	Data Review & Verification Tool viewing window closes
Oct. 1	Early Access: Report Card Educator Preview
Oct. 6	Webinar: ISBE Early Childhood Welcome to the 2020-21 school year Question and Answer session
Oct. 7	ISBE FY 2022 Budget Hearing (http://www.isbe.net/budget)
Oct. 9	Webinar: Preschool for All and Preschool for All Expansion Monitoring Process and Compliance Checklist
Oct. 11	Deadline to submit National Board Candidate Fee Subsidy application (https://nbrc.illinoisstate.edu/firsttime/index.php)
Oct. 14	ISBE-Provided Fall 2020 SAT with Essay for Grade 12 Students - Primary Test
Oct. 14 - 27	ISBE-Provided Fall 2020 SAT with Essay for Grade 12 Students - Accommodations Test Window
Oct. 14	Webinar: Preschool for All and Preschool for All Expansion administrators Panel
Oct. 14	ISBE FY 2022 Budget Hearing (http://www.isbe.net/budget)
Oct. 15	Deadline to submit Reduction in Force Survey Data Collection (https://www.isbe.net/Lists/ISBECalendar/DisplayForm.aspx?ID=4984)
Oct. 15	Standard Access: Report Card Educator Preview
Oct. 16	Deadline to submit Assessment Inventory Part 2 (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Assessment-Inventory.aspx)
Oct. 16	ISBE FY22 Budget Hearing (http://www.isbe.net/budget)
Oct. 17	CANCELED - Illinois Teacher of the Year and Those Who Excel In-Person Banquet (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Elevating-Educators.aspx)
Oct. 20	Webinar: PFA and PFA/E Administrators in Community-Based Settings During COVID (https://www.cvent.com/d/h7q3ck)

Oct. 21	Illinois State Board of Education meeting (https://www.isbe.net/Lists/ISBECalendar/DisplayForm.aspx?ID=5038)
Oct. 22-24	Illinois Association for the Education of Young Children (ILAEYC) Conference (http://illinoisaeyc.org/conference)
Oct. 27	Fall 2020 SAT with Essay makeup test date (http://www.isbe.net/Documents/Fall-SAT-Essay-FAQ.pdf)
Oct. 28	ISBE-Provided Fall 2020 SAT with Essay for Grade 12 Students - Makeup Test
Oct. 28	ISBE-Provided Fall 2020 SAT with Essay for Grade 12 Students - Makeup Test
Oct. 30	Deadline to submit Black History Study Survey (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/black-history-study-survey.aspx)
Oct. 31	2020 Illinois Report Card Release (https://www.isbe.net/ilreportcard)
Nov. 1	2021 Digital Equity Formula Grant Applications due via IWAS
Nov. 2	Webinar: Supporting Children with IEPs and Their Families during COVID (https://www.cvent.com/d/w7q3cd)
Nov. 3	ISBE Offices Closed – Election Day
Nov. 11	ISBE Offices Closed – Veterans Day
Nov. 15	Deadline to submit 2021 Student Health Immunization and Eye Exam
Nov. 18	Deadline to complete Capital Needs Assessment Survey (http://www.isbe.net/Pages/Capital-Needs-Assessment-Survey.aspx)
Nov. 19	Illinois State Board of Education meeting (https://www.isbe.net/Lists/ISBECalendar/DisplayForm.aspx?ID=5030)
Nov. 26-27	ISBE Offices Closed – Thanksgiving

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) over the past week. Please continue to check the COVID-19 webpage on a daily basis for the newest updates and information.

- **Messages from the Superintendent**
  - Letter on Teacher Evaluations 📄 (/Documents/Letter-Teacher-Eval-9-21-2020.pdf) – **Sept. 21**
- **Family Resources**
  - Learning Technology Center Supporting Parents and Remote Kids (SPARK) Resource Hub (https://ltcillinois.org/services/spark-toolkit/) – **Sept. 18**
- **Transportation**
  - 2020-21 Transportation Overview 📄 (/Documents/Transportation-Webinar-2020.pdf)
    - Webinar Recording 📹 (https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/7498710393010880771) - **Sept. 17**
- **Early Childhood Education**

- Early Childhood Guidance FAQ 📄 (/Documents/Early-Childhood-Guidance.pdf) - **Sept.16**

CARES ACT

NEW

EQUITABLE SHARE FOR NONPUBLIC SCHOOL PROPORTIONATE SHARE

The U.S. Department of Education (ED) published an Interim Final Rule (IFR) regarding equitable services 📄 (https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2020-07-01/pdf/2020-14224.pdf) under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act on July 1, 2020. The U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia issued an opinion 📄 (https://oese.ed.gov/files/2020/09/NAACP-v-DeVos-DDC_Opinion-Granting-Partial-Summary-Judgment.pdf) and an order 📄 (https://oese.ed.gov/files/2020/09/NAACP-v-DeVos-DDC_Order-granting-Partial-SJ-09-04-2020.pdf) vacating the IFR in *NAACP v. DeVos* on Sept. 4, 2020 -- https://oese.ed.gov/governors-emergency-education-relief-fund/ (https://oese.ed.gov/governors-emergency-education-relief-fund/).

ED withdrew the rule, saying it "is no longer in effect," even the Sept. 4, 2020, NAACP v. DeVos order could be appealed. Thus, states and schools have clarity regarding equitable share. Local Education Agencies (LEAs) should calculate nonpublic school proportionate share by the number of low-income students enrolled in a nonpublic school located in the LEA attendance area. LEAs will engage in consultation and nonpublic schools will receive equitable services based upon the number of low-income children (ESEA Sec. 1117). LEAs may submit an amendment of the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) grant application to allow the public schools to utilize the reserve amount (the difference between the total ESSER LEA allocation and the amount calculated based upon total enrollment minus the low-income student proportionate share) to meet the intent of the grant.

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

CTE & INNOVATION

ISBE EXTENDS DEADLINE TO SUBMIT ILLINOIS K-12 TITLE IX SURVEY

ISBE is extending the deadline for completion of the Illinois K-12 Title IX Survey (https://forms.microsoft.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=hv5kA8ZJ9Eq1LDNameV30eqY-A6NxhZJuSRgEQHP0eZUQTg4S0gyODZCUFlCV0I3SzFWSTRUNkk4Qi4u) to **Sept. 25**. ISBE is continuing to conduct this statewide survey to collect contact information of individuals responsible for ensuring Title IX compliance within each district. Results of this survey will assist ISBE with developing a directory of Title IX officials and be used to determine what professional learning opportunities, guidance, and technical assistance related to Title IX compliance should be made available.

DATA REPORTING

2020-21 NONCERTIFIED STAFF AND TEACHER SALARY STUDY FORMS AVAILABLE – OCT. 1

ISBE's Data Strategies and Analytics team has announced both the 2020-21 Noncertified Staff Salary Study and Teacher Salary Study will be available in IWAS on **Oct. 1**. These forms must be completed and submitted by **Feb. 1, 2021**. It is the district administrator's responsibility to review the completed surveys for accuracy and submit it to ISBE.

Districts with **1,000** or more enrolled students as of the last school day in September 2020 must submit the Noncertified Staff Salary Study survey. The district administrator or a district document author may complete this survey.

Please email a copy of your salary schedule/policy and negotiated agreement to datahelp@isbe.net as part of completing the Teacher Salary Study. The subject line of the email should be "TSS Schedule and Labor Agreement SY20 [District Name and Number]." We will not accept mailed submissions. This is not necessary if you have previously provided copies of the schedule/policy and agreement and they are still in effect.

For further assistance, please contact the Data Strategies and Analytics Department at datahelp@isbe.net (mailto:datahelp@isbe.net).

For technical assistance accessing IWAS, please contact the ISBE Help Desk at (217) 558-3600.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

REGISTRATION OPENS SEPT. 23 FOR PFA & PFAE ADMINISTRATOR FORUM

The FY 2020 Preschool For All (PFA) and Preschool For All Expansion (PFAE) Administrator Forum will be offered virtually through a series of webinars. Register for one or all of the following sessions beginning Sept. 23:

- ISBE Early Childhood Department - Welcome and Q & A (https://www.cvent.com/d/p7qxj8) - **Oct. 6, 1-2:30 p.m.**
- Overview of the PFA/PFAE Compliance Checklist & Monitoring Process (https://www.cvent.com/d/07qxjq) – **Oct. 9, 10-11 a.m.**
- PFA & PFA/E Administrators Share Strategies for Supporting Staff, Connecting with Families and Maintaining Best Practices in Remote Learning During COVID (https://www.cvent.com/d/37qxjs) – **Oct. 14, 10-11 a.m.**
- PFA and PFA/E Administrators in Community-Based Settings During COVID (https://www.cvent.com/d/h7q3ck) – **Oct. 20, 10-11 a.m.**
- Supporting Children with IEPs and Their Families during COVID (https://www.cvent.com/d/w7q3cd) – **Nov. 2, 10-11 a.m.**
- Budgeting and Fiscal Monitoring for Preschool for All and Preschool Expansion programs - **TBD**

The PFA/PFAE Administrator Forum is sponsored by the Illinois State Board of Education Early Childhood Department and coordinated by Early Childhood Professional Learning, a project of The Center: Resources for Teaching and Learning. To register, please visit eclearningil.org (http://eclearningil.org/). Please send questions to ecpl@cntrmail.org (mailto:ecpl@cntrmail.org).

EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

2021 DIGITAL EQUITY FORMULA GRANT APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE

Applications for the Elementary and Secondary Relief – Digital Equity Formula grant awarded under the CARES Act are now available through IWAS for school year 2020-21 (fiscal year2021). All eligible applicants must create and submit an application through the IWAS system. Once in the system, create the application by selecting the Yes box that appears. The fiscal year should display 2021, along with a Project Code and a Project Title. Choose "Create New Project" to create the application. **NOTE:** Entities that started or submitted a proposal for the competitive **Elementary and Secondary Relief – Digital Equity Request for Proposals (RFP)** will have previous answers to some narrative pages transferred into this formula grant application automatically.

Allocations: Illinois LEAs (including state-authorized charter schools, university lab schools, and Regional Offices of Education on behalf of qualifying safe schools and alternative programs) with an FY 2020 or FY 2021 Evidence-Based Funding (EBF) Final Percent of Adequacy level of 70 percent or lower are eligible to apply. Allocations were computed at a base funding amount plus a per pupil allocation for both devices and connectivity. The formula uses the Average Student Enrollment from FY 2021 EBF calculations. The base grant amount is $28,975 with a per pupil allocation of $56.80 for devices, connectivity or both. Allocations can be accessed at https://www.isbe.net/Documents/FY21-Digital-Equity-Allocations-WEB.pdf (/Documents/FY21-Digital-Equity-Allocations-WEB.pdf).

Application Due Date, Start Date, and Pre-award Costs: Applications are due to ISBE on or before Nov. 1, 2020, to ensure a July 1 start date. The CARES Act funds for the Digital Equity program allow for eligible expenditures to be charged back to March 13, 2020. In the event your LEA has eligible expenditures for the Digital Equity grant prior to July 1, please notify Erich Grauke in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction at egrauke@isbe.net (mailto:egrauke@isbe.net). Formal documentation will be provided from ISBE staff documenting the pre-award costs for audit purposes.

Reimbursement: Once approval is received, LEAs may submit expenditure reports via the Electronic Expenditure Reporting System in IWAS for reimbursement. Expenditure reports must be submitted on a cumulative (i.e., year-to-date) basis from July 1, 2020, through the date of the period reported. At minimum, quarterly expenditure reports will be required beginning with expenditures through Sept. 30. Funding and Disbursements staff voucher each Wednesday, so all expenditure reports submitted by Tuesday evening will be paid. Revenue should be receipted under revenue code 4998 Other Restricted Grants Received from Federal Government through the State.

Grant Accountability and Transparency Act Requirements:

Applicants must ensure Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) requirements are met before the FY 2021 state or federal grant application is fully executed. Applicants must complete prequalification registration in the GATA portal and complete a Fiscal and Administrative Risk Assessment via an Internal Controls Questionnaire (ICQ). The GATA portal can be accessed at https://grants.illinois.gov/portal/ (https://grants.illinois.gov/portal/).

The steps below are necessary to fully execute the FY 2021 grants.

1. Grantee must register https://grants.illinois.gov/portal/ (https://grants.illinois.gov/portal/) and complete ICQ.
2. Complete and submit the Organizational Risk Assessment via IWAS. Results will apply to all FY 2021 grants.
    a. ISBE Grant-Specific Assessments will be included in each FY 2021 grant.
    b. A combination of the results of the two risk assessments will generate the Programmatic Risk Conditions in each grant.
3. Submit FY 2021 grant applications to ISBE.
4. The respective ISBE program area will review and approve the application.

To create and submit the application, an IWAS user must obtain and receive access and approval level by the LEA's superintendent. For technical assistance, please contact Erich Grauke at egrauke@isbe.net (mailto:egrauke@isbe.net).

EVIDENCE-BASED FUNDING

FY 2021 EBF SPENDING PLAN DUE SEPT. 30 – NEW WEBINAR AVAILABLE

School districts, Regional Offices of Education/Intermediate Service Centers, and laboratory schools have two weeks remaining to submit their FY 2021 EBF Spending Plan in IWAS. The EBF Spending Plan is due on **Sept. 30** per state statute regardless of the amount of EBF dollars received. All users are encouraged to hit "save" frequently in the IWAS application to avoid the 20-minute IWAS timeout.

Resources are available at www.isbe.net/ebfspendingplan (/ebfspendingplan), and inquiries may be directed to ebfspendingplan@isbe.net (mailto:ebfspendingplan@isbe.net). View the EBF Spending Plan overview webinar ◄ (https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/1897294584173702913) for additional information.

ILLINOIS REPORT CARD

SEPTEMBER 2020 REPORT CARD RUNDOWN RELEASED

The September 2020 issue of the Report Card Rundown 🔺 (/Documents/Rundown-Newsletter-Sept2020.pdf) is now available. The Report Card Rundown is a short monthly newsletter consisting of data system openings/closings, reminders, webinars, and key information regarding the Report Card. This month's issue includes:

- Helpful resources
- Report Card data embargo information
- Updates on 2020 Summative Designations
- Information on Data Qualifiers
- Report Card Educator Preview access dates and information

Please send any questions to ReportCard@isbe.net (mailto:ReportCard@isbe.net).

We 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 recent staff or administration changes. 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.

In order to subscribe, visit isbe.net/reportcard (/reportcard) and click "Subscribe." Please note district superintendents, principals, and ROE superintendents/ISC directors will automatically receive the Rundown without subscribing. All issues will also be posted at isbe.net/reportcard (/reportcard).

2020 REPORT CARD OVERVIEW WEBINAR – SEPT. 28 & SEPT. 29

ISBE Report Card staff is holding two webinar sessions to provide a final 2020 Report Card Overview. Please register for one of the sessions below. Both sessions will contain the same information, and both will be recorded. ISBE staff will review all new and different elements on the 2020 Report Card, including data affected by the suspension of in-person instruction. Additionally, staff will assist with any questions regarding abnormal-looking data and any other questions you may have. Staff will also provide information on unchanged Summative Designations for 2020. The webinar will be recorded and posted for those unable to attend in person.

- **Sept. 28, 1:30-3 p.m.** – Register for Session #1 ▶ (https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/7880735708083067915)
- **Sept. 29, 3:30-5 p.m.** – Register for Session #2 ▶ (https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5772301215699130639)

Please email reportcard@isbe.net (mailto:reportcard@isbe.net) with any questions.

ISBE BUDGET HEARINGS

ISBE ANNOUNCES OCTOBER DATES OF FY 2022 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 virtual budget hearings, **Oct. 7, 14, and 16**. The input ISBE receives will inform the agency's advocacy for equitable funding for all students in FY 2022 and provide the basis for ISBE's budget recommendation to Governor Pritzker and the General Assembly in January 2021.

Testimony at past hearings has led to investments in innovative teacher preparation programs and continued funding for 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 to fill out a budget feedback form and to register for the virtual hearings. Those wishing to participate must submit their testimony in writing by completing the form at www.isbe.net/budget (http://www.isbe.net/budget). Please note ISBE will give equal consideration to all written and oral testimony.

STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

REGISTER FOR ISAC'S ONLINE 2020 FAFSA SYMPOSIUM

Join Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) for the online 2020 FAFSA Symposium **9 a.m. - 3:15 p.m. Sept. 29**. This free share and learn event will offer support to high school partners, postsecondary partners, and community-based organizations as they work to implement the state's new Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) mandate.

Individuals who are new to the world of financial aid and those who have helped students complete a FAFSA before are encouraged to attend. Sessions will focus on financial aid strategies, services, and systems; a FAFSA overview; and more — including how to plan a virtual FAFSA completion/financial aid event. Sessions are free but registration is required. Visit isac.org/2020FAFSAsymposium (https://www.isac.org/2020FAFSAsymposium) to learn more.

SCHOOL BUSINESS SERVICES

NEW

CAPITAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY – DUE NOV. 18

Section 5-60 of the School Construction Law [105 ILCS 230/5-60] requires the State Board of Education and the Capital Development Board file a comprehensive assessment report of the capital needs of all school districts with the General Assembly before Jan. 1, 2021. We are requesting that all school districts complete and submit the *Capital Needs Assessment Survey* by **Nov. 18**. The ongoing discussions about the School Construction Law, the formation of the School Construction Law Task Force, and the appropriation ISBE has received to issue School Maintenance Grants make it imperative that each school district submit its survey. ISBE will use the survey results to convey to lawmakers the capital needs required in our schools.

We understand and appreciate the incredibly hard work of district administrators throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, so we hope that sending the survey out early will give you ample time to review and report your district's facility needs by Nov. 18, 2020. We are asking regional superintendents to assist districts, if necessary, in completing the form to ensure 100 percent participation throughout the state. Please share the survey with your business manager, facility manager, or other employee(s) who may be assisting in the completion of the survey.

The surveying instrument may be accessed on either of the following websites: www2.illinois.gov/cdb/Pages/default.aspx (https://www2.illinois.gov/cdb/Pages/default.aspx) or www.isbe.net/Pages/Capital-Needs-Assessment-Survey.aspx (http://www.isbe.net/Pages/Capital-Needs-Assessment-Survey.aspx). Past survey results can be viewed at www.isbe.net/Pages/School-Construction.aspx (http://www.isbe.net/Pages/School-Construction.aspx). If you would like to receive a copy of a past survey your district submitted to ISBE, please email a request to finance1@isbe.net (mailto:finance1@isbe.net) and a copy will be emailed to you.

Submission of the form via email to finance1@isbe.net (mailto:finance1@isbe.net)is preferred. Your submission will be stored for your future use. Completed forms can also be submitted to ISBE via mail at:

ISBE
School Business Services (N-330)
100 North First Street
Springfield, IL 62777-0001

Please contact School Business Services at Finance1@isbe.net (mailto:Finance1@isbe.net) or Marcy Joerger, Capital Development Board, at marcy.joerger@illinois.gov (mailto:marcy.joerger@illinois.gov) with any questions.

IN BRIEF

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

- The Rural Tech Project (https://www.ruraltechproject.com/) is a $600,000 challenge to advance rural technology education and prepare students for the careers of today and tomorrow. ED invites high schools and LEAs to propose technology education programs that use competency-based distance learning. **Proposals are due by 4:59 p.m. on Oct. 8** (https://www.luminarylightbox.com/rural-tech-project/). The Rural Tech Project has curated resources to help entrants (https://www.ruraltechproject.com/entrant-resources/?utm_source=ED&utm_medium=email-newsletter&utm_campaign=reminder) develop comprehensive program proposals. The resources provide support around topics ranging from program design and delivery to engaging community stakeholders. To learn more about entering the challenge, see the recording of the information session (https://www.ruraltechproject.com/highlights-from-the-information-session-the-team-shares-the-vision-for-the-challenge/) and answers to frequently asked questions (https://www.ruraltechproject.com/faq/).

- Global Grid for Learning is collaborating with Google to offer the **Grow with Google Partner Program for career and technical education (CTE) students**. Google is offering its IT Support Professional Certificate (https://gg4l.com/membership/it-support-professional-certificate/) to 100 CTE high schools for a pilot program during the spring 2021 semester. This effort prioritizes CTE high schools that have defined career pathways that prepare students for high-demand careers through classroom education and real-world skills. This is a FREE opportunity for you to obtain this program at NO COST to your school, and it generates no revenue for Google. If you are interested and want to learn more, fill out this Expression of Interest Form (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScmisSC-4ff399bqESIZa4ACbwSp8tZwS9vTZb5zLnEEPRB0g/viewform).

DISTRICT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- Social Finance and Jobs for the Future are hosting a national Pay for Success competition to expand CTE for underserved, high-need youth (grant-funded by the ED Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education). The **2020 Catalyzing Career & Technical Education Competition provides** innovative funding mechanisms to boost program sustainability and improve outcomes for underserved youth. Perkins-eligible CTE providers are eligible to apply. Awardees will receive **free technical assistance at no cost**, a value of approximately $150,000 - $225,000, to expand their CTE programs. They are hosting two upcoming webinars (https://socialfinance.org/octae/) to answer any questions potential applicants may have. View the RFP 📄 (https://socialfinance.org/wp-content/uploads/2020_OCTAE-Competition-RFP-09-11-20.pdf) and additional details at Social Finance's competition page (https://socialfinance.org/octae/). The deadline to apply is **Dec. 4**.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Illinois Statewide K-12 Computer Science Education Summit: 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Sept. 25 (https://go.illinois.edu/2020K-12CSEdSummit) The University of Illinois, in partnership with a variety of computer science education stakeholders, and through the generosity of the CME Group Foundation, is hosting the second Illinois Statewide Computer Science Education Summit - #ILCSEdSummit2020. K-12 educators, administrators, policymakers, industry professionals, nonprofits, and legislators will again engage in a day of collaboration, presentations, panel discussions, and working groups, with the shared goal of making CS for All a reality in Illinois. For further information, visit the summit webpage. Please contact Raya Hegeman-Davis at raya@illinois.edu if you have questions.

- **Ed Leaders Network** is offering the following webinars and courses:
  - **3-4 p.m. – Oct. 6** - Soaring Balloons & Heavy Shackles - Helping the Most Challenged Kids Soar 📹 (https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/344189330317415184) Based on a true story of real-life trauma, this webinar offers an understanding of how trauma transforms the student experience and practicing our perspective can guide a child on his journey to reclaim livelihood. We are empowered to be a part of the problem or part of the solution with our Actions, Words and Expressions. "Those Kids" are OUR kids and our AWE can either help them soar or add weight to their shackles. Practical. Powerful. Purposeful.

- 3-4 p.m. – Oct. 13 - We've Got You Covered: Best Practices for Holocaust Education in the Virtual World 📹 (https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/7029949003253178128)
  Teaching about the Holocaust, genocide, human rights, and related topics is challenging, even without a pandemic. Illinois Holocaust Museum is here to help. Explore strategies in this workshop to engage students on these subjects through the universal lessons of the Holocaust using age-appropriate lesson plans, virtual field trips, virtual teaching trunks, and more for your virtual classroom. All materials and activities in this session support state and national standards in English language arts, social studies, and social-emotional learning and support the Illinois Holocaust and Genocide Education Mandate and/or the Illinois Civics Education Mandate.

STUDENT RESOURCES

- **CovEducation** is an undergrad-led initiative to connect K-12 students with undergraduate and postgraduate students for free virtual mentoring and tutoring in response to the COVID-19 crisis. Their vision is to promote greater access to academic resources and support for K-12 students through free, personalized academic tutoring and providing web-based educational resources for these students and their families. They currently have more than 4,000 mentor volunteers from universities like Harvard, Yale, Princeton, and MIT, and are continuing to expand through university networks. Check out their flyer (https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:3e0a6366-b7a9-41ad-aa6d-c64f30bfd799) for more information. Students and parents can sign up and request a tutor at www.coved.org (http://www.coved.org).

FEATURED CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

- Learn more and apply for the below career opportunities at ISBE!

  - Project Manager (/Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=449)
  - Director of ESSA/IL-EMPOWER (/Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=448) (/Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=412)

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