Hello,

The State Board of Education unanimously voted at its meeting last week to remove the requirement for calculating and reporting “grades for growth” from the Illinois Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Plan. ISBE included these “grades for growth” in the Illinois ESSA Plan, which was approved in August 2017, as a way to show where schools fall across a spectrum of low-to-high growth, using A-F grade letter indicators. However, we heard feedback from the field that this simplistic grading scale would inhibit meaningful discussion regarding improvement and student growth. ISBE remains committed to fairness and equity for every student. We will continue to measure student growth and examine the best ways to incorporate that information within our support and accountability system.

We value your continued feedback when it comes to updating the Illinois ESSA Plan. Now is your chance to make your voice heard – our statewide Support and Accountability Listening Tour (Documents/ISBE-SA-Listening-Tour-Flyer.pdf) continues through May 29. We want your feedback on several major areas of the support and accountability system, including:

- Overall weighting of academic vs. student success indicators
- Weighting of individual indicators
- Assessment policy for newly arrived English Learner
- Designations, including number of designations, names of designations, and criteria for the Exemplary designation

If you can’t make it to one of our tour stops in person, you can submit your ideas and feedback to ESSA@isbe.net (mailto:ESSA@isbe.net).

May is Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, a time when we celebrate and pay tribute to the generations of Asians and Pacific Islanders who have enriched our nation’s history and are instrumental to its future success. Approximately 5.2 percent of Illinois students identify as Asian or Pacific Islander, yet just 1.6 percent of Illinois teachers identify in these ethnic groups. ISBE continues work to diversify the state’s teacher pipeline and ensure that all teachers practice culturally responsive teaching. You can read more about our efforts to increase the number of minority teachers in Illinois public schools -- and how you can get involved -- at ISBE’s Diverse and Learner Ready Teachers (DLRT) webpage (Pages/DLRT.aspx).

Finally, the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) is honoring Illinois middle school teachers who foster civic engagement. Middle school teachers play a particularly strong role in boosting civic knowledge and engagement, helping students become active, responsible citizens. NASBE will recognize an outstanding Illinois middle school teacher as a Civic Engagement Champion. Check out NASBE’s Civic Engagement Champion Awards website (http://www.nasbe.org/project/civic-engagement-champions/) for more information and to apply.

Sincerely,
UPCOMING ISBE DATES AND DEADLINES

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

**May 22:** 2019 Support and Accountability Listening Tour – Springfield (https://www.isbe.net/essa)

**May 23:** 2019 Support and Accountability Listening Tour – Carbondale (https://www.isbe.net/essa)

**May 24:** Deadline to submit School Nutrition Advisory Council application (https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SNAC1920)

**May 24:** Deadline to submit Early Childhood Program Request for Additional Funding form (https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=hv5kA8ZJ9Eq1LDNameV30ROvtdRjrZxJnhJ--P-vI3NUMjUOFVIR1JRMenORkJOWTdlVFRLR1B1r4u)

**May 27:** Deadline to comment on Part 25 Educator Licensure rules (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Proposed-Rules-and-Amendments.aspx)

**May 27:** ISBE offices closed for Memorial Day

**May 29:** 2019 Support and Accountability Listening Tour – Moline (https://www.isbe.net/essa)

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

**May 31:** Deadline to submit Student Advisory Council applications (https://www.isbe.net/studentadvisory)

**May 31:** Deadline for Program Year 2020 Annual School Nutrition Programs application (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/School-Nutrition-Applications-and-Reports.aspx)

**June 10:** Deadline for educators to apply for NASBE’s Civic Engagement Champions award (http://www.nasbe.org/project/civic-engagement-chiefs/)

**June 12-14:** ACTE Region III Conference (https://www.acteonline.org/region-page/region-iii-workshops-and-conferences/)

**June 19:** Illinois State Board of Education meeting (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Illinois-State-Board-of-Education-Calendar.aspx)

**June 21:** Deadline to submit FY 2019 E-Rate State Matching Grant applications (http://www.isbe.net/broadband)

**June 28:** Deadline to submit TAOEP RFP application in IWAS (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Special-Education-Truants-Alternative-and-Optional-Education-Program.aspx)

**June 30:** Deadline to submit Student Dental data in IWAS (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Health-Requirements-Student-Health-Data.aspx)

**June 30:** Deadline to submit the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) application for School Nutrition Programs (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Guidance-for-HHFKA.aspx)

**July 23-24:** ISBE School Nutrition Programs Back to School Conference (https://www.isbe.net/snpb2s)

**August 7:** ISBE Nutrition Division – Direct Certification and Certification of Household Eligibility Applications Regional Workshop – Oak Lawn

**August 8:** ISBE Nutrition Division – Direct Certification and Certification of Household Eligibility Applications Regional Workshop – Bloomington

**August 13:** ISBE Nutrition Division – Direct Certification and Certification of Household Eligibility Applications Regional Workshop – O’Fallon

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EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

**FY 2019 Early Childhood State Grants Extended to Sept. 30**

As we approach June 30 and the end of fiscal year 2019, ISBE is aware of the following:

- Some grantees have not received all funding for their state Early Childhood programs;
- Preschool for All and Prevention Initiative grantees were recently notified of a one-time additional funding opportunity for grantees that anticipate meeting current expense and enrollment targets.
In order to provide grantees sufficient time to obligate and expend all of their FY 2019 Early Childhood funds, ISBE will extend all Early Childhood grants to **Sept. 30, 2019**, regardless of the current project end date.

Specifically, the Sept. 30, 2019, extension is applied to the following state programs:

- Preschool for All 3-5 Program (Revenue Code 3705-00)
- Prevention Initiative 0-3 Program (Revenue Code 3705-01)
- Preschool Expansion (Revenue Code 3705-PE)

Grantees will see the new Sept. 30 end date reflected in the electronic Grants Management System if a budget amendment is needed, as well as in the Financial Reimbursement Information System Inquiry (http://webprod1.isbe.net/FRISInquiry/). All grantees will still be required to complete and submit a June 30, 2019, expenditure report through the Electronic Expenditure Reporting System.

Note: if a grantee submits a June 30 report that reflects all funds expended, ISBE will modify the end date for that grant to June 30 and consider the project final for FY 2019.

Questions regarding the end-date extension or expenditure reporting requirements should be directed to the Division of Funding and Disbursements at (217) 782-5256.

Questions regarding the one-time opportunity for additional FY 2019 funding or budget amendments should be directed to the Division of Early Childhood Education at (217) 524-4835 or earlychi@isbe.net (mailto:earlychi@isbe.net).

**One-Time Additional Funding Opportunity**

ISBE’s Early Childhood Division announced a **one-time additional funding opportunity** for Preschool for All and Prevention Initiative programs that are funded for FY 2019. This funding may extend the program year from July 1, 2019, through September 30, 2019. This opportunity is available to currently funded Preschool for All and Prevention Initiative Programs that are on track with spending and meeting enrollment targets. Detailed information was sent to programs in an IWAS broadcast.

If your program is interested in applying for this one-time funding opportunity, please complete and return the [Early Childhood Program Request for Additional Funding Form](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=hw5kA8ZJ9Eq1LDNameV30ROvtiRjZxJnhJ--P-vl3NUNjIUOFVIR1JRMENORkJOWTdlVFRLR1BiT4u) no later than **May 24, 2019**. Please contact the Early Childhood Division at (217) 524-4835 or earlychi@isbe.net (mailto:earlychi@isbe.net) with questions.

**Early Childhood Block Grant – Call for RFP Evaluators**

Potential Early Childhood Block Grant Request for Proposal (RFP) evaluators/readers are invited to complete the ISBE Grant Evaluator Application (https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=hw5kA8ZJ9Eq1LDNameV30fWd3CMtMYpGiz_2E_u10ABJUN1FCTEJEvzMBYVEVYUDBMU1hOQ04yVDBaVC4u) in order to be considered for the fiscal year 2020 Early Childhood Block Grant proposals. The applicants’ information will be included in ISBE’s reader pool. Completion of this application does not guarantee you will be chosen to evaluate proposals for your chosen grant. Evaluators will be chosen based on individual qualifications, experience, and number of proposals received during the RFP period. Please contact ISBE’s Jamey Baiter at jbaiter@isbe.net (mailto:jbaiter@isbe.net) with any questions.

**ILLINOIS SPARKS: CASE STUDIES IN SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT**

New Story Posted – Huntley Community School District 158
The newest Illinois Sparks case study highlights Huntley High School's Blended Learning Practices and Medical Academy partnership with Northwestern Medicine for work-based learning opportunities in health sciences. Read the story now! (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Story.aspx?ItemId=25)

Have a story idea to submit from your school or district? Visit https://www.isbe.net/stories (/stories).

EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT

Site-Based Expenditure Reporting - New Deep-Dive Webinar Available

ISBE has published a new resource for Local Education Agencies (LEAs) preparing for site-based expenditure reporting: a webinar recording (https://register.gotowebinar.com/recording/7100858696402493443) and slides (/Documents/Site-Based-Expenditures-Outplacements.pdf) walking through the different options LEAs have in how to report their students educated outside the district. As LEAs testing out the "beta release" IWAS application or reading Guidance 2.0 (/Documents/ISBE-Site-Based-Expenditure-Reporting-Guidance.pdf) have discovered, Home LEAs can choose whether to embed their students educated outside the district within their existing school sites or whether to create a separate reporting site for students educated outside the district. This webinar walks through the rationale behind the two different options, what LEAs might consider when making a decision, and how to technically operationalize the decision. This webinar and all other resources on site-based expenditure reporting is available at www.isbe.net/site-based (http://www.isbe.net/site-based). Any questions related to site-based expenditure reporting can be directed to site-based@isbe.net (mailto:site-based@isbe.net).

E-RATE MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM

FY 2019 E-Rate State Matching Grant Program Applications Now Available

ISBE is accepting applications for the FY 2019 E-Rate State Matching Grant. The grant is designed to help districts cover the non-discounted portion of E-Rate Special Construction costs for fiber internet installations. For more information, please see isbe.net/broadband (http://www.isbe.net/broadband) and click on the E-Rate State Matching Grant tab. Applications are due by 4 p.m. on Friday, June 21.

PUBLIC SCHOOL CALENDARS

2018-19 Final Public School Calendars Now Available

The Final Public School Calendar for the 2018-19 school year is available via the Public School Calendar system in IWAS. Please complete and submit the Final Calendar to the appropriate Regional Office of Education (ROE)/Intermediate Service Center (ISC) by the last day of school.

A Final Public School Calendar must be submitted and approved prior to filing the 2018-19 claims for Pupil Transportation and 18-3 Regular Education Orphanage. The document type Final Calendar must be submitted even if the district has previous approval on a document type Amended Calendar. If a document type Amended Calendar is in Draft status (i.e., has not been submitted to an RCDT administrator or ROE/ISC for approval), leave it in draft status and proceed by entering the Final Calendar. If an Amended Public School Calendar has a Submitted status, it must complete the process (i.e., receive approval from the ROE/ISC before a Final Calendar may be accessed).

Reminder: The unused proposed emergency days (calendar code XED) that are coded at the end of the school calendar must be removed. One option to do this is by correcting the Regular School End Date to the last day of actual school activity. Once the Regular School End Date has been corrected, the calendar codes after that date will be omitted.
Questions not addressed in the Public School Calendar guidelines (/Documents/ps_guidelines.pdf) or checklist (/Documents/calendar_checklist.pdf) may be directed to the ROE/ISC office or ISBE's Regulatory Support and Wellness Division at (217) 782-8535. If you encounter technical issues with the Public School Calendar in IWAS, please contact the ISBE Call Center at (217) 558-3600.

TRUANTS’ ALTERNATIVE & OPTIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAM (TAOEP)

Applications for FY 2020 TAOEP RFP Now Available

Applications for the Truants' Alternative and Optional Education Program RFP are now available through IWAS for school year 2019-20 (FY 2020).

The RFP will not include an allocation. However, the application must include the itemized budget information with the total funds requested. Applicants approved for funding will be required to submit an amended application that will include the agency approved allocation and Notice of State Award and Grant Agreement pages.

Entities that were part of Cohort 18 or Cohort 19 (initial year of three-year cycle) should NOT use this system. You have received a separate notice for the opening of the TAOEP Continuation grant that should be completed for continued funding.

NOTE: Allocations are preliminary, and payment under this grant is subject to passage of a sufficient appropriation by the Illinois General Assembly or sufficient appropriation by the U.S. Congress for federal programs. Obligations of the State Board of Education will cease immediately without further obligation should the agency fail to receive sufficient state, federal, or other funds for this program.

View the webinar for additional application information (/register.gotowebinar.com/recording/3604806445124337410).

The deadline for submitting the TAOEP RFP application is 4 p.m. on June 28. Please make sure that your approval groups are properly assigned through IWAS in order to access and transmit your application. Technical assistance on items not covered by the instructions and procedures may be obtained by contacting staff in Regulatory Support and Wellness at taoep@isbe.net (mailto:taoep@isbe.net) or by phone at (217) 782-5270.

ILLINOIS REPORT CARD

2019 Report Card Open Forum – May 28

Join ISBE’s Report Card team from 10-11:30 a.m. on May 28 for the first 2019 Report Card Open Forum. This year the Report Card team is holding monthly Report Card Open Forums in a webinar format to allow for administrators and staff to ask any questions they may have about data systems, data collections, new features, timelines, etc. related to the 2019 Report Card. The Report Card team will be on hand to answer any questions and will also provide an FAQ document after each Report Card Open Forum webinar session. Register for the Report Card Open Forum Webinar now (/register.gotowebinar.com/register/3948158637511180803).

ISBE DATA COLLECTIONS

Reminder: 2018-19 Student Dental Data due June 30

As mandated by Section 5/27-8.1 of the School Code, student dental data must be submitted on or before June 30. Please submit this data through IWAS. For assistance with your submission, please refer to the IWAS Dental User Guide (/Documents/dental_user_guide.pdf).

Additional resources can be viewed on ISBE’s Dental Health webpage (/Pages/Health-Requirements-Student-Health-Data.aspx).
Learn more about student dental data collection by viewing the School Dental Examinations Information Sheet (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Weekly-Message-Display-Form.aspx?ItemId=145).

Forms acceptable for school year 2018-19 include the IDPH Proof of School Dental Examination Form (http://www.idph.state.il.us/HealthWellness/oralhlth/DentalExamProof10.pdf), a tool for dentists to record student dental information. The IDPH Dental Examination Waiver Form (http://www.idph.state.il.us/forms/ohpm/Dental%20Exam%20Waiver.pdf) is for students who are unable to obtain the required dental examination. The Dental Information-Data Entry Worksheet (/layouts/Download.aspx?SourceUrl=/Documents/dental_worksheet.xls) is a worksheet to enter your data and double check your aggregate numbers.

Public school districts may enter the data for each of their schools or approve school IWAS users to enter the data. Regardless of who enters data, it is the responsibility of the nonpublic school administrator/public school district administrator to review the accuracy of entered data and ensure submission of the finished data to ISBE by the deadline.

Note all dental data must be submitted for all schools serving any combination of kindergarten, grade 2, and/or grade 6 students (enrolled as of May 15) by June 30, 2019.

If you have any questions on this collection, contact Marjurie Ribeiro with ISBE’s Data Strategies and Analytics at mribeiro@isbe.net (mailto:mribeiro@isbe.net) or (312) 814-2220. For technical assistance with IWAS, please contact the Help Desk at (217) 558-3600.

FUNDING & DISBURSEMENTS

FY 2020 Organizational Risk Assessment System

Grantees must ensure that all Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) requirements are met prior to full execution of any FY 2020 state or federal grant application. Grantees must complete prequalification registration at the GATA portal and complete a Fiscal and Administrative Risk Assessment via an Internal Controls Questionnaire (ICQ).

In prior years, the GATA Programmatic Risk Assessment (PRA) was completed within each grant application. For FY 2020, the PRA will be split into an Organizational Risk Assessment and ISBE Grant Specific Assessment. ISBE is announcing the release of the FY 2020 Organizational Risk Assessment System. Grantees will complete the FY 2020 Organizational Risk Assessment one time; the results will apply to all FY 2020 grants. Further, ISBE Grant Specific Assessments will be included in each FY 2020 grant. A combination of the results of these two risk assessments will generate the Programmatic Risk Conditions in each grant. Completion of the GATA registration and ICQ, as well as the FY 2020 Organizational Risk Assessment must be completed prior to submission of a FY 2020 state or federal grant.

A summary of the steps that are necessary to fully execute the FY 2020 grants are as follows:

1. Grantees must register at https://grants.illinois.gov/portal/ and complete the ICQ.
2. Complete and submit the new FY 2020 Organizational Risk Assessment via IWAS.
4. Submit FY 2020 grant applications to ISBE.
5. Review and approval by respective ISBE program area.

If you have any questions about the FY 2020 Organizational Risk Assessment system please contact GATA@isbe.net (mailto:GATA@isbe.net) or call (217) 782-5630.

MAP-21 Guidance Now Available

Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) is a federal reauthorization bill designed to help the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) reduce crashes, injuries, and fatalities in trucks and buses. This raises the bar to enter the industry and holds drivers to the highest safety standards by eliminating the highest-risk drivers and vehicles from the roadways. Every facility location
(school district or contractor) and its trainers of commercial driver’s license (CDL) drivers must comply and be registered with the FMCSA. Current CDL drivers will not be affected unless they change a classification or endorsement on their CDL.

This does not replace the Illinois Professional School Bus Driver Training Curriculum. Districts and contractors already have training programs in place. This will formalize and document the training process for new trainees. There are 93 required training topics composed of theory and behind-the-wheel training that will be covered in your newly created detailed training curriculum.

The curriculum you develop, as well as the training facility and trainer, must be registered with the FMCSA. If the proper training is not completed by the new trainee at a certified facility under the direction of a certified trainer, the trainee will not be allowed to test at the Illinois Department of Motor Vehicles for their CDL. It is time to start working on developing your district/contractor training program so that you will be ready by the February 7, 2020, compliance date.

A MAP-21 guidance document is now available with information on the FMCSA final rule. There is also a webcast to further your understanding and a Q&A on MAP-21.

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

Seeking Educator Input to Support K-12 Standards Instruction in the Classroom

Help ISBE help you by sharing your input regarding your school and district instructional needs. By completing this short survey, you are helping ISBE to prioritize efforts to support your instruction and provide you with meaningful and targeted supports in different forms.

Ed Leaders Network: Professional Learning Opportunity

Using SAT Data to Inform Improvement (3 hours PD)

This course provides an overview of the types and uses of data from the SAT K-12 Reporting Portal. Processes for examining that data and making reliable, informed decisions to guide school improvement and accountability, curriculum and instruction, and learner outcomes are presented in the form of two simple data analysis protocols. Registration is now available.

IN BRIEF

District Opportunities

- The National Equity Project is excited to announce the new Midwest District Network, launching in fall 2019. This network will provide an opportunity for school district teams to connect and learn with other districts from across the Midwest that are actively engaged in efforts to increase educational equity for their students and particularly those students who we have served least well in our schools and communities. The network will run for two school years (2019-20 and 2020-21). Applications are due June 1. Acceptance decisions will be communicated the week of June 10. Contact Erin Bruner at ebruner@nationalequityproject.org with questions.

Student Recognition
Congratulations to Aja Capel and Delaney Hall for being named Illinois' top youth volunteers in the 2019 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program! Aja is a junior at Urbana High School and Delaney is a seventh-grade student at Amelia V. Carriel Junior High School in Lebanon. For more information, visit https://spirit.prudential.com/ (https://spirit.prudential.com/). Great job, Aja and Delaney!

Student Opportunities

- The Anti-Defamation League is holding the 2019 Our First Amendment Freedoms Art & Essay Contest (https://chicago.adl.org/fivefreedoms/) for 6-12 grade students. First-place winners in each grade category will receive a $5,000 scholarship. Second-place winners will receive a $1,000 scholarship. The teacher with the most entries will receive $1,000. The entry deadline is May 30.

School Recognition

- Congratulations to Mannheim Early Childhood Center in Mannheim District 83 for receiving the Outstanding Practices in Inclusion recognition from ISBE, the Early Childhood Least Restrictive Environment Stakeholders Consortium, and Early CHOICES!

Educator Resources

- Illinois was featured in the May issue of School CEO magazine (https://www.schoolceo.com/a/superintendent-perspectives/). Check out Bunker Hill CUSD 8 Superintendent Dr. Todd Dugan’s article on equitable school funding in Illinois.

ISBE Featured Career Opportunities

- Learn more and apply for the below career opportunities at ISBE!
  - Human Resources & Labor Relations Division (/Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?id=320&fbclid=IwAR1u7SMwZypfgD4sMr4NL-nM4P8bHy0Nvv_5lvv54Fv_i63H5qus1GPezg8)
  - Division of English Learners (/Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?id=292&fbclid=IwAR2NbOk73L6_3I-t5k9ndjku4vNGF5fio7xZZ_vMDaI3H-a0IJDbJHkmOc)
  - Division of Assessment & Accountability (/Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?id=319&fbclid=IwAR1vOauwrCcVG_Q__ig4lz7uPQ0pBR8ulnS0zPx7G2JbLHKntvIVYtEtyJQ)
  - Grant Accountability Division (/Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?id=235&fbclid=IwAR2w1NlxG7IGbCfVi_lv8WeGEfhSqMdDa9z_4AKHEYhLF5n3KOSp-qqME)
- View all open positions at ISBE (/Pages/Careers-at-ISBE.aspx).