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Dear Colleagues:

We hope the updated guidance for K-12 schools released last Friday helped to answer many of your questions about returning to fully in-person learning for the upcoming school year. We've taken a big and important step toward restoring the in-person connection, engagement, and support that our students need.

We're not through the pandemic yet. An outbreak at a summer camp recently led to cases at a church and a Veterans Affairs facility. IDPH confirmed the Delta variant among these cases. Protecting our students also means protecting the most vulnerable in our

communities. Thank you for your ongoing patience and partnership.

I know you may be receiving additional questions from your school communities. I will highlight a few key points from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance below:

- Achieving high levels of COVID-19 vaccination among eligible students as well as teachers, staff, and household members is one of the
 most critical strategies to help schools safely resume full operations. Please continue to promote and provide opportunities for your school
 community to get vaccinated. Find resources at www.isbe.net/covid19 (http://www.isbe.net/covid19).
- The health and safety of our students, educators, and families remains our No. 1 priority. The current guidance for Illinois schools is that you should work with local public health officials to determine the prevention strategies needed in your area by monitoring levels of community transmission and local vaccine coverage and by using screening testing to detect cases in K-12 schools. If school administrators decide to remove any of the prevention strategies based on local conditions, you should remove them one at a time and monitor closely (with adequate testing through the school and/or community) for any increases in COVID-19 cases.
- CDC continues to recommend masking and physical distancing as key prevention strategies.
 - Masks should be worn indoors by all individuals (age 2 and older) who are not fully vaccinated.
 - Masking is universally required on buses and school-related transportation. The CDC's order
 (https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/masks/mask-travel-guidance.html) requires that regardless of the mask policy at school, passengers and drivers must wear a mask on school buses.
 - Additionally, school administrators may opt to make mask use universally required in school based on the needs of the community.
 School administrators should also be supportive of people who are fully vaccinated, but choose to continue to wear a mask, as a personal choice or because they have a medical condition that may weaken their immune system.

The relationships you've built with your local public health departments and the free testing programs available to all Illinois schools are more important now than ever to provide and preserve in-person learning. (Email bheller@uillinois.edu (mailto:bheller@uillinois.edu) for SHIELD tests or dph.antigentesting@illinois.gov (mailto:dph.antigentesting@illinois.gov) for BinaxNOW.) Working together and continuing to follow the

science and the data to protect our communities, we can have a fantastic school year full of learning renewal. I am looking forward so much to seeing your photos from the first day of school full of welcoming energy.

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).

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July 28	Webinar: Emergency Connectivity Fund Application Virtual Workshop (https://ltcillinois.org/event/emergency-connectivity-fund-application-virtual-workshop-3/)
Jul. 1 - Aug. 16	FY 2021 ESSA Site-Based Expenditure Reporting (https://www.isbe.net/site-based)
July 13	Deadline to RSVP for Parent Mentor Program Informational Session
July 14	Webinar: Emergency Connectivity Fund Application Virtual Workshop (https://ltcillinois.org/event/emergency-connectivity-fund-application-virtual-workshop/)
July 14	Webinar: Strategies for Safely Returning to School: The Latest Federal Guidance (https://airorg.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_MI9GDvjLThyDrwwBpW8Wtg)
Jul. 15	Webinar: 2021 Report Card Open Forum (https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6696931126468759309)
Jul. 16	Deadline to submit applications for Fiscal Year 2022 Advanced Placement Course Implementation – College and Career Success for All Students Program (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Advanced-Placement.aspx)
Jul. 19-21	ISBE School Nutrition Program Back to School Conference (http://www.isbe.net/snpb2s)
Jul. 22	Webinar: Site-Based Expenditure Reporting and the Report Card: All things SBER from Collection to Report Card (https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/7240640725939341323)
July 22	Webinar: Emergency Connectivity Fund Application Virtual Workshop (https://ltcillinois.org/event/emergency-connectivity-fund-application-virtual-workshop-2/)
July 26	Webinar: FY 2022 EBF Spending Plan webinar (https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6392467560825695248)
Jul. 29	Webinar: 2021 Report Card Open Forum #2 (https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2294080849063067405)
Aug. 1	Deadline to complete Special Education State Performance Plan Stakeholder Input Survey (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/SPPAPR-Indicators.aspx)
Aug. 2	Deadline to submit RFP for Parent Mentor Program Grant (https://www.parentengagement.institute/join-us)
Aug. 2 and 4	Webinar: Wellness Department School Nurse Bootcamp Webinar Series (https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/1964655071555041807)

Aug. 2 - Sept. 30	FY 2022 EBF Spending Plan window in IWAS (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/ebfspendingplan.aspx)
Aug. 7	Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics Announces Virtual Mini-Conference (https://ictm.memberclicks.net/miniconferenceaugust2021)
Aug. 18-22	Tech Prairie STEAM Expo at the Illinois State Fair (https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/doit-steam/Pages/2021-STEAM-Expo.aspx)
Aug. 9	Deadline to submit Educational Surrogate Parent Program Request for Sealed Proposals (https://www.bidbuy.illinois.gov/bso/)
Aug. 10	Webinar: Emergency Connectivity Fund Application Virtual Workshop (https://ltcillinois.org/event/emergency-connectivity-fund-application-virtual-workshop-4/)
Aug. 15	Deadline to submit Annual Pupil Transportation Reimbursement Claim (https://www2.illinois.gov/dcfs/aboutus/notices/Documents/CFS_906-8_Youth_in_Care_Transportation_Reimbursement_Invoice.xls)
Sep. 30	Applications Due for IDNR Historic Sites Field Trip Grant (https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/education/Pages/GrantsIHSFTG.aspx)

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 for the newest updates and information.

BACK TO SCHOOL 2021-22

- The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) has fully adopted the CDC updated guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in Kindergarten (K)-12 Schools (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html) released on July 9. The guidance takes effect immediately for all Illinois schools, public and nonpublic.
 - View the CDC guidance (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html).
 - View the IDPH press release (http://www.dph.illinois.gov/news/illinois-department-public-health-adopts-cdc-covid-19-prevention-school-guidance).

WEBINAR: STRATEGIES FOR SAFELY RETURNING TO SCHOOL: THE LATEST FEDERAL GUIDANCE

Join the U.S. Department of Education **3 p.m. July 14** for an informative webinar featuring updates from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and on preparing to return to school for the 2021-22 school year, including the latest on mitigation strategies, as we continue to contend with the COVID-19 pandemic. Following the federal agency updates, practitioner questions will be addressed by the CDC and ED staff to allow field personnel to better understand and ultimately operationalize guidance. Register for the July 14 webinar (https://air-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN MI9GDvjLThyDrwwBpW8Wtg).

The event will feature:

- Christian Rhodes, Moderator, Chief of Staff, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, U.S. Department of Education
- **Neha Cramer**: Lead, Schools Unit, Community Intervention and Critical Populations Task Force at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Jessica McKinney: Office of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development (OPEPD), U.S. Department of Education

This event will reference the following resources, which you are encouraged to access in advance of the webinar to inform participation:

- ED COVID-19 Handbook Volume 1: Strategies for Safely Reopening Elementary and Secondary Schools (PDF) (https://www2.ed.gov/documents/coronavirus/reopening.pdf)
- ED COVID-19 Handbook Volume 2: Roadmap to Reopening Safely and Meeting All Students' Needs (PDF) (https://www2.ed.gov/documents/coronavirus/reopening-2.pdf)
- ED COVID-19 Handbook Volume 3: Strategies for Safe Operation and Addressing the Impact of COVID-19 on Higher Education Students, Faculty, and Staff (https://www2.ed.gov/documents/coronavirus/reopening-3.pdf)
- Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html)
- Science Brief: Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in K-12 Schools and Early Care and Education Programs Updated (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/science-briefs/transmission k 12 schools.html)
- COVID-19: Considerations for Wearing Masks (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html)



EVIDENCE-BASED FUNDING

ISBE RELEASES EBF SPENDING PLAN INFORMATION

The Fiscal Year 2022 EBF Spending Plan webinar (https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6392467560825695248) is scheduled for **2** p.m. July 26. This webinar will discuss the content of the FY2022 EBF Spending Plan and will provide resources for districts in planning the use of their Evidence-Based Funding (EBF) dollars and tier funding.

The **FY 2022 EBF Spending Plan** window in IWAS will be **Aug. 2 – Sept. 30**. As a reminder, a district that is required to have a Bilingual Parent Advisory Committee (BPAC) for the 2021-22 school year (per Section 228.30 (c)(4) (/Documents/228ARK.pdf)) must have the BPAC participate in reviewing the EBF Spending Plan. If needed, virtual BPAC meetings will still be allowed to meet this requirement.

For more information about the EBF Spending Plan, visit the ISBE EBF website (/Pages/ebfspendingplan.aspx), Please contact EBFspendingplan@isbe.net (mailto:EBFspendingplan@isbe.net) if you have questions.



SPECIAL EDUCATION

EDUCATIONAL SURROGATE PARENT PROGRAM REQUEST FOR SEALED PROPOSALS

ISBE is seeking a vendor to facilitate the Educational Surrogate Parent (ESP) training program. The ESP training program focuses on the recruitment and training of volunteers across Illinois to increase the pool of qualified individuals available to be appointed by ISBE as educational surrogate parents in service of students receiving special education.

The Request for Sealed Proposals can be found at Illinois BidBuy (https://www.bidbuy.illinois.gov/bso/) Bid Number: 22-586SBE-FINAN-B-23631.

Proposals are due by 2 p.m. Aug. 9. Contact Jason Perry at jperry@isbe.net (mailto:jperry@isbe.net) with questions.

FY 2022 IDEA AND ESEA OF 1965 AS AMENDED GRANT APPLICATIONS DUE DATE EXTENDED

The due date for FY 2022 Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) and Elementary and Secondary Act (ESEA) of 1965 as Amended grant applications has been extended to **July 15**. Applications submitted to ISBE by that date will receive a July 1, 2021, grant period start date.

Applicants experiencing technical issues with SAM.gov and GATA pages during the grant application process should send a message to gata@isbe.net (mailto:gata@isbe.net). Include the district name, RCDT code, and grant name, and specify the error messages received that prevented submission.



STANDARDS AND INSTRUCTION

FCC EMERGENCY CONNECTIVITY FUND WEBINARS ANNOUNCED

The Emergency Connectivity Fund Program will provide up to \$7.17 billion in support to schools and libraries for the purchase of laptop and tablet computers, Wi-Fi hotspots, modems, routers, and broadband connectivity during the COVID-19 pandemic for use by students, school staff, and library patrons who would otherwise lack connected devices and/or broadband connections sufficient to fully engage in remote learning. The application filing window opened on June 29 and will close on **Aug. 13**. During this window, applicants may submit requests for funds for the purchase of eligible equipment and services made between July 1, 2021, and June 30, 2022 (the upcoming school year).

The focus of the Emergency Connectivity Fund is to meet the remote learning needs of students and school staff who would otherwise lack access to connected devices and broadband connections sufficient to engage in remote learning. Districts will need to define/describe the students and staff that are deemed to have an unmet need and will need to provide documentation to support these findings. The FCC has provided an in-depth FAQ document (http://www.fcc.gov/emergency-connectivity-fund-faqs). Once districts have determined the population to serve and the products and services that would meet that need an online application can be filed within the E-rate Productivity Center (EPC) portal managed by Universal Service Administrative Co. (USAC).

The **Learning Technology Center** will be providing virtual workshops to assist districts in filing their applications. These hands-on workshops will take place at the following dates and times:

- July 14 2-4 p.m. (https://ltcillinois.org/event/emergency-connectivity-fund-application-virtual-workshop/)
- July 22 10 a.m.-noon (https://ltcillinois.org/event/emergency-connectivity-fund-application-virtual-workshop-2/)
- July 28 10 a.m.-noon (https://ltcillinois.org/event/emergency-connectivity-fund-application-virtual-workshop-3/)
- Aug. 10 2-4 p.m. (https://ltcillinois.org/event/emergency-connectivity-fund-application-virtual-workshop-4/)

Registration and more information about the program, including links to the federal program pages for the FCC and USAC, can be found on the LTC Connectivity and E-Rate landing page at Itcillinois.org/services/erate (https://ltcillinois.org/services/erate/).

ILLINOIS COUNCIL OF TEACHERS OF MATHEMATICS ANNOUNCES VIRTUAL MINI-CONFERENCE

The Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics presents The New Normal - New Ideas for a New Year: A Virtual Mini-Conference for PreK-12 Math Educators (https://ictm.memberclicks.net/miniconferenceaugust2021) from 8:30 a.m.-noon Aug. 7. The conference is free to all council members and pre-service college students. It is \$35 (includes membership) for non-members. The conference is being "hosted" by Southern Illinois University Carbondale. There will be a short opening session and then participants will have three 50-minute timeslots from which they will be able to choose sessions of their choice. Each timeslot will have options for all grade bands. Participants will be eligible to receive three hours of ISBE professional development credit.

Presentation topics include:

- Increasing Student Engagement in the New Normal
- Technology: Friend or Foe When Addressing Learning Gaps Because of COVID-19
- Trauma-Informed Teaching
- Young Mathematicians: STEM Skills for Success
- Purposeful Pre- and Post-tests in High School Mathematics
- Creating Self-Checking Desmos Activities

- · Facilitating Fact Fluency
- · The Need for the Understanding of Academic Vocabulary

For further details about the schedule of events, see the program schedule (https://docs.google.com/document/d/1aUPvjUb3CIDAPYWfPdR1XX6L1LCQqStO9f26-XkSKu8/edit) or email info@ictm.org (mailto:info@ictm.org).



WELLNESS

ISBE WELLNESS ANNOUNCES UPCOMING INFORMATIONAL WEBINAR SERIES.

UPDATED: School Nurse Bootcamp

The School Nurse Bootcamp, originally scheduled for July 28, has been moved to Monday, Aug. 2, and Wednesday, Aug. 4. It will be from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. each day. You may attend select portions or a full day.

- School Health Office & the ancillary departments (https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/1964655071555041807): **9 9:45 a.m. Aug. 2** (0.75 hour PD credit) -- Nurses in a hospital interact with various departments, including laboratory, radiology, cardiology, dietary, and more. You may not realize all the supporting roles for student health in the school setting. This webinar will explore the various roles/departments a school nurse may interact with while supporting their students.
- The Suite between Health & Education (https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/1964655071555041807): 10 a.m. noon Aug. 2 (2 hours PD credit) -- Who is in a better position to advocate for youth with health conditions in the school setting? Professionals in the school health office understand health's impact to the whole person's well-being and ability to access education. This webinar explores the following: chronic disease management, asthma action plans, life-threatening food allergy action plans, Care of Students with Diabetes Act, Seizure Smart School Act, Individualized Education Plans, and role of the school nurse.
- Bonus: IDPH personnel will present (https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/1964655071555041807): **1:30-3:30 p.m. Aug. 2** (2 hours PD credit) -- IDPH topics include back-to-school presentations and immunization requirements/updates.
- Pro-seeding to procedures (https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3519921965625663499): **9-9:45 a.m. Aug. 4** (0.75 hour PD credit) -- Do you recall reviewing policies while working in a health care setting? This webinar explores policies and procedures in the school health office and how they guide our practice. Fostering collaboration among school nurses and administration helps accomplish compliance with health and education law.
- The YOU in Undesignated Medications (https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3519921965625663499): **10-11:30 a.m. Aug. 4** (1.5 hours PD credit) -- This webinar will explore the law behind undesignated medications and dive into the practice of using these medications in the school setting. We will explore the following: administration of undesignated opioid antagonist, administration of undesignated asthma medication, and administration of undesignated epinephrine.
- Intensive in the School Setting (https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3519921965625663499): **1-2 p.m. Aug. 4** (1 hour PD credit) -- Acuity is higher than ever in the school setting. This webinar explores use of vents, feeding tubes, reliance on technology, the interplay of IDEA, and Section 504 plans.

FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

PARENT MENTOR PROGRAM RFP APPLICATION NOW AVAILABLE

The Parent Engagement Institute is proud to announce the release of a Request for Proposals (RFP) (https://www.parentengagement.institute/s/FY22-Parent-Mentor-Start-Up-Partner-RFP-6212021.docx) for community organizations in Illinois that would like to partner with their local public schools to start up a Parent Mentor Program during the 2021-22 school year. The application (https://forms.gle/Zzbp3Z99FprP6VjY9) deadline is **Aug. 2**.

A huge "thank you" goes out to our parent mentors who believe in the power of this program and worked hard for a state budget increase so we could open the opportunity to more communities. This RFP would not be possible without their organizing efforts.

The RFP is designed for community organizations to apply in partnership with their local public schools. The anticipated award amount for starting a full-year Parent Mentor Program in two schools with 16 total parent mentors is \$75,000.

If you have any questions about the RFP, please email parentmentorproposals@gmail.com (mailto:parentmentorproposals@gmail.com).

Parent mentors help challenge persistent equity gaps by joining this yearlong fellowship in their children's school. Parent mentors tutor students in classrooms for two hours/day and participate as a cohort in weekly professional development on instructional practices and leadership. As a result, they support each other to pursue their dreams and unite the school community for long-term change.

For more information, visit the Parent Engagement Institute webpage or follow the institute on Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/ParentMentorProgramIllinois).

PARENTING EDUCATION PILOT APPLICATION NOW AVAILABLE

ISBE and ParenTeach.com have collaborated on a pilot program in response to Public Act 100-1043

(https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/billstatus.asp?DocNum=4442&GAID=14&GA=100&DocTypeID=HB&LegID=109268&SessionID=91). The Parenting Education Pilot (also known as ParentAble) teaches high school educators how to deliver parenting fundamentals to their students, helping them develop a foundational understanding of positive parenting practices. The ParentAble curriculum includes information about the effects of harmful parenting, the consequences of adverse childhood experiences, along with the power of resilience and positive parenting. The 5-10-unit course aims to reduce child abuse and neglect rates, break the cycle of harmful parenting, create a level of comfort with seeking future parenting resources and support, and increase students' social-emotional learning competencies.

The grant application (https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2021_22ParentABLE) is now open for high school districts that may be interested in offering this curriculum.

For more information, please contact Katharine Bensinger at (847) 712-2710 or Katharine@parenteach.com (mailto:Katharine@parenteach.com).

IN BRIEF

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Ed Leaders Network

Ed Leaders Network (ELN) now has the following upcoming live webinars as well as recorded webinar available to view now.

3 p.m. - Aug. 17: Developing and Cultivating an E team with Equity at the CENTER Part II

(https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_z5WomlaEQpWeffnLyPwgHg)

Developing, cultivating, and supporting your school's E team is the right work to create an equitable environment for our students. This session will share strategies to cultivate an E team that supports your equity vision.

Mandated Trainings - Bloodborne Pathogens, Diabetes, Chronic Health Conditions and more.. (http://ipa-

nfe.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT0xMDEwMDg1MCZwPTEmdT0xMTMyMDE1MjMwJmxpPTg3ODcwMjQ0/index.html)

The state-mandated trainings for 2021-22 are now available on Ed Leaders Network. These trainings are available as stand-alone courses in the Learning Library. There are Illinois-specific programs available in the Annual, Biannual, and Recommended categories.

FEATURED CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

- Assessment Content Specialist Math (/Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=553)
- Program Monitor GATA (/Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=554)
- Administration of School-based Nutrition Programs (/Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=555)
- Media Coordination Public Relations (/Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=556)
- System Administrator Software Solutions (/Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=557)
- Special Education Placement Consultant (/Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=558)

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