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Dear Colleagues:

Late last year, when the State Board of Education adopted our [Culturally Responsive Teaching and Leading Standards](#) (</Documents/23-24RG-P.pdf>), I was gratified to see the outpouring of support from educators all across the state. More than 52 percent of Illinois students identify as students of color, and English Learners make up the fastest growing student population. The ability to reach students from different cultural backgrounds is an essential skill to succeed as a teacher in Illinois today.

Many classroom teachers and administrators already have an innate understanding of the need for these standards, and their enthusiastic response told me they're eager to explore going a little deeper into this work.

In addition to support, we also received some constructive feedback, so we made changes to the language to better reflect our shared goal of ensuring students of *all* backgrounds and upbringings feel welcome in the classroom. The standards are now before the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules for review, and there continues to be an opportunity for public comment.

For anyone who has questions, I want to answer a few that I've heard. First, the standards are not a mandate for educators; they are a tool in the toolbox to help educators improve their teaching practice. The responsibility for implementation rests solely with educator preparation programs. The standards apply to professional learning for adults, not to K-12 curricula. Second, the standards encourage teachers to welcome multiple perspectives on issues. The standards will help make schools more – not less – inclusive toward different viewpoints, wherever those viewpoints land on the political spectrum. The standards encourage self-reflection and critical thinking with the goal of modeling for students how to engage in dialogue and succeed in a very diverse world. Third, the standards are not apart from academics; they are critical to closing achievement gaps and are backed by research.

Here's how I know: Years ago, I instituted these practices as a superintendent to help improve the reading and math skills of every student group in my district. We achieved double-digit achievement score growth among my students of color and importantly, the academic achievement of students of all races and ethnicities improved.

Our state currently produces a 30-point achievement gap between Black and White students and a 22-point gap between Hispanic and White students. It's clear that we need to make adjustments in how we prepare educators to meet the needs of our students. As we help students recover from learning loss due to the pandemic, giving our teachers opportunities to learn about effective, equitable, and research-based strategies like cultural responsiveness is more important now than ever. Every student, and every family, deserves to feel accepted, welcomed, and affirmed at school. That's when true learning can begin.

One way to think about culturally responsive teaching is to envision the rearview mirror in your car. You use it to stay aware of your surroundings and how you are positioned relative to other motorists on the road. It shows you what's behind you and where you've been. If you have children in the backseat, you can use it to see why they're crying or laughing or strangely quiet. And you will occasionally use it to check on yourself. Every time you glance in the rearview mirror – to see what's behind you, coming up beside you, what's going on in your back seat, or to check yourself – you are ready to make some adjustments to keep your passengers and others safe.

Your main focus, though, is the road ahead. For educators, that's math, language arts, science – all the subjects students come to school to learn. Culturally responsive practices simply make us better at designing and delivering those lessons, by acknowledging and affirming our own journeys and our students'.

Pictured: Springfield District 186 Lincoln Magnet School 6th grader on her first day of school, remote learning.

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>).

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Feb. 3 | 5Essentials Survey window opens (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/5Essentials-Survey.aspx) |
| Feb. 4 | Webinar: IAR Technology Coordinator Training (https://pearson.cvent.com/events/spring-2021-iar-assessment-training-webinar-series/event-summary-fd34322f0cc545299ea7ac8f7fb8776a.aspx?fqp=true) |
| Feb. 12 | ISBE Offices Closed – Lincoln's Birthday |
| Feb. 12 | Deadline to submit entries to Arts Education Week poster contest (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Arts-Week.aspx) |
| Feb. 15 | ISBE Offices Closed – Presidents' Day |
| Feb. 16 | Deadline to submit application for Illinois Council on Women and Girls (https://isbe.submittable.com/submit/181931/2021-illinois-council-on-women-and-girls-application) |
| Feb. 18 | Illinois State Board of Education meeting (https://www.isbe.net/Lists/ISBECalendar/DisplayForm.aspx?ID=5033) |
| Feb. 18-19 | IACTE 91st Annual Conference (https://www.iacte.org/cpages/iacte-annual-conference) |
| Feb. 23-26 | 2021 Combined Virtual Conference of ESSA and Multilingual Illinois (https://irc.thecenterweb.org/essa-conference) |
| Feb. 26 | Deadline to submit comments for 2021 Financial Profile Score Report in IWAS (https://sec2.isbe.net/iwas/asp/login.asp?js=true) |
| Feb. 27 | Webinar: Early Choices: Everyday Learning Opportunities series: Sleep (https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07ehbga4hm947d4069&oseq=&c=&ch) |

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Mar. 1 | National Board Spring subsidy application window opens (https://nbcrc.illinoisstate.edu/firsttime/index.php) |
| Mar. 8 | Deadline for LEAs to challenge Census Bureau's Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates for Title I eligibility (https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/saipe/about/contact/challenges.html) |
| Mar. 8 | Food Distribution Program Annual Order Period for school year 2021-22 closes (https://www.isbe.net/Documents_Nutrition_Newsletter/Outlook-Jan2021.pdf) |
| Mar. 12 | Deadline to submit entry for Illinois Energy Workforce Consortium (IEWC) Classroom Grant (http://consortia.getintoenergy.com/illinois/careersinenergyweek/) |
| Mar. 15 - 19 | Illinois Arts Education Week (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Arts-Week.aspx) |
| Mar. 16 | Infinitic Virtual Practitioners Conference (https://www.isbe.net/NSDocuments/2021-ISBE-Practitioners-Conf-Save-the-Date.pdf) |
| Mar. 17 | Illinois State Board of Education meeting (https://www.isbe.net/Lists/ISBECalendar/DisplayForm.aspx?ID=5041) |
| Apr. 23 | Illinois Career Connections Virtual Conference (http://ilcareerconnections.org/2559-2/) |

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.

- **New Spanish translations available - Jan. 26**
 - [Guía para Impartir Educación para la Prevención del Abuso Sexual Durante la Pandemia COVID-19](/Documents/Guidance-sexual-abuse-prevention-education-Spanish.pdf)  (</Documents/Guidance-sexual-abuse-prevention-education-Spanish.pdf>) (Guidance for Delivering Sexual Abuse Prevention Education During the COVID-19 Pandemic)
 - [Guía Conjunta ISBE/IDHS sobre Políticas y Procedimientos de Transición para Apoyar a las Familias y Niños Pequeños en la Transición fuera de la Intervención Temprana a los Tres Años de Edad](/Documents/EI-to-ECSE-Transition-COVID-Spanish.pdf)  (</Documents/EI-to-ECSE-Transition-COVID-Spanish.pdf>) (ISBE/IDHS Joint Guidance on Transition Policies and Procedures for Supporting Families and Young Children Transitioning Out of Early Intervention at Three Years of Age)

URGENT REQUEST FOR STAFF VACCINATION INFORMATION

The Illinois Department of Public Health has requested our partnership in tracking the status of vaccination efforts among public and nonpublic Illinois educators and other school staff. Our shared goal is to improve equity in distribution and increase access across the state. We have combined this request with our regular collection of school district learning models (in-person, blended, remote). We have requested that all school district superintendents, special education cooperative directors, and nonpublic schools fill out a four-question survey by noon tomorrow. **Please check your email for the survey link.**

Please continue to submit any updates as soon as they occur. This will assist the State in having the most current information possible at all times to inform our collective response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The survey asks:

1. What is the number of Phase 1B-eligible staff vaccinated?
2. What is the total number of Phase 1B-eligible staff?

3. From which type of entity is the majority of your school staff planning to receive vaccinations (pharmacy; health clinic, including a local health department or hospital; combination of A and B)?

What instructional format is your district currently using (in-person, remote, or blended)?

5ESSENTIALS SURVEY

UPDATE ON 5ESSENTIALS SURVEY OF LEARNING CONDITIONS

The 2020-21 survey window will be Feb. 3 – April 2. Participation in the 5Essentials or an approved alternate survey is required annually, as the survey is part of the non-academic indicators for the summative designation for accountability.

School and District Rosters are in the process of being loaded into the UChicago Impact Survey administration system. Superintendents, principals, and survey coordinators have been notified via email on how to get access to their administrator accounts. There will be some new questions included in the survey this year that pertain specifically to the COVID-19 pandemic. ISBE collaborated with stakeholders to develop those questions. Additionally, there are several resources that have been updated for the coming administration:

- [2020-21 Survey Manual](https://impactsurveyshep.force.com/s/article/Illinois-5Essentials-Survey-Administration-Manual) (https://impactsurveyshep.force.com/s/article/Illinois-5Essentials-Survey-Administration-Manual)
- [Communication Toolkit](https://impactsurveyshep.force.com/s/article/illinois-5essentials-communication-kit) (https://impactsurveyshep.force.com/s/article/illinois-5essentials-communication-kit)
- [Illinois 2020-21 5Essentials Survey FAQ](https://impactsurveyshep.force.com/s/article/illinois-5essentials-faqs) (https://impactsurveyshep.force.com/s/article/illinois-5essentials-faqs)
- [Recorded Survey Administration Webinars](https://impactsurveyshep.force.com/s/article/2019-20-illinois-5essentials-orientation-webinars) (https://impactsurveyshep.force.com/s/article/2019-20-illinois-5essentials-orientation-webinars)
- [COVID-19 Pandemic Questions](#)  (/Documents/2020-21-5E-COVID-Questions.pdf)

Updated information regarding the survey will be posted to ISBE's 5Essentials Survey webpage and the 5Essentials Support Center. If you have any questions, please contact the Wellness Department at 5Essentials@ISBE.net (mailto:5Essentials@ISBE.net).

ASSESSMENT

SPRING 2021 ILLINOIS ASSESSMENT OF READINESS TRAINING WEBINARS

Pearson is committed to helping districts and schools plan for a successful administration of the spring 2021 Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR). A confirmation email containing a link to the webinar will be sent shortly after the completion of registration. You may register for more than one training webinar. For those unable to attend, the webinars will be recorded and posted on the [IAR webpage](#) (/Pages/IAR.aspx).

Please join us for one or more of the trainings detailed below:

- **10-11 a.m. Jan. 28 – Test Administrator Webinar Training**  (/Documents/IAR-Spring-2021-Training-Webinar.pdf) (users with 2-plus years of experience): This training will be geared toward experienced users and will provide an overview of “What’s New for Spring 2021” information.
- **10-11 a.m. Feb. 4 – Technology Coordinator Training**  (/Documents/IAR-Spring-2021-Training-Webinar.pdf): This training will provide updates on technology activities and supported devices for the spring 2021 administration.

If you encounter an error with the online registration, please call the Pearson Help Desk at 1-833-213-3879, and they will process your registration.

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

TRANSITIONAL MATH CODE UTILIZATION

The correct Student Information System (SIS) and portability codes must be utilized so that students receive the full benefits of Transitional Math. The Transitional Math SIS codes can be found below and are also within the [portability document templates](#) (<http://www.iltransitionalmath.org/portability-documents/>) as well as the policies document. School districts should check that they are using correct course codes in SIS to report students who have completed these courses.

Additionally, portability codes should be placed on the high school transcript of students who have successfully completed a Transitional Math course. Illinois community colleges utilize the portability code to identify students for automatic placement in college credit-bearing mathematics coursework.

- STEM Pathway
 - ISBE SIS Code – 02055A001
 - Portability Code – TM001
- Quantitative Literacy and Statistics Pathway
 - ISBE SIS Code – 02201A001
 - Portability Code – TM002
- Tech Pathway
 - ISBE SIS Code – 02153A001
 - Portability Code – TM003

ISBE SIS codes are utilized by public school districts within the State of Illinois as part of the Every Student Succeeds Act. Additional information can be found on the [Student Information System \(/sis\)](#) page.

Transitional Math is now entering the second semester of the second year of implementation. We currently have more than 200 approved courses across the state. We are excited to see the progress that school districts and students are making with the implementation of Transitional Math. Approved courses can be found on the state's [Transitional Math website](#) (<http://www.iltransitionalmath.org/portability-dates-decisions/>).

If you have any questions regarding transitional courses, please email TRInstruction@isbe.net (mailto:TRInstruction@isbe.net).

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

IACTE AND ISBE ANNOUNCE UPCOMING VIRTUAL CONFERENCES INFORMATION

The Illinois Association for Career and Technical Education (IACTE) has announced the dates for its upcoming [91st Annual Conference – Innovating for the Future](#) (<https://www.iacte.org/cpages/iacte-annual-conference>). It will be held virtually on **Feb. 18-19**. Join CTE professionals throughout Illinois to collaborate virtually and hear best practices to support and improve CTE programs. Attendees will hear from featured speaker Rachael Mann about innovative ways to integrate STEM into the classroom and have opportunities to visit with exhibitors. See the flyer for information on how to register.

ISBE has also announced the date for the upcoming [Illinois Career Connections Virtual Conference](#) (<http://ilcareerconnections.org/2559-2/>) – **April 23**. Featured presenters at this career and technical education event include educators and industry experts from Illinois and beyond who have worked to make improvements in the areas of student equity and accessibility, integration of core academics with CTE courses, and community outreach and partnerships. Hear the successes and insights, engage with other CTE educators and industry partners, and learn how to reshape the narrative of what career and technical education can look like for all of your students.

EDUCATOR EFFECTIVENESS

PARTNERSHIP FOR EDUCATOR PREPARATION WORK CONCLUDES & ANNUAL PROGRAM REPORTING IMPLEMENTS RE-AUTHORIZATION IN 2021

The Illinois State Board of Education concluded the work of the Partnership for Educator Preparation (PEP) initiative in December 2020 with the launch of the [Illinois Educator Preparation Profile \(IEPP\)](#). (/iepp)

PEP, a steering committee consisting of a diverse team of stakeholders representing educators and higher education institutions as well as other experts throughout the state, has spent the last three years guiding the development of ISBE's revised accountability and program improvement system for teacher preparation. View the [2020 PEP Wrap-Up Report](#) (/Documents/PEP-2020-Wrap-Up-Report.pdf) to learn more about our accomplishments.

Starting in 2021, program reauthorization decisions will be based on the IEPP. The IEPP and the reauthorization process will highlight programs that are producing learner-ready teachers and will also enable struggling programs to seek assistance and improve their effectiveness. Data will inform the continued approval and renewal of preparation programs. Reauthorization ratings will be public in December 2021.

View the [Reauthorization Overview](#) (/Documents/IEPP-Reauth.pdf) to learn more.

NEW FAMILY AND STUDENT SERVICES

2021-22 FAFSA/ALTERNATIVE APPLICATION COMPLETION: HOW IS YOUR HIGH SCHOOL DOING?

ISAC's FAFSA Completion Initiative webpage now has financial aid application completion data for all public high schools, and for private high schools that have uploaded their class roster. The data, which is updated weekly, includes, by high school, the number of financial aid applications currently completed and the percentage of students who have completed an application. Visit the [ISAC website](#) (<https://www.isac.org/home/fafsa>) to learn more. The Illinois FAFSA Mandate requires all public high school seniors to complete a financial aid application (either the FAFSA, or if eligible, an Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid), as a prerequisite to receiving a high school diploma. For students who choose not to file an application, a waiver may be completed by their parent.

Through ISAC's free FAFSA Completion Initiative, ISAC is able to share data with local school districts on a weekly basis to identify students who have not filed a financial aid application. This information is used by district counselors to help reach students who might otherwise not complete an application. With permission from the school, ISACorps members can support school counselors by contacting and assisting students who have not completed an application. Find your local ISACorps member at www.isac.org/isacorps (<http://www.isac.org/isacorps>).

GRANT ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY ACT

GRANT PERIODIC REPORTING SYSTEM MOVES TO SEMIANNUAL TIME FRAME

The Governor's Office of Management and Budget GATA Unit (GATU) recently reviewed previously implemented Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) requirements. The review resulted in the reversal of a GATU decision that required grantee periodic performance reports to be collected quarterly; reports can now be collected semiannually.

The GATU decision means that ISBE staff will be allowed to implement a modification to the IWAS Grant Periodic Reporting System. The anticipated March 31 performance reports for fiscal year 2021 and FY 2020 grants, which were extended through FY 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, are no longer required. Beginning in FY 2022, reports will be required for periods ending December 31 and June 30. This does not include grantees whose risk assessments responses indicate the need for more frequent reporting. In those cases, a quarterly report will be required.

This change will reduce grantees' reporting obligation by eliminating approximately 10,000 performance reports annually. Expenditure reports are not affected by this change.

NEW

ILLINOIS CHARTER SCHOOLS

UPCOMING WEBINAR SERIES ON INNOVATIONS IN ILLINOIS CHARTER SCHOOLS

The ISBE Charter Schools Department is pleased to announce a [new webinar series](https://sbuch22.wixsite.com/mysite) (<https://sbuch22.wixsite.com/mysite>) showcasing innovations in Illinois charter schools. A 2019-20 evaluation study by Measurement Incorporated identified eight high-performing charter schools that have experimented, incubated, and launched one or more practices that break rank with conventional teaching and learning. Between February and May 2021, these schools will present their innovations to the charter community and K-12 public schools at large. Each webinar will run approximately 90 minutes. Highlighted innovations include Student-led Teaching, Writing Your Future, Families at the Core to Outside the Four Walls, The Glue Behind High School Transition, and Keeping Great Teachers in the Classroom. These unique practices will present a new perspective, including how to deploy these innovations in an online world. All webinars and participant materials will be archived on the [Charter Schools Best Practices webpage](#) ([/Pages/BestPracticeCorner.aspx](#)). Professional Development certificates will be available via email upon completion of the webinars.

NEW

NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL BOARD SPRING SUBSIDY APPLICATION WINDOW OPENS MARCH 1

The Illinois State Board of Education is pleased to announce the \$1,900 [National Board Candidate Fee Subsidy Application](https://nbc.illinoisstate.edu/firsttime/index.php) (<https://nbc.illinoisstate.edu/firsttime/index.php>) will be available for Illinois teachers and counselors wishing to begin during the 2021-2022 school year. Funding has been made available for 500 candidates. The subsidy application for teachers pursuing National Board Certification during the 2021-2022 school year is available at **March 1 – 10 am** and closes at **midnight on May 10**.

NUTRITION PROGRAMS

SY 2021-22 USDA FDP ENTITLEMENT PLANNED ASSISTANCE LEVEL (PAL) WAIVER

On Jan. 15, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) offered a Families First Coronavirus Response Act opt-in waiver for school year 2021-22 National School Lunch Program Food Distribution Program (FDP) entitlement (PAL) calculations. **Illinois has opted in to the waiver.**

This waiver is a continuation of the SY 2020-21 waiver, which was offered June 16, 2020, and for which Illinois opted in. The waiver is intended to minimize the impact of COVID-19 on USDA Foods entitlement as it relates to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Illinois' SY 2020-21 reimbursable lunch counts under the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) have been and are projected to continue to be significantly lower than in years past due to the fact that many school districts are operating the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) instead of NSLP; SFSP meals cannot be used to calculate USDA Foods entitlement.

Since Illinois has opted in to the waiver, the following will occur:

- The SY 2020-21 final assigned entitlement level will be carried forward and will be the basis for the preliminary SY 2021-22 entitlement level, which the USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) will assign to state agencies in January 2021. This means that preliminary SY 2021-22 entitlement values will continue to be based on SY 2018-19 lunch counts.
- Additionally, FNS will once again forego the annual entitlement reconciliation process in November 2021. This means that SY 2020-21 entitlement will not be reconciled to actual SY 2020-21 lunch counts and that the SY 2021-22 final assigned entitlement value will continue

to be based on SY 2018-19 lunch counts.

- Reconciliation will resume as normal in November 2022. In other words, FNS would plan that SY 2021-22 USDA Foods entitlement would be reconciled to actual SY 2021-22 lunch counts and a corresponding positive or negative balance will be carried over into SY 2022-23 entitlement.

Additionally, the Food Distribution Program Annual Order Period for SY 2021-22 is open. As a result of opting in to the waiver, ISBE has updated the program year 2022 Beginning PAL Balances in the Illinois Community System. **If you have already submitted a program year 2022 order, please revisit the order and make necessary changes. Below are the deadline dates for ordering:**

- Annual Order opened Jan. 4.
- Annual Order closes March 8.
- Diversion to Processor will close the week of Feb. 22-28 so that ISBE can compile truck loads.
- Diversion to Processor will reopen for final changes March 1-8.

Please visit the Illinois Commodity System message board for additional details, instructions, and training resources. Questions can be directed to fdp@isbe.net (mailto:fdp@isbe.net).

SCHOOL BUSINESS SERVICES

SCHOOL DISTRICT FINANCIAL PROFILE SCORE REVIEW PROCESS NOW AVAILABLE

All district superintendents should have received an email asking them to review their preliminary Financial Profile Score Report. The email and ISBE's Weekly Message will be the only notices sent to the district. If you have given another person authority to review this report, please forward the email to them.

Districts who wish to include their story for their 2021 Financial Profile Score Report may do so in the comment box (500 characters max) provided in the [IWAS](https://sec2.isbe.net/iwas/asp/login.asp?js=true) (https://sec2.isbe.net/iwas/asp/login.asp?js=true) link. Select: Reporting>Annual>District Financial Report. **The comments must be submitted no later than Feb. 26.**

The financial profile designation will be approved and publicly released by ISBE, so it is crucial that districts review their financial profile data and score by the deadline. This is an opportunity for districts to explain significant financial circumstances.

The Financial Profile Scores will be adjusted to include FY 2020 delayed mandated categorical payments and will subtract out FY 2019 delayed mandated categorical payments. Upon approval by the State Board, these reports will be posted on the ISBE webpage at [School District Financial Profile](/Pages/School-District-Financial-Profile.aspx) (/Pages/School-District-Financial-Profile.aspx).

Please note that your preliminary Financial Profile Score will not be listed in the IWAS system if ISBE has not received the FY 2020 Annual Financial Report. If ISBE has recently received the FY 2020 Annual Financial Report, please allow a couple business days for processing. If you are still unable to view your preliminary Financial Profile Score, please contact a School Business Services consultant.

Additional information is also available in [IWAS](https://sec1.isbe.net/iwas/asp/login.asp?js=true) (https://sec1.isbe.net/iwas/asp/login.asp?js=true) and on the [School District Financial Profile Score Website](/Pages/Financial-Profile-Score.aspx) (/Pages/Financial-Profile-Score.aspx).

If you have questions regarding the report, please contact a School Business Services consultant by phone at (217) 785-8779 or email at finance1@isbe.net (mailto:finance1@isbe.net).

SUPPORT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

ISBE LAUNCHES FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT WEBPAGE!

The Family and Community Engagement Department would like to announce the launch of [ISBE Family and Community Engagement \(/Pages/Family-Community-Engagement.aspx\)](#) webpage. The webpage showcases ISBE's Family Engagement Framework Guide, as well as useful information and resources for parents/caretakers, educators, and school district administrators. The website was designed and developed to reflect the needs expressed by families across Illinois through data gathered at our Statewide Family Convening, as well as from statewide family advocacy groups. The purpose of the website is to serve as a resource to foster school/family/community dialogue and partnerships to ensure equitable outcomes for children across Illinois, as outlined in our Strategic Plan.

NEW

SPECIAL EDUCATION

EDUCATIONAL SURROGATE PARENT PROGRAM REQUEST FOR QUOTE

ISBE is seeking a vendor to provide recruitment and training services for the Educational Surrogate Parent Program. Educational Surrogate Parent (ESP) volunteers assist students with Individualized Education Programs (IEP) who are without parental representation in special education procedures, such as youth in care. Educational Surrogate Parent volunteers must participate in training in order to best advocate for students under evaluation for or who are receiving special education services. Illinois is also seeking assistance in recruiting additional ESP volunteers for areas of greatest need throughout the state. The vendor will collaborate with the ISBE grant administrator.

Interested applicants will find more information in the Request for Quote: Educational Surrogate Parent Program on the [Illinois BidBuy webpage](#) (<http://www.bidbuy.illinois.gov>) and search for Bid #21-586SBE-PROGR-B-19944.

Questions about the Educational Surrogate Parent program may be directed to surrogate@isbe.net (<mailto:surrogate@isbe.net>).

NEW

TRANSPORTATION

IN-PERSON SCHOOL BUS DRIVER INITIAL AND REFRESHER TRAININGS

Governor JB Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) announced on Jan. 15 that some regions of the state have met the COVID-19 data benchmarks to exit Tier 3 Resurgence Mitigations and enter either Tier 2 or Tier 1. You can find more information about the tiers at the [State of Illinois Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Response](#) (<https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/restore-illinois-mitigation-plan>.) page.

In consultation with IDPH, it has been determined that initial and refresher school bus driver trainings may occur in-person in regions where Tier 1 and Tier 2 mitigations are in place following the current public health guidelines for instructional activities in schools ([Phase 4](#) (<https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/>)):

- Require use of appropriate personal protective equipment, including face coverings;
- Prohibit more than 50 individuals from gathering in one space;
- Require social distancing be observed, as much as possible;
- Require that schools conduct symptom screenings and temperature checks or require that individuals self-certify that they are free of symptoms before entering school buildings; and
- Require an increase in schoolwide cleaning and disinfection.

As a reminder, all classes must be scheduled within IWAS prior to the date of the class so that the sign-in roster can be printed for the instructor to use. The IWAS entries also generate the class information on the [ISBE website](#) ([/Pages/SBDTraining.aspx](#)) which allows all Illinois school bus drivers to see what classes are being offered.

If you have classes entered in IWAS that were not held, please email a list to Mike Stier at mstier@isbe.net (<mailto:mstier@isbe.net>) so that he can delete them. Please include the type of class, date, location, ROE number, and the name of the instructor who is assigned to the class to make sure that the correct class is deleted.

Questions regarding this communication can be directed to Mr. Stier via email at mstier@isbe.net (mailto:mstier@isbe.net) or phone at (217) 782-5256.

Reminder: Emergency Rule

As a reminder, the Illinois Secretary of State has filed an Emergency Rule to allow for extensions for the annual school bus driver refresher class. The Emergency Rule, which went into effect Jan. 6, 2021, states the following:

- 92-1035.30 In recognition of the disaster proclaimed by the Governor in Gubernatorial Proclamation number 2020-038 issued on March 9, 2020, as extended by subsequent disaster proclamations and of the Tier 3 mitigations currently in place, refresher dates for those individuals whose current refresher date falls in December 2020, January 2021, February 2021 or March 2021 are extended for a period of 90 days.

A driver whose School Bus Permit (SBP) expired in December 2020 or will expire January-March of 2021 must submit an application for renewal of the SBP and their annual medical report even if the driver has been unable to complete refresher training. If refresher training is not completed within the 90-day extension, the SBP will be canceled.

IN BRIEF

EDUCATOR INFORMATION

Contacting your local Regional Office of Education/Intermediate Service Center (ROE/ISC) is easier than ever. The Educator Effectiveness Team launched the [Licensure Contact Us](http://www.isbe.net/contactlicensure) (http://www.isbe.net/contactlicensure) page in September 2020. The page houses contact information for all ROE/ISCs across the state. Before reaching out, please be ready to provide your Illinois Educator Identification Number in order to further assist them with your inquiry.

EDUCATOR OPPORTUNITIES

Are you interested in helping to shape the IAR assessment? Please, consider being a reviewer on the IAR math, ELA, or bias content review team. To be considered, please complete the [survey](http://web.isbe.net/isbenet-abb4l/pages/rqdnuk6veeuowaisai3ja.html?PageId=bacd0045af4eeb11a81300224808b78) (http://web.isbe.net/isbenet-abb4l/pages/rqdnuk6veeuowaisai3ja.html?PageId=bacd0045af4eeb11a81300224808b78) and let us know what your experience is. The cost of sub coverage or a stipend is provided. For questions, please email assessment@isbe.net (mailto:assessment@isbe.net).

CENSUS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The U.S. Census Bureau is hiring field work positions in [Boone](#)  (/NSDocuments/Recruiting-Flyer-Field-Rep-Boone.pdf), [Kane](#)  (/NSDocuments/Recruiting-Flyer-Field-Rep-Kane.pdf), [Lake](#)  (/NSDocuments/Recruiting-Flyer-Field-Rep-Lake.pdf), [McHenry](#)  (/NSDocuments/Recruiting-Flyer-Field-Rep-McHenry.pdf), and [Winnebago](#)  (/NSDocuments/Recruiting-Flyer-Field-Rep-Winnebago.pdf) Counties for surveys that will be conducted in those areas. These jobs provide flexible scheduling and a 10% night differential for hours worked after 6 p.m.

To request an application, contact the U.S. Census Bureau's Chicago Office at **(800) 865-6384, Ext. 15**, or by email at Chicago.Recruiting@Census.gov (mailto:Chicago.Recruiting@Census.gov)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- The Illinois State Museum will be offering two workshops for **free** this year from Echoes & Reflection. Each session will be held virtually for 2-3 hours each and are eligible for ISBE professional development hours.

- **March 2 – 4-7 pm - Choices Matter: Complicity and Action During the Holocaust**  (/NSDocuments/SpringfieldIL-Choices.pdf)
Examine the consequences of inaction and the courage and difficult choices of those who rescued and resisted during the Holocaust. Educators also learn how to support students to implement an action-oriented project influenced by the lessons of this history.
- **April 6 – 4-7 pm - Analyzing Propaganda and Teaching Media Literacy: The Holocaust as a Case Study**  (/NSDocuments/SpringfieldIL-MediaLiteracy.pdf)
Explore the events of the Holocaust through the lens of media, by examining propaganda deployed by the Nazis to discriminate against Jews and other minorities. Educators gain the tools to facilitate classroom discussions on the role and impact of Nazi propaganda during the Holocaust and support their students to critically analyze media in today's world.
- Lorna.Shuman@illinois.gov (mailto:Lorna.Shuman@illinois.gov).
- Infinitec, an Illinois Schools Assistive Technology Support provider, invites educators and practitioners to participate in two upcoming professional learning opportunities:
 - **Transforming your Practice through Peer Coaching**  (/NSDocuments/Infinitec-Peer-Coaching-Flyer.pdf) – **March 3, April 7, and May 5**
Have you ever attended a professional learning event that demonstrated skills/strategies you wanted to try with one or more of your students, and then never did? Join Us in this series and learn how to work collaboratively with a colleague to support one another in the changes you would like to make to your practice. This course is offered for 1.35 ASHA CEUs. hers, Sp. Ed. Teachers, AT Facilitators, etc.
 - **Infinitec Virtual Practitioner's Conference**  (/NSDocuments/2021-ISBE-Practitioners-Conf-Save-the-Date.pdf) – **March 16A** day of education, motivation, and inspiration! Strands include AT to Support Communication, Remote delivery of AT, Transition, High Incidence, Low Incidence, AT Process/Legal topics. Interested in presenting? Submit a [proposal](http://bit.ly/Infinitec2021PractitionerConference) (<http://bit.ly/Infinitec2021PractitionerConference>).
- Ed Leaders Network is offering the following course and live webinar:
 - **Journey Toward Anti-Racist Education** (<https://eln.bridgeapp.com/learner/courses/b2616c0b/enroll>) – (two professional development hours) – No one is born racist or anti-racist; these result from the choices we make. Being anti-racist results from a conscious decision to make frequent, consistent, equitable choices daily. Participants in this course will experience self-analysis on types of racism, biases, empathy and tenets of racism
 - **March 9 – 3 pm – Developing an Instructional Coaching Program for Impact** (https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ggXrE3SSTI-gGZiZ0X1x6A) – According to a Southwest Regional Education Lab report, teachers who receive substantial professional development—an average of 49 hours—can boost their students' achievement by about 21 percentile points. This webinar will focus on the strategies that were used to develop a successful instructional coaching program where over 80% of the staff voluntarily worked with instructional coaches.

FEATURED CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

- IT Security Administrator – Senior Systems Administrator (/Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=486)
- Specialized Populations (/Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=494)
- E-GMS Team Member (/Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=492)

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