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Dear Colleagues,

President Joe Biden signed the American Rescue Plan into law on March 11, which provides substantial resources to help schools resume in-person instruction as expeditiously as possible and to address the urgent academic, social-emotional, and mental health needs of our students.

The U.S. Department of Education has communicated to us that Illinois will receive more than \$5 billion from the American Rescue Plan's Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER III). Of that, 90 percent will go directly to Local Education Agencies (LEAs). We are working quickly to verify district allocations and anticipate having that information as quickly as possible.

I want to take a moment to discuss some of the important points and changes within ESSER III.

We have an opportunity with this influx of funding to alter the educational trajectory of our most vulnerable students. As much as possible, I encourage you to use this funding to increase in-person instructional time for students, especially those at risk of not being prepared for the next grade level. That could mean expanded summer school, before- or afterschool programs, high-impact tutoring, and an early start to the school year.




One important stipulation of the grant is that LEAs must reserve at least 20 percent of the direct allocation to address learning loss through the implementation of evidence-based interventions and to ensure that those interventions respond to students' social, emotional, and academic needs and address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on underrepresented student groups.

Every time I hear from a group of students, including ISBE's own Student Advisory Council, I hear their concerns about mental health. Consider using these funds to increase access to mental health supports and to address students' social-emotional needs.

Think about spending federal funding holistically – considering funds from ESSER I, II, and III, as well as federal carryover dollars to ensure equity and the maximum possible positive impact for students.

At ISBE's Board meeting last week, we heard from three districts on how they are using ESSER funds to support students. Dr. Amy Dixon, principal in Carmi-White County School District 5, highlighted how they used funds to close the digital divide, maximize learning impact through expanded summer school, and hired an additional school nurse to assist in contact tracing and partnering with their local health department. Dr. Devon Horton of Evanston School District 65 is using their funds to double the number of slots for their summer learning programs. And Dr. Anna Alvarado of Freeport School District 145 is using federal funding to not only expand summer reading and math supports, but also to add enrichment and activities to take a whole child approach to maximizing learning impact.

ISBE intends to release the ESSER III grant application July 1, meaning projects funded by ESSER III will have fiscal year 2022 start dates. As was the case with ESSER I and II, LEAs may use ESSER III funds for costs dating back to March 13, 2020, when the COVID-19 national emergency was declared. You may obligate ESSER III funds through September 30, 2024.

For more information, view the U.S. Department of Education’s [fact sheet](https://oese.ed.gov/files/2021/03/FINAL_ARP-ESSER-FACT-SHEET.pdf)  (https://oese.ed.gov/files/2021/03/FINAL_ARP-ESSER-FACT-SHEET.pdf), [letter to state school chiefs](https://oese.ed.gov/files/2021/03/ARP_Letter_Sec_to_Chiefs_FINAL.pdf)  (https://oese.ed.gov/files/2021/03/ARP_Letter_Sec_to_Chiefs_FINAL.pdf), and [state allocations](https://oese.ed.gov/files/2021/03/FINAL_ARP-ESSER-Methodology-and-Table.pdf)  (https://oese.ed.gov/files/2021/03/FINAL_ARP-ESSER-Methodology-and-Table.pdf).

Lastly, I want to acknowledge the recent violence against the Asian community and the tragic loss of life in Atlanta. I’d like to elevate the organization [Dear Asian Youth](https://www.dearasianyouth.org/%20) (<https://www.dearasianyouth.org/%20>), an organization created and run by Asian youth across the globe with members and leaders in Illinois, and the group’s [thoughtful statement](https://www.dearasianyouth.org/post/the-atlanta-shootings-call-it-a-hate-crime) (<https://www.dearasianyouth.org/post/the-atlanta-shootings-call-it-a-hate-crime>) on the violence that puts what happened into context.

Bullying, especially racialized bullying, continues to take place in schools. We have the responsibility as educators to create inclusive classrooms where every student can thrive. I encourage school districts to take this opportunity to ensure students know where to find the district’s bullying policy, where and how to report if they feel unsafe or discriminated against, and the interventions the district is committed to in support of the safety and wellbeing of all students.

Pictured: Carmi-White Co. Unit #5’s Interventionist Whitney Pearce helps a student learn. The district is using federal funding to hire more interventionists to help close reading and math gaps.

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>).

Mar. 23	Webinar: ELDT: What School Bus Operators Need to Know (https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3783650821850249742)
Mar. 24	Women and Girls Summit: Advocating for Our Next-Gen (https://twitter.com/LtGovStratton?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor)
Mar. 26	Deadline to complete NAEP Monthly School Survey (https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/covid19.aspx)
Mar. 31	Women and Girls Summit: Advocating for Self-Care (https://twitter.com/LtGovStratton?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor)
Mar. 31	Deadline to apply for HBI School to Skills Grant Program (http://www.hbi.org/s2s)
Mar. 31	Deadline to submit public comment for 2021 Accountability Waiver (https://www.isbe.net/summative)
Apr. 2	Deadline to submit NSLP Equipment Assistance Grant (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Equipment-Grants.aspx)
Apr. 13	SAT – Spring 2021 Primary Test Dates

Apr. 13-27	SAT – Spring 2021 Accommodations Testing Window
Apr. 14-15	ISBE School Wellness Conference (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/School-Wellness-Conference.aspx)
Apr. 14	ISBE Virtual Career Fair (https://www.isbe.net/Documents/ISBE-Virtual-Career-Fair-Flyer.pdf)
Apr. 14	ISBE Virtual Career Fair (https://www.isbe.net/Documents/ISBE-Virtual-Career-Fair-Flyer.pdf)
Apr. 23	Illinois Career Connections Virtual Conference (http://ilcareerconnections.org/2559-2/)
Apr. 23	Deadline to submit nominations for Teacher of the Year program (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/teacher-of-the-year.aspx)
Apr. 27	SAT – Spring 2021 Makeup Test Dates
Apr. 30	Deadline to submit applications for Illinois Advisory Council on Bilingual Education (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Illinois-Advisory-Council-on-Bilingual-Education.aspx)
May 2	Deadline to submit proposals for Statewide Assistive Technology grant program (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Special-Education-Assistive-Technology.aspx)
May 3	Deadline to submit proposals for Illinois Service Resource Center grant program (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Deaf-and-Visually-Impaired.aspx)
May 18	SAT – Spring 2021 Makeup Test Dates
Jun. 1-4	National Family & Community Engagement Conference (https://web.cvent.com/event/c69c15a5-5295-486d-8d50-08f782c44e4e/summary)





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.

For additional information, please email covid19@isbe.net (mailto:covid19@isbe.net).

IDPH ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Interim Post-Vaccination Considerations for School Employees](#)  (/Documents/Post-Vaccine-Guidance-Schools.pdf) – **March 16**
- [IDPH Frequently Asked Questions](#)  (/Documents/IDPH-School-FAQs.pdf) – **March 16**
- [IDPH Exclusion Decision Tree](#)  (/Documents/IDPH-COVID19-Exclusion-Decison-Tree.pdf) – **March 16**
- [IDPH Adaptive Pause & Metrics: Interim School Guidance for Local Health Departments](#)  (/Documents/IDPH-Adaptive-Pause-Metrics.pdf) – **March 16**

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL RELEASES RESOURCES TO PROMOTE COVID-19 VACCINATIONS IN SCHOOL SETTINGS

- [COVID-19 Vaccine Toolkit for School Settings and Childcare Programs](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/toolkits/schools-childcare.html) (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/toolkits/schools-childcare.html) – School and child care program leaders can use this toolkit to communicate with their

staff about COVID-19 vaccination. It provides ready-made materials, including posters, flyers, letters to staff, social media messages, newsletter articles, and stickers, to offer staff after they have been vaccinated.

- [Teachers, School Staff, and Childcare Workers: How to Get Vaccinated](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/specific-groups/teachers-childcare.html) (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/specific-groups/teachers-childcare.html) – This webpage provides staff with the latest information about how to get vaccinated.

We encourage you to use this information in conjunction with the [Illinois Department of Public Health's vaccine information](https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/) (https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/).

ENSURING DRINKING WATER QUALITY IN SCHOOLS AND DAY CARES AFTER EXTENDED CLOSURES

ISBE shared an article titled "[Improving Water Quality in Illinois Schools: Lead in Water Testing and Legionella Prevention](#) (/Pages/Weekly-Message-Display-Form.aspx?ItemId=232)" regarding water quality in schools in the January 29, 2021, ISBE Weekly Message.

ISBE has received two additional articles from the Illinois Department of Public Health -- "[Ensuring Drinking Water Quality in Child Care Facilities During and After Extended Closures](#) (/Documents/Drinking-Water-Quality-Child-Care.pdf)" and "[Ensuring Drinking Water Quality in Schools During and After Extended Closures](#) (/Documents/Drinking-Water-Quality-Schools.pdf)." These documents, also found on the ISBE [Health and Life Safety page](#) (/Pages/Health-and-Life-Safety.aspx) in the Resources section, provide guidance to ensure drinking water in schools and day cares is of high quality after extended closures.

If you have any further questions, please contact the Plumbing and Water Quality Program of the Division of Environmental Health at the Illinois Department of Public Health at (217) 524-0791 or visit the [IDPH webpage](http://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/environmental-health-protection/plumbing) (http://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/environmental-health-protection/plumbing).

NEW

ACCOUNTABILITY

ISBE SEEKING PUBLIC COMMENT FOR 2021 ACCOUNTABILITY WAIVER

ISBE is seeking [public comment](http://www.isbe.net/summative) (http://www.isbe.net/summative) on its 2021 accountability waiver. The accountability waiver request template published by the U.S. Department of Education allows states to waive two sets of requirements -- accountability calculations and the reporting of those calculations. **These two sets of requirements go hand in hand.** If accountability is waived, reporting of it must also be waived. If accountability is not waived, reporting cannot be waived.

1. Accountability calculation requirements

States that apply for this waiver **are not** required to:

- Issue annual summative designations using 2021 data.
- Factor the 95% participation requirement into academic achievement calculations.
- Measure progress toward long-term goals and interim targets using 2021 data.


2. Report Card provisions related to accountability

States that apply for this waiver are required to:

- Report the list of schools identified for support in 2021.
- Report on chronic absenteeism. States **do not** have to report on "other" school quality and student success indicators if it is not appropriate to do so.

However, states **are not** required to:

- Report on their growth indicator because missing data from 2020 makes it impossible to do so.
- Report measures of progress toward long-term goals and interim targets because they are not required to calculate them.

Review the full waiver request  (/Documents/20-21-Accountability-Waiver.pdf) or go to the [Summative Designation](http://www.isbe.net/summative) (http://www.isbe.net/summative) or [ESSA](http://www.isbe.net/essa) (http://www.isbe.net/essa) sites to [submit your comments](http://www.isbe.net/summative) (http://www.isbe.net/summative). Your responses, along with some demographic information (e.g., information on total number of received comments, role(s) in which the comments were submitted), will be used to inform ISBE's submission of the waiver request. Public Comment closes **March 31**.

NEW

ASSESSMENT

NCES MONTHLY SCHOOL SURVEY AVAILABLE UNTIL MARCH 26

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) in the U.S. Department of Education is collecting data on the status of in-person learning. This is in response to the President's recent Executive Order supporting the reopening and continuing operation of schools and early childhood education facilities. The goal of the monthly [survey](https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/covid19.aspx) (https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/covid19.aspx) is to provide evidence-based guidance to inform national- and state-level decision-makers responsible for policy and resources needed to reopen schools for in-person learning. A small number of schools with students in grades 4 or 8 have been selected to represent all Illinois schools in this important study. Notifications were sent to superintendents and principals of the selected districts and schools on March 9. The second round of data collection began on March 17 and continues through **March 26**. Because of the urgency of this issue, we are asking that selected schools respond to all survey items. Results will be available in early April. Please note that this study does not require student participation. It involves the same schools that were selected for the 2021 National Assessment of Progress, which was postponed.

UPCOMING TESTING INFORMATION ANNOUNCED

ISBE has offered a choice between spring 2021 or fall 2021 assessments. School districts committed to the spring or fall test window via the Spring 21 Testing Options Survey that was sent to all superintendents on Friday, March 5, 2021. The window selected by superintendents is a firm commitment as ISBE must make budgetary adjustments to assessment contracts. If you need to reset your initial survey response, please email assessment@isbe.net (mailto:assessment@isbe.net).

Districts that chose to test in the fall will administer the grade level test based on a student's spring 2021 enrollment grade (e.g., students who are grade 5 in spring 2021 who test in fall will take the grade 5 assessment in fall 2021, even if they have been promoted to grade 6 in fall 2021). Elementary school districts that selected fall testing must coordinate with their feeder high school districts as to how they will test grade 8 students. Any elementary school district that cannot coordinate with their feeder high school district as to how grade 8 students will be tested had to select spring testing.

Entities that selected fall testing must be aware that enrollment data must be entered into the State Student Information System (SIS) starting August 1, 2021, and at least a week before your desired fall test window(s). ISBE must be able to roster students into test management platforms so students can be assessed. ISBE uses SIS enrollment data to complete that work. More detailed timelines will be published cooperatively by the ISBE Assessment and IBM-SIS Teams at a later date.

In addition to the information below, ISBE will maintain more detailed Frequently Asked Questions documents for each test program on the corresponding program website that can be linked to via the [Assessment Department webpage](/Pages/Assessment.aspx) (/Pages/Assessment.aspx).

ISBE staff express our sincere appreciation for your cooperation and understanding as we work through the events at hand. We have attempted to provide the most flexibility possible during these unprecedented times. Thank you for your patience.

Below are the specific details for each assessment:

SAT

Spring 2021 Test Dates

- April 13, 2021 (primary test date)
- April 27, 2021 (makeup test date)
- May 18, 2021 (added May makeup test date)
- April 13-27, 2021 (accommodations testing window)

Fall 2021 Test Dates

- October 13, 2021 (primary test date)
- October 28, 2021 (makeup test date)
- October 13-26, 2021 (accommodations testing window)

SAT with Essay: The essay portion is eliminated for spring 2021 and fall 2021. If fall 2021 was selected for SAT administration, only the cohort of students who are required to test in spring 2021 are required to test in fall 2021. Schools will not have the option to give the essay in spring 2021 or fall 2021.

Diploma Requirement Update for Grade 12 Students: Public Act 101-643 makes all current 12th-grade students eligible for graduation regardless of whether that student took the SAT in 11th grade. Exemption paperwork for current grade 12 students who do not test is not required to be submitted to ISBE.

The PSAT 10 and PSAT 8/9 have been eliminated in spring 2021 and will not be offered by ISBE in fall 2021. Schools will not have the option to give the PSAT 10 or PSAT 8/9 in spring 2021.

ILLINOIS ASSESSMENT OF READINESS

Test Windows

- Spring: March 15 - May 28, 2021
- Fall: August 9 - October 8, 2021

All students taking an online test form will take three test units for the English Language Arts (ELA) Assessment. ISBE will no longer be administering the ELA/Literacy field test unit to participating districts. ALL schools will receive a shorter third unit and should plan for the approximate testing time to be between 10-20 minutes for students to complete. There were no changes made to the math assessment.

Schools may also have the option of testing on Saturdays (7 a.m. – 5 p.m.), if needed.

ILLINOIS SCIENCE ASSESSMENT

Test Windows

- Spring: March 15 - June 30, 2021
- Fall: August 9 - October 8, 2021

The only significant change for the Illinois Science Assessment is the addition of the fall test window.

ACCESS

Test Windows

- Spring: March 15 - June 30, 2021
- Fall: July 1 - September 17, 2021

Paper materials must be returned by September 24, 2021.

English Learners identified via provisional screening should participate in ACCESS testing for school year 2021.

DYNAMIC LEARNING MAPS ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT

Test Windows

- Spring: March 15 - June 30, 2021
- Fall: August 9 - September 30, 2021 (*updated 03/15/21*)

Districts will have to select the Essential Elements that the student would have tested on during the spring 2021 test blueprints.

Test blueprints can be found on the [Illinois DLM webpage](#) (/Pages/DLM-AA.aspx) under Manuals and Blueprints.

Information on how to select those Essential Elements and set up the instructionally embedded assessment for the fall can be found in the Educator Portal manual and in the Test Administration manual.

The fall 2021 instructionally embedded assessments will not generate a performance level. The instructionally embedded assessments provide a mastered/not mastered rating for each linkage level assessed for each Essential Element.

Given that the PSAT is no longer required, the state's alternate assessment for those grades, the DLM, is likewise no longer required for students in grades 9 and 10. Schools that administer the DLM instructionally embedded assessments for progress monitoring and instructional purposes as indicated in a student's Individualized Education Program may continue to access the DLM system as an alternate local assessment.

Diploma Requirement Update for Grade 12 Students: Public Act 101-643 makes all current 12th-grade students eligible for graduation regardless of whether that student took the DLM-AA in 11th grade. Exemption paperwork for current grade 12 students who do not test is not required to be submitted to ISBE.

NEW

FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

2021 NATIONAL FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CONFERENCE JUNE 1-4

Spring is a time of transformation. Many school districts have begun to receive a substantial amount of COVID-19 relief funds, and we must continue to invest and plant seeds in what we know works, including family and community engagement. Effective family and community engagement is essential for addressing the impact of interrupted schooling and educational inequities. We cannot accelerate learning if students are not present. We cannot sustain progress if parents and families are not engaged. When we are connected together, we are stronger than ever! As school districts develop plans for spending federal pandemic relief funds, we encourage the engagement of families and communities in the process. For support with effectively engaging families and communities, please consider registering now for the [2021 National Family & Community Engagement Conference](https://web.cvent.com/event/c69c15a5-5295-486d-8d50-08f782c44e4e/summary) (https://web.cvent.com/event/c69c15a5-5295-486d-8d50-08f782c44e4e/summary). Use discount code LuckyCharm to receive early bird pricing on individual and group registrations.

NEW

GRANT ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY ACT

ISBE OFFERS GUIDANCE FOR FY 2022 STATE OR FEDERAL GRANT APPLICANTS

Grantees must ensure all Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) requirements are met prior to full execution of any FY 2022 state or federal grant application. Grantees must be fully prequalified in the GATA Grantee Portal and ensure the following are completed prior to submitting FY 2022 grant applications:

FY 2022 ICQ

The FY 2022 Fiscal and Administrative Risk Assessment Internal Controls Questionnaire (ICQ) must be completed and submitted in the [GATA Grantee Portal](#) (<https://grants.illinois.gov/portal/>) prior to submitting FY 2022 grant applications. ISBE will not approve FY 2022 grant applications nor will awards be made without the FY 2022 ICQ. ICQ-specific questions may be directed to GATAICQ@isbe.net (<mailto:GATAICQ@isbe.net>).

FY 2022 Organizational Risk Assessment

All applicants must complete and submit the Organizational Risk Assessment prior to applying for FY 2022 grants. The Organizational Risk Assessment is in the IWAS System Listing under Active Grants. Results will apply to all FY 2022 ISBE grants. Grant-specific risk assessments will be included in each FY 2022 grant application and results from these two risk assessments generate the Programmatic Risk Conditions. ISBE will not approve FY 2022 grant applications nor will awards be made without a completed Organizational Risk Assessment.

SAM.gov

All grantees must maintain an active DUNS number and registration with the federal System for Award Management (SAM). SAM registrations must be renewed annually. ISBE encourages all grantees to review their account status at <https://www.sam.gov/SAM/> (<https://www.sam.gov/SAM/>) and to begin the renewal process at least eight weeks prior to expiration.

Expired or invalid SAM accounts will delay the ISBE grant application process as ISBE will not approve FY 2022 grant applications nor will awards be made to grantees with expired SAM accounts. Renewal assistance is available through the Federal Service Desk at (866) 606-8220 or <https://www.fsd.gov/> (<https://www.fsd.gov/>) There is no cost for support services or to use SAM.gov.

Additional information and updates are available on the [GATA webpage](#) (/gata) under “What’s New?” Questions may be directed to GATA@isbe.net (<mailto:GATA@isbe.net>).

NEW

COLLEGE AND CAREER

ISAC ENCOURAGES SCHOOLS TO CONDUCT FAFSA COMPLETION EVENTS DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

Thank you to all the schools that Rocked the FAFSA last week! ISAC and ISBE are encouraging schools to continue the push by scheduling FAFSA completion events **during the school day** to ensure students receive the assistance they need to complete their required FAFSA forms. The FAFSA mandate requires that all high school seniors complete a financial aid application as a prerequisite to receiving a high school diploma. Completing the FAFSA or Illinois alternative secures students dollars to pursue their dreams after high school.

Want to know how your school’s completion rate compares to other schools in Illinois? Check out the [FAFSA Completion Initiative](#) (<https://www.isac.org/home/fafsa/index.html>). Sign up for ISAC’s FAFSA data-matching to get information on which of your students has not completed a financial aid application, so you can reach out to those who might need assistance. Find out more at the [2021-22 FAFSA Completion Initiative](#) (<https://www.isac.org/home/fafsa/index.html>) webpage.

ISAC’S FREE TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES CAN ASSIST YOUR STUDENTS

Spring semester can be a busy time of year with postsecondary planning, and Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) has resources to help with that work. ISAC College Q&A is a free texting service by which students can simply text a financial aid question to an ISAC staff member and get answers sent directly to their phone. Students can also receive targeted text reminders about college-going and financial aid deadlines. The ISAC Student Portal has free online tools and resources, including scholarship search, financial aid calculators, checklists, and other tools and activities, to help high school students with postsecondary planning.

To learn more about how students can register for the ISAC College Q&A service and the resources available through the ISAC Student Portal, please complete the [Information Request Form](https://www.isac.org/initiatives) (<https://www.isac.org/initiatives>). An ISAC representative will reach out to you with additional information.

ALL ILLINOIS PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES COMMON APPLICATION FOR COLLEGE ADMISSIONS NOW AVAILABLE

Governor JB Pritzker and the Illinois Board of Higher Education have announced that beginning this fall, all 12 of the state’s public universities will begin using the Common Application (Common App) for admissions, making it easier for interested students to apply to multiple universities at once. Three public universities in Illinois currently use the Common App and the remaining institutions will be available on the system by August 2021.

Illinois is one of the top five states in the nation for Common App submissions, with approximately 54,500 applicants, or 5 percent of the total, coming from Illinois. By giving students the ability to submit one application for multiple colleges and universities, the Pritzker Administration is removing barriers and roadblocks that can prevent students from enrolling in higher education.


Students interested in learning more about the Common Application can go to <https://www.commonapp.org> (<https://www.commonapp.org/>).

NEW

MULTILINGUAL

ISBE SEEKING APPLICANTS FOR ILLINOIS ADVISORY COUNCIL ON BILINGUAL EDUCATION

The Illinois State Board of Education Multilingual Department is seeking applications for members of the Illinois Advisory Council on Bilingual Education (IACBE). Please send a letter of interest with your curriculum vitae/resume to multilingual@isbe.net (<mailto:multilingual@isbe.net>) by **April 30** if you are interested in applying for consideration to join the IACBE.

The purpose of the IACBE is to advise the State Superintendent of Education on issues that are related to the educational needs of students whose first language is not English. The council consists of 17 members, including the chairperson. Members hold office for a term of three years and are appointed by the State Superintendent. There are four regularly scheduled meetings; the chair will call special meetings to address [Public Act 97-0915](https://ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/97/PDF/097-0915.pdf)  (<https://ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/97/PDF/097-0915.pdf>).

For more information on IACBE, visit the [IACBE webpage](/Pages/Illinois-Advisory-Council-on-Bilingual-Education.aspx) (</Pages/Illinois-Advisory-Council-on-Bilingual-Education.aspx>).

NEW

SPECIAL EDUCATION

IDEA GRANTS TO STATES: NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Assistive Technology

ISBE is seeking proposals from entities interested in implementing the Statewide Assistive Technology grant projects. Illinois has three grant projects that address the use of assistive technology in schools: AT Technical Assistance and Resources, AT Device Loan and Evaluation, and AT Exchange Network. These projects seek to build capacity and awareness of professionals at all levels of education, students, parents and families, and community members regarding use of assistive technology in education. Additionally, these projects increase availability of quality assistive technology devices, computer systems, durable medical equipment, augmentative and augmented communication, and other assistive technology items to support students’ access to curriculum throughout the state.

The Assistive Technology NOFOs/RFPs and an FAQ document are posted on the [ISBE Assistive Technology](/Pages/Special-Education-Assistive-Technology.aspx) (</Pages/Special-Education-Assistive-Technology.aspx>) webpage under the heading “Assistive Technology Grant Projects.”

Proposals are due by **May 3**.

Illinois Service Resource Center

ISBE is seeking proposals from entities interested in implementing the Illinois Service Resource Center (ISRC) grant program. The program is required by the Illinois School Code (105 ILCS 5/14-11.03) to support students who are deaf or hard of hearing, blind, or visually impaired and have an emotional or behavioral disorder. ISRC provides free training, onsite assistance, and resources for parents and educators of students who are deaf, hard of hearing, or visually impaired. ISRC utilizes a multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS) model to provide universal, targeted, and intensive interventions and supports.

The ISRC NOFO/RFP and an FAQ document are posted on the [ISBE Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Deaf-Blind, Visually Impaired \(/Pages/Deaf-and-Visually-Impaired.aspx\)](#) webpage under the heading “Grants to States: Illinois Service Resource Center.”

Proposals are due by **May 2**.

ILLINOIS IDEA PART B APPLICATION AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

The Special Education Services Department has posted the [FFY21 IDEA Part B annual state application \(/Pages/IDEA-Part-B-Annual-State-Application.aspx\)](#). All states applying for funds under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) are required to make the application packet for those federal funds available for public review and comment. These are the funds that support provision of special education services to children ages 3 to 21 in Illinois. ISBE has developed the draft application packet for IDEA Part B funds and by this notice is making the application available for review and comment.


The application packet, developed by the U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), includes a summary of the assurances, certifications, and IDEA use of fund descriptions that the state will use to implement Part B of IDEA. Upon OSEP's approval of Illinois' Part B application, the state will receive a federal grant award under Part B of the IDEA for the period of July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022. The application is available for review **March 16 – May 14**, which is the required 60-day timeline. Written public comments on the draft Part B application packet may be submitted from **April 13 – May 14** during the required 30-day timeline. Please send comments to the attention of Oriana Wilson at PartBapplications@isbe.net (mailto:PartBapplications@isbe.net).

NEW

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH FROM ISBE'S CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT

How are you celebrating Women's History Month? Maybe your hallways are lined with pictures of notable women, and your students are presenting reports about their favorite heroes. If you need inspiration, here are a few good sources compiled by ISBE's Curriculum and Instruction Department:

- The [National Women's History Museum](https://www.womenshistory.org/) (https://www.womenshistory.org/) was founded 20 years ago after a group of women resolved to move the Women Suffrage Statue (Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Susan B. Anthony) out of the U.S. Capitol basement and into the rotunda. It offers an [online toolkit](https://www.womenshistory.org/sites/default/files/document/2021-03/NWHM%20Women%27s%20History%20Month%20Toolkit.pdf)  (https://www.womenshistory.org/sites/default/files/document/2021-03/NWHM%20Women%27s%20History%20Month%20Toolkit.pdf).
- The Library of Congress, National Archives and Records Administration, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution, and U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum join in commemorating and encouraging the study, observance, and celebration of the vital role of women in American history at <https://womenshistorymonth.gov/teachers.html> (https://womenshistorymonth.gov/teachers.html).
- Science NetLinks, a project of the Directorate for Education and Human Resources Programs of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, offers [Women's History Month-themed lesson plans featuring women scientists here](http://sciencenetlinks.com/collections/womens-history-month/) (http://sciencenetlinks.com/collections/womens-history-month/).
- And the Public Broadcasting Service hosts a [site](https://illinois.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/womens-history-month/) (https://illinois.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/womens-history-month/) showing films featuring women and girls from around the world.

LT. GOVERNOR STRATTON ANNOUNCES WOMEN AND GIRLS SUMMIT

Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton invites you to join her in celebrating Women’s History Month during the month of March by participating in the events of the Women and Girls Summit. These virtual events will take place on Wednesdays during March and can be viewed by visiting the Lt. Governor Stratton’s social media pages ([Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/ltgovstratton/) (<https://www.facebook.com/ltgovstratton/>) and [Twitter](https://twitter.com/LtGovStratton?ref_src=twsrc%5egoogole%7ctwcamp%5eserp%7ctwgr%5eauthor) (https://twitter.com/LtGovStratton?ref_src=twsrc%5egoogole%7ctwcamp%5eserp%7ctwgr%5eauthor)), as all the events will be livestreamed there. The following events will all take place **5:30-6:30 p.m.**

- **March 24** – Advocating for Our Next-Gen
- **March 31** – Advocating for Self-Care










NEW

WELLNESS


REGISTER FOR ISBE SCHOOL WELLNESS CONFERENCE LIVE WEBINARS

The Illinois State Board of Education is excited to announce that registration is underway for the second annual School Wellness Conference. The ISBE Nutrition, Wellness, and Student Care departments will present nine live webinars on **April 14 and 15**. Visit the [School Wellness Conference webpage](#) (</Pages/School-Wellness-Conference.aspx>) today and sign up for each session you would like to attend.

Click the individual session links to read the description and to register. Scheduled live sessions include:

- [Safe2Help Illinois: A School Safety Program](https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5505686142331775755)  (<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5505686142331775755>), 9-9:45 a.m. Wednesday, April 14
- [Requirements for the Use of Isolated Time Out, Time Out, and Physical Restraint \(23 IAC 1.285\)](https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3913197481126206475)  (<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3913197481126206475>), 10-10:45 a.m. Wednesday, April 14
- [From the Depths of Hate to Spreading Hope for Tolerance](https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3386827180049500171)  (<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3386827180049500171>), 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 14
- [Dietary Guidelines for Americans & the Connection to School Nutrition](https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3704794947686108939)  (<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3704794947686108939>), 1:30-2:15 p.m. Wednesday, April 14
- [Promoting Year-Round Meals](https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/806786861589523979)  (<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/806786861589523979>), 2:30-3:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 14
- [Self-Care During a Pandemic](https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6863555514844852235)  (<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6863555514844852235>), 9-9:45 p.m. Thursday, April 15
- [Let’s Not Forget About Ourselves: Self-Care Strategies for Adults Working With Trauma-Exposed Youth](https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3302328611943543051)  (<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3302328611943543051>), 10-10:45 a.m. Thursday, April 15
- [Queering Advocacy for School Communities](https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4911549641100748555)  (<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4911549641100748555>), 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Thursday, April 15
- [Student Panel: 2020-2021 Student Advisory Council](https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/1608571631284951051)  (<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/1608571631284951051>), 1:30-3:30 p.m. Thursday, April 15

SPRING RECRUITMENT UNDERWAY FOR PARENTEACH PARENTING EDUCATION PILOT PROGRAM

Did you know that parenting education at the high school level can reduce child abuse and neglect? ISBE, in conjunction with ParenTeach, is seeking student enrollment for its [Parenting Education Pilot Program](#)  (</NSDocuments/21-22-Recruitment-flyer.pdf>). The program, mandated in response to [HB 4442](#) (<https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/billstatus.asp?DocNum=4442&GAID=14&GA=100&DocTypeID=HB&LegID=109268&SessionID=91>), provides students with the necessary skills in parenting education.

This pilot program supports the following high school areas:

- Health and wellness coursework
- Career and technical education credit recovery

- Alternative placement schooling supports

For more information about the program, check out the [video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QQRfLZncNwY) (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QQRfLZncNwY) or contact Katharine Bensingher at (847) 712-2710 or email her at Katharine@parenteach.com (mailto:Katharine@parenteach.com).

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

SCHOOLS TO SKILLS GRANT PROGRAM NOW AVAILABLE FOR MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Recently, the Home Builders Institute (HBI) announced that the [third annual Schools to Skills grant program](http://www.hbi.org/s2s) (http://www.hbi.org/s2s) is accepting applications. Schools to Skills is a high school-focused program funded by the Home Depot Foundation (HDF) and the National Housing Endowment (NHE) to support secondary schools in the creation or enhancement of their construction trades programs. These important grant funds will support providing valuable training to students with the inclusion of HBI's Pre-Apprenticeship Certificate Training (PACT) curriculum.

Upon successful completion of the PACT curriculum and assessment, students will earn a pre-apprenticeship, industry-recognized certification that is endorsed by the National Association of Home Builders and is one of three curricula recognized by the U.S. Department of Labor – all provided at no cost to the students.

The Schools to Skills program is open to all secondary schools. The deadline to [apply](http://www.hbi.org/s2s) (http://www.hbi.org/s2s) is **March 31**.

IN BRIEF


PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Teach Plus

Teach Plus Illinois is thrilled to announce two policy fellowships for educators in the 2021-22 school year -- the [K-12 Teaching Policy Fellowship](https://teachplus.org/programs/Instructional-Leadership-Programs?location=5) (https://teachplus.org/programs/Instructional-Leadership-Programs?location=5) and the [Early Childhood Educator Policy Fellowship](https://teachplus-dot-yamm-track.appspot.com/Redirect?ukey=1aGHEeWTi3PdN7G0I-ZbzR2M66OJXmvfXhNq6f-_WVfE-1168721399&key=YAMMID-59204423&link=https://teachplus.org/Illinois-Early-Childhood-Educator-Fellowship) (https://teachplus-dot-yamm-track.appspot.com/Redirect?ukey=1aGHEeWTi3PdN7G0I-ZbzR2M66OJXmvfXhNq6f-_WVfE-1168721399&key=YAMMID-59204423&link=https://teachplus.org/Illinois-Early-Childhood-Educator-Fellowship).

Teach Plus Illinois' programs are highly selective leadership opportunities for outstanding teachers looking to expand their influence without having to leave the classroom. They span the 2021-22 school year and offer selected teachers a generous stipend for their time and work. The policy fellowships are for teachers who want to learn about policy and advocate on behalf of all students. [Grow as teacher leader by exploring one of these opportunities](https://teachplus.org/IL) (https://teachplus.org/IL)!

World Education Summit

The [World Education Summit](https://www.worldedsummit.com/) (https://www.worldedsummit.com/) will be held virtually March 22-25. Governor JB Pritzker, Deputy Governor for Education Jesse Ruiz, Executive Director of the Illinois Education Association Audrey Soglin, and State Superintendent of Education Dr. Carmen I. Ayala will join a long list of educational experts from across the world to celebrate best practice in leadership and teaching. Individual tickets as well as group tickets for schools and districts can be purchased. For information on the event and purchasing tickets, [view this flyer](#)  (/Documents/World-Ed-Summit-District-Group-Tickets-Flyer.pdf) and email info@empowereddigital.net (mailto:info@empowereddigital.net).

Ed Leaders Network

Ed Leaders Network is offering the following recorded and live webinars as well as the following micro-credential stack. Visit the [Ed Leaders Micro-credential library](#) (<https://edleadersnetwork.org/micro-credential-library/>) to view the entire selection available at this time.

- [MTSS: An Equitable Approach to Student Success](http://ipa-nfe.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT05OTI0MzQxJnA9MSZ1PTEzMzlwMTUyMzAmbGk9ODUwOTgyMzE/index.html) (<http://ipa-nfe.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT05OTI0MzQxJnA9MSZ1PTEzMzlwMTUyMzAmbGk9ODUwOTgyMzE/index.html>) – This session will explore how to use MTSS to propel equitable outcomes for all students. This session will help educators understand the connection between MTSS and equity. Educators will explore an Equitable MTSS framework that can be immediately implemented in any school setting.
- **3-4 p.m. April 13** – [Developing and Cultivating an E team with Equity at the CENTER](#) (https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_hXr2KFRReQQKK8koE2ljzKw)

Equity is embedded in our daily life and work as educators. This session will share strategies to cultivate an E team that supports your equity vision.

- Equity Micro-Credential Stack:
 - [Leading and Equitable Learning Culture](https://edleadersnetwork.org/micro-credentials/culture/leading-and-equitable-learning-culture/) (<https://edleadersnetwork.org/micro-credentials/culture/leading-and-equitable-learning-culture/>)
 - [Exemplifying Equitable Behavior](https://edleadersnetwork.org/micro-credentials/culture/exemplifying-equitable-behavior/) (<https://edleadersnetwork.org/micro-credentials/culture/exemplifying-equitable-behavior/>)
 - [Constructing and Growing Equity](https://edleadersnetwork.org/micro-credentials/culture/constructing-and-growing-equity/) (<https://edleadersnetwork.org/micro-credentials/culture/constructing-and-growing-equity/>)

EDUCATOR RECOGNITION

National Board Certification

The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) has announced [164 new NBCTs and 137 newly renewed NBCTs](#) (<https://news.illinoisstate.edu/2021/03/congratulations-to-the-new-and-renewed-national-board-certified-teachers-in-illinois/>) in Illinois. Illinois is [6th in the nation](#) 📄 (https://www.nbpts.org/wp-content/uploads/2020_StateRankings_All_NBCTs.pdf) for total National Board Certified Teachers by state with 6,866 NBCTs, [5th in the nation](#) 📄 (https://www.nbpts.org/wp-content/uploads/2020_StateRankings_New_NBCTs.pdf) for newly named NBCTs, and [4th in the nation](#) 📄 (https://www.nbpts.org/wp-content/uploads/2020_StateRankings_Renewed_NBCTs.pdf) for renewed NBCTs. Congratulations to all those achieving and renewing their certificates! We appreciate the dedicated work you do for our students every day in Illinois. For additional National Board statistics and information about Illinois please visit the [NBPTS website](#) (<https://www.nbpts.org/>).

If you are interested in continuing the path to becoming an accomplished teacher by becoming National Board Certified, visit the [National Board Resource Center webpage](#) (<https://nbrc.illinoisstate.edu/>) or contact the NBRC at (309) 438-1835.

Illinois Association of School Nurses

Do you know a school nurse who always goes above and beyond? The [Illinois Association of School Nurses](#) (<https://www.iasn.org/>) is accepting nominations for the 2021 [School Nurse of the Year](#) (<https://portal4nurses.com/applications/policies/iasn/awards/school-nurse-of-the-year-award>) and [School Nurse Administrator](#) (<https://portal4nurses.com/applications/policies/iasn/awards/school-nurse-administrator-of-the-year-award>) of the Year Awards. The deadline for submissions is **June 15**. Finalists and winners will be announced at the start of the 2021-22 school year. Please contact Cathy Yonkaitis at cyonk@uic.edu (<mailto:cyonk@uic.edu>) if you have any questions.

FEATURED CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

ISBE is hosting a [Virtual Career Fair](#) 📄 (</Documents/ISBE-Virtual-Career-Fair-Flyer.pdf>) **2-3 p.m. April 14**. The career fair will feature State Superintendent of Education Dr. Carmen I. Ayala regarding the direction of ISBE and information about employee benefits, workplace culture, and growth opportunities as well as an overview of the application process.

- [Administrative Support](#) (</Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=507>)
- [Special Education Programming Consultant](#) (</Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=508>)

