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Dear Colleagues:

I know firsthand what it's like to be “the only” – the only Spanish-speaking teacher, the only Hispanic teacher, the only woman. Being “the only” comes with extra work – translating, interpreting – and extra pressure – representing not just oneself but one's entire culture. And being “the only” means having this experience alone, without colleagues who are going through the same thing to vent to, collaborate with, and advocate alongside. For educators of color, being “the only” can be isolating and discouraging.

When public schools integrated after the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision 68 years ago, [tens of thousands of educators of color lost their jobs](https://www.edweek.org/policy-politics/65-years-after-brown-v-board-where-are-all-the-black-educators/2019/05) (https://www.edweek.org/policy-politics/65-years-after-brown-v-board-where-are-all-the-black-educators/2019/05). White superintendents and school board members felt that White parents would

not tolerate educators of color teaching their children. Since then and continuing today, schools across Illinois and the nation have struggled to replenish the numbers of educators of color in the profession.

[Research from the Learning Policy Institute](https://learningpolicyinstitute.org/product/diversifying-teaching-profession-report) (https://learningpolicyinstitute.org/product/diversifying-teaching-profession-report) shows that teachers of color boost the academic performance of students of color, including better reading and math test scores, higher graduation rates, and increased aspirations to attend college. Increasing the recruitment and retention of teachers of color will not only help Illinois meet its overall high demand for more teachers but will also help close achievement gaps between students.

To address the isolating experience of being “the only,” ISBE has partnered with [Regional Office of Education 51](https://www.roe51.org/) (https://www.roe51.org/) and [Teach Plus](https://teachplus.org/il) (https://teachplus.org/il) to establish a network of affinity groups for teachers of color across the state. We are currently recruiting facilitators to support their peers in creating these affirming spaces. Facilitators will receive training and a \$2,500 stipend for their commitment.

I encourage educators with at least two years of teaching experience by August 2022 to apply to become affinity group facilitators on the [Teach Plus website](https://teachplus.org/regional_programs/illinois-affinity-group-facilitators/) (https://teachplus.org/regional_programs/illinois-affinity-group-facilitators/). The deadline to apply is **May 30**.

2021 Illinois Teacher of the Year Justin Johnson recently joined the [ISBE podcast](#) (/podcast) and shared about the importance of affinity groups not only for facilitating connections between educators of color but also for developing solutions to the issues that teachers of color face.

In the podcast, he said, “When I came to my current job, there weren’t many people that looked like me in the building. So, even though I had colleagues that were super supportive, they didn’t understand – they couldn’t understand – how my experiences were in that building.” He said that affinity groups convene “people from like-backgrounds with like-lived experiences in the same community and allow them that space to feel like ‘hey, there’s somebody else in this with me,’ while also allowing them to have impact on how we want to fix it. Because too often, we try to fix things for people without those people... in the spaces where we’re making the decisions.”

[Applications to facilitate an Affinity Group](https://teachplus.org/regional_programs/illinois-affinity-group-facilitators/) (https://teachplus.org/regional_programs/illinois-affinity-group-facilitators/) in Illinois are due May 30. Stay tuned for further opportunities to get involved in this important work. Together, we can continue to strengthen our educator workforce in Illinois.

Pictured: Congratulations, Class of 2022! On May 17, East Leyden High School in Franklin Park graduated 381 students, including 24 who have committed to a career in education. [East Leyden’s Golden Ticket program](#)

(<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1dNJxHJsDccFdYRgvrLUX2SUVQsHQ1OOHFpdZYcuk7eQ/edit>) offers any Leyden graduate with a teaching degree a guaranteed interview at Leyden and a \$5,000 signing bonus if hired.

Keep sending us your graduation photos to press@isbe.net (mailto:press@isbe.net).

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).

May 25	Webinar: Public Service Loan Forgiveness (https://www.isac.org/pslf)
May 27	Alternative Climate Survey Office Hours (https://teams.microsoft.com//meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ZWlxNTk2MWEtYjQ3Ni00MmE5LWEwNDEtMTM3MTRjNTg3NDM1%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22id%22%3a%220364fe86-49c6-4af4-b52c-335a99e577d1%22%2c%22oid%22%3a%22a6525dbc-df3a-41b8-81e4-2cacd64c703c%22%7d)
May 31	Deadline to apply for the Team Nutrition School Meals Recipe Development Grant (https://www.isbe.net/Documents/Team-Nutrition-RFP.pdf)
Jun. 1	Deadline to submit FY 2023 Truants’ Alternative and Optional Education Program Request for Proposal
Jun. 1	Webinar: Medical Cannabis-Infused Product Administration (https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2684863781086949647)
Jun. 3	Deadline to apply for 2022-23 Student Advisory Council (https://isbe.submittable.com/submit/9dc1d805-6881-473a-a72d-c06eef3f08e4/2022-23-student-advisory-council-application)
Jun. 9	Webinar: Data Collections Q&A (https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/5536366923325644814)
Jun. 10	I-GROW Summit (https://ilprincipals.org/i-grow-summit/)

- Jun. 14 [CTE Educator Plan Time: Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources](https://niu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4NJpWEVxQImNSD4)
(https://niu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4NJpWEVxQImNSD4)
- Jun. 14 [CTE Educator Plan Time: Arts & Communication](https://niu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4NJpWEVxQImNSD4)
(https://niu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4NJpWEVxQImNSD4)
- Jun. 15 [Deadline to apply for OneGoal's Postsecondary Leadership Series](https://www.onegoalgraduation.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/OneGoal_ISBE-SY22-23-Application.pdf)
(https://www.onegoalgraduation.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/OneGoal_ISBE-SY22-23-Application.pdf)
- Jun. 17 [Deadline to submit Supply Chain Assistance Attestation Statement](https://www.isbe.net/Documents/030122-SCA-funding.pdf)
(<https://www.isbe.net/Documents/030122-SCA-funding.pdf>)
- Jun. 22 [CTE Educator Plan Time: Finance & Business Services](https://niu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4NJpWEVxQImNSD4)
(https://niu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4NJpWEVxQImNSD4)
- Jun. 22 [CTE Educator Plan Time: Health Sciences and Technology](https://niu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4NJpWEVxQImNSD4)
(https://niu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4NJpWEVxQImNSD4)
- Jun. 27 [Trevor Project's Ally Training for Educators](https://www.tix.com/ticket-sales/ALPLMSpecialEvents/2469/event/1273652) (<https://www.tix.com/ticket-sales/ALPLMSpecialEvents/2469/event/1273652>)
- Jun. 30 [Deadline to complete Professional Development Provider Registration](#)
- Jul. 14 [Webinar: Data Collections Q&A](https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/5536366923325644814) (<https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/5536366923325644814>)
- Jul. 19 [CTE Educator Plan Time: Information Technology](https://niu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4NJpWEVxQImNSD4)
(https://niu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4NJpWEVxQImNSD4)
- Jul. 26 [CTE Educator Plan Time: Manufacturing, Engineering, Technology & Trades](https://niu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4NJpWEVxQImNSD4)
(https://niu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4NJpWEVxQImNSD4)
- Jul. 26 [CTE Educator Plan Time: General/All Career Pathways](https://niu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4NJpWEVxQImNSD4)
(https://niu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4NJpWEVxQImNSD4)
- Aug. 11 [Webinar: Data Collections Q&A](https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/5536366923325644814) (<https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/5536366923325644814>)
- Sept. 16 [Deadline to Submit Capital Needs Assessment Survey](https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Capital-Needs-Assessment-Survey.aspx) (<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Capital-Needs-Assessment-Survey.aspx>)

NEW

LEARNING RENEWAL

This section will focus each week on the learning renewal that is taking place in Illinois schools. We invite you to [share how you are investing federal relief funds](https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=hv5kA8ZJ9Eq1LDNameV30Ufi4KgH87ICv6FRRQI8cvIUNTdHWktDS1NJWjJZVDFaQ09RVINCUVdMRi4u) (<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=hv5kA8ZJ9Eq1LDNameV30Ufi4KgH87ICv6FRRQI8cvIUNTdHWktDS1NJWjJZVDFaQ09RVINCUVdMRi4u>) to help students recover.

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=hv5kA8ZJ9Eq1LDNameV30Ufi4KgH87ICv6FRRQI8cvIUNTdHWktDS1NJWjJZVDFaQ09RVINCUVdMRi4u>) to help students recover.

FOUR RIVERS COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

Four Rivers Special Education District will benefit from the [Community Partnership Grant](#) ([/Pages/Comm-Partnerships-Grant.aspx](#)) program funded with federal pandemic relief funds. Four Rivers is partnering with Regional Office of Education (ROE) 1, Midwest Youth Services, and the Midwest PBIS Network to expand social-emotional learning for students and address the skyrocketing rates of anxiety and depression

caused by COVID-19.

“What it’s doing is making us dedicate a big chunk of our time, which is really important, to social-emotional learning pieces now that we have funds,” said Director of Special Education Tracey Fair. “If we can help the kids manage those issues, hopefully the learning kind of follows on top of that.”

Learn more about [Four Rivers Special Education District’s story](https://www.whig.com/lifestyles/health/wellness/isbe-grants-target-trauma-recovery-from-pandemic/article_9ff82ba0-a481-11ec-b82d-2792f2a38591.html) (https://www.whig.com/lifestyles/health/wellness/isbe-grants-target-trauma-recovery-from-pandemic/article_9ff82ba0-a481-11ec-b82d-2792f2a38591.html).

APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR ILLINOIS EDUCATORS TO FACILITATE AFFINITY GROUPS

ISBE is establishing a statewide system of affinity groups in partnership with Sangamon-Menard ROE 51 and Teach Plus to support and retain teachers of color. The groups will bring teachers of color together to examine issues facing them, including the causes of attrition, and to develop policy recommendations. Facilitators will support their peers during the 2022-23 school year by creating affirming and supportive spaces that support educators in navigating and improving their school environments and are connected to a larger network to build alliances and address systemic issues. Find [more information about the role of the Illinois Affinity Group Facilitators](https://teachplus.org/regional_programs/illinois-affinity-group-facilitators/) (https://teachplus.org/regional_programs/illinois-affinity-group-facilitators/) here.

NEW STANDARDS AND INSTRUCTION

ISBE RELEASES COMPUTER LITERACY KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS CONTINUUM

Did you know that computer literacy learning is required at each grade level starting in fall 2022? Are you looking for guidance related to that requirement? ISBE worked with a group of educators to develop support documents to assist Illinois school districts.

[Public Act 101-0654](https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/101/101-0654.htm) (https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/101/101-0654.htm), which was signed into law in spring 2021, amended the School Code to incorporate mandates related to computer science and computer literacy. All school districts shall ensure, beginning this fall, that students receive developmentally appropriate opportunities to gain computer literacy skills at each grade level in elementary school. Students entering the ninth grade in the 2022-23 school year and each school year thereafter, will take one year of a course that includes intensive instruction in computer literacy, which may be English, social studies, or any other subject and which may be counted toward the fulfillment of other graduation requirements.

The newly released [Computer Literacy Knowledge and Skills Continuum](#) (/Documents/CL-Knowledge-Skills-Continuum-Matrix.pdf) provides guidance for knowledge and skills appropriate at each K-12 grade level. The workgroup continues to develop more guidance and support documents to supplement those that have been previously released:

- [Computer Literacy Fact Sheet](#) (/Documents/Comp-Literacy-Fact-Sheet.pdf)
- [Computer Science Standards](#) (/Documents/Illinois-Computer-Science-Standards.pdf)
- [Computer Science Fact Sheet](#) (/Documents/Comp-Science-Fact-Sheet.pdf)
- [Computer Science Assignability Recommendations](#) (/Documents/Computer-Science-and-Assignability-Recommendations.pdf)

2020-21 DRIVER EDUCATION COST REPORT

Per [Public Act 97-1025](https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=097-1025) (https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=097-1025), ISBE is required to provide an annual report of the per capita driver education cost. Access the 2020-21 report at [FY 2021 Driver Ed Cost Report](#) (/Documents/FY21-Drivers-Ed-Cost-Report.pdf). The report utilizes expenditure and revenue data submitted by school districts via their audited Annual Financial Report ending June 30, as well as the number of students who take driver education in the same year. [District Annual Financial Reports](#) (/Pages/Annual-Financial-Report.aspx) for fiscal year 2021 can be accessed on our website.

Questions can be directed to Jennifer Jonas at jjonas@isbe.net. (mailto:jjonas@isbe.net)


EDTECH NEXT CONFERENCE

Join the Illinois Learning Technology Center in Galena **Aug. 1-2** for a two-day kickoff to the new school year. EdTech Next, which is designed for teachers, principals, instructional coaches, and technology integrationists, offers a one-of-a-kind professional learning experience to help attendees take technology integration to the next level.

During the conference, attendees will take a deep dive into the 4 Shifts Protocol, a discussion protocol intended to help facilitate educator conversations about deeper learning, greater student agency, more authentic work, and rich technology infusion. Through the lens of the 4 Shifts Protocol, attendees will help make lessons, units, and instructional activities richer, more robust, and more relevant for the technology-rich society in which we live. Attendees will also have an opportunity to network and enjoy scenic northwest Illinois.

Spaces for this intimate event are limited, so don't wait to [reserve your spot for the EdTech Next Conference](http://itcillinois.org/events/edtechnext) (<http://itcillinois.org/events/edtechnext>).

ISBE RELEASES MICROCREDENTIAL APPLICATION FOR PD PROVIDERS

ISBE recently released its [Microcredential Framework](#)  (</Documents/ISBE-Microcredential-Framework.pdf>) with instructions for submission of proposed microcredentials by ISBE professional development providers. More information can be found on the [Professional Learning webpage](#) (</Pages/PD-Calendar.aspx>) in the drop-down menu titled "ISBE-Approved Microcredentials." You can find a copy of the framework, proposal application instructions, and an outline of the approval process.

NEW

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

EDUCATORS RISING'S EARLY AND LOCAL TEACHER PATHWAYS INFORMATION SESSION

Join Educators Rising to review new opportunities to develop early and local teacher pathways through funding provided by ISBE. Plus, learn how to access the free Educators Rising subscription for school year 2022-23.

- **10 a.m. June 7 (superintendents, principals, and school/district administrators)** (<https://members.pdkintl.org/events/event-details/?id=b0576540-84d7-ec11-bea1-0004ffa11d30>)
- **4 p.m. June 8 (teachers)** (<https://members.pdkintl.org/events/event-details/?id=c21c2893-85d7-ec11-bea1-0004ffa11d30>)

CTE EDUCATOR PLAN TIME

This summer, through the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Educator Plan Time series of events, educators from across Illinois will help plan next steps for state CTE standards. CTE educators will explore the data from the CTE Industry Feedback Tour and national CTE best practices to make recommendations regarding CTE standards and supporting professional development in Illinois.

Participation is open to all educators, teachers, and administrators who teach or support CTE programs in Illinois. Educators may [register for the following CTE Educator Plan Time sessions](https://niu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4NJpWEVxQlMNSD4) (https://niu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4NJpWEVxQlMNSD4):

- Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources – **9 a.m. June 14**
- Arts & Communications – **1 p.m. June 14**
- Finance & Business Services – **9 a.m. June 22**
- Health Sciences & Technology – **1 p.m. June 22**
- Information Technology – **1 p.m. July 19**
- Manufacturing, Engineering, Technology & Trades – **9 a.m. July 26**

- General/All Career Pathways – 1 p.m. July 26

Sessions will take place via Zoom and are expected to last two hours. Zoom links will be sent to those registered the day before each session.

NEW

RESEARCH AND EVALUATION

DATA COLLECTION Q&A WEBINAR JUNE 9

ISBE will continue hosting a [monthly Data Collection Q&A webinar](https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/5536366923325644814) (https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/5536366923325644814) to give districts the ability to have a discussion with ISBE staff about data collections. The webinars will take place on the second Thursday of each month. The next webinar is at **10 a.m. June 9**. ISBE will have staff on hand who will be able to answer questions on any of the following data collections:

- Bilingual Education Program Delivery Report Collection
- Employment Information System – including Unfilled Positions Survey
- Entity Profile System
- Non-Certified Staff Salary Study
- Reduction In Force Survey
- Student Health (Dental, Eye, Immunizations, and Physical Fitness)
- Student Information System
- Teacher Salary Study
- Title I Comparability
- U.S. Census School District Review Program
- Year End Collection
- IEP-Student Tracking and Reporting System

ISBE will not have any PowerPoint or predetermined path for the discussions/questions; we invite districts to come ready with their questions. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. If you have any questions, please contact us at 312-814-9192 or datahelp@isbe.net (mailto:datahelp@isbe.net).

IAR SPRING ONDEMAND REPORTS AND PRELIMINARY SUMMATIVE DATA FILES NOW AVAILABLE

The Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) Spring 2022 OnDemand Reports and preliminary Summative Data files are now available in PearsonAccess^{next} to those users with the roles of District or School Test Coordinator or with the Report Access role.

OnDemand Reports

An OnDemand Report (ODR) score is provided for each student record that received a valid score. A score is considered valid if the record has met the rules for attemptedness and has not been voided.

To access these reports/files:

1. Log into PearsonAccess^{next}.
2. Confirm the correct administration Illinois > 2021-2022 > IAR Spring 2022.
3. Go to Reports > OnDemand Reports.
4. On the left side of the screen, you can filter by Test Name, Subject Name, Grade, or Performance Level. You may also search for specific students.

Student information can be downloaded using the Print icon on the right of the ODR screen. Student lists can be downloaded for selected students as a PDF, csv, or Excel file. The Student Detail option can be used to print individual student report PDFs.

Note: There is a 350-record limit on the number of Student Detail PDFs you can print at a time. You may need to use the filters to narrow down the number of students printing if over this limit.

See additional [OnDemand Report guidance](https://il.mypearsonsupport.com/resources/reporting/OnDemandReportGuidance%20v2.0.pdf)  (https://il.mypearsonsupport.com/resources/reporting/OnDemandReportGuidance%20v2.0.pdf).

District and School Summative Data Files

New for spring 2022, users can access a data file that contains all students registered and assigned a test in PearsonAccess^{next} for the IAR spring 2022 administration. The District Summative file contains students for all schools in a district. The School Summative file contains all students at that school. Records that have met attemptedness and are not voided will have scale scores and performance level information in the file.

To access these files:

1. Log into PearsonAccess^{next}.
2. Confirm the correct administration Illinois > 2021-2022 > IAR Spring 2022.
3. Go to Reports > Published Reports.
4. On the left side of the screen, you may need to remove a district filter to see the School Summative files.
5. Files can be downloaded by double-clicking on the file link or checking the box(es) to the left of the file name, then selecting blue download button on the upper right of the screen.

District and School Summative files are zipped files in csv format.

See the [Summative Field Definition Guide](https://il.mypearsonsupport.com/resources/reporting/IAR%20Spring%202022%20_Summative_Field_Definitions_05.09.22.pdf) .

(https://il.mypearsonsupport.com/resources/reporting/IAR%20Spring%202022%20_Summative_Field_Definitions_05.09.22.pdf).

If you need further information or have questions, Pearson's Illinois Customer Support Center is open from 6 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Call 1-833-213-3879.

DATA COLLECTIONS KEY DATES

ISBE is happy to announce the launch of a [Data Collections Key Dates calendar](/Pages/Data-Collections-Key-Dates.aspx) (/Pages/Data-Collections-Key-Dates.aspx), which shows a compiled schedule for all data collections managed by the Data Strategies and Analytics Department.

DISTRICT AND SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

2022 I-GROW SUMMIT IS JUNE 10 IN BLOOMINGTON

Join us for the I-Grow Summit — the first event in Illinois with the specific goal to grow, retain, and recruit educational leaders and teachers of color. We have a packed schedule and welcome participants from across the state to:

- Increase your knowledge and skills to inspire and motivate your school community.
- Learn from educational leaders and teachers of color in the field, explore best practices, and think creatively alongside other passionate educators of color.
- Learn how to create a support system for educators of color who are currently in the teaching profession or desiring to enter the profession.
- Become a champion for yourself, our children, and those we uplift and empower.
- Feel inspired hearing others' journeys.
- Integrate culturally expansive practices using research-based strategies.
- Inspire your students.

- Learn how equity, diversity, and inclusion efforts drive innovation and improvement.
- Explore the benefits of creating and growing affinity groups for educators.
- Understand the principles of distributed leadership and how teachers and administrators can put these practices into action.
- Learn about ISBE's Equity Journey Continuum, an informational tool to help districts view their data through a lens of equity to identify gaps in student achievement and opportunities.

Don't miss this one-of-a-kind event on June 10 in Bloomington! [Register for the I-Grow Summit today](https://ilprincipals.org/i-grow-summit/) (https://ilprincipals.org/i-grow-summit/)!

NEW

REGIONAL SERVICES

2022-23 CALENDAR GUIDANCE

[Calendar Guidance for the 2022-23 school year](#) (/school-calendar) is now available on ISBE's website. Please contact schoolcalendars@isbe.net (mailto:schoolcalendars@isbe.net) with any questions.

NEW

SAFE AND HEALTHY CLIMATE

\$500 MILLION OPPORTUNITY FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO ADOPT ELECTRIC SCHOOL BUSES

What is the program?

- US EPA's Clean School Bus Program will provide \$5 billion in funding for school districts and bus companies to replace school buses with zero and low-emission models, and the first round of applications is now open through August 19.
- Rebates can be up to \$375,000 per bus replaced and up to \$20,000 for charging infrastructure per bus. This could cover all or almost all of the cost of switching to electric buses.
- Rebates for priority school districts — high-need, low-income, rural, and tribal school districts — will be prioritized and receive the highest rebates. In Illinois, over 345 school districts are on the priority list.

Why should you go electric?

- Running electric school buses costs less than half that of running old diesel buses due to reduced maintenance and fuel costs.
- Switching to electric school buses improves air quality for drivers, students, and neighborhood residents. Going electric especially benefits communities of color and low-income communities who tend to face the worst air pollution.
- Electric school buses are cleaner, quieter, and run smoother, resulting in a better experience for passengers, drivers, and neighborhood residents.

Who is eligible and how can you get ready to apply?

- School districts and bus manufacturing companies are both eligible to apply. If you are interested in applying but your bus fleet is managed by another entity, you must partner with them and you will submit the application.
- Full program details: [School Bus Rebates: Clean School Bus Program | US EPA](https://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus/school-bus-rebates-clean-school-bus-program) (https://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus/school-bus-rebates-clean-school-bus-program)
- US EPA webpage with detailed instructions for potential applicants: [Prepare for Clean School Bus Funding | US EPA](https://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus/school-bus-rebates-clean-school-bus-program) (https://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus/school-bus-rebates-clean-school-bus-program)

What is the deadline?

- The deadline for this round of applications is August 19, 2022. You may apply for up to 25 buses in this round in which US EPA plans to make \$500 million in awards.
- There will be more opportunities to apply for funding through this program in the future but this round, which is a lottery, may have one of the easiest applications and most generous funding.

What can you do now?

- Visit the [Clean School Bus Program website](https://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus) (<https://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus>), where EPA posts webinar recordings, presentation slides, and all program updates.
- Reach out to your electric utility as you plan the charging infrastructure required for the buses:
 - If ComEd, start with EVBusiness@ComEd.com (<mailto:EVBusiness@ComEd.com>), cc your account manager;
 - If Ameren, start with Mike Abba at MAbba@ameren.com; (<mailto:MAbba@ameren.com>)
 - If a co-op, contact your local co-op.
- Make sure your Sam.gov account is active or set one up. (This may take longer than the actual EPA application, but is required to start.)
- Let regional EPA staff know you are interested by emailing Tony Maietta at maietta.anthony@epa.gov (<mailto:maietta.anthony@epa.gov>) and Frank Acevedo at acevedo.francisco@epa.gov (<mailto:acevedo.francisco@epa.gov>).


NEW GUIDE TO CREATE HEALTHY, ENERGY-EFFICIENT BUILDINGS

A variety of funding programs from the federal and state governments have [over \\$2 billion](https://www.usgbc.org/articles/2021-infrastructure-investment-and-jobs-act-resources-schools) (<https://www.usgbc.org/articles/2021-infrastructure-investment-and-jobs-act-resources-schools>) in funding earmarked for major improvements in school facilities, bolstering budgets that are often victim of regional funding crises. The [Decarbonization Roadmap Guide for School Building Decision Makers](https://newbuildings.org/resource/decarbonization-roadmap-guide-for-school-building-decision-makers/) (<https://newbuildings.org/resource/decarbonization-roadmap-guide-for-school-building-decision-makers/>) and accompanying toolbox of resources from New Buildings Institute can help districts leverage these funding opportunities by developing a [district decarbonization roadmap](https://newbuildings.org/resource/decarbonization-roadmap-guide-for-school-building-decision-makers/) (<https://newbuildings.org/resource/decarbonization-roadmap-guide-for-school-building-decision-makers/>) to identify cost-effective strategies and approaches to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions across a portfolio of buildings.

MAY IS NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

Students placed in out-of-home care across Illinois navigate challenging transitions that impact their education, especially if their residence changes. They receive support at the district level from a foster care liaison who works in conjunction with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). Foster care liaisons are encouraged to take advantage of DCFS' office hours from **10 a.m.-noon** on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Visit the "What's New" section of [ISBE's Youth in Care webpage](/Pages/YouthInCare.aspx) (</Pages/YouthInCare.aspx>) for the office hours login information or to explore many other resources for this special population of students.

ISBE OFFERS MEDICAL CANNABIS TRAINING


Join us at **10 a.m. June 1** for training related to [Medical Cannabis-Infused Product Administration](https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2684863781086949647)  (<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2684863781086949647>) during the 2022-23 school year. Ashley's Law expanded and amended School Code 105 ILCS 5/22-33 and states that a school district, public school, charter school, or nonpublic school must allow a school nurse or school administrator to administer a medical cannabis-infused product to a student who is a registered qualifying patient while at school.

This training meets requirements for PEL-RN school nurses and school administrators prior to administering or assisting with self-administration of medical cannabis-infused product. Health professionals, nurses, and other school personnel will receive professional development credit for viewing the webinar.



NEW

SCHOOL NUTRITION

TEAM NUTRITION SCHOOL MEALS RECIPE DEVELOPMENT GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINE MAY 31

ISBE has released a Request for Proposals for the [Team Nutrition School Meals Recipe Development Grant](#)  (/Documents/Team-Nutrition-RFP.pdf). Successful grantees will guide students with recipe development and plan related activities, such as field trips and local taste tests. ISBE will host a recipe tasting event for all grant recipients to celebrate the students' efforts and bring participants together to sample recipes created by themselves and their peers. Recipes will focus on locally produced vegetables, such as pumpkin, corn, lima beans, green peas, asparagus, green beans, and winter squash. ISBE will encourage School Food Authorities (SFAs) to incorporate the unique food practices found in their geographic area when developing recipes.

Applicants must be an SFA in Illinois with a high school that participated in the National School Lunch Program or the Seamless Summer Option lunch for SY 2021-22 and will continue to operate such a program during SY 2022-23.

The deadline to apply is **4 p.m. May 31**. Each applicant may request up to \$10,000. There will be a maximum of 20 recipients. In case you missed the technical assistance webinar for SY 2022-23, the [recording](#)  (<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/6249999448423786497>) and [presentation](#)  (/Documents/042722-TN-grant-webinar.pdf) are available on our website.

Questions? Visit the [ISBE's Team Nutrition webpage](#) (/Pages/team-nutrition.aspx) or contact cnp@isbe.net (mailto:cnp@isbe.net).

NEW

SPECIAL EDUCATION

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY TRAININGS FROM INFINITEC

Infinitec is offering the following free assistive technology trainings. For more information, visit the [Illinois Assistive Technology Support website](#) (<https://www.at4il.org/>).

- **Thinking and Planning Ahead** (<https://bit.ly/37mHzlm>)
 - “Practical Interventions for Improving Self-Regulation and Executive Function Skills in Students”
 - 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. May 25 in Whittington
- **Ready-Set-Write!** (<https://bit.ly/HanserTechCamp2022>)
 - “2-Day Make and Take Tech Series Teaching Students with Significant Disabilities to Write with Alternative Pencils!”
 - 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. June 15-16 in Tinley Park


NEW

STUDENT CARE

UPDATED PHYSICAL RESTRAINT/TIME OUT FORM

The [Physical Restraint and Time Out form](#) (/Pages/restraint-time-out.aspx) (#11-01) has been updated and is available in English and Spanish. Please use this version of the form for any future restraint or time out incidents.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE DATA REPORTING

Per 105 ILCS 5/2-3.162, ISBE shall prepare a report on student discipline in all school districts and state-authorized charters in the state of Illinois by Oct. 31 of each year. Please ensure that all student discipline data has been entered into the Student Information System (SIS) by **11:59 p.m. July 31** to enable us to report the most accurate data possible. Please refer to our [Student Discipline Groups presentation](#)  (/Documents/Student-Discipline-Groups-Pres.pdf) for assistance with submitting individual student discipline data. If you need further assistance with SIS, please contact the ISBE Helpdesk at 217-558-3600; select option 3 for SIS support. Please contact schooldiscipline@isbe.net (mailto:schooldiscipline@isbe.net) for any questions related to discipline, data reporting, or the top 20% for exclusionary discipline.

TREVOR PROJECT'S ALLY TRAINING FOR EDUCATORS

Please join the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum and ISBE for a virtual presentation of the [Trevor Project's Ally Training](https://www.tix.com/ticket-sales/ALPLMSpecialEvents/2469/event/1273652) (https://www.tix.com/ticket-sales/ALPLMSpecialEvents/2469/event/1273652) at **6 p.m. June 27**. This training provides a basic framework of understanding of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning (LGBTQ) people and the unique challenges they often face. All educators and pre-service teachers are invited to attend, and 1.5 hours of professional development will be awarded for participation.

COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS

COLLEGE SURVEY FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

The Illinois Workforce and Education Research Collaborative, in cooperation with the state of Illinois, invites high school seniors to fill out a survey to tell us about their decisions after high school. Please share this [Illinois College Decision-Making & Outmigration Study survey](https://dpi.uillinois.edu/iwerc/college-decision-survey) (https://dpi.uillinois.edu/iwerc/college-decision-survey) with your students and ask them to fill it out. It will take about 15 minutes.

EDUCATOR LICENSURE

NEW LAWS PROVIDE REDUCTIONS FOR LICENSE RENEWAL REQUIREMENTS

Governor JB Pritzker recently signed two laws that reduce educator license renewal requirements for the 2021-22 school year. Each law is effective immediately.

- [Public Act 102-0730](https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=102-0730) (https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=102-0730) waives the Administrator Academy requirement for administrators.
- [Public Act 102-0852](https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=102-0852) (https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=102-0852) reduces the professional development hours required for renewal by 20% for any renewal cycle that includes the 2021-22 school year.

Visit the [Educator Licensure webpage](/Pages/Educator-Licensure.aspx) (/Pages/Educator-Licensure.aspx) for responses to commonly asked questions for each law.


NEW LAWS PROVIDE FLEXIBILITY FOR EDUCATORS AND DISTRICTS

Governor Pritzker also recently signed a suite of bills that reduce burdens or provide greater flexibility to educators and districts in specific situations.

- [Public Act 102-0710](https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=102-0710) (https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=102-0710) reduces the license reinstatement penalty fee from \$500 to \$50. The law is effective immediately. Educators can reinstate their license by logging into their ELIS account and applying for reinstatement.
- [Public Act 102-0711](https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=102-0711) (https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=102-0711) allows educators enrolled in approved preparation programs to be eligible for a substitute teaching license if they have completed 90 semester hours of credit. The law is effective Jan. 1, 2023. Applications received on or after this date will be evaluated under the new requirements.
- [Public Act 102-0712](https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=102-0712) (https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=102-0712) allows an individual holding a short-term substitute teaching license to teach up to 15 consecutive days (instead of five) per licensed teacher during a disaster proclamation. The law is effective immediately.
- [Public Act 102-0713](https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=102-0713) (https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=102-0713) allows individuals to obtain an Educator License with Stipulations endorsed for Paraprofessional at age 18 (instead of 19) if the educator will be working with students in grades PreK-8. The law is effective Jan. 1, 2023. ELIS will be updated on that date to allow individuals who are age 18 to apply for paraprofessional licensure.

EQUITY

JETT HAWKINS LAW FACT SHEET

PA 102-0360 was signed into law and went into effect Jan. 1. The Jett Hawkins Law prevents schools from prohibiting hairstyles historically associated with race; ethnicity; or hair texture, including, but not limited to, protective hairstyles such as braids, locs, and twists. To learn more, check out the [Jett Hawkins Law fact sheet](#)  (/NSDocuments/Jett-Hawkins-Law-Fact-Sheet.pdf).

SCHOOL BUSINESS SERVICES

CAPITAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY

ISBE needs your help collecting information on the capital needs of your district so that we can report such needs to the General Assembly. [Section 5-60 of the School Construction Law](https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/fulltext.asp?DocName=010502300K5-60) (https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/fulltext.asp?DocName=010502300K5-60) requires ISBE and the Capital Development Board to file a comprehensive assessment report of the capital needs of all school districts with the General Assembly before Jan. 1, 2023. Please download the [Capital Needs Assessment Survey](http://www.isbe.net/Pages/Capital-Needs-Assessment-Survey.aspx) (http://www.isbe.net/Pages/Capital-Needs-Assessment-Survey.aspx) and submit to finance1@isbe.net (mailto:to finance1@isbe.net) by **Sept. 16**. Your submission will be stored for your future use.

Further questions can be directed to Jeannette Jonic or Jorrell Bonner at 217-785-8779.

IN BRIEF

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Illinois State Museum

Looking for new ways to grow, learn, and earn some certified professional development hours? Join the Illinois State Museum this spring and summer for engaging teacher professional development programs. Check out the [Illinois State Museum Professional Development website](https://sites.google.com/illinoisstatemuseum.org/educatorspace/professional-development) (https://sites.google.com/illinoisstatemuseum.org/educatorspace/professional-development) for available programs and to register.

EDUCATOR OPPORTUNITIES

IDNR Field Trip Grants Available

Applications are being accepted for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Historic Sites Field Trip Grant, Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip Grant, and Illinois Schoolyard Habitat Action Grant. You can access the instructions, application forms, and other relevant information for all three grant programs on the [IDNR website](https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/education/Pages/grants.aspx) (https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/education/Pages/grants.aspx). Start planning today!

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

Illinois State Fair STEAM Expo

The Illinois Department of Innovation and Technology will host the Tech Prairie STEAM Expo at the 2022 Illinois State Fair daily from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Aug. 17-21 in the Orr Building on the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield. The event will provide fairgoers with opportunities to experience engaging and interactive demonstrations in science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM). Highlights include drone and esports competitions.

Free admission to the State Fair may be available for organized student groups. Scheduled tours are available that include exploration of STEAM careers inside the Expo, as well as agriculture tours on the fairgrounds that offer a behind-the-scenes view of Illinois agriculture. Tours are limited, so early registration is encouraged. For more information, visit the [STEAM Expo webpage](https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/doi-steam/Pages/2022-STEAM-Expo.aspx) (https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/doi-steam/Pages/2022-STEAM-Expo.aspx) or email doi.steam@illinois.gov (mailto:doi.steam@illinois.gov)

STUDENT RECOGNITION

Five Illinois Students Named 2022 U.S. Presidential Scholars

U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona announced the 58th class of U.S. Presidential Scholars on May 12, recognizing 161 high school seniors for their accomplishments in academics, the arts, and career and technical education fields.

The Illinois scholars include:

- Henry L. Xie, Naperville North High School in Naperville
- Rishi Patel, Waubonsie Valley High School in Aurora
- Jaisnav Rajesh, Waubonsie Valley High School in Aurora
- Piya Shah, Waubonsie Valley High School in Aurora
- Jui Khankari, Hinsdale Central High School in Hinsdale

Congratulations, Henry, Rishi, Jaisnav, Piya, and Jui!

FEATURED ISBE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

- [Administrative Assistant III](/Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=678) (/Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=678)
- [Administrative Support](/Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=681) (/Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=681)
- [Project Lead for Standards & Instruction](/Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=679) (/Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=679)

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