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Dear Colleagues:

Governor JB Pritzker announced his proposed budget for fiscal year 2025 last week. The budget includes significant investments in prek-12 education, despite a tight budget landscape. Investments like these over his past five years in office have helped Illinois claim the fifth spot in the nation for best prek-12 education, according to U.S. News & World Report (<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/rankings/education/prek-12>).

The governor's budget proposal reinforced Illinois' nation-leading commitment to education, including a \$350 million increase for Evidence-Based Funding –supporting sustainable, predictable, and stable advancement toward equity and adequacy for all districts – as well as another \$75 million to expand access to preschool for 5,000 more low-income children as part of the Smart Start initiative; an additional \$30 million for Mandated Categorical grants to raise the proration level for specific special education line items; and a \$10 million increase for Career and Technical Education (CTE) to ensure every CTE system receives more or level funding as we implement the new funding formula. The governor's budget proposal also would continue funding the Computer Science Equity Grant and the Teacher Vacancy Grant for a second year and would provide funding to support the implementation of the Illinois Comprehensive Literacy Plan.

I applaud Gov. Pritzker for his unwavering commitment to Illinois' students and his recognition of the major role that thriving, well-funded public schools play in ensuring the strength of communities across Illinois. You can see Gov. Pritzker's full FY 2025 operating budget proposal (</Lists/News/NewsDisplay.aspx?ID=1487>). One reminder: A budget proposal is just that –a proposal. Over the next few weeks and months, our Illinois lawmakers will discuss, debate, and ultimately decide appropriations for FY 2025. Thanks to your incredible efforts in schools every day, we have ample evidence to persuade them that dollars invested in education pay dividends for every Illinoisan. (CNBC, for example, ranks Illinois second in the nation for education (<https://www.cnbc.com/2023/07/11/top-states-for-business-illinois.html>).) The work you do matters on many levels. Thank you for your dedication to this profession and the families of Illinois.

(P.S. - Hundreds of Illinois administrators and lawmakers have registered for my upcoming fireside chat about mental health and resiliency with Goldie Hawn. If you haven't secured your spot yet, check your email for your invitation. We plan to expand access to additional educators Wednesday.)

All my best,

Tony

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>).

Feb. 28	Illinois Comprehensive Literacy Plan Office Hours
Feb. 29	Deadline to submit FY 2025 Early Childhood Regional Community Systems Development for Illinois Request for Proposal (https://www.bidbuy.illinois.gov/bso/external/bidDetail.sdo?docId=24-586SBE-CHFED-B-40066&external=true&parentUrl=close)
Mar. 1	Deadline to report the intent to move from half-day to full-day kindergarten instruction in school year 2024-25 to sff@isbe.net (mailto:sff@isbe.net)
Mar. 1	Deadline to register for free suicide prevention training from Illinois Department of Public Health (https://www.isbe.net/NSDocuments/SP-Trainings-AMSR-QPR-2024.pdf)
Mar. 1	Application window opens to become an approved provider of training for school board members (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/School-Board-Member-Training-Provider-Application.aspx)
Mar. 1	Deadline to apply for School-Based Mental Health Project Grant (https://stressandtrauma.org/)
Mar. 1-2	Illinois Teacher Leadership Summit (https://sites.google.com/view/ilteacherleadershipsummit/home)
Mar. 3-9	School Social Work Week (https://www.sswaa.org/school-social-work-week)
Mar. 5	ACCESS testing ends (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/AccessforELL.aspx)
Mar. 6	McKinney-Vento Homelessness Liaison Conference
Mar. 6	Discipline Dialogues Webinar Series: Being Better to Make Our Schools Better (https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2385635004034930013)
Mar. 6	Illinois Comprehensive Literacy Plan Office Hours
Mar. 9	Illinois Resource Center Job Fair for ESL, Bilingual, & Dual Language Teachers, Aides, & Administrators (https://irc.thecenterweb.org/events/irc-job-fair)
Mar. 11-15	42nd annual Illinois Arts Education Week (https://www.isbe.net/artcontest)
Mar. 13	Webinar: Out-of-School Time After ESSER: Blending and Braiding Funding (https://actnowillinois-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0sdO6gqD0tGtAXrt3afSM4wcdLBJ5IQB8G#/registration)
Mar. 14-15	2024 WELL Summit (https://ilprincipals.org/well-summit/)
Mar. 14	Illinois Comprehensive Literacy Plan Office Hours
Mar. 15	

Deadline to submit nominations for the INSPRA Distinguished Service Celebration
(<https://www.inspra.org/dsc>)

Mar. 15	Deadline to apply for the 2024 NLGA Lt. Governors' STEM Scholarship Program (https://nlga.us/strategies/nlga-state-strategies-in-stem/nlga-lt-governors-stem-scholarship-program/)
Mar. 19	Illinois Comprehensive Literacy Plan Office Hours
Mar. 22	Deadline to enter the 2024 National Center for State Courts essay contest (https://www.ncsc.org/education-and-careers/civics/contest)
Mar. 27	Illinois Comprehensive Literacy Plan Office Hours
Mar. 29	Deadline to apply for NBCT incentive grant (https://nbc.illinoisstate.edu/4k-incentive/)
Mar. 29	2023-24 5Essentials Survey administration window closes (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/5Essentials-Survey.aspx)
Apr. 13	Argonne National Laboratory's Middle School Electric Car Competition (https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDOEANL/bulletins/388d532)
Apr. 22-23	2024 Illinois Association of Title I Directors Conference (https://www.eventbrite.com/e/iatd-spring-2024-conference-tickets-781622091717?aff=oddtcreator)
Apr. 30	Deadline to apply for School Food System Transformation Challenge Grants (https://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/hmi/school-food-system-transformation-challenge)
May 18	Those Who Excel & Teacher of the Year Awards Banquet
May 31	Deadline to apply for the High-Quality CTE for all Students Summer 2024 Cohort (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfkZw0fQlbXlLo0-f0txG168zfBJ8pifdm_3R2FBZgLBtUg/viewform)
June 15	Deadline to submit nominations for School Social Worker of the Year and Citizen of the Year (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeSDxKyYcvngSQqhqz6hirBcQwixwWqm6GETGhQ_3E8xF5Lzg/viewform?pli=1)
June 18	ISBE Career Connections Conference (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Career-Connections-Conference.aspx)
July 8-12	Computer Science PD Week (https://www.ltcillinois.org/cspdweek/)
Sep. 30	ARP ESSER III Grant Programs End

NEW

LEADERSHIP

MENTAL HEALTH + RESILIENCY: FIRESIDE CHAT WITH GOLDIE HAWN

You don't want to miss State Superintendent of Education Dr. Tony Sanders' next virtual Fireside Chat at **3 p.m. March 4**. Goldie Hawn, Academy Award-winning actress, producer, director, best-selling author, and founder of MindUp (<https://mindup.org/>), will join Dr. Sanders to talk about mental health and resiliency. This is a special event just for Illinois school administrators and lawmakers. Check your email for the invitation and claim your seat before access expands.

NEW

LEARNING RENEWAL

Each week this section will focus 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=hv5kA8ZJ9Eq1LDNameV30Ufi4KgH87ICv6FRRQl8cvlUNTdHWktDS1NJWjJZVDFaQ09RVINCUVdMRi4u>) to help students recover.

INVITATION FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT LEADERS: EXPLORE STUDENT AND STAFF WELL-BEING

ISBE is partnering with American Institutes of Research (AIR) to conduct a comprehensive Social-Emotional Learning Well-Being survey. Districts or schools interested in participation can register by filling out an SEL-W Survey Year 2 interest form (<https://airtable.com/app41OgotZPH2Bhwo/shrKzd6QCH7aebT15>). The survey, scheduled to open in April, aims to gather insights into effective strategies for implementing and scaling programs that enhance the social-emotional well-being of both students and staff.

Participating schools and districts will receive their aggregate results in the summer of 2024. These insights will offer valuable feedback for refining and enhancing social-emotional learning (SEL) initiatives. Districts that have engaged in ISBE's Learning Renewal SEL programs (<http://isbe.net/learningrenewal>) -- including Social-Emotional Learning Hub activities, Resilience Education to Advance Community Healing (REACH), and Community Partnership Grants -- are encouraged to participate. The SEL study team will schedule a survey date that works the best for your school(s) during the survey window, which will be open through June.

Email LearningRenewal_SELstudy@air.org (mailto:LearningRenewal_SELstudy@air.org) with any questions. School and district administrators, please complete the SEL-W Survey Year 2 interest form to sign up (<https://airtable.com/app41OgotZPH2Bhwo/shrKzd6QCH7aebT15>). For more information about the survey, go to AIR's website (<https://www.air.org/project/supporting-pandemic-recovery-illinois-learning-renewal-social-emotional-learning-study>).

NEW

2024 ILLINOIS TEACHER OF THE YEAR COHORT

ISBE has announced the members of the 2024 Illinois Teacher of the Year Cohort (</Lists/News/NewsDisplay.aspx?ID=1486>), including the 13 finalists for 2024 Illinois State Teacher of the Year (</teacheroftheyear>). The annual Teacher of the Year program honors incredible classroom educators who have made lasting impacts on the students, families, and fellow educators in their school communities. ISBE will showcase cohort members in the Weekly Message each week leading up to the announcement of the 2024 Illinois State Teacher of the Year this spring. Congratulations to all this year's extraordinary awardees!

STACEY RICKARD



East Central Regional Teacher of the Year

Salt Fork High School, *Salt Fork Community Unit District 512*

As an agriculture educator at Salt Fork High School in Salt Fork Community Unit District 512, Stacey Rickard has grown the FFA chapter from 22 students to 135 (more than half the school) in just four years.

Mrs. Rickard has more than 13 years of experience as an agriculture educator and grew up on a grain farm herself. Mrs. Rickard's contagious enthusiasm for agriculture serves as the driving factor behind the remarkable expansion of the program at Salt Fork. Her distinctive teaching methodology prioritizes hands-on labs, real-world applications, and an unwavering commitment to engaging students. Mrs. Rickard exposes students to the diverse array of opportunities available and ignites their drive to aim for unimaginable accomplishments.

Her proudest accomplishment is establishing AgVenture, taking students beyond Illinois' corn and bean fields to visit the nation's largest feedlot in Kansas and see cattle branded in South Dakota. Her students collaborated with a local farmer to create an ongoing nitrogen study, using math to take measurements, science skills to craft lab reports, English skills to write speeches, and history to engage policymakers.

She plays a highly active role within Salt Fork community, serving as the Salt Fork FFA adviser, assistant volleyball coach, Class of 2025 sponsor, and a member of the Curriculum Committee. She also dedicates her time to the state Illinois Association of Vocational Agriculture Teachers (IAVAT) Board as the District 4 representative and fulfills the role of Section 18 IAVAT treasurer. Additionally, Mrs. Rickard serves as a mentor to new agricultural teachers across the state, further demonstrating her commitment to the field of education.

Stacey was awarded the Section 18 Golden Owl 2022 and 2023, Golden Ruler 2022, and teacher of the week by the Champaign News-Gazette.

MALLORY TOLLEY



West Central Regional Teacher of the Year

Knoxville High School, *Knoxville Community Unit School District 202*

Mallory Tolley is an agriculture educator at Knoxville High School in Knoxville Community Unit School District 202, where she advances citizenship, leadership, and service in her students as they learn to become productive members of society. In her 12th year of teaching, she helps her students learn where their food comes from and how to produce it through agriculture science, mechanics, business, and horticulture courses. She teaches students welding and veterinary science to help them prepare for success in college and the trades.

She also serves as the FFA adviser and has grown the chapter from 37 members to 111. Emphasizing community service, she has led her students in projects ranging from landscaping around the local nursing home to building 10 "pallet" beds for children in foster care. Mrs. Tolley's latest project is the culmination of a plan hatched three years ago, when a cafeteria side dish of chips and salsa gave her the idea of growing salsa ingredients on campus. She persuaded the school board to approve her plan and then fundraised more than \$120,000. The building and greenhouse have been completed, and the hydroponics system is set to be delivered. A community garden and orchard will round out Mrs. Tolley's plan to bring the "farm to fork" concept to the Knoxville campus.

Mrs. Tolley achieved one of many personal goals in 2014 when she received her master's degree in Educational and Interdisciplinary Studies through Western Illinois University. Mrs. Tolley stays actively involved on her family's farm and helps her two children raise and show Berkshire pigs and Angus cattle.

NEW

FINANCE

ISBE OFFERS GUIDANCE FOR FY 2025 STATE AND FEDERAL GRANT APPLICANTS

State or federal grantees must ensure all Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) requirements are met. ISBE cannot process awards or approve fiscal year 2025 grant applications that lack the following.

1. Active public SAM.gov (<https://sam.gov/content/home>) profile. Renewal assistance is available through the Federal Service Desk (https://www.fsd.gov/gsafsd_sp) at 866-606-822.
2. Approved current fiscal year Fiscal and Administrative Internal Control Questionnaire (ICQ) in the GATA Grantee Portal. (<https://grants.illinois.gov/portal/>)
3. Approved current fiscal year Organizational Risk Assessment (ORA) in IWAS.

A Unique Entity Identifier (<https://sam.gov/content/home>) must be verified before ICQ scores can be imported into the ORA and grant applications. Discrepancies may cause delays/errors in processing the grant application.

Additional information and updates are available under the “News and Updates” dropdown on the ISBE GATA webpage (/gata). Please contact 217-782-5630 or GATAICQ@isbe.net (mailto:GATAICQ@isbe.net) if you need technical assistance or have questions.

NEW

IMPROVEMENT & INNOVATION

PROVIDER APPLICATION – SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERSHIP TRAINING

School board members are required to complete four hours of professional development leadership training covering topics in education law, financial oversight and accountability, fiduciary responsibilities of a school board member, and, beginning with the 2023-24 school year, trauma-informed practices for students and staff. (See 105 ILCS 5/10-16a (<https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/fulltext.asp?DocName=010500050K10-16a>.) Entities that offer professional development activities – such as training organizations, Regional Offices of Education, professional associations, teachers’ unions, institutions, firms, and higher education providers – may apply to ISBE to become approved providers of school board member leadership training.

The provider application window opens **March 1**. All applications must be submitted on or before **May 1** to DDSL@isbe.net (mailto:DDSL@isbe.net). See the ISBE School Board Member Training Provider Information webpage (/Pages/School-Board-Member-Training-Provider-Application.aspx) for more information on school board member training and how to apply.

COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS

HIGH QUALITY CTE FOR ALL STUDENTS COURSE

The Northern Illinois University Illinois CTE Project team, in collaboration with ISBE, designed an online asynchronous course for Career and Technical Education (CTE) educators that is offered three times a year. “High-Quality CTE for all Students” is a course designed to introduce educators to student-centered diversity, equity, and inclusion topics. Register for the summer 2024 cohort (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfkZw0fQIbXlcLo0-f0txG168zfBJ8pifdm_3R2FBZgLZBTUg/viewform) by **May 31**.

2024 CAREER CONNECTIONS CONFERENCE

ISBE’s Career Connections Conference is a premier event that offers collaboration, innovation, and inspiration to CTE educators throughout Illinois. The 2024 conference will be held on **June 18** at Tinley Park Convention Center. At Career Connections, educators come together to exchange ideas, share best practices, and foster meaningful connections with their peers about how to best prepare our students for successful futures.

Register now for the 2024 Career Connections Conference

(https://registeruo.niu.edu/Ungerboeck_Public/emc00/PublicSignIn.aspx?


&aat=56674b3658396354776a48772b7279544744734b4f3355633942704266495a51424c5178685471546765633d). Early bird and group rates are available.

ILLINOIS HIGH SCHOOL 2 CAREER NOW AVAILABLE IN ARABIC

ISBE, the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES), and the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) are pleased to announce that the Illinois High School 2 Career (<https://www.ilhighschool2career.com/>) tool and tutorial videos are now available in English 🗣️ (https://youtu.be/9eTg_Ag_sSA), Spanish 🗣️ (<https://youtu.be/w07fQMuBm3k>), and Arabic 🗣️ (<https://youtu.be/GYlehLkOAOQo>). Illinois High School 2 Career is an interactive career exploration tool that uses real data from past Illinois students to help current students make informed decisions about life after high school.

SPECIAL EDUCATION


SCHOOL-TO-WORK TRANSITION GUIDE NOW AVAILABLE

The School-to-Work Transition Guide  (<https://ictw.illinois.edu/docs/librariesprovider25/transition-guide/school-to-work-transition-guide---web.pdf>) was recently released for Illinois students with disabilities who are transitioning from school to work. Readers of the guide will discover important steps and stages in the school-to-work transition process, as well as Illinois-specific guidelines, key terms, legal information, and resources relevant to different roles and responsibilities.

The School-to-Work Transition Guide was created by the Illinois Transition Study group in conjunction with the Illinois Center for Transition and Work at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, ISBE, and the Division of Rehabilitation Services in the Illinois Department of Human Services.

TEACHING & LEARNING

ILLINOIS COMPREHENSIVE LITERACY PLAN OFFICE HOURS

Join ISBE for Office Hours (</literacyplan>) for the Illinois Comprehensive Literacy Plan  (</Documents/IL-Comp-Literacy-Plan-2024.pdf>). This opportunity aims to provide you with a direct line to the ISBE literacy team, offering a platform for questions or discussions about the plan.

The time will be freely structured with no planned presentation. Participants are encouraged to join at any time during the hour and stay as long as needed. Whether you have specific inquiries or are looking for further clarification on any part of the plan, the ISBE literacy team is here available to enhance your understanding of the literacy plan.

Please note the schedule for upcoming sessions:

- **3-4 p.m. Feb. 28**
- **Noon-1 p.m. March 6**
- **3-4 p.m. March 14**
- **Noon-1 p.m. March 19**
- **3-4 p.m. March 27**

FY 2024 DISTRICT TECHNOLOGY SURVEY

ISBE invites each superintendent or their designee within each school district to complete the fiscal year 2024 Illinois School District Technology Survey in IWAS, in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/10-20.74 (<https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/fulltext.asp?DocName=010500050K10-20.74>).

The goal of the survey is to provide a snapshot of the current state of Illinois school districts related to key aspects of technology in K-12 education. Some questions involve technology infrastructure or instructional practices, and survey participants are encouraged to collaborate with other leadership team members to complete questions accurately.

This year the technology survey is being administered through IWAS. Click "System Listings," "Surveys," then "FY 2024 Technology Survey." If you do not have access to this, you'll need to request access for it in the Signup for Other Systems Menu.

Please contact egrauke@isbe.net (<mailto:egrauke@isbe.net>) or support@lrcillinois.org (<mailto:support@lrcillinois.org>) for questions about the FY 2024 Illinois School District Technology Survey.


WELLNESS


SY 2024-25 SCHOOL-BASED MENTAL HEALTH PROJECT GRANTS

Schools that are expanding their mental health support services for the 2024-25 school year by hiring a school counselor, social worker, or psychologist may qualify for a \$25,000 federal grant to offset the cost of such a position. Schools across the state are encouraged to apply. If you meet the poverty threshold for a school in your district (60 percent for elementary and 45 percent for non-elementary), you are invited to complete the application and submit it by **March 1**. The application takes less than 10 minutes to complete. Additional information can be found on the Stress and Trauma Treatment Center website (<https://stressandtrauma.org/>). Please direct any questions to Dr. Matt Buckman (<mailto:dmattbuckman@stressandtrauma.org>) or Dr. Martha Weld (<mailto:marthaweld@roe40.com>).

2023-24 5ESSENTIALS SURVEY

The 2023-24 5Essentials Survey window is open until **March 29**. Participation in this or an approved alternate survey is required annually. Student participation in the survey is among non-academic indicators used to determine summative designations (</Pages/Summative-Designations.aspx>) for accountability.

A 5Essentials student and teacher report will be generated if a school meets the minimum thresholds of a 50% response rate and at least eight teacher and 10 student respondents. A parent report will be generated if a school meets the minimum thresholds of a 20% response rate and at least eight parent respondents. Check out ISBE's tip sheet for increasing parent participation  (</Documents/5Essentials-Tips-Parent-Participation.pdf>) in the survey. Listen to the We Love Illinois Schools podcast episode about one principal's experience utilizing the results to take an honest look at his school's climate and culture (<https://www.buzzsprout.com/455002/episodes/12440486>).

Please remember that participation in the survey is voluntary. Neither school nor district personnel should require survey participation or proof of survey completion. Doing so is a violation of the Survey Ethical Code of Conduct.  (</Documents/Survey-Admin-Ethical-Code-of-Conduct.pdf>)

Please reach out to 5essentials@isbe.net (<mailto:5essentials@isbe.net>) if you have any additional questions.


IN BRIEF

EDUCATOR OPPORTUNITIES

Be the Coffee Bean LEAD Webinar

Join the Illinois Principals Association at **4 p.m. March 4** for an inspiring LEAD webinar featuring Damon West (https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlpcOqrT8rHNwBCMkR0hCqSODkc9-d_8L6#/registration), renowned author of the transformative book, "The Coffee Bean." In this session, Damon will share powerful insights on how to overcome adversity, cultivate resilience, and embrace a positive mindset, drawing from his own remarkable journey from incarceration to empowerment. Discover the profound lessons of "The Coffee Bean" and learn practical strategies for turning life's challenges into opportunities for growth and success. Don't miss this opportunity to be inspired and motivated to become the best version of yourself.

Being a Literacy Leader: Understanding the Illinois Comprehensive Literacy Plan (High School)

The state of Illinois has a new comprehensive literacy plan. What does this mean for school leaders? Ed Leaders Network will host a webinar at **3 p.m. Feb. 27** to give administrators the information they need to understand what is in the Illinois Comprehensive Literacy Plan  (</Documents/IL-Comp-Literacy-Plan-2024.pdf>) and help them identify the key leadership moves they may need to make to lead the literacy work in their schools. Register for "Being a Literacy Leader: Understanding the Illinois Comprehensive Literacy Plan (High School)" on the Ed Leaders Network website.

Computer Science PD Week

Illinois students deserve equitable access to high-quality computer science (CS) learning. CS PD Week is your ticket to bringing the power of computer science to your district or classroom.

During CS PD Week, new and experienced CS educators from around the state will engage with current CS curriculum, network and connect with peers, and discover research-backed strategies for making CS learning engaging at all grade levels.

Over the course of five days, participants also will learn about relevant topics, including computational thinking, cybersecurity, AI, and coding, from K-12 CS experts as well as build community during group meals and team-building activities.

Location: Liberty Leadership Middle School, Peoria

Dates: July 8-12

Registration: www.ltcillinois.org/cspdweek (<https://www.ltcillinois.org/cspdweek/>)

Limited scholarship funding is available via generous support from Code.org and Google to cover the registration fee. Scholarship funds will be prioritized to teachers serving students from underrepresented groups. Scholarship recipients will be notified no later than May 1.

Unpacking the Accelerated Placement Act

Join the Illinois Association for Gifted Children from **8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. May 3** for an in-depth discussion and workshop with regional, district, and school leaders across the state to examine updated Illinois education policies regarding gifted programs, accelerated placement, and the application of best practices in advanced learner instruction.

- Explore **key aspects** of the Accelerated Placement Act.
- **Clarify language and needs** pertaining to gifted, accelerated, twice-exceptional, and advanced learner students.
- Develop **communication tools** to share with parents and community members regarding your district's Accelerated Placement process.
- Discover **resources for identification, enrichment, and talent development** to expand academic pathways for more students.
- **Network** with district and regional education leaders across the state with **similar demographics, needs, and goals**.
- Walk away with a **Model for Promising Practices** that both **complies** with current law and **creates** equitable advanced learning opportunities.

For more information and to register, visit the IACG Spring 2024 Leadership Summit webpage (<https://www.iagcgifted.org/2024summit>). Registration closes **April 26**. Participants will receive five PD hours.

2024 NLGA Lt. Governors' STEM Scholarship Program

Lieutenant Governor Juliana Stratton invites Illinois schools (preK – 12th grade public or registered private schools) to apply for the third annual National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA) Lt. Governors' STEM Scholarship Program. NLGA will award up to \$1,000 to 12 schools in 12 states and territories to support STEM-related programming, projects, equipment, curriculum, and other endeavors. Applications for the scholarships (<https://nlga.us/strategies/nlga-state-strategies-in-stem/nlga-lt-governors-stem-scholarship-program/>) should be submitted by a teacher or project supervisor for STEM-related expenses by **March 15**.

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

Student Leadership/Service Learning Program

Explore.Act.Tell. (<http://exploreacttell.org/>) is a free student leadership/service learning program for Grades 6-12 that teaches students to understand and act on solutions to hunger insecurity in their community. Standards alignment guides can be found at ExploreActTell.org. In four interactive lessons, students will practice skills needed to become good citizens

and advocate for community involvement and service, while developing leadership skills. They will have the opportunity to submit projects into a competition for a chance to win one of 30 grants for hunger-focused charities and may use the experience to fulfill community service requirements. This program, funded by Albertsons (Jewel-Osco), is free.

Register at ExploreActTell.org (<https://exploreacttell.org/registration/>) for instant access to program materials or contact Beverly Johnston at Beverly@ExploreActTell.org for more information.

FEATURED ISBE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

- Supervisor #1541 (</Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=935>)
- CTE Specialist (Principal Consultant #1694) (</Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=931>)
- Federal Fund Administrator (Principal Consultant #1729) (</Lists/ISBECareers/CareerDisplayForm.aspx?ID=805>)

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