



Weekly Message

Jan. 18, 2017

Message From State Superintendent Tony Smith, Ph.D.

Hello,

Thank you to everyone who honored the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. this week by participating in service projects and promoting volunteerism. It is exciting to see that so many school communities have made Martin Luther King Jr. Day “a day on, not a day off.”

Dr. King said, “Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, ‘What are you doing for others?’” It is clear to me from traveling across the state that Illinois educators, administrators, student support staff, board members, and community partners are deeply invested in the success of our students each and every day. The service of mentors is one key piece of this equation. In honor of National Mentoring Month, I would like to thank all those in our schools and communities who have volunteered their time to help students navigate relationships and feel more connected to school. Strong mentoring programs have shown to improve student attendance and academic achievement. Students with mentors are more likely to engage in extracurricular activities and take on leadership roles. Join us on social media tomorrow, Jan. 19, for #ThankYourMentor Day! You can find #NationalMentoringMonth resources and learn how to get involved a mentoring program near you at ilmentoring.org.

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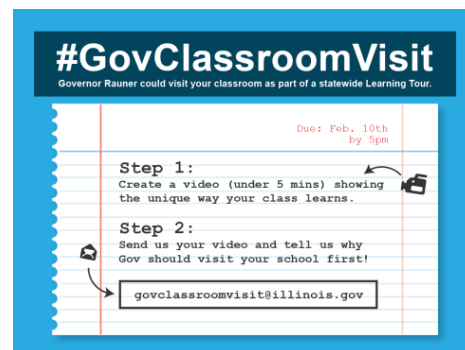
There are other ways communities across the state support students throughout the year. It is never too early to think about making sure all kids have access to healthy meals during the summer months. ISBE’s Nutrition and Wellness Programs Division is looking to increase participation in the Summer Food Service Program across the state and would appreciate your help identifying new sponsors and sites. Schools are not the only entities that can serve meals with the Summer Food Service Program; park districts, health departments, churches, and municipalities can also participate. See Aurora’s great work with the program in [this video](#). For more information, visit our [Summer Food Service Program webpage](#) or call (800) 545-7892 for the Nutrition and Wellness Programs Division and ask to speak with someone from the Summer Food Service Program team.

I am grateful for all those in our schools and communities who make every day a “day of service.” I encourage you to nominate those in your community whose volunteer service has made a difference for Serve Illinois’ annual Governor’s Volunteer Service Awards. Nominations are due by Feb. 17. Visit serve.illinois.gov for more information.

Just as I love witnessing magic moments of learning and highlighting the dedication of educators in classrooms across the state, Governor Rauner is planning a Learning Tour to recognize the hard work and creativity of Illinois teachers and students. Last week, he announced the hashtag #GovClassroomVisit and is inviting classrooms to submit videos showcasing what they are learning. The videos will help him decide which school to visit first! Send your video to govclassroomvisit@illinois.gov.

Have a great week!

Tony



Upcoming ISBE Dates and Deadlines

Please note this is not a complete list of events, meetings, and deadlines. For questions, call the Illinois State Board of Education at (866) 262-6663 or (217) 782-4321 or visit the agency's official website at <http://www.isbe.net>.

- **State Board of Education meeting** – Jan. 24 (www.isbe.net/Documents/2017-board-meetings.pdf)
- **Competency-Based High School Graduation Requirements Pilot Application Deadline** – Jan. 27 (www.isbe.net/Pages/Great-Ideas.aspx)
- **5Essentials Survey deadline** – Jan. 30
- **FY 17 IDEA excess cost worksheets due to IDEA grant coordinators** – Jan. 31
- **Deadline to submit 2016-17 Teacher Salary Study data form** – Feb. 1
- **Deadline to submit 2016-17 Noncertified Staff Salary Study data survey** – Feb. 1
- **ISBE offices closed for Lincoln's Birthday** – Feb. 13
- **Charter Schools Program Dissemination of Best Practices Grant FY 2017 RFP due** – Feb. 14
- **FY 2017 IMSP Grant Opportunity for Public School Districts K-8 RFP due** – Feb. 14
- **ISBE offices closed for Presidents' Day** – Feb. 20
- **Deadline to submit Migrant Education Program applications** – March 10
- **2017 Illinois Arts Education Week** – March 13-19
- **ISBE offices closed for Memorial Day** – May 29
- **Deadline to submit data in the Student Health Data Vision** – June 30

Those Who Excel

2017 Illinois Teacher of the Year Available for Speaking Engagements



Ricardo "Ricky" Castro is the 2017 Illinois Teacher of the Year and he is ready to share his thoughts on teaching with you! Ricky talks openly about his involvement with gangs as a young teen in Chicago. He freely admits that he was a bad student and on the verge of choosing an entirely

different path but he credits caring teachers who listened to him, encouraged him, and helped him to make choices that were positive. Their concern and mentoring led Ricky to his true calling—becoming a teacher.

Ricky has been teaching for 10 years. He has been teaching English as a Second Language, English Arts, and Spanish for the past three years at Elk Grove High School in Township High School District 214. Ricky teaches students how to develop what he calls "biliteracy," which helps students develop a proficiency in multiple languages that will serve them well throughout their lives.

Ricky recognized that students of poverty often need more than academic success to achieve success in life so he created a tiered leadership program called Estudiantes Unidos. This innovative program encourages high school students to mentor students in junior high and elementary schools. The program teaches the value of citizenship and the importance of community and encourages students to be leaders. Today the co-curricular endeavor impacts more than 200 students throughout the district.

If you would like Ricky to share strategies, thoughts, and ideas with your staff, please visit

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdovmxgqAocxF5ejfYKCA-PHbhNNhrWwcUIGwuy93SLmFah6g/viewform> and submit the form.

Every Student Succeeds Act

2017 ESSA Statewide Conference

The 2017 Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Statewide Conference - TURNING POINT: FROM NCLB TO ESSA is Feb. 13-15 at the Sheraton Grand Hotel in Chicago.

Highlights of the conference include:

- Special sessions on the Illinois ESSA State Plan
- Five outstanding keynote speakers
- More than 170 concurrent sessions and workshops in such topical strands as content instruction; technology in the classroom; engagement with parents, families, and communities; assessment and use of student data; innovative approaches to education; professional development plans; education for the homeless; and more
- A particularly strong focus on early childhood education on Tuesday, Feb. 14
- State and federal updates and grant support
- ISBE technical assistance

For further information about the program and registration, please visit www.thecenterweb.org/essa.

Competency-Based High School Graduation Requirements Pilot

Reminder: Program Applications Due Jan. 27

In November, ISBE launched a call for applications for the Competency-Based High School Graduation Requirements Pilot. The pilot will allow up to 12 innovative school districts to replace high school graduation requirements with a competency-based learning system of the district's design. In competency-based learning, educators assess and advance students based on demonstrated mastery of specific skills, abilities, and knowledge, rather than on time in the classroom. The deadline for program applications is **Jan. 27**.

For more information and to apply, please visit <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Great-Ideas.aspx>.

Educator Effectiveness

Lapsed License Provision

Any licensee who has retired and whose license has lapsed for failure to renew may reinstate that license without penalty by providing proof of retirement from a state retirement system to the State Board of Education through Dec. 31, 2017. Individuals must submit a copy of a letter from a state retirement system (on official agency letterhead) confirming the individual's retirement. The licensee's name, IEIN, and date of birth must be included with the letter. The educator's license will be reinstated when it is verified that the licensee is not working in a position requiring a professional educator license.

The verification letter will be used in lieu of a \$500 penalty fee or nine semester hours of coursework.

Letters may be emailed to renewal@isbe.net or mailed to the Illinois State Board of Education at Educator Effectiveness Division, 100 N. First St., Springfield, IL 62777.

Funding and Disbursements

New Census Estimates Released for FY 2018 Title I Low Income

The U.S. Department of Education has released the Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) for income year 2015. These estimates will be used to calculate fiscal year 2018 Title I allocations. A file of 2015 Poverty Data by Local Education Agency (LEA) is provided in an alphabetical listing of LEAs, Poverty Count, 5-17 Population, Poverty Percentage, and Total Population at <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/New-Census-Estimates-Released.aspx>

LEAs can use this data to determine their potential eligibility for Basic, Concentration, Targeted and Education Finance Incentive grants (EFIG).

Basic Grant eligibility: An LEA must have at least 10 poverty children and the number of poverty children must be greater than 2 percent of the LEA population of children ages 5-17.

Concentration Grant eligibility: An LEA must have at least 6,500 poverty children or the number of those children exceeds 15 percent of the total 5-17 population.

Targeted Grant and EFIG qualifications: An LEA must have at least 10 poverty children and that number must be at least 5 percent of the 5-17 population.

The following link to the Census Bureau, www.census.gov/did/www/saipe/index.html, provides various aspects of the SAIPE count, including the data sources and methodology used to prepare these data. We will be using the 2015 data to calculate school year 2017-18 Title I, Part A allocations because they are the most recent available data.

Superintendents, business managers, and Title I directors should carefully examine the data for their LEA as this will be the first indication as to whether your LEA may be gaining or losing in eligibility for Title I funds in FY 2018. ISBE neither controls nor generates the data. The challenge period for the 2015 estimates ends March 13, 2017. Refer to the Census Bureau link at www.census.gov/did/www/saipe/contact/challenges.html, if interested.

Note that this preliminary data does not include other non-census information, such as foster, neglected, or delinquent counts that may be used to calculate Title I allocations.

If you have questions, please contact Sally Cray in the Division of Funding and Disbursements at scray@isbe.net or (217) 782-5256.

Final FY 2017 Mandated Categorical Prorations Now Calculated

Final prorations and payments have been calculated for all 2015-16 school year categorical claims that will be vouchered in fiscal year 2017. If you have questions regarding this information, contact ISBE's Division of Funding and Disbursements at (217) 782-5256.

- Special Education Personnel – 100 percent
- Special Education Private Facility – 96 percent
- Special Education Funding for Children Requiring Special Education Services – 99 percent
- Special Education Summer School – 89 percent
- Special Education Orphanage – 100 percent
- Special Education Transportation – 91 percent
- Regular/Vocational Transportation – 71 percent
- Regular Education Orphanage – 100 percent

Federal Interest Income – Quarterly Reminder

The Code of Federal Regulations, Title 34-Education, Part 80 Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Governments, Subpart C-Post Award Requirements, Section 80.21 Payment requires grantees and subgrantees to promptly, but at least quarterly, remit interest earned on advances to the appropriate federal agency. The grantee or subgrantee may keep actual interest amounts up to \$100 per year gained on federal deposits per bank account, if applicable, for administrative purposes. Grant recipients have discretion to set up account(s) that are non-interest bearing to avoid returning interest.

LEA fiscal officials should ensure compliance with federal administrative requirements by developing internal controls and a sound methodology to calculate and return, at least quarterly, interest earned in excess of \$100 on federal program funds. Interest calculation methodologies must be based on actual, not estimated, interest earnings on federal funds.

Interest should be returned using the following guidelines:

- Checks for interest earned should be made payable to the Illinois State Board of Education.
- Checks should not include the return of unexpended disbursements from ISBE. Even though unexpended disbursements and interest payments are made payable to the Illinois State Board of Education, separate checks should be issued for both.
- Checks should be accompanied by a statement identifying the program and the program year from which the interest was earned.

All checks must be mailed to the Illinois State Board of Education, Funding and Disbursements Services Division (E-320), 100 N. First St., Springfield, IL 62777-0001.

Division of English Language Learning

Migrant Education Program Application

The [Migrant Education Program application](#) for funding for 2016-17 summer programs is available on the Division of English Language Learning webpage.

Funding is available under Title I, Part C of the reauthorized Elementary and Secondary Education Act for supplemental academic and support services for qualifying migrant children and youth. Applications must be submitted no later than **March 10**.

Children ages 0-21 who have not graduated from high school may be eligible for the program if they have moved within the past three years across state or school district lines with a parent or guardian seeking temporary or seasonal work in agricultural production, fishing or food processing industries. Youth who move to obtain this work on their own may also be eligible.

A certified recruiter must document that children qualify as migrant students. ISBE can assist districts with this process. For more information, contact Beth Robinson at (312) 814-3519 or berobins@isbe.net.

Charter Schools

Charter Schools Program Dissemination of Best Practices Grant FY 2017 RFP Now Available

A new funding opportunity is available for Illinois charter schools that have been opened for at least three consecutive years and that have shown strong student success in their programs with respect to student body

diversity or student achievement and educational innovation. The two subgrants are available for a term of up to 24 months and awards can range from \$50,000 to \$150,000, depending on which subgrant is chosen. Schools may only apply for one subgrant type.

The purpose of the subgrants is to provide financial assistance to charter schools for the dissemination of the methods or practices responsible for the student successes with other public schools, Local Education Agencies, and charter development teams across the state.

The RFP Memo and the Charter Schools Dissemination FY 2017 RFP State Grant Assistance Application contain the general overview of the subgrants, eligibility guidance, required components of the application, and the application itself. Both forms are available on our Charter Schools webpage, which can be found at <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Charter-Schools.aspx>.

All applications must be delivered in paper format to the Illinois State Board of Education no later than 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 14. Any questions should be directed to charter@isbe.net.

College and Career Readiness

FY 2017 IMSP Grant Opportunity for Public School Districts K-8 RFP Released

The FY 2017 Illinois Math Science Partnership (IMSP) Funding Opportunity is now available. Title II, Part B, Sections 2201-2203, of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act authorizes the Mathematics and Science Partnerships program as a means to promote teacher quality in these respective curricular areas. The purpose of the program is to increase academic achievement of students in mathematics and science by enhancing teachers' content knowledge and pedagogy. ED provides relevant information about this program at <https://www2.ed.gov/programs/mathsci/index.html>. Approximately \$2.5 million will be available for the IMSP in FY 2017 to implement professional development model programs designed to achieve the goals of the grant. Individual grant awards will not exceed \$250,000 for each fiscal year.

Proposals must be received at ISBE Springfield or Chicago locations no later than 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 14. The RFP is available at

<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Illinois-Mathematics-and-Science-Partnerships-Program.aspx>. Applicants may also receive the RFP by contacting the College and Career Readiness Division of ISBE at (217) 524-4832.

Nutrition and Wellness Programs

Registration Underway for ISBE Wellness in Schools Workshops

Nutrition and Wellness Programs Division staff will present a workshop related to Wellness in Schools. This half-day workshop will provide an overview of topics related to wellness in schools, including physical fitness and the new assessment requirements; HealthierUS School Challenge: Smarter Lunchrooms techniques; Smart Snacks; and the Local Wellness Policy, which is required by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Three locations are being offered: **Lisle (March 7), Springfield (March 9), and Collinsville (March 16)**. We encourage school administrators, wellness coordinators, health and physical education teachers, food service professionals, and anyone with an interest in issues impacting Wellness in Schools to attend! A link to registration is under “What’s New?” at <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Nutrition-and-Wellness.aspx>.

School Year 2018 Annual USDA Foods Order Period Jan. 5 – Feb. 20

The Illinois Commodity System (ICS) is now accepting SY 2018 Annual USDA Foods orders for all schools approved in the National School Lunch Program. Due to time constraints placed on states by the USDA, we require that you have your order completed by Monday, **Feb. 20**.

The Food Distribution Program web address has changed! It is now <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/School-Nutrition-Programs-Food-Distribution.aspx>. Please save this new address in your favorites. You will then link to the ICS from this website.

The “ICS Manual and Annual Order Instructions” are available on the Food Distribution Program website under ICS Resources. Refer to the ICS Message Board for further instruction as well.

PLEASE NOTE: SCHOOLS THAT DIVERT TO PROCESSORS — All diversions need placed by Feb. 5! We will “lock” the Diversion to Processor form from Feb. 6 through Feb. 10 while we compile the list of eligible processors for SY 2018. The diversion screen will then be “unlocked” from Feb. 11 through Feb. 20 for a final adjustment period.

Information for the Nutrition and Wellness Programs Division Food Distribution Program is available at (800) 545-7892, cmartel@isbe.net, jflentje@isbe.net, or ahancock@isbe.net.

‘Fitness Assessment in Illinois’ Webinar Scheduled for Jan. 31

We invite you to join the Illinois Alliance to Prevent Obesity, the Illinois State Board of Education, and the Illinois Department of Public Health for a webinar:

Fitness Assessments in Illinois: Tools, Resources, and Information You Need on Tuesday, Jan. 31 (3-4:30 p.m. CST).

Webinar participants will learn about:

- Recent P.E. developments in Illinois – the big picture and how fitness assessments fit in
- How the Presidential Youth Fitness Program can be used as a tool for fitness education and assessment
- Fitness testing requirements in Illinois
- How to effectively implement fitness testing and use the data meaningfully
- Reporting and a tour of the free Illinois-specific Excel spreadsheet
- You will also get time to ask YOUR questions!
- [READ MORE!](#)

In case you are unable to attend, this webinar will be recorded and posted online for later viewing at <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Enhanced-Physical-Education.aspx> (under Quick Links). [REGISTER HERE.](#)

Data Analysis

2016-17 Teacher Salary Study Form Now Available

Reminder: The 2016-17 Teacher Salary Study data form is now available in IWAS. These forms must be completed and submitted by **Feb. 1**.

In addition to completing the form, please send a copy of your salary schedule/policy and negotiated agreement to the address below. **This is not necessary if you provided copies of the schedule/policy and agreement previously and they are still in effect.** Send updated schedules and policies to:

Data Analysis Division
Illinois State Board of Education
100 N. First St., S-284
Springfield, IL 62777

For further assistance, please contact the Data Analysis Division at (217) 782-3950.

For technical assistance accessing IWAS, please contact the ISBE Help Desk at (217) 558-3600.

2016-17 Noncertified Staff Salary Study Survey Now Available

Reminder: The 2016-17 Noncertified Staff Salary Study data survey is now available in IWAS. This form must be completed and submitted by **Feb. 1**. It is the district administrator's responsibility to review the completed survey for accuracy and submit it to ISBE. Districts with 1,000 or more enrolled students as of the last school day in September of 2016 must submit this survey. The district administrator or a district document author may complete this survey.

For further assistance, please contact the Data Analysis Division at (217) 782-3950.

For technical assistance accessing IWAS, please contact the ISBE Help Desk at (217) 558-3600.

Illinois Report Card

MyIRC Train the Trainer Events

Attend the next in the ongoing series of Train the Trainer events, "What's New at MyIRC – Spotlight: PARCC," and learn how to facilitate use of data available on the Illinois Report Card and MyIRC, including the PARCC individual student data for the past two years.

MyIRC is free to all public schools in Illinois. Participants will receive training, facilitators guide, presentation materials, and technical support to be able

to redeliver training to local communities, schools, or districts.

The professional development events are from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the following venues and are free.

- Jan. 23 at North Cook ISC, 2340 Des Plaines River Rd., Suite 414, Des Plaines. To register, go to <https://www.ncisc.org/course/whats-new-myirc>.
- Jan. 31 at ROE #11, 730 7th St., Charleston. To register, go to <http://www.roe11.k12.il.us/event/whats-new-at-the-illinois-report-card-and-myirc-train-the-trainer-event/>.

In Brief

Student Recognition

- Congrats to **Taylor Vidmar**, a graduate of Central A&M CUD 21 and a writer and student at Richland Community College, for being appointed to the [Better Make Room Student Advisory Board](#) for Michelle Obama's college opportunity campaign. Awesome job, Taylor!

Upcoming Events

- **The EPA** is holding a webinar from 12 - 1 p.m. CT on Jan. 30 titled "3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools." To register, please visit <http://login.icohere.com/registration/register.cfm?reg=3416&evt=3TsJan2017>.

Grant Opportunities

- **CATCH Global Foundation** will award up to two Let's Move! Active Schools District Grants to support implementation of the CATCH Coordinated School Health model. Learn more at <https://goo.gl/8YVW8g>; the deadline to apply is Jan. 31.
- **The School Nutrition Foundation** is now accepting applications for two equipment grants: Winston Industries Equipment Grant and Baxter Equipment for Education Grants. For more information, please visit <http://schoolnutrition.org/equipmentgrants/>.

Professional Development

- **The School Nutrition Foundation** is accepting applications for [SNA Conference Scholarships](#) and [Professional Development Scholarships](#). For questions, please contact scholarships@schoolnutrition.org.

Employment Opportunities

- Watch for ISBE career opportunities and find instructions for applying at www.isbe-careers.net/.