Illinois State Board of Education
Weekly Message
Tony Smith, Ph.D.
State Superintendent

Jan. 31, 2017

Message From State Superintendent Tony Smith, Ph.D.

Hello,

Our children need healthy learning environments in order to reach their full potential. The health of a school community can be measured in many different ways; safe school infrastructure and access to nourishing food are two such indicators of a healthy learning environment.

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The Illinois Green Ribbon program recognizes schools for their commitment to sustainability and their work to foster healthy school environments, improve the health and wellness of students and staff, enhance building efficiency, and promote environmental literacy and civic engagement around sustainability. Congratulations to Western Trails Elementary School in Carol Stream, Maercker Intermediate School in Westmont, and Chiaravalle Montessori School in Evanston for being selected as winners of the 2017 Illinois Green Ribbon Schools Award! These schools' applications will now be submitted to the U.S. Department of Education for consideration in the national Green Ribbon Schools program. If chosen as a recipient of the national award, administrators from the school(s) will be invited to Washington, D.C., for an award presentation. ISBE partnered with the U.S. Green Building Council-Illinois to coordinate this year's program. To learn more, visit the organization's webpage.

As I mentioned earlier this month, it is never too early to think about making sure all kids have access to healthy meals during the summer months. ISBE is very proud to administer the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) in Illinois. SFSP sponsors and meal sites across the state play a vital role in helping our children get the nutritious meals they need to be ready to learn when they return to school in the fall. ISBE is seeking more school districts, local government entities, and nonprofit organizations to help sponsor SFSP sites, as there are currently 36 counties in Illinois with no meal sites. Illinois Lieutenant Governor Evelyn Sanguinetti is an invaluable partner to the Summer Meals program and will be traveling the state over the month of February to encourage new sponsors to sign up to help end food insecurity for all Illinois children.

ISBE's Summer Food Service Program webpage has more information about how to get involved. Watch this video to see how the Champaign-Urbana Public Health District has supported the families in their community. Our partner organizations, No Kid Hungry and the Illinois Hunger Coalition, staff a

calling and texting hotline to refer families to their nearest meal sites. Interested families can call (800) 359-2163, text "FoodIL" to 877-877, or visit SummerMealsIllinois.org.

Finally, I would like to note that Governor Bruce Rauner recently signed Senate Bill 550 into law (Public Act 099-0922). The Act aims to reduce children's exposure to lead by requiring each school that serves pre-K through grade 5 students to test its water for lead. The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) is mandated to administer these requirements and to provide guidance on risk management and mitigation of lead in water, and education about lead poisoning. ISBE will be sending information on IDPH's behalf very soon.

Every child deserves the opportunity to learn in a healthy environment. I greatly appreciate your dedication to making this a reality for Illinois students.

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*.

- **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
- **Deadline to submit comments regarding District Financial Profile Reports** – Feb. 6
- **Deadline to submit #GovClassroomVisit videos** – Feb. 10
- **ISBE offices closed for Lincoln's Birthday** – Feb. 13
- **2017 ESSA Statewide Conference** – Feb. 13-15 (www.thecenterweb.org/essa)
- **Charter Schools Program Dissemination of Best Practices Grant FY 17 RFP due** – Feb. 14
- **FY 17 IMSP Grant Opportunity for Public School Districts K-8 RFP due** – Feb. 14
- **Deadline to enter USDA's 'Show Us Your Tray Challenge'** – Feb. 15
- **Deadline to submit applications for Gifted Advisory Council** – Feb. 16
- **ISBE offices closed for Presidents' Day** – Feb. 20
- **State Board of Education Meeting** – Feb. 22
- **Deadline to submit FY 18 Notice of Intent to Submit Proposal for the Prevention Initiative: Birth to 3 Years RFP** – Feb. 28 (www.isbe.net/Pages/Birth-to-Age-3-Years.aspx)
- **Deadline to submit FY 18 Notice of Intent to Submit Proposal for the Preschool for All Expansion Grant: 3 to 5 Years RFP** – Feb. 28 (www.isbe.net/Pages/Preschool-Development-Grant-Expansion-Grant.aspx)
- **Deadline to submit FY 18 Notice of Intent to Submit Proposal for the Preschool for All: 3 to 5 Years RFP** – Feb. 28 (www.isbe.net/Pages/Preschool-For-All.aspx)
- **Deadline to submit Migrant Education Program applications** – March 10 (www.isbe.net/Documents/20-37A-FY17-SUMMER-all-12-19-2016-Secured.pdf)
- **2017 Illinois Arts Education Week** – March 13-19
- **Nonpublic/Public School ESSA Conference** – April 5 (www.isbe.net/nonpublicprograms)
- **Every Kid Healthy Week** – April 24-28

- **ISBE offices closed for Memorial Day** – May 29
- **Deadline to submit nomination forms for the 2017-18 Those Who Excel/Illinois Teacher of the Year program** – June 6 (www.isbe.net/Documents/03-10-those-who-excel.pdf)
- **Deadline to submit data in the Student Health Data Vision** – June 30
- **Postmark deadline for waiver applications to be considered by the General Assembly in fall 2017**– Aug. 11 (See www.isbe.net/Pages/Waivers.aspx for public notice requirements for all waiver requests.)

Every Student Succeeds Act

Nonpublic/Public School ESSA Conference

The Illinois State Board of Education is hosting its first Nonpublic/Public ESSA Conference on April 5 in Urbana. ISBE hopes to see this become an annual event by which all members of the Illinois K-12 world can be brought together to discuss and share their common concerns, problems, joys, solutions. This year's conference will focus on the new relationship between public school districts and their associated nonpublic schools that will emerge from the Every Student Succeeds Act, which takes effect in fiscal year 2018. There is no fee to attend this one-day event, and lunch will be provided. Keynote speakers include Maureen Dowling, director for the Office of Non-Public Education in the U.S. Department of Education, and Jason Helfer, deputy superintendent for Teaching and Learning at ISBE.

For more information about the conference and to register for the event, please visit www.isbe.net/nonpublicprograms. In registering, be sure to click on the correct radio button just above where you type in your name to ensure you will have the correct selection of drop-down lists.

For questions, please contact the Title Grants Administration Division at (217) 524-4832.

2017 ESSA Statewide Conference

The 2017 Every Student Succeeds Act 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.

District Emergency Management

Emergency Operations Plan Train the Trainer Presentations

Representatives from Readiness and Emergency Management in Schools (REMS) will be delivering two identical presentations on Feb. 9 and Feb. 10 to help local districts develop high-quality school emergency operations plans. (Participants are asked to select only one day.) The trainings will be focused on "train the trainer" whereby local and regional educational personnel can learn about developing high-quality plans and then train others within their educational service region. Our goal is to have those subsequent trainings led by local trainers started by the middle to end of February. We strongly encourage each educational service region to have representation so that additional trainings in each region led by local trainers can begin by late February. The event and subsequent trainings led by local and regional staff will be free of charge and all ordinary expenses, including mileage and lodging (if needed), will be reimbursed.

What: High-Quality Emergency Operations Plans Training (Train the Trainer)

When: Feb. 9 and 10, 2017

Time: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. (registration begins at 8:30 a.m.)

Where: Illinois State Board of Education, 100 N. First Street, 4th Floor Conference Rooms A and B, Springfield, IL 62777

Registration:

- **Feb. 9 -** www.remstacenter.org/TBR/TrainingRegistration.aspx?trainingsid=252
- **Feb. 10 -** www.remstacenter.org/TBR/TrainingRegistration.aspx?trainingsid=253

Each day can accommodate up to 50 participants, so registering as soon as possible is advisable.

Nutrition and Wellness Programs

New Sponsors and Sites Sought for Summer Food Service Program

It's only February but the Summer Food Service Program, also known as Summer Meals, is preparing for the 2017 summer session. The program is for non-profit sponsors or meal sites eligible by school data or census. If you know of schools or community organizations interested in participating, please refer them to the Summer Food Service Program website for additional information.

To register for a mandatory new sponsor SFSP Workshop, please refer staff or organizations to http://webprod1.isbe.net/cnscalendar/asp/eventlist.asp.

Please remember that any school that operates a summer program in a building with a 50 percent or greater free and reduced-price percentage in the National School Lunch Program must serve a breakfast and/or a lunch to students in attendance.

These schools must also open their doors to children 18 and younger in the community to participate in the Seamless Summer Option or in Summer Meals, unless the regional superintendent has granted a waiver.

If you have questions about the Seamless Summer Option or Summer Meals, please call ISBE's Nutrition and Wellness Division at (800) 545-7892. You may also email cnp@isbe.net to order summer meals fliers so children in your community can locate the closest meal site.

Start Planning to Celebrate Every Kid Healthy Week in April

Join the Illinois State Board of Education's Nutrition and Wellness Programs Division in celebrating the fifth annual Every Kid Healthy Week from April 24-28.

Our partners at Action for Healthy Kids held this event for the first time in 2013. The special week is a time when schools, students, parents, and community members come together to recognize their school's wellness achievements through fun and interactive events that promote good health.

For more information on how to get involved and additional resources to help you plan an event, go to EveryKidHealthyWeek.org. The site includes success stories, ideas to mark the special week, resources, and more. In addition, be sure to search for #EveryKidHealthy on Twitter and add the unique hashtag for your own posts.

Deadline Coming Up to Enter the USDA's 'Show Us Your Tray' Challenge

The USDA's second annual "Show Us Your Tray" photo contest is underway. The deadline to enter is **Feb. 15**. This is an opportunity to share the wonderful meals you prepare for your students using USDA Foods. Your submissions will provide other food service professionals with healthy, fun meal ideas using USDA Foods as well.

For complete contest details, visit the November Spotlight on Schools e-letter.

USDA staff will determine a winner based on photo quality and creative use of USDA Foods, with an emphasis on direct-delivered USDA Foods. Please send all entries to the USDA Foods mailbox (USDAFoods@fns.usda.gov). The winning submission(s) will be featured in the March 2017 "USDA Foods from Farm to Plate: Spotlight on Schools" e-letter.

Gifted Advisory Council

Seeking Four New Members

The Advisory Council on the Education of Gifted and Talented Children is seeking members to fill four positions. ISBE has four terms expiring. The advisory council is to meet three times a year. The role of the council is to provide ISBE advice regarding all rules and policies to be adopted by the State Board relating to the education of gifted and talented children.

In order to apply, please send a letter of application accompanied by a resume/curriculum vitae to the Illinois State Board of Education located at 100 N. 1st St. N-242, Springfield, IL 62777. An applicant can be an educator or the parent of a gifted and talented child. The members appointed shall be residents of Illinois and will be selected on the basis of their knowledge of or experience in programs and problems of the education of gifted and talented children. Applications are due by **Feb. 16**. For more information, please contact Marci Johnson, project administrator, at marjohns@isbe.net.

School Health Issues

Interim Guidance on Safe Rat Handling in Schools

This month the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) has been notified of Seoul virus infection in eight people who handled or owned pet rats purchased from one location in Wisconsin and two locations in Illinois. States are working to identify rat breeding facilities where there may be rats with the Seoul virus and will issue updates as information becomes available.

Schools may have pet rats in the classroom. At this time, no illnesses have been reported in people linked to classroom rats. There is no recommendation to test or remove the pet rats unless you have been notified. Safe handling of pet rats, along with thorough and regular cleaning and disinfection of rat cage areas are important and should be done at all times and with all pet rats.

Click here for information. If you have any additional questions or concerns about this topic, call your local health department or the IDPH Communicable Disease Section at (217) 782-2016.

School Business Services

School District Annual Financial Report Review Process

All district superintendents should have received an email broadcast asking them to review their preliminary Financial Profile Report and verify the Operating Expense per Pupil (OEPP)/Per Capita Tuition Charge (PCTC).

District administrators may submit comments regarding their district's finances that will be published along with their Financial Profile Report (500 characters max). **The comments must be submitted no later than Feb. 6.**

The email included links to the memorandum, instructions, and definitions to assist with the review process. These documents are also available in IWAS and on the School District Financial Profile Score & OEPP/PCTC Verification Information webpage.

The email broadcast and Superintendent's Weekly Message will be the only notices sent to the district. If you have not received the email, please contact ISBE at (217) 785-8779. If you have given another person authority to review these reports, please forward the email to them.

It is crucial that districts review their financial profile data and score because the financial profile designation will be approved and publicly released by ISBE. Any district that wishes to include comments that support the Financial Profile Report may do so directly in IWAS beneath the report. Comments are optional, but they are encouraged; this is an opportunity for districts to explain significant financial circumstances.

It is important that you follow the instructions in completing the OEPP/PCTC verification process because once the deadline passes, changes to the 2016 Annual Financial Report data are not permitted. The deadline is Feb. 15.

The financial profile scores will be adjusted to reflect any mandated categorical aid payments due to school districts that were not paid by June 30, 2016, and not included in their FY 2016 Annual Financial Report.

If you have questions regarding the school profile score, please contact Christine Kolaz at (217) 785-8779 or by email at ckolaz@isbe.net. If you believe your OEPP/PCTC report is incorrect, please contact Debbie Hemberger in School Business Services at (217) 785-8779 or by email at dhemberg@isbe.net.

Governor's Learning Tour

#GovClassroomVisit

Governor Rauner is encouraging classrooms to submit videos showcasing what they are learning and how. The videos can focus on anything from computer or technology projects to hands-on assignments and everything in between. They should center around the unique ways Illinois students are learning either inside or outside of their classrooms. The governor plans to do a Learning Tour and visit several schools throughout the state to highlight the hard work and creativity of teachers and students. These video submissions will determine where he goes to learn first. Entries should be no longer than five minutes in length.

#GovClassroomVisit submissions will be taken through Feb. 10 at 5 p.m. Three finalists will be selected. For questions, please contact catherine.kelly@illinois.gov.

Illinois Virtual School

IVS Program Expansion and Summer Registration

The Illinois Virtual School (IVS) has announced the following major enhancements to student opportunities and added convenience for partner schools just in time for summer registration:

- **Summer 2017 is open for registration:** Visit http://www.ilvirtual.org/about/Summer.cfm for more information.

- **Middle School Series: http://www.ilvirtual.org/courses/Middle-School-Series.cfm** - IVS has overhauled its Middle School offerings, creating a new Middle School Series. The series offered will include Learning Recovery, Bridge options, and core Full Service Courses.

- **Credit Recovery Success Plan: http://www.ilvirtual.org/courses/credit-recovery-courses.cfm** - IVS has implemented new Credit Recovery policies and resources focused on increasing student completion rates by offering more time and support at no additional cost.

- **Payment Option Flexibility: http://www.ilvirtual.org/courses/Costs-and-Payments.cfm** - Starting April 15, IVS partner schools will be able to have responsible parties billed directly, rather than the local school. IVS will also now be able to accept PayPal from individuals. These changes will allow more schools and students to benefit from IVS.

Early Childhood

Now Available – Notice of Intent to Submit FY 2018 Request for Proposal

This Notice of Intent to Submit Proposal **MUST** be submitted by **Feb. 28** by all entities that intend to apply for FY 2018 Early Childhood Block Grant funds. **Please note**, there are three different links -- one for each RFP. Questions regarding the Intent to Submit survey can be emailed to earlychi@isbe.net.

FY18 Birth to 3 Years Notice of Intent to Submit Proposal **Prevention Initiative**

FY18 Notice of Intent to Submit Proposal - **Preschool for All 3 to 5 Years**

FY18 Notice of Intent to Submit Proposal - **Preschool for All Expansion 3 to 5 Years**

Those Who Excel

Illinois Teacher of the Year Applications Now Available

The 2017-18 Those Who Excel/Illinois Teacher of the Year nomination form is available for completion online at www.isbe.net/Documents/03-10-those-who-excel.pdf. Hard copies will soon be mailed.

Fill out the form using Internet Explorer, then print it out. Be sure to have your district superintendent or chief administrator sign the form. Attach the other required information and mail it to:

Illinois State Board of Education
Public Information Division
100 N. First St., S-404
Springfield, IL 62777-0001

Nominations must be postmarked by June 6. Please call the Communications Division at (217) 782-4648 if you have questions.

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 FY 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.

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!

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 https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Careers-at-ISBE.aspx.