



Weekly Message

Feb. 2, 2016

Message From State Superintendent Tony Smith, Ph.D.

Hello,

Last week, the U.S. Department of Education issued a letter to discuss flexibilities available to state agencies for the 2016-17 school year in order to ease the transition to the new Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The letter specifically outlines how the use of fiscal year 2016 formula grant funds will follow the same procedures and allocation formulas for the current school year, with some exceptions related to school and local educational agency interventions and supports, interventions for English learners, and No Child Left Behind provisions that are not in the ESSA. You can read the full letter at

<http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/essa/transitionsy1617-dcl.pdf>. You may also sign up to receive updates on ESSA at https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USED/subscriber/new?topic_id=USED_5.

The majority of ESSA will go into effect in the 2017-18 school year, and we look forward to working with stakeholders on this exciting implementation process. Questions and concerns about the process may be sent to essa@isbe.net. The Illinois State Board of Education is also working on developing a webpage for ESSA and will keep you posted when the resource is ready.

ISBE has also created a webpage to help prepare and guide educators through the administration of the new Illinois Science Assessment (ISA). The site at www.isbe.net/assessment/isa.htm will serve as a one-stop shop for the latest information about the ISA and will be updated in the weeks ahead as more details become available. I encourage you to take a look and check back frequently.

Have a great week,
Tony

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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>.

- **2016 Illinois 5Essential Survey administration window** – Jan. 11-March 11
- **Rescheduled standard testing window for all districts using paper materials on the ACCESS for ELLs assessment** – Jan. 25 to Feb. 26

- **Deadline for districts to review the Financial Profile Report and verify the Operating Expense per Pupil (OEPP)/Per Capita Tuition Charge (PCTC) – Feb. 5**
- **Illinois Association for Gifted Children's 21st Annual Gifted Convention – Feb. 7-9**
(www.iagcgifted.org/committees/twenty-first-iagc-convention.html)
- **ISBE offices closed for Lincoln's Birthday – Feb. 12**
- **ISBE offices closed for Presidents' Day – Feb. 15**
- **Community Eligibility Provision webinar – Feb. 18**
(<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/46466832926124290>)
- **2016 Illinois Arts Education Week – March 14-20**
- **Deadline to submit applications for fiscal year 2016 federal Migrant Education Program funding for summer school programs – March 15** (www.isbe.net/bilingual/pdfs/20-37A-migrant-summer-app.pdf)
- **Ninth annual Illinois School Wellness Conference – April 28**
- **ISBE offices closed for Memorial Day – May 30**
- **Deadline to submit data in the Student Health - Vision system – June 30**

English Language Learning

Applications Available for FY 2016 Migrant Education Program Funding

The Division of English Language Learning is accepting applications for fiscal year 2016 federal Migrant Education Program funding for summer school programs in districts with qualifying migrant children under Title I, Part C, of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The application is available at www.isbe.net/bilingual/pdfs/20-37A-migrant-summer-app.pdf. The deadline for submitting applications is March 15.

Students who are 21 years old or younger and have not graduated from high school may be eligible if they have moved within the past three years due to economic necessity across state or school district lines with a parent or guardian or on their own to obtain temporary or seasonal work in agricultural production, fishing, or food processing industries. A certified recruiter must document that children qualify as migrant students.

The State Board can help districts identify eligible migrant children. To request assistance or for more information, contact Beth Robinson at berobins@isbe.net or (312) 814-3850.

School Health Issues

Opioid Antidote Guidance for Schools

[Public Act 99-0480](#) (also known as House Bill 1 and Lali's Law) created a pilot program and process by

which schools may stock an antidote to overdoses of opioid drugs in the schools.

The requirements in the legislation are many, with a number of state agencies carrying out various parts of the law. School officials and parents have taken note of recent news reports about the use of this drug (commonly referred to by the brand name Narcan® or the generic name naloxone hydrochloride) in schools. Adapt Pharma announced recently that it would provide a carton of Narcan free to all U.S. high schools. The company is also partnering with the National Association of School Nurses to provide educational materials. See www.adaptpharma.com/press-releases/.

School nurses and administrators who are interested in considering a policy on the use of this drug may want to review the [Illinois law](#). Prescriptions for the drug are required in Illinois, whether purchased or provided free to the school. Training is very specific and must meet the requirements of the act. In addition, a [report to ISBE](#) is required within three days of use of the drug.

ISBE, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), and the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) are working collaboratively to carry out the law.

ISBE's rules regarding this law are forthcoming, and ISBE School Health Staff will provide as much information as is available during the IDPH [School Health Days](#) presentations Feb. 23 – March 3. For

more information on school health issues, please visit www.isbe.net/school_health.htm.

School Health Update: Training Sessions

IDPH invites school nurses and others who provide school health services or assure compliance with student health requirements to attend one of five repeated training sessions this winter. The dates and locations are:

- Feb. 23 - Rend Lake Resort & Conference Center, 11712 E. Windy Lane, Whittington IL, 62897, (618) 629 -2211
- Feb. 24 - Northfield Inn & Suites Center, 3280 Northfield Dr., Springfield IL 62702, (217) 523-7900
- March 1 - Radisson Hotel & Conference Center Rockford, 200 S. Bell School Road, Rockford IL 61108, (815) 226-2100
- March 2 - Hyatt-Lisle, 1400 Corporetum Drive, Lisle IL, 60532, (630) 852-1234 (*This location is full; no further registrations accepted*)
- March 3 - Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Chicago, 75 W. Algonquin Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60005, (847) 364-7600 (*This location is full; no further registrations accepted*)

To register for one of the open sessions, visit www.ipha.com and scroll down to “Illinois 2016 School Health Days.” Contact Marie Irwin at Marie.Irwin@illinois.gov with questions.

Vision and Hearing Conservation (Screening) Annual Reports

IDPH’s Vision and Hearing Program reminds schools that the Vision and Hearing Conservation (screening) annual reports are due no later than June 30. Although it is too soon to send completed reports now, schools are asked to use the current forms as the old forms do not contain the new address, telephone and fax numbers, among other changes. The PDF version of the new report form is available at www.dph.illinois.gov. Click on the “Forms and Publications” tab, then the “Forms” tab, and scroll down and click on “Vision and Hearing.”

Later this spring, the conservation reports will be available as an Excel report. The annual reports can be completed by using either the PDF or the Excel

version. The report forms that are included in the training manuals are NOT to be used as they do not have all the changes or information.

School vision and hearing screening technicians may submit the completed summaries (PDF version) by fax to (217) 524-4201, by mail to the Illinois Department of Public Health, Vision and Hearing Program, 535 W. Jefferson, 3rd floor, Springfield, IL 62761, or by electronically submitting the Excel spreadsheets to the dph.visionandhearing@illinois.gov mailbox. IDPH asks that you do not submit your reports more than one time. Once your reports have been submitted, they will contact you if they have any questions.

For questions or assistance, please contact Nancy Katz at (708) 544-5300, ext. 248, or Mary Friel at (217) 524-2396.

IPHI Training: Pump Up P.E. for Physical Education Teachers

The Illinois Public Health Institute (IPHI) is offering a series of free, one-day trainings for physical education teachers. Professional development hours are available.

The training will cover topics including recent revisions to state learning standards on physical development and health and the benefits of enhanced P.E. for students’ health and academic achievement

For dates, locations, and registration for Cook County, go to http://iphionline.org/register_Cook_Co_PE_Trainings_1/.

For dates, locations, and registration for collar counties, go to http://iphionline.org/register_pump_up_pe_collar_counties.

Contact Sarah Chusid at (312) 850-4744 or Sarah.Chusid@iphionline.org for more information.

Child Safety Webinar

The Health Resources and Services Administration Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Program is presenting a webinar called “Keeping our Children Safe in a Changing World” from 4 to 5 p.m.

Feb. 3. The webinar is part of a series titled “EMSC Opportunities for Enhancing Pediatric Emergency Care.”

Children can be especially vulnerable to unexpected crisis events, such as active shooter incidents, acts of terrorism, and other natural or manmade disasters that strike without warning. This is especially true for youth and young adults who are not under direct adult supervision at the time of crisis. Additionally, many youth and young adults with special health care needs, including cognitive and behavioral challenges and mobility or special access needs, have varied levels of independence and may not be at home or school when a disaster occurs. The webinar will help parents and caregivers learn about resources and collaborate on ways to keep children safe.

For more information and to register, please visit <https://emscnrc.adobeconnect.com/families/event/registration.html>.

Funding and Disbursements

Rollout of New I-Star System 2016-17

All local education agencies are formally advised that ISBE is on target to roll out the new I-Star system for the 2016-17 school year. I-Star is the new ISBE web-based special education database system and data management tool for all districts and joint agreements. I-Star incorporates all aspects of student and personnel approvals and claims as well as an optional individualized education program component. The current iePoint> software and data transmissions will be eliminated in favor of I-Star.

Some of the features of the new I-Star system include:

- Access via ISBE’s IWAS portal. Local administrators will assign security to specific staff and access to modules within I-Star as appropriate.
- All student demographic information will be populated from the Student Information System, eliminating duplication and overlapping entries between local education agencies.
- Personnel data will be populated from the Employment Information and Educator Licensure Information Systems.
- Feedback of all user entries and verification of data with ISBE systems in I-Star are in real time.

Through the 2015-16 school year, pilot sites around the state have been testing the new I-Star system. A list of pilot sites is at www.hbug.k12.il.us/IStar/pilot_sites.aspx. Feedback and enhancements are being tested and implemented in advance of full integration of I-Star beginning in the 2016-17 school year.

Training, questions, and further information on I-Star can be accessed via Harrisburg Project’s I-Star webpage at www.hbug.k12.il.us/IStar/default.aspx.

Important Changes to Dec. 1 Special Education Child Count Reporting

Federal regulation at 34 CFR 300.641 requires that all local education agencies (LEAs) annually collect and report an accurate and unduplicated number of children with disabilities receiving special education and related services. Further, 105 ILCS 5/2-3.30 of the School Code requires that students reported must be eligible to receive services or be in a special education program receiving direct or related services approved by a public school district on Dec. 1, be at least age 3 through age 21, inclusive (i.e., through the day before the student’s 22nd birthday) (see 34 CFR 300.101(a)), and have an individualized education program or individualized services plan in place.

The federal Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) requires that all state education agencies report special education students counted on Dec. 1 by the following April each year. For the 2015-16 school year, the due date for state reporting is April 6. For many years, ISBE has met the federal April deadline but has permitted LEAs to add unreported students receiving services on Dec. 1 on subsequent approval transmissions through June 30. This flexibility has created a variety of problems, including, but not limited to:

- An inaccurate count to compute the state’s annual IDEA Part B grant award
- Data integrity related to the submission of the State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR) and monitoring
- Inability to timely compute the state’s maintenance of effort and LEA nonpublic proportionate share of IDEA Part B funds

Beginning with the 2015-16 school year, all students receiving special education and related services on Dec. 1, 2015, must be reported with the March 4 approval transmission. To help with this process, ISBE will provide a report listing all students that are identified as duplicates by early February. These duplicates must be resolved before the March 4 transmission. After the March 4 transmission is received and processed at ISBE, reports listing your official child count number will be sent to you. There will be a short validation period to confirm that this number is correct or to transmit another approval file with additions. The deadline for the validation period is March 21. Please be advised that the Dec. 1, 2015, child count reported to OSEP on April 6 will constitute the state's official 2015-16 special education count.

All LEAs can continue to report additions and changes for students with disabilities on subsequent approval transmissions for the 2015-16 school year through June 30, but no changes will be made to the official Dec. 1 count. All 2015-16 special education approval and claim dates can be accessed at www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/sped-due-dates-15-16.pdf.

Questions regarding the FACTS approval procedures should be directed to Jamie Johnson at jjohnson@isbe.net or (217) 782-5256

Questions pertaining to the operation of iePoint or NetCheck should be directed to the Harrisburg Project at (800) 635-5274 or support@hbug.k12.il.us.

New Census Estimates Released for FY 2017 Title I Low Income

The U.S. Department of Education has released the Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) for income year 2014. These estimates will be used to calculate fiscal year 2017 Title I allocations. A file of 2014 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 www.isbe.net/funding/excel/title1-census-fy17.xlsx.

With this data, LEAs can determine their potential eligibility for Basic, Concentration, Targeted and Education Finance Incentive grants.

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 FIG 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 2014 data to calculate school year 2016-17 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 2017. ISBE neither controls nor generates the data. The challenge period for the 2014 estimates ends March 8. 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.

Educator Effectiveness

edTPA: A Measure of Teacher Candidates' Readiness to Teach

Illinois has recognized the need for a common, standards- and performance-based assessment of teaching effectiveness that would measure teacher candidates' classroom readiness and provide information for program improvement. edTPA is

designed to ensure that those who become teachers not only understand educational theory and subject matter content but can demonstrate their ability to lead a classroom and ensure that students with diverse strengths and needs are learning. New teachers must be effective from day one.

edTPA is a performance-based, subject-specific assessment designed to measure effectiveness in the classroom by focusing on student learning. edTPA uses processes similar to National Board certification insofar as candidates are required to provide evidence of their practice through the submission of video and other artifacts. More specifically, items reflecting the competencies must be present in the portfolio, including lesson plans, video recordings of the student teacher delivering instruction, and analysis of and feedback on student learning. edTPA is a summative assessment completed at the end of an educator's preparation program.

Institutions with approved educator preparation programs leading to initial licensure were required to begin piloting edTPA on Sept. 1, 2013. edTPA became a requirement for licensure on Sept. 1, 2015. Since that date, more than 1,350 candidates have completed edTPA with a first-time pass rate of over 96 percent.

Center for Performance

Parental Participation in the 5Essentials Survey of Learning Conditions

Parental feedback is a vital component to a healthy and successful school. With more districts taking advantage of the extension window for the 5Essentials Survey of Learning Conditions, parents may have questions about where to go to take the survey for their child's school. Parents can go to <https://survey.5-essentials.org/illinois/survey/parent/> to search for their children's school. Because participation in the survey is only required every other year, not all districts will have a survey available. To find a list of the districts that are participating this year, please visit www.isbe.net/5essentials/pdf/2015-16/partic-districts-sy16.pdf.

If you have any questions concerning the 5Essentials survey, please call (217) 782-3950 or email 5Essentials@isbe.net.

Nutrition and Wellness Programs

Reminder: Illinois Meal Service Requirements

All public schools in Illinois are required to provide free lunches (and breakfasts if a school operates a breakfast program) to all students eligible for free meals. State reimbursement to offset a portion of the cost of the meal is available if a site serves a reimbursable meal to a student eligible for a free meal and the site is enrolled in the Illinois Free Breakfast and Lunch Programs. Federal reimbursement in addition to state reimbursement is available if the school enrolls in the National School Lunch Program (and if applicable, the School Breakfast Program).

There are, however, two additional meal service requirements we want to bring to your attention that may impact your public school building(s) this summer and/or next school year:

- School breakfast must be offered if a school had 40 percent or more free and reduced-price eligible students in the previous school year.
- Summer breakfast and/or lunch must be offered if a school had 50 percent or more free and reduced-price eligible students in the previous school year AND the school will operate a summer school program.

To determine if your school(s) must operate these additional meal services, please visit www.isbe.net/nutrition/pdf/schools_mandated_operate_sbp.pdf.

If you have questions regarding either of these required meal programs, please contact ISBE's Nutrition and Wellness Programs Division at (800) 545-7892 or cnp@isbe.net.

Community Eligibility Provision Webinar

ISBE will host a webinar on the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) from 2 to 3 p.m. Feb. 18. This live webinar will be an overview of what CEP is, including information on:

- What the qualifications are for CEP,

- How you can determine if CEP would be beneficial to your school,
- How CEP affects other programs in your school district, and
- A Q&A session to answer all of your CEP questions.

CEP is an alternative to household eligibility applications for free and reduced-price meals in high-poverty districts and schools. In CEP schools, all students receive breakfast and lunch at no cost and the school utilizes an approved claiming percentage for receiving reimbursement for those meals. This approved claiming percentage is good for four years.

For more information about CEP, click [here](#). To register for the webinar, visit <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/46466832926124290>.

Rules and Waivers

Notice of Completed Rulemaking

Please be advised that two sets of amendments recently adopted by ISBE became effective Jan. 6.

Changes have been posted at www.isbe.net/rules/archive/default.htm. Please choose “Rules Currently in Effect” and scroll to the Part number.

Part 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision): See Sections 1.420 and 1.422

Part 100 (Requirements for Accounting, Budgeting, Financial Reporting, and Auditing): See Section 100.TABLE C

In Brief

District Opportunities

- The deadline for applications to **TECH 2016** is Feb. 3. TECH 2016 showcases how students and teachers across the state use technology in classrooms to enhance student learning and is scheduled for May 10 at the Illinois State Capitol Building in Springfield. Find out more information, including how your district can be one of the 66 schools representing Illinois, at www.iceberg.org/TECH_2016.

School Opportunities

- The **Kid Explorer Club** is a comprehensive reading curriculum for pre-K through sixth grades that is aligned with the Common Core State Standards. The curriculum is diversity inclusive, enhances the student’s existing school education, and is customized to overcome individual learning challenges. Students at Title I schools qualify for a tuition grant that will cover nearly 100 percent of the tuition cost. To become a host site for the summer or next school year, contact Regional Director Beatrice Cooper at (773) 672-7462, ext. 1, or beatrice@kidsexplorerclub.com. The deadline to apply is April 8.

Student Recognition

- Three high school students who received awards in the **2015 Illinois Arts Education Week** poster contest were recently recognized at the Student Show Reception during the Illinois Art Education Association Conference. The students are: Jessa Mae Mendiola of Hinsdale South High School in Darien, Jeremiah Yang of Glenbrook South High School in Glenview, and Becca Timko, also of Hinsdale South High School.

Educator Recognition

- This week is **National School Counseling Week**, sponsored by the American School Counseling Association to focus public attention on the unique contribution of professional school counselors within the U.S. school system. The event aims to highlight the tremendous impact school counselors can have in helping students achieve school success, plan a career, make postsecondary plans, address personal/social skills, and provide support to the district and community.

Employment Opportunities

- Watch for vacancy lists and find instructions for applying on ISBE’s Human Resources webpage at <http://www.isbe.net/hr/Default.htm>.