



# Weekly Message

**Feb. 7, 2017**

## Message From State Superintendent Tony Smith, Ph.D.

Hello,

Black History Month provides us with an opportunity to reflect on our history as a country and to recognize the important contributions of African Americans that have shaped and continue to shape our world today. Illinois is the birthplace of incredible black artists, scholars, scientists, athletes, and leaders. As we honor their achievements and contributions this month and every month, we also recognize the discrimination and hardship black Americans have braved fighting for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Our celebrations of black history inspire us to emulate the values of respect, inclusion, diversity, and civic participation in our communities.

There are many ways to connect the content you are introducing to your students with the climate you are trying to promote in your school. If you are looking for Black History Month resources, I encourage you start by reading this piece on the [Do's and Don'ts of Teaching Black History](#). You may also want to take a look at the [Teachers' Guides from the University of Illinois Extension](#). The [Constitutional Rights Foundation](#) has more materials that promote critical thinking and civic engagement.

As always, we love to see the great work happening in your schools. Please share pictures of your school's activities and links to your favorite #BlackHistoryMonth resources with us! Tweet at [@ISBEnews](#), tag [Illinois State Board of Education](#) on Facebook, or email us at [Social\\_Media@isbe.net](mailto:Social_Media@isbe.net).

Safe and inclusive classrooms are crucial to student success. We learn best when we feel safe. All of our students – regardless of where they were born, what holidays they celebrate, or what their families look like – deserve a safe environment at school and the opportunity to thrive.

Inclusive classrooms include curricula with which each and every one of our students can connect. Our students should see themselves in the books they read and the history they learn. I applaud educators across our state for intentionally embedding diversity into their lesson plans throughout the year, not just in the month of February. [Teaching Tolerance](#) and [Facing History and Ourselves](#) have a host of valuable resources that support equitable and inclusive school environments.

### Table of Contents

Teaching and Learning .....	3
Every Student Succeeds Act .....	3
School Business Services .....	4
Nutrition and Wellness Programs .....	4
Charter Schools .....	6
Rules and Waivers .....	6
Gifted Advisory Council .....	7
District Emergency Management .....	7
School Health Issues .....	7
Governor's Learning Tour .....	8
Early Childhood .....	8
Funding and Disbursements .....	8
In Brief .....	9

In that same vein, congratulations to the 2017 Illinois Schools of Character! The award recognizes schools or districts with outstanding character education that has led to positive school climate and enhanced academic performance. Belleville School District 118 is the first school district in Illinois to receive this award. St. Mary of the Angels School in Chicago and Freeburg Primary Center in Freeburg have been named 2017 Illinois Schools of Character, and Forest Park Individual Education School in Joliet has been named an Honorable Mention School of Character. Learn more about the award at [Character.org](http://Character.org).

Thank you to every educator, administrator, support staff member, and volunteer across the state for working to ensure that all students feel valued and cared for in school. If you are looking for resources to enhance the climate in your school, visit ISBE's [Culture & Climate pages](#). We all benefit greatly when people of diverse backgrounds and with diverse perspectives feel safe and welcome to participate actively in our democracy.

Keep up the great work!

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>.

- **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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.isbe.net/Pages/Preschool-For-All.aspx))
- **Deadline to submit QZAB Program applications** – Feb. 28 ([www.isbe.net/Pages/Qualified-Zone-Academy-Bonds.aspx](http://www.isbe.net/Pages/Qualified-Zone-Academy-Bonds.aspx))
- **Deadline to submit proposals for Illinois Teach to Lead Summit** – March 1
- **Deadline to submit Migrant Education Program applications** – March 10 ([www.isbe.net/Documents/20-37A-FY17-SUMMER-all-12-19-2016-Secured.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/Documents/20-37A-FY17-SUMMER-all-12-19-2016-Secured.pdf))
- **2017 Illinois Arts Education Week** – March 13-19
- **Deadline to submit Charter School Program - QSO RFP** – March 20
- **Nonpublic/Public School ESSA Conference** – April 5 ([www.isbe.net/nonpublicprograms](http://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](http://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](http://www.isbe.net/Pages/Waivers.aspx) for public notice requirements for all waiver requests.)

---

## Teaching and Learning

### Seeking Participants for Illinois Teach to Lead Summit

The Illinois Teach to Lead Summit will take place in Bloomington on April 24 and is a result of collaboration between the Illinois Teacher Leadership Network ([ITLNL](http://www.itltn.org)) and the U.S. Department of Education (ED). This is an exceptional opportunity for teachers and administrators to develop concrete plans to solve local issues in their districts and a powerful way for schools to spotlight groundbreaking work.

**Please consider submitting a proposal to participate in the summit.** If your proposal is selected, participation in the summit will provide you access to:

- Support in Bloomington from the ED, ITLNL, ASCD, National Board and other districts to help push your thinking and form your strategic plan,
- Opportunities to participate in pre/post- summit webinars with ED and ITLNL to inspire and engage you in the process,
- Tools, support, and expertise to help you turn your ideas into action,
- Networking opportunities with other districts, and
- A personal coach for your team who will work with you on your idea before the summit and on the day of the summit and will also follow up with you after the summit.

Proposals are due by **March 1**. To submit a proposal, please visit [www.surveymonkey.com/r/illinoissummit](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/illinoissummit).

For more information on the summit, go to [ieanea.org/2017/01/20/opportunity-illinois-powered-by-teach-to-lead-summit/](http://ieanea.org/2017/01/20/opportunity-illinois-powered-by-teach-to-lead-summit/).

If you have further questions about this incredible opportunity, please contact Pam Reilly at [reillyreillypc@gmail.com](mailto:reillyreillypc@gmail.com).

---

## Every Student Succeeds Act

### Draft of ESSA State Plan #3 Released

The draft of the Illinois' ESSA State Plan 3 has been released and shared with the Governor. The draft is available at <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/ESSA-Draft-Report.aspx>.

ESSA State Plan 3 reflects feedback on accountability, assessments, and a statewide system of support, among other topics, for all schools in Illinois. Input is still being accepted. For more information on the Every Student Succeeds Act, visit <https://www.isbe.net/essa>.

### 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](http://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](http://www.thecenterweb.org/essa).

---

### **School Business Services**

#### **QZAB Program for Calendar Years 2015 & 2016 Authorization**

The Qualified Zone Academy Bond (QZAB) program has been extended for another year as a result of the passage of the Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes Act of 2015 (P.L. 114-113). The implementing regulations provide that Illinois' share of these allocations is \$14.372 million for both calendar years 2015 and 2016 for a total of \$28.744 million.

School Business Services will be accepting applications Feb. 7- March 3. Please note the following:

- Preference will be given to school districts that did not receive the Qualified School Construction Bonds.

- City of Chicago School District 299 can apply for a maximum of 20 percent of the amount authorized for Illinois.
- If more requests are received than the total allotment allowed, awards will be prorated among the approved applications.

All applications must be submitted to the address provided below with all supplemental materials and final signatures completed by 4 p.m. on Feb. 28.

Illinois State Board of Education  
School Business Services (QZAB)  
100 N. 1st Street  
Springfield, IL 62777

For additional information and to obtain the application, please visit [www.isbe.net/Pages/Qualified-Zone-Academy-Bonds.aspx](http://www.isbe.net/Pages/Qualified-Zone-Academy-Bonds.aspx). If you need additional information, please contact Kimberly Beachy at (217) 785-8779.

---

### **Nutrition and Wellness Programs**

#### **Summer Food Service Program Information Sessions for New Sponsors and Sites**

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 [2017 Summer Meals Information Session document](#) for the information session schedule. These sessions provide information only. For training on the program, organizations must attend one of the SFSP New Sponsor Training Workshops.

To register for a mandatory new sponsor SFSP Training Workshop, please refer staff or organizations to <http://webprod1.isbe.net/cns/calendar/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](mailto:cnp@isbe.net) to order summer meals fliers so children in your community can locate the closest meal site.

### **PANDAS/PANS Standards of Care Summit Set for Feb. 8 in Wheaton**

Special education administrators, school nurses, and other student support personnel are invited to the free PANDAS/PANS Standards of Care Summit on Feb. 8 at the DuPage County Health Department in Wheaton.

The PANDAS/PANS Advisory Council, which includes an appointed member from the Illinois State Board of Education, was created by Public Act 99-0320 to study the issue of PANDAS/PANS (Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders Associated with Streptococcus or Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders). The symptoms of PANDAS or PANS mimic those of obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD), attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), and include motor and verbal tics.

Health and education professionals are invited to learn about PANDAS at this summit, at which Dr. Susan Swedo will deliver the keynote address. Swedo is chief pediatrics and developmental neuroscience branch and principal investigator on PANDAS/PANS at the National Institute of Mental Health.

Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders are estimated to impact 1 in 200 children and can have devastating consequences when left untreated or are misdiagnosed. At the summit, participants will learn the most up to date diagnostic and treatment measures and participate in creating solutions for children and families dealing with PANDAS/PANS.

To register for this free summit, go to <http://bpt.me/2727320>.

### **School Nutrition Association Seeks Award Nominations and Contest Entries**

Do you know a stellar kitchen manager, outstanding cook, or inspiring school nutrition director in your school district? Nominate a colleague you admire for a School Nutrition Association award and show them how much you appreciate their hard work! The School Nutrition Association (SNA) is accepting nominations online for the Employee, Manager, and Director of the Year.

To submit a nomination, visit [www.schoolnutrition.org/SNAawards](http://www.schoolnutrition.org/SNAawards). Nominations are due by **March 1**.

SNA is also asking schools to take the School Breakfast Challenge for National School Breakfast Week (**March 6-10**) with an Instagram photo contest. Share what your school is doing in a fun and creative way. You can participate by following three easy steps:

1. Snap a photo using your phone
2. Tag it with #NSBWChallenge, #SchoolBreakfast, and @SchoolNutritionAssoc
3. Upload the photo(s) to Instagram

Participants can participate in four breakfast categories, but will only be eligible to win in one. A judging panel will determine the winners and they will be notified the week of March 20. For complete rules or to download the flier, visit [www.schoolnutrition.org/Meetings/Events/NSBW/2017/PhotoContest](http://www.schoolnutrition.org/Meetings/Events/NSBW/2017/PhotoContest). Please remember all students need to have a signed parental consent form in order to use their image.

### **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](http://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](mailto: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.

---

### **Charter Schools**

#### **Charter Schools Program – QSO – Request for Proposals Now Available**

The electronic Charter Schools Program - QSO Program Design and Initial Implementation Request for Proposals (RFP)-Cohort II is now available through IWAS. All responses must be submitted electronically to ISBE by 4 p.m. on March 20.

Any applicants interested in applying will need to submit the Letter of Intent to Apply Form in order to gain electronic access to the RFP. The Letter of Intent to Apply, and further grant information can be found at <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Charter-Schools.aspx>.

If you have questions, please email [charter@isbe.net](mailto:charter@isbe.net) or call Charter Schools at (312) 814-2220.

#### **Charter Schools Program Dissemination of Best Practices Grant FY 2017 RFP**

The deadline for submission of applications for the Charter Schools Program Dissemination of Best Practices subgrant is 4 p.m. on Feb. 14. The applications must be submitted in paper form to ISBE in our Chicago or Springfield office.

This funding opportunity is available to 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 this opportunity is to provide charter schools with the financial resources for activities directly related to 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 the Charter Schools webpage at [www.isbe.net/Pages/Charter-Schools.aspx](http://www.isbe.net/Pages/Charter-Schools.aspx).

---

### **Rules and Waivers**

#### **Invitation to Comment on Rules**

Four sets of proposed amendments recently reviewed by ISBE are now available for public comment. The proposals and a summary of the issues involved have been posted at [www.isbe.net/Pages/Rules.aspx](http://www.isbe.net/Pages/Rules.aspx); choose "Proposed Rules and Amendments." Please submit any comments or suggestions to [rules@isbe.net](mailto:rules@isbe.net). The public comment period ends March 26.

The rulemakings are: Part 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision), Part 20 (Standards for Endorsements in Elementary Education), Part 26 (Standards for Endorsements in Early Childhood Education and Elementary Education), and Part 50 (Evaluation of Educator Licensed Employees under Articles 24a and 34 of the School Code).

---

### **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. 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:marjohns@isbe.net).

---

### **District Emergency Management**

#### **Emergency Operations Plan Train the Trainer Presentations**

Representatives from Readiness and Emergency Management in Schools will be delivering 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, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Rooms A and B, Springfield, IL 62777

#### **Registration:**

- **Feb. 9 -**  
[www.remstacenter.org/TBR/TrainingRegistration.aspx?trainingsid=252](http://www.remstacenter.org/TBR/TrainingRegistration.aspx?trainingsid=252)
- **Feb. 10 -**  
[www.remstacenter.org/TBR/TrainingRegistration.aspx?trainingsid=253](http://www.remstacenter.org/TBR/TrainingRegistration.aspx?trainingsid=253)

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

---

### **School Health Issues**

#### **IDPH and ISBE Working to Issue Guidance on P.A. 099-0922 Lead In Water Testing**

On Jan. 17, Governor Rauner signed Senate Bill 550 into law ([Public Act 099-0922](http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/099/099-0922.htm)). 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. The Act states that IDPH will publish guidance for schools on its website within 90 days from Jan. 17. ISBE is currently working in partnership with IDPH to develop resources and guidance for districts regarding these requirements. As soon as there are more updates and tools available, they will appear on the [IDPH](http://www.idph.state.il.us/) and [ISBE’s Nutrition and Wellness](http://www.isbe.net/) websites.

## 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.

---

## 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](mailto:catherine.kelly@illinois.gov).

---

## 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](mailto: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](#)

---

## 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](http://www.census.gov/did/www/saipe/index.html), provides various aspects of the SAIGE 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](http://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](mailto:scray@isbe.net) or (217) 782-5256.

---

## ***In Brief***

### **Volunteer Recognition Opportunity**

- Serve Illinois presents the **Governor's Volunteer Service Awards**. These awards recognize individual volunteers through a statewide award program to highlight the importance of volunteerism and community service in the State of Illinois. Awards are given to one youth, adult, senior, AmeriCorps Member, Senior Corps volunteer, and business in each of Illinois' five regions. Winners of the awards will be honored at a special ceremony at the Old State Capitol in Springfield on April 25. To nominate a volunteer, please visit [www.serve.illinois.gov](http://www.serve.illinois.gov). Applications are due by **Feb. 17**.

### **Educator Opportunities**

- ROE West 40 ISC #2 is hosting the **Midwest Summit for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning** from 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. on May 1 in Oak Brook. To register, please visit [www.mws.2017.eventbrite.com](http://www.mws.2017.eventbrite.com).

### **Professional Development**

- **PBS Digital Innovators 2017** is a professional development opportunity for highly engaged, change maker preK-12 educators whose innovative use of technology and media create exciting learning experiences for their students. [Interested applicants have until Feb. 13 to apply.](#)

### **Employment Opportunities**

- Watch for ISBE career opportunities and find instructions for applying at <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Careers-at-ISBE.aspx>.